

# FOCUS

**ECLAC** *in the Caribbean*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

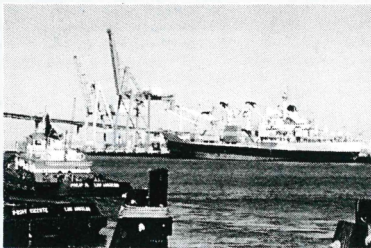
## *In this Issue ...*



**Regional governments begin their census-taking exercises**



**ECLAC study shows the poor not able to get all they need from the regional education system**



**ECLAC Port of Spain and Santiago host meeting on maritime trade and transport in the Caribbean**

*and more ...*

SEPTEMBER - 2000



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# CDCC

## Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

In 1975, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – then known as ECLA – established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body at the governmental level. The secretariat of the CDCC is provided by the Secretariat of ECLAC, acting principally through the subregional office in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The CDCC functions as an inter-governmental organisation and meets annually at the technical level and every other year at the ministerial level. Its operational activities are carried out under the regular ECLAC work programme for the Caribbean, which includes economic and social development planning, demography, economic surveys, the environment, international trade and trade-in-services, information for development statistics, sustainable development of small island developing states, science and technology, women in development, tourism, training and assistance with the management of national economies.

### For further information, contact:

ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat  
 P.O. Box 1113, Port-of-Spain,  
 Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
 Tel.: 868-623-5595  
 FAX: 868-623-8485  
 Email: [focus@eclacpos.org](mailto:focus@eclacpos.org); [registry@eclacpos.org](mailto:registry@eclacpos.org)  
 Website: <http://www.eclacpos.org/focus>

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### EDITORIAL TEAM

Director	- Len Ishmael, ECLAC
Editor-in-Chief	- Arthur Gray, ECLAC
Editor	- Jessie-May Ventour, ECLAC
Online version	- Jessie-May Ventour, ECLAC
Produced by	- ECLAC
Printed by	- Trinprint Limited



## ECLAC CONDUCTS TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON ITS METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING THE MACRO-ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Natural disasters cost the global economy as much as 50 billion U.S. Dollars, both in lost human potential and damage to the productive sectors of the economy. For the Caribbean, which is the region hardest hit during the annual hurricane season, disasters recur with such frequency that it often seems that even before the region recovers from one disaster, another is upon it.

With meteorological predictions for the year 2000's hurricane season forecasting above-average tropical cyclone activity, Caribbean governments have moved to ensure that they are more prepared to deal with the inevitable destruction.

To this end, the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, hosted special training workshops on the *ECLAC Methodology for Assessing the Macro-economic, Social and Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters*. The first of these workshops was conducted at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain, while the second was held in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), in collaboration with the territory's Development Planning Unit (DPU).

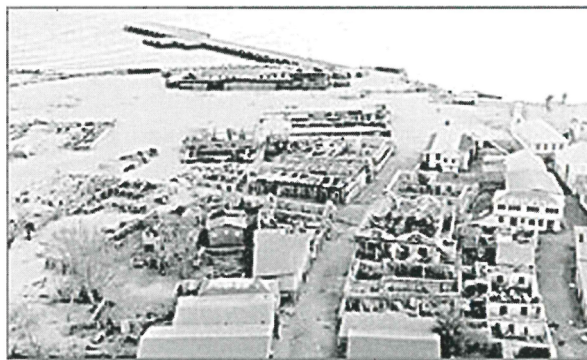
Important to the recovery process is the need for countries to understand the short, medium and longer-term impacts of natural disasters on their macro-economic performance, and on the wellbeing of their populations. The workshops sought to equip Caribbean experts with the analytical and conceptual tools to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impact of natural disasters, given the difficulty of accessing reliable and up-to-date quantitative data, in the aftermath of these events. These experts were drawn from government and non-governmental organisations working in the area of engineering and infrastructure, economics, physical planning, social development and environmental management. The workshops also sought to develop post-disaster assessment capacity at the national level to understand these effects, to facilitate the initiation of the evaluation process, even before assistance arrives from the outside.

The Port-of-Spain workshop signalled the start of a process aimed at developing a core of experts with multidisciplinary skills, in various parts of the subregion, to enable deployment at short notice, of assessment teams comprising personnel within or in close proximity to affected countries. These teams will also be part of a nucleus whose assistance might be enlisted by ECLAC for undertaking assessments in different countries of the region.

### Background

The geographical location and natural characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean expose the region to frequent natural disasters, compounding its economic vulnerability. In the latter half of the last decade of the 20th century, the Caribbean was repeatedly bombarded by hurricanes causing major damage to the productive and social sectors, general infrastructure and the natural resources of these islands.

Consistent with the incidence of natural disasters is the significant decrease in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the affected countries. Islands such as Antigua and Barbuda, which have survived nine hurricanes in the last 10 years, seem to exist permanently in a state where national efforts are directed towards rebuilding, thus taxing resources which could otherwise have been devoted to productive enterprise. In 1999 alone, the Caribbean was subject to 12 cyclones, including eight hurricanes, five of which attained Category-4 status on the Saffir-Simpson scale, which measures the intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms.



*Montserratian capital, Plymouth, remains deserted and covered in ash in the aftermath of the eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano. (Image: BBC World News Online.)*

Hurricanes are not the only natural disaster to which the Caribbean is vulnerable, as was demonstrated by the volcanic eruptions on the island of Montserrat at the end of the 20th century. These volcanic eruptions in the Soufriere Hills ruined roughly 64 per cent of the island, and forced an almost total exodus of the Montserratian population. In 1995, when the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted, the island's population stood at 11,500. At present, fewer than 3,000 Montserratians remain, attempting to rebuild their lives.

## The Methodology

Based on statistics and additional estimates made by the ECLAC Secretariat over the past 20 years, natural disasters can be said to have cost the Latin American and Caribbean region, in an average year, more than 6,000 lives, and over 1.5 billion U.S. dollars in economic losses. This loss of life amounts to a large proportion of the population — generally the lower-income population — and is a major setback for the development efforts of regional governments.

ECLAC has developed a methodology for assessing the impact of natural disasters and responding to these scenarios. It is an evaluation tool that helps authorities determine both the sectoral and overall effects of a disaster, serving as a guide for post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction programming and processes, and the identification of international co-operation required to undertake such programming.

While other energies are devoted to the delivery of emergency responses, the ECLAC methodology is unique in that it assesses the sum total of all damages — in the short, medium and long term — on the overall macro-economic performance of the country, its effects on government revenues, on GDP and so on.

The methodology has three components. The initial assessment and analysis involves examining the direct costs, which include the initial loss of property, infrastructure and livestock. Secondly, indirect or induced damages, representing the consequences a given disaster has on other sectors stemming from the direct losses, are measured. These take the form of the temporary closure of hotels, the interruption of Government services and utilities, among others. The third element, referred to as “secondary impacts”, indicates the effect on macro-economic variables such as the gross domestic product, imports and exports, employment and Government revenue and expenditure.

## The Workshops

During the three-day Port-of-Spain Workshop, participants were introduced to the methodology and exposed to the experiences of various ECLAC staff members, who have had experience in the field undertaking post-disaster assessments in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The first two days of the Port-of-Spain workshop were spent reviewing the special aspects of disasters in the context of small island states in the Caribbean, with presenters identifying the most critical effects and issues to be considered in the wake of natural disasters. Insights were also given into the methodological and conceptual aspects of assessment, sector evaluation (social, infrastructure, economic and the environment), the effects of damages, institutional capacity, and the definition of the reconstruction strategy.

On the third day of the workshop, the experts were invited to review the methodology. They did this bearing in mind that since the inception of the methodology some 30 years ago, social and environmental issues are now considered crucial, mostly because it is increasingly realised that social inequities and environmental degradation reinforce vulnerability and may extend a country’s recovery period.


The workshops in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) were facilitated by that territory’s Development Planning Unit (DPU). This type of training had never been conducted in the BVI. Officials of the DPU described the training as a timely intervention, given the fact that at the time of the seminar, the region was experiencing its annual “hurricane season”.



*Remnants of a pier damaged by 1999's Hurricane Lenny.  
(Image: BBC World News Online.)*

Among the topics covered during the sessions were: natural disaster impacts on the economy, public finances, population, infrastructure, housing, health and education; effects on tourism and the environment; sources of information on natural disasters; application of the ECLAC formula, and the concept of task-forces. The experiences of the BVI, Anguilla, St Kitts & Nevis, and St Maarten within the last five years were considered during some of the sessions. Indeed, the intention is that similar disaster management training will be carried out in Montserrat, before year’s end.

The 18 trainees who benefited from the BVI sessions will be enlisted to complement the work of a committee previously set up by the Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP) of that country, to monitor physical damages caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters. Their activities will be coordinated by the BVI’s DPU.

The participants at the BVI seminar were selected from a combination of private and public sector agencies including the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry & Finance, the Conservation and Fisheries Department, the Development Planning Unit, the Town & Country Planning Department, the BVI Chamber of Commerce & Hotel Association, and several insurance companies. 



## EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON AGRICULTURE: THE IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES ON FOOD NUTRITION AND HEALTH

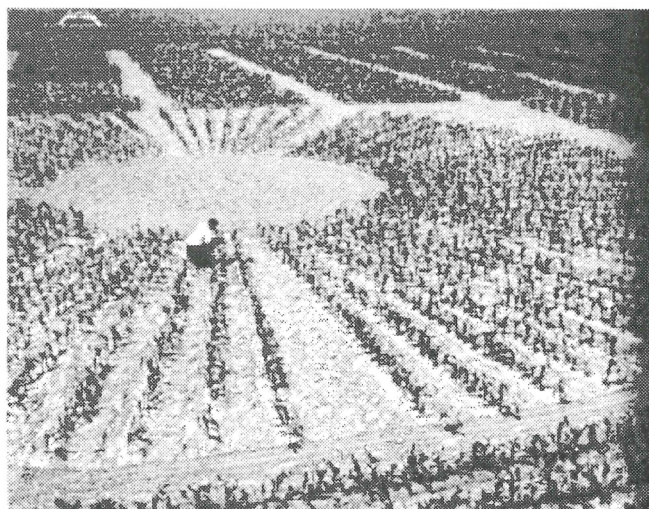
In the Caribbean, export agriculture continues to be the major concern of policy makers in the agricultural sector. However, to the extent that the first responsibility of a nation is to feed itself, there is need for a clearly defined food policy that will also address the nutritional needs of the population.

The nexus between a healthy population and development is well established. Caribbean countries, therefore, need to take a critical look at the nutritional requirements of the population in order to ensure that the basic platform for development is established in the region. In Africa and parts of Asia there is growing concern about the effect of HIV/AIDS on development. Though the Caribbean may not yet have reached a similar level of concern, there are other questions that need to be asked in order to develop policies that are compatible to developing a healthy population and for the progress of the region.

In addition to the impact of new technologies - particularly biotechnology - in the agricultural and food sectors and the fast food industry, there is also need for vigilance in the nutrition and health sectors and their impact on development efforts.

A few pertinent questions need to be addressed in order to give the above concerns their proper attention. These include:

- Is the increase of longevity in the region a result of healthier nutrition practices or increasing availability of pharmaceuticals and medical attention?
- Can the large import food bill and the pharmaceutical costs be reduced significantly through a systematic, high-quality nutritional programme?



- Are the nutritional needs of the various sectors of the population – for example the school population, working population and the older person – being addressed and met adequately from indigenous agricultural products?
- How could the school feeding programmes in the region help to promote good nutritional diet in the home and in the communities?

The answers to these questions may help to determine the policies and technologies that should be introduced and promoted in order to inter alia:

- Stimulate indigenous product development in order to meet the nutritional requirements of the region
- Stimulate agricultural development for local needs
- Help integrate agriculture into other activities of the State
- Reduce some of the inequities between the rural and urban areas of the region
- Critically examine developments in biotechnology and the food and agriculture sectors and their impacts on the region
- Promote measures to reduce the use of pesticides and insecticides in agricultural activities
- Promote research and development on biological pest control

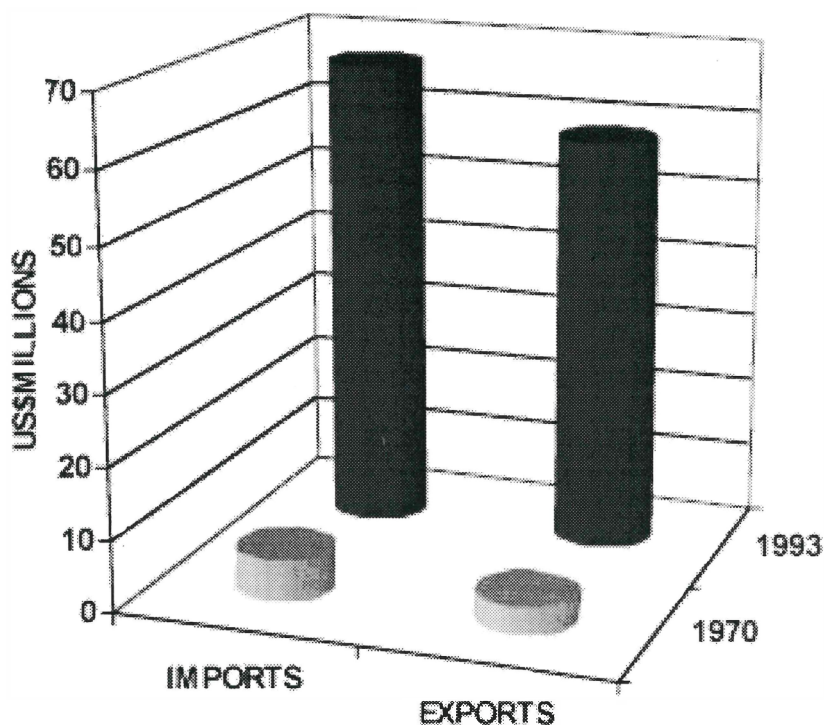
At present, many Caribbean States are undergoing some degree of structural adjustment, and in general, the outcome of such programmes has been increased unemployment, increases in the cost of basic commodities, and reduced purchasing power, especially among the very poor. The food import bill for most Caribbean countries is also unacceptably high when compared with food exports.

For example, in Saint Lucia, the value of food items imported rose steadily from US \$5.9 million in 1970 to US\$67.3 million in 1993. However, for that country, exports of food items were valued at US\$4.0 million in 1970 and US\$58.5 million in 1993. Many of the indigenous foods are no longer grown in sufficient quantities or considered as nutrient sources. As a result, the quality of nutritional intake, especially of the rural population, might have been negatively affected.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will be hosting a two-day Expert Group Meeting in October, to examine these issues of food



ST. LUCIA: Value of Food Imports and Exports (1970, 1993)




	IMPORTS	EXPORTS
■ 1970	5.9	4
■ 1993	67.3	58.5

nutrition and health affecting the region. The general objective of the meeting will be to develop national and/or regional policies for the agricultural sector that seek to promote a healthy population. More specifically, it will consider various aspects of agriculture, food production and nutrition, focussing on the non-traditional export crops. Recommendations put forward by participants would also assist the ECLAC Subregional Office in the development of its Work Programme - namely, to develop projects that will assist in implementing the recommendations and collaborate with other agencies in the realization of the objectives, in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS/POA).

The meeting will draw representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture of several Caribbean governments, as well as various institutions, including the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and the Schools Feeding Programme of Trinidad and Tobago.

Apart from the issues alluded to previously, experts will examine the current status of the non-traditional agricultural sector; review existing programmes and projects on nutritional health; as well as reflect on the nutritional needs of children, adults and older persons in the Caribbean. Participants will also examine proposals for the development of programmes and projects designed to address issues that will be raised during the various discussions at the Meeting.

While this Expert Group Meeting might not immediately provide all the answers to the questions raised earlier, it is expected that it will promote awareness of some of the issues which must be addressed, if the Caribbean is to achieve food security and a healthy population... the ultimate objective of any given agriculture policy. 



## The Y2K Caribbean Census<sup>1</sup>

*Countries expand questionnaires to include Internet access and public opinion on the environment*

Initial reports from some countries in the region on the conduct of the Caribbean's first Census Exercise for the millennium indicate that it has been executed successfully in these territories, with few setbacks experienced.

The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Trinidad & Tobago, who began their census taking by the second quarter of this year, indicated that the exercise has been carried out with few difficulties. Among the difficulties outlined were: the quality of the enumerators (which in some instances impacted negatively on the exercise); and exogenous forces, such as adverse weather conditions.

The numbers of field staff required for the census differed for each territory. In Belize, approximately seven hundred officers were involved; one thousand eight hundred worked in The Bahamas; and three thousand persons were employed to conduct the census in Trinidad and Tobago.

As a result of extensive advertising and public awareness campaigns, which involved the use of local celebrities, special events, and promotions on radio and television and in the newspapers, countries reported very little resistance on the part of the public to the idea of the census.

Sylvan Roberts, a Statistician from Belize notes that although there were persons who did not wish to be part of the exercise, there were others who actually called the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to find out when the census officers would visit their area. He reports that on 12 May 2000, designated "Census Day" in Belize, the homeless were among the first to be enumerated.

In a few countries, post census events were conducted to thank the public for its co-operation with the enumerators, and to invite those persons who were not enumerated to meet with the staff of the various CSOs. In addition, field staff were sent out to capture those few persons who, for whatever reason, had missed out on participating in the exercise.

This census marks the first time that questions pertaining to access to computers and the Internet were included. In addition, the section dealing with disabilities issues was expanded. In Belize, opinion questions about the environment were also featured for the first time, since both the government and private enterprise have an interest in this area. A section on emigration was added to the Bahamas questionnaire, because that country does not have exit cards to capture emigration data. However, certain flaws were discovered while using this method, among them, the fact that should an entire family migrate, the information still would not be captured.

For Trinidad and Tobago, new questions examined the issues of Health, Crime, and time spent on Unpaid Household and Other Activities. This year, Barbados opted

to capture information on its labour force by taking a sample of the population, and then elicited information on economic activities from everyone for the whole year.

Most countries will be using the Optical Mark Reader for scanning the information gathered from the census exercise, which will then be processed and analysed using the IMPS statistical software, which has been updated for Microsoft Windows. Countries report that a staggered approach was used in processing the incoming information, in that scanning began once sufficient

information was obtained. Kelsie Dorsett, Deputy Director of the Department of Statistics of the Bahamas, expects that editing and coding of the information for that country would be complete by January 2001, with data entry complete by March 2001.

"Within 18 months, processing of the information will be concluded, after which, with assistance from CARICOM, analysis of the information will take place, followed by publication of the results," states Mrs. Hunt, of the Central Statistical Office of Barbados.



1. Interviews on the status of the Census conducted with Ms. Kelsie Dorsett, Deputy Director of the Department of Statistics, Bahamas; Mrs. Hunt, CSO, Barbados; Mr. Sylvan Roberts, CSO, Belize; Mr. Lauchland Lake, CSO, Antigua and Barbuda; and Mr. Adhar Beepath, CSO, Trinidad and Tobago.



Mr. Sylvan Roberts is optimistic that the interim results for Belize would be published and provisional data made available for districts by the end of September 2000. For research purposes, he also expects to produce a report which would consist mainly of tables, by year's end.

Countries also report that publication of the census results via hard copy would be minimal. Instead, the information would be disseminated using the Internet, floppy diskettes and CD-ROM.

Lauchland Lake, of Antigua & Barbuda's CSO, reports that like its OECS partners, his country is still in the planning stages of executing its census for the year 2001.

"The CARICOM mechanism, the Regional Census Office, which was in place for the last census," he explains, "is in the process of being re-established. Mr. Osmond Gordon of CARICOM, is working on that initiative which has already been approved by the CARICOM Council of Ministers, but it is not in operation at this time."

Mr. Lake also points out that the OECS Member States would be focusing on gender statistics in their census, having attended the United Nations Statistics Division's (UNSD) Conference on Social and Gender Statistics in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, which took place from 23 August to 1 September, 2000.

While countries in the OECS grouping will still collaborate with CARICOM on the census, at present they are being guided by the OECS Secretariat. In that regard, the Secretariat held a meeting in early July of this year to assess the status of its member States' planning activities for the 2001 Census and to discern any difficulties they might be experiencing. An Activity Roster has since been formulated, and the OECS Census Questionnaire & Manual is now in the final stages of completion. Three member states have been given a timeframe within which to do their pre-testing of the manual, and by year's end, it is hoped that sources of funding for printing would have been identified.

Jamaica will be undertaking its census in 2001. 



## ECLAC CONDUCTS A GENDER MAINSTREAMING STUDY OF THE CARIBBEAN

Findings suggest that despite significant achievements, there is still a long way to go...

**A**n ECLAC study on Gender Mainstreaming in the region reports that while there has been significant progress in the elimination of many forms of discrimination against women, many challenges still remain.

Among the challenges noted in the study are inequitable gender power relations in the home, in the workplace and the larger community. Inequality, the study explains, is very evident in women's vulnerability to violence, women's low levels of participation in decision-making, high levels of familial responsibility and high levels of under- and unemployment.

The document titled: "Study of Gender Mainstreaming in the Caribbean", which was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Gender Equity Fund, forms part of the process surrounding the United Nations mid-term review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In facilitating this review process, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean conducted a study on gender mainstreaming among 10 Caribbean countries, namely, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>1</sup>

The study provided an opportunity to reflect on and assess governmental action in the mainstreaming of the responsibility for gender equity throughout the State sector.

### A look at early Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives

The document observes that governments in the Caribbean have attempted in various ways to advance gender equity, not only through substantive policy, but also through administrative reform.

Among the main frameworks applied for bringing about gender equality and equity were the Women in Development (WID) approach, and the Gender and Development (GAD) approach.

The WID framework assumed that women had either been excluded from the benefits of development or had been included in ways that marginalised them. It identified women's lack of access to resources as the key to their subordination and therefore the policy response centred on the development of resources for improving

women's economic opportunities. As such, WID programmes typically focussed on vocational skills training and the promotion of small-scale income generation projects, the aim of these activities being to increase the income of poor women by improving their capacity to enter the labour force either as employees or as own-account workers. Within the state sector these programmes were sponsored or run mostly by the national machinery for women and built on women's traditional skills. Reviews of such programmatic interventions have reflected that these projects did little to overcome poverty and economic marginalisation among women. The WID framework was also criticised for its tendency to focus only on women and on women in isolation of men.<sup>2</sup>

The Gender and Development (GAD) approach shifted the focus from 'women' to 'gender' and unequal power relations between women and men. As a consequence, social, economic and political processes and structures and development policies were subjected to gender analysis, (both in formulation and in impact assessments). The GAD approach critiqued not only processes, but also the structures that maintain inequality, and it recognised that achieving gender equity required 'transformative' change<sup>3</sup> and not merely the integration of women into existing economic structures.

### The impact of the Beijing Conference

The mandate to governments to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, implementation and monitoring of all policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes at all levels was emphasised in the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 1995.

The Platform specifies the actions necessary to integrate gender perspectives into legislation, public policies, programmes and projects and the responsibilities of the national machinery. These actions include the facilitation and implementation of government policies on equality; the development of appropriate strategies and methodologies; and the co-ordination and co-operation within the central Government in order to ensure mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policy-making processes.

1 The research was conducted by ECLAC Consultant, Sonja Harris and by ECLAC staff members Asha Kambon and Roberta Clarke.

2 Razavi, S and Miller, C.: From WID to GAD: Conceptual Shifts in the Women and Development Discourse, Occasional Paper No. 1 UNRISD February 1995.

3 This synthesis is taken from the 1999 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Globalization, Gender and Work: *ibid.*



The first strategic guideline of the Regional Programme of Action for Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, urges gender mainstreaming as being necessary for creating the enabling environment for the achievement of gender equity. This guideline requires States to incorporate the gender perspective into development policies and planning at the highest levels in order to correct the inequality between women and men caused by the persistence of discriminatory cultural contexts and economic and social practices.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines gender mainstreaming as<sup>4</sup>:

“Taking account of gender concerns in all policy, programme, administrative and financial activities, and in organizational procedures, thereby contributing to a profound organizational transformation.”

The mainstream is defined as an “interrelated set of dominant ideas and development directions and the decisions or actions taken in accordance with such ideas and directions”. There are two aspects therefore to the mainstream: ideas (theories and assumptions) and practices (decisions and actions).

Most countries in the Caribbean had established national machineries by the mid-1980s. The extent to which the establishment of the machineries signified profound State commitment to the advancement of gender equity concerns within public policy has been questioned. A Commonwealth Secretariat study of the women’s bureaux in six Caribbean countries in the 1980s<sup>5</sup> concluded that the bureaux had been created by the political leadership in reaction to a demand from the international community, and that the structural location of these agencies within the social sector of government bureaucracy reflected a “welfarist” desire to ameliorate the position of women.

Most of the region’s ministries of social affairs, however, are seen as marginal ministries, and have traditionally lacked power, status and associated financial resources - all necessary for the challenge of advancing gender equity within the State sector.<sup>6</sup> There are areas, however, in which the machineries have been able to make strategic interventions at a policy level, most notably in the area of violence against women.

### **Name changes and greater understanding**

In the 1990s, the machineries in Saint Lucia and in Trinidad and Tobago underwent name changes, and replaced references to “women” with “gender”. The new

machinery in Suriname refers to “gender”. Barbados also intends to apply a similar substitution for its ministry.

However, the name changes, where they have taken place, provoked a negative reaction from some women’s organisations, concerned that the terminology change was a means through which governments could avoid the implications of responding to woman-specific dis-privilege.

According to the ECLAC study, understanding of gender has been advanced at the level of the national machineries through participation of associated personnel in training programmes. The document observes though, that definitional and conceptual ambiguities still exist, particularly in the use of the term “gender”, and therefore, “gender mainstreaming”, and it is these ambiguities which will impact on the programmatic and policy thrusts of the respective machineries.

In countries where this concern has been articulated, it is still not clear to what extent, if any, State practices and mechanisms are responsible for the marginalisation of boys and men, although the reorganisation of the machineries is premised on the need to address the social and economic problems of men.

The ECLAC study states that national policy on gender mainstreaming has been developed formally in only a few countries. However, beyond formal pronouncements of an intention to engage in the gender mainstreaming process, such policies, can be discerned in the initiation of a number of activities and the establishment of a number of mechanisms devised to comply with the mandate of gender mainstreaming. These include national advisory bodies or commissions, inter-ministerial committees, gender focal points, and gender-specific national policy statements.

### **New approaches**

Three broad approaches to gender mainstreaming can be discerned:

#### Gender-sensitisation training

Through gender training, public sector personnel are expected to recognize the importance of an analytical approach that views gender as a variable to be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of governmental policy.

However, typically, these training programmes last mere days and can hardly be expected to ensure competence in gender analysis or planning, particularly in an absence of commitment to understanding gender bias in its manifestations in the home, at work and in the

4 UNDP Gender in Development Programme: Gender Mainstreaming Information Pack

5 Gordon, S (ed): Ladies in Limbo. The fate of Women’s Bureaux-Case studies from the Caribbean. Women and Development Programme, Commonwealth Secretariat, 1984

6 Moser, C: Gender Planning and Development. Theory, Practice and Training, Routledge, London 1993



society at large. The ECLAC study also points to the fact that the efficacy of gender training is constrained by attitudinal obstacles, quite possibly the differences between the receptivity of women and men bureaucrats to the training.

### Institutional mechanisms

In all countries, the main function of the Commissions is an advisory one. The Commissions also have responsibility for the monitoring of the status or progress of women.<sup>7</sup> Typically, these bodies are appointed by the political directorate and are constituted by persons from the NGO and State sectors. The concern has been expressed that the appointment of Commission members by the political directorate may have alienating consequences if the appointments are perceived as politicising the Commission in a partisan manner.

The ECLAC study reports that inter-ministerial committees have been established in Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. It would appear that in no country has this mechanism been particularly useful in advancing gender mainstreaming. Apart from institutionalised inter-ministerial committees, another mechanism which has been encouraged is that of the “task force” on areas of critical concern, and in particular on violence against women.

### Planning instruments and processes

National development plans represent and express State policy on priorities for programming and transformation. Integrating gender into this process requires the securing of top-level commitment to gender and development priorities, agreeing to action programmes and resources for implementation, generating dis-aggregated data, and designing targets and indicators at the macro and sectoral levels.

According to the ECLAC study, the achievements in the 10 countries in this regard are not encouraging and it would appear that, to date, only Guyana has attempted the advocacy and analytical task of mainstreaming gender within the national development strategy and planning process.<sup>8</sup>

The study reports that the promotion of women’s interests within the governmental sector has also been addressed through the formulation of gender action plans by the national machineries themselves. National plans for women have been prepared in Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. Through the vehicle of the gender action plan, gender analysis is incorporated

into the whole cycle of formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and procedures.


The study make the observation that the plans might have been developed without effective participation and accountability from sectoral or planning ministries, which, unfortunately, ensures a less than complete understanding and agreement on the objectives to be attained. It has been contended that policies, such as those contained in gender action plans, may be essentially symbolic, in the sense that there is no will or commitment to implement them.

### **The Way Forward**

The ECLAC document concludes that there is no denying that the Caribbean has made significant progress in the elimination of many forms of discrimination against women. To a large extent, women have equal access to the education and health sectors. Labour force participation rates have increased, the numbers of women holding senior management positions within the public sector have improved somewhat over the last 20 years. Laws have been enacted to protect women’s rights in the workplace and in the home. Most notably in the 1990s in this regard has been the Domestic Violence Act.

However, as the study points out, a number of challenges remain. Women continue to face inequitable gender power relations in the home, in the workplace and the larger community. Despite advances in legislation, women are still very vulnerable to violence, and their low level of participation in the decision-making process is still a cause for concern. Women still bear the brunt of responsibility for the family. They continue to form the bulk of persons who are both under - and unemployed.

The document advocates that as a priority, regional governments need to articulate properly, a philosophy of social equity in which gender equity is a necessary and integral component. Then, the document states, governments should move to ensure system-wide responsibility for the attainment of clearly defined targets.

As the ECLAC study concludes, gender mainstreaming can only be achieved with the exercise of political will. This involves a commitment to transforming administrative structures and modes of decision-making, along with serious investment in capacity building for all staff in national machineries, to ensure they have the necessary skills and information to engage in gender analysis of public sector policies and programmes. 

7 In Belize this mandate includes meeting the reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

8 In response to lack of incorporation of gender concerns in the national development plan, the ministry with responsibility for women’s affairs in Guyana commissioned a study by Chandra Budhu on “Mainstreaming Gender in the National Development Strategy”. A substantial document was produced which made recommendations aimed at key sectors of the government.



## EDUCATION AND ITS IMPACT ON POVERTY: Equity or Exclusion?

*An ECLAC / UNESCO Study examines the poor and their relationship  
with the education system in the Caribbean*

**I**f regional governments do not continue to pursue development goals based on social equity, the stratification between rich and poor now found in the education system may reinforce, rather than correct, income inequalities, and perpetuate the cycle of poverty..."

That is the conclusion of a recent ECLAC study, commissioned by UNESCO, which sought to examine the relationship between the poor and the current education system in the Caribbean. The study, titled "Education and its impact on Poverty: Equity or Exclusion" was prepared for the UNESCO Forum on Education for all in the Caribbean Assessment 2000, held earlier this year.

The study posits that the education system is failing one group of children more than others - namely, those that are poor - and thus denying them the opportunity to become contributing members of the society and achieving the goal of sustainable human development.

It concludes that two distinct segments of society are becoming more apparent - one highly educated, with the other relatively uneducated; one wealthy, the other poor.

### **Poverty in the Caribbean**

A 1996 World Bank Report<sup>1</sup>, based on Caribbean census data for 1990 and using a population sample of 35.1 million, estimated that at that point in time, approximately seven million people or more could be classified as poor. When a comparative survey of selected countries in the region was made, the findings indicated poverty rates from as low as 5 per cent in the Bahamas, to a high of 65 per cent in Haiti. Eight of the 15 countries listed had over 30 per cent of their population estimated as poor. Only in the Bahamas, Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda, and St. Kitts & Nevis, did 15 per cent or less of their population fall below the poverty line.

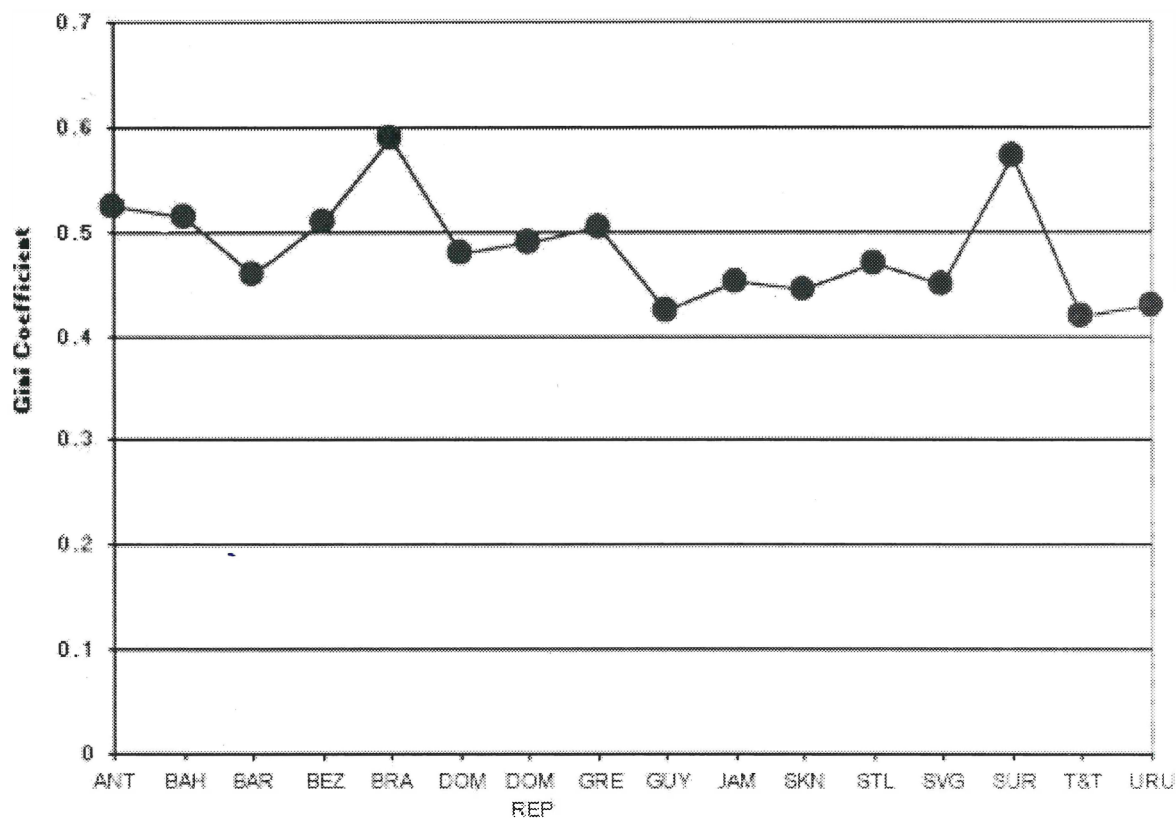
However, regardless of which tool is used to measure the extent of poverty - whether the Poverty Head Count Index is applied, or the Human Development Index, or the Human Poverty Index - there is general agreement that the poor in the subregion include the following groups:

- The elderly
- Children
- The disabled
- Small-scale farmers
- Unskilled workers
- The indigenous population
- Female-headed households (in some countries)
- The under-employed and the unemployed

The ECLAC report states that both the creation of employment opportunities, and the preparation of these groups for participation in the labour force, are critical to improving the status and well-being of those persons living in poverty.

It has been estimated that during the 1990s, the wealthiest 10 per cent of families in the Caribbean improved their position in relative and absolute terms, and received 15 to 20 times the income of the poorest 10 per cent. The following figure illustrates the degree of income inequality among selected countries in the region. It also provides a comparative view, positioning the Caribbean next to its Latin American neighbours.

1. Caribbean Countries, Poverty Reduction and Human Resource Development in the Caribbean. World Bank, May 1996.



The Gini Index measures how far real distribution is from a hypothetical reference point. If incomes were distributed in a fully equitable manner, each person would be represented by zero. Complete concentration of income in a single person, or complete inequality, would be represented by one. In theory, the Gini Coefficient can vary between zero and one. In practice, however, Gini coefficients of per capita income vary between 0.25 and 0.60. The document, "Facing up to Inequality in Latin America", indicates that inequality indices in Latin America, which are considered the highest among all regions of the world, are on average 0.52, with a minimum of 0.43 for Uruguay, and a maximum of 0.59 for Brazil.

### **Accessing Quality Education**

According to the report, Caribbean governments have shown a strong commitment to human resource development, particularly in the English speaking countries, which allot a larger share of national income to the education, than any other region of the developing world.

While the share of education has remained virtually the same, real expenditure on education in many countries has fallen due to inflation, fluctuations in the value of some countries' currency and to increasing enrolment levels.

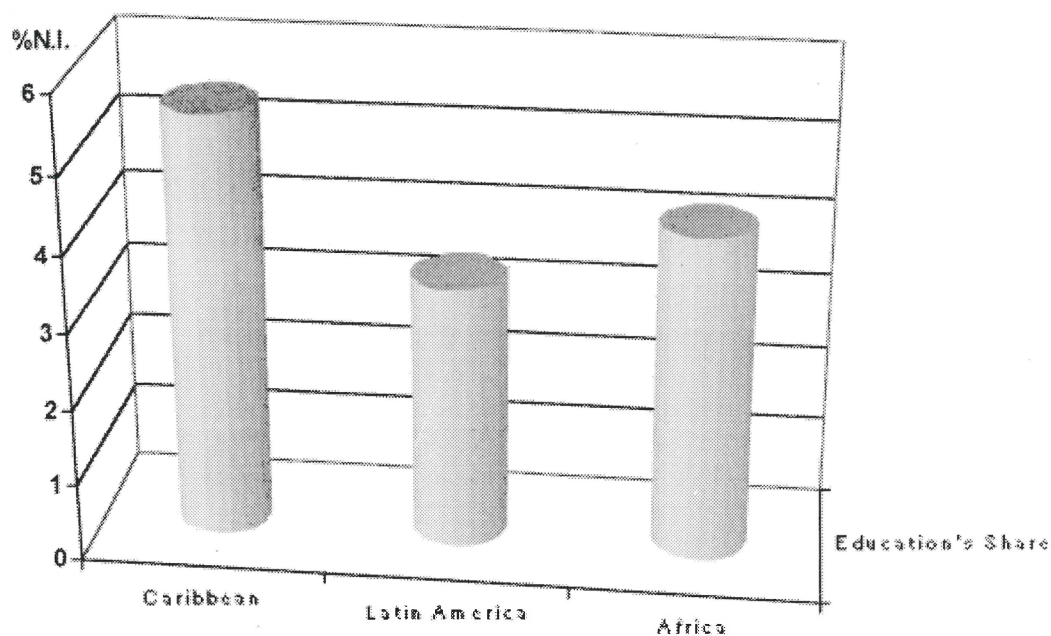
In addition, the report notes, there are variations in government expenditure across the region. Data suggests that the expenditure as a percentage of Gross National Product for St. Lucia, Jamaica, and Barbados is significantly higher than the average for the region. Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic spend significantly less.

Government expenditure is not the only expenditure on education; private expenditures by individuals to attend government schools exceed government outlays in all types of primary and secondary schools and in selected kinds of tertiary education. This relatively high expenditure on education in the Caribbean has meant nearly universal access to primary and secondary schools.

However, high access levels do not necessarily translate into high quality of schooling. According to the report, there is a perception that the quality of schooling provided to the majority of primary and secondary schools students in the region is poor. Data tracking the performance of Jamaican secondary school students at their CXC examinations revealed that only 1.1 per cent of the students attending the New Secondary schools received distinctions in their CXC examinations, while 10.8 per cent of the students in the traditional schools received distinctions.



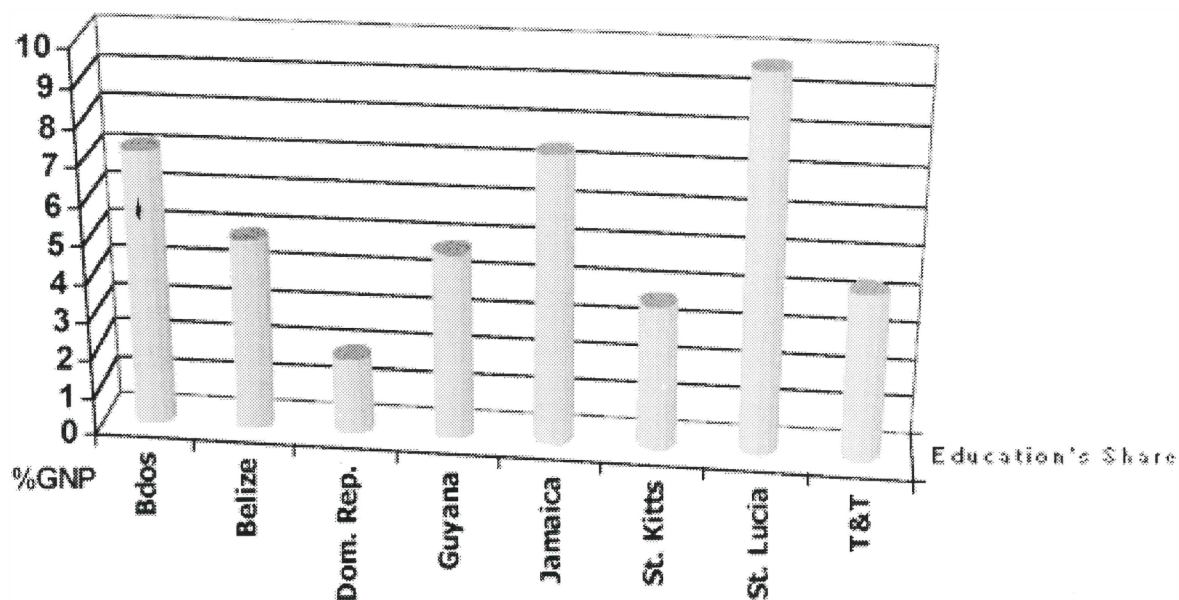
### Education's Share of National Income (%)



	Caribbean	Latin America	Africa
Education's Share	5.5	3.4	4.2

SOURCE: IDB – "Facing up to inequality in Latin America: Economic and Social Progress in Latin America 1998-1999".

### Education Expenditure in selected CDCC Countries, 1993-1996



	Bdos	Belize	Dom. Rep.	Guyana	Jamaica	St. Kitts	St. Lucia	T&T
Education's Share	7.2	5	2	4.9	7.5	3.8	9.8	4.4

SOURCE: UNDP Human Development Report, 1999



The ECLAC study also notes that gender inequality in the education system is becoming a growing cause for concern. Data indicate that females have a slight quantitative advantage over males in the education systems in the Caribbean, that is, there are more female students in the school system than male students. However, qualitatively females may be at a disadvantage, because of a tendency to encourage girls into the soft sciences, the low end of technical vocational training, or the arts and humanities at the university level - which ultimately impacts on income earning possibilities.

**The Impact of Education on Poverty**

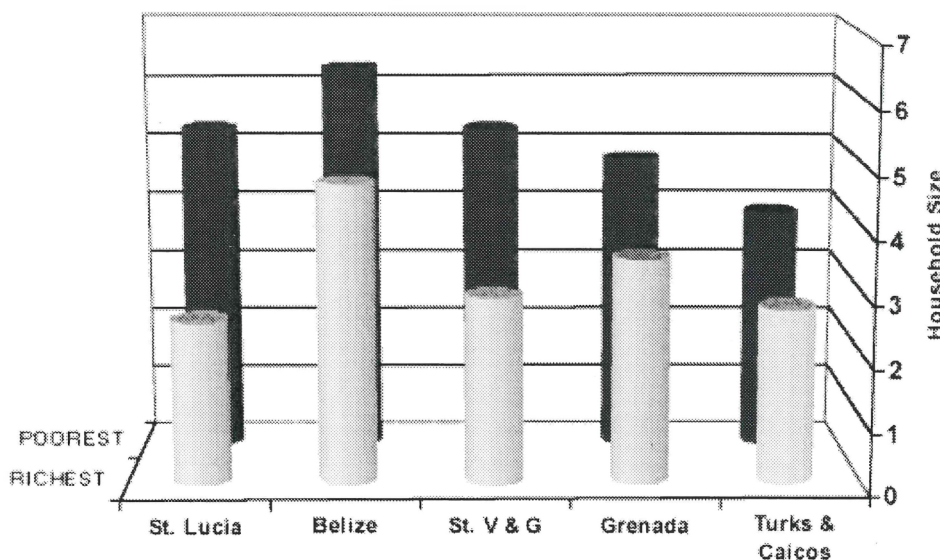
An examination of unemployment data reveals that unemployment for both sexes is lowest for persons with the highest education (that is, tertiary level), and highest for persons with the least education (that is, primary level). A 1997 survey of unemployment rates in four selected Caribbean countries<sup>2</sup> found that at each level of educational attainment, women had a higher rate of unemployment than men who had achieved the same level of education. According to the ECLAC document, there was not much difference between unemployment levels for those who had attained primary level schooling, against those who had attained secondary level schooling. Indeed, returns on secondary level education were typically lower than at the university level and not much higher than returns on primary education.

In terms of income levels, the more qualified tend to receive higher incomes than those with the lowest qualifications. According to the ECLAC study, not only is there a differential between those with ‘better passes’, there is also a differential in incomes according to gender. Data from a review of labour market trends in Trinidad & Tobago revealed that, with the exception of the lowest wage scale of less than TT\$1,000, in no single category or wage scale did women receive equal or more wages than men.

Overall, the study observes, globalisation and the introduction of new labour saving technologies have widened wage and income gaps in both industrial and developing countries. Trends in income disparity in the region suggest that the effects of globalisation are already widening income gaps in the region.<sup>3</sup>

Upon examination of how education impacts upon family structure, the ECLAC document cites the IDB report - “Facing up to inequality in Latin America: Economic and Social Progress in Latin America 1998-1999” - which revealed that children of working mothers actually attain higher educational levels than those of mothers who do not work outside the home. The following chart shows how family size is influenced by returns to income.

**Size of Household by Quintile (Selected Countries)**



	St. Lucia	Belize	St. V & G	Grenada	Turks & Caicos
RICHEST	2.6	4.8	3	3.6	2.9
POOREST	5.3	6.3	5.3	4.8	3.9

SOURCE: Kairi Poverty Assessment Study (St. Lucia, 1995; Belize, 1996; St. Vincent & the Grenadines, 1995; Grenada, 1999; Turks & Caicos, 1999.)

2. Caribbean Subregional Review of WSSD+5 and the Status of the Older Person: Globalisation and Employment in the Caribbean. Prepared by the ILO Caribbean Office, Port-of-Spain, August 1999.

3. In The Socioeconomic and Political Context by Dr. Karl Theodore and Dr. Edward Greene, it was reported that in Trinidad & Tobago households in the top quintile earned 49 per cent of the income in 1988 and 50 per cent in 1992. In Guyana, the highest quintile earned 43 per cent of the income in both 1988 and 1993, while the lowest quintile slipped from earning 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent in 1993.vc




### *The Way Forward*

“... the seeds of tomorrow’s income inequality are being sown today...”

The ECLAC document concludes that “wealth alone is not enough” to prevent the ever-widening gap between the education ‘haves’ and the education ‘have-nots’. It states that a committed policy towards growth and equity might be the key.

One step forward is a macroeconomic policy framework that has employment creation as its central focus, along with long term development strategies that will push the economic structure of the societies into the knowledge-based segment of the global market, which would ensure higher income levels generally.

The other option is to transform the current education product so that it truly develops persons to their fullest potential. Of paramount importance is to ensure that today’s children benefit from such a transformation today. It is also critical that a culture of continuing education all through life is properly engendered among the population, as a whole. 



## ECLAC HOSTS EXPERTS' MEETING ON REGIONAL MARITIME TRANSPORT

Officials of ECLAC's Transport Division in Santiago, Chile, and at the Subregional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, are confident that following a recent meeting of experts on Caribbean maritime transport, the region has moved one step closer to resolving some of its problems in this area.

The two-day Experts' Meeting on Maritime Transport in the Caribbean was held in mid-September, at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Initiated by the Transport Unit at ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile and facilitated by the ECLAC Subregional Office, the Experts' Meeting drew several professionals from the private sector working in maritime transport in the region. Participants also included representatives from several of the regional and international agencies including the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Organisation of American States (OAS), UNCTAD-TRAINMAR Inter-regional Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition to experts from the private sector and from international agencies, several experts from international universities in the United States and Mexico, also participated in the Meeting.

Dr. Jan Hoffmann, Port & Shipping Specialist at ECLAC Santiago's Transport Division, who spearheaded the meeting, expressed the view that the Experts' Meeting was an overall success, and is very optimistic about the future, in terms of further strengthening, the ties of co-operation forged at the meeting.

In particular, Dr. Hoffmann lauded the strong spirit of co-operation which existed between both the Santiago and Port-of-Spain ECLAC offices and contributed to the meeting's success.

Dr. Hoffmann noted that many of the participants attended the Experts' Meeting at their own expense, primarily because of their interest in the subject matter of the meeting.

"Many of the participants have been conducting their own research and capacity-building projects in the area of maritime trade and transport," he stated, "and as a result of bringing these people together, we were able to discover many synergies which could now be exploited."

In terms of the outcome of the meeting itself, Dr. Hoffmann reported that the experts present agreed on specific future joint activities concerning the creation of trade databases, and further capacity-building and research in the area of regional maritime transport.

Indeed, he is confident that several research projects and studies in Caribbean maritime trade and transport will follow as a direct result of the meeting.

"It was very heartening to see the way different regional and international organisations came together at the meeting," he observed, "actively participating and showing a keen interest in the topic of maritime transport in the Caribbean. This type of active co-operation," he pointed out, "would only redound to the benefit of the region."

### Rationale for the Meeting

Maritime transport is more critical to the development of Caribbean economies, than for many other regions. In terms of the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Caribbean subregion conducts significantly more trade in goods than most other countries of the world. Nevertheless, maritime transport costs are higher in the Caribbean than in other regions.



Among the challenges facing the wider Caribbean as it embarked on a trend of promoting trade are:

1. Increasing private sector participation in port development;
2. Reducing restrictions in maritime transport and encouraging competition;



3. Establishing national “hub ports” - through global networks, mergers and alliances and private sector participation - as a way of increasing transshipment;
4. Other critical issues such as telematics (which would result in increased productivity and becomes more important in the context of globalisation, and also leads to fewer intermediaries and reduced transaction costs); standardisation of procedures; and international negotiations.

The Experts’ Meeting on Caribbean Maritime Transport in the Caribbean sought to analyse the determinants of high Caribbean transport costs, and discuss and co-ordinate ongoing and possible future activities by Caribbean Governments, port and maritime authorities, and regional and international organisations, with a view to improving maritime transport and port services in the Caribbean.



### Highlights of the Experts’ Meeting

Participants at the meeting were organised into small working groups, in their respective areas of interest, with a view to discovering synergies and also to define and co-ordinate future projects. Following these working sessions, the findings of each working group was presented at a roundtable discussion.

Among the discussion topics of the working groups were:

1. The creation of an International Trade Database, similar to the “BTI” which is maintained by ECLAC’s Transport Unit for Latin American countries.
2. The creation of a port database on port costs and productivity, to enhance inter-port competition and to facilitate decision making by shippers.
3. The creation of a Commodity and Shipper Trade Database, sourcing information from the ports.
4. Engaging in Joint studies, to produce information available to all member countries as a public good, for example transshipment trends, or impact of the widening of the Panama Canal.

5. The execution of a Training Needs Assessment and capacity-building (the development of course materials, training of trainers, etc.); seminars on port facilitation; and the IMO’s FAL convention, environment protection in ports and the Caribbean Sea, exchange of internships, among others.


The primary outcome of deliberations by the Working Group examining possible activities for research and other collaborative projects in the future, included a comparative case study of five very small islands, each having only one common-user non-transshipment port (that is, a study of monopolistic ports). Other possible research projects agreed upon by the participants were: examining the location of potential transshipment centres or “hub-ports” in the Caribbean; inter-island transport of cargo and people; and the implications of the widening of the Panama Canal for shipping and transshipment patterns in the wider Caribbean.

The Working Group concerned with the creation of an international trade databases were informed that although this was not carried out in as systematic a manner as CARICOM collected its trade data, the ECLAC Subregional Office had been collecting data on trade volumes for many Caribbean States. Among the various recommendations put forward by the Working Group on this issue, among the most significant were ensuring standardisation (as far as possible) of data collection and analysis; and possible co-operation among all regional and international agencies involved in this type of activity, to reduce duplication of efforts and capitalise on synergies present.

### The Way Forward

The two-day Experts’ Meeting on Maritime Transport in the Caribbean provided an opportunity for key actors in the regional maritime transport arena to come together and openly discuss their vision for the future of the industry, identifying obstacles to progress, and actively seek to create mechanisms to overcome these.

As a result of the meeting, the region has moved one step closer to resolving some of its problems in the area of Maritime Transport. Several recommendations made by participants point to future activities involving collaboration and co-operation, building on the ties which were forged at the Experts’ Meeting.

Indeed, added impetus might well have been given to existing projects concerning the creation of trade databases, further capacity-building, and general research projects and studies in the area of Caribbean maritime trade and transport, as a direct result of the meeting. 

## **ABSTRACTS OF DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY ECLAC/CDCC**

### **Renewable energy in the Caribbean, where we are, where we should be**

*16 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.565 CCST/99/1*

This paper looks at the link between energy, development and the environment and examines the status of energy sources in the Caribbean. The potential of wind, solar, hydroelectric, biomass and ocean thermal energy conversion is assessed and alternative sources of energy such as geothermal and natural gas is also looked at. The paper suggests that there is no clear policy on energy use in the Caribbean and policy recommendations are made in respect of the various energy sources.

### **Impact of trade liberalization on Government finances in Jamaica**

*67 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.574*

This study examines the effects of trade liberalization and the fluctuations of commodity prices and income from services on public finance in Jamaica. The assessment is divided into two main periods - 1980 to 1990, the phase leading up to the liberalization programmes; and 1991 to 1999, the period which saw the implementation of the Common External Tariff, the elimination of the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company, the implementation of the General Consumption Tax and the revision of the motor vehicle import policy.

### **Competitiveness of the manufacturing and agro-industrial sector in the Caribbean with a focus on Dominica, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago**

*43 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.576*

This study, with its focus on four Caribbean countries thought to be fairly representative of the Caribbean Community, revisits the foundations of competitiveness theory and defines competitiveness. The structure of the regional manufacturing sector and the factors which influence the competitiveness of the sector are analysed. Policy recommendations for strengthening the competitiveness of the sector are included.

### **Summary of Caribbean economic performance - 1998**

*42 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.578*

Structural reforms and other economic policies; economic activity, inflation and employment; monetary developments and changes in public finance;

international trade and payments - These are some of the areas examined in this review of the performance of Caribbean economies in 1998. A statistical annex is included.

### **Review of Caribbean economic and social performance in the 1980s and 1990s**

*39 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.579*

Beginning with a description of the global and regional context, this study reviews trade reforms and trade performance; macroeconomic performance, including savings; investment and economic growth, foreign direct investment, fiscal deficits, inflation and external debt; exchange rates; production structures and changes in social structures. Statistical annex is included.

### **Report of the ECLAC/CDCC Third Caribbean Ministerial conference on women: review and appraisal of the FWCW platform or action**

*42 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.584*

Included in this report are the results of the Election of the Bureau of Presiding Officers; a summary of the working draft of the subregional report and amendments recommended by the meeting; a summary of three panel discussions on: poverty and the economy; women in power and decision-making; and human rights, peace and violence. Reports from regional and international agencies and NGOs are also summarized in the report. Other presentations focused on the study on gender mainstreaming, gender management systems and the perspectives of the CARICOM triennial awardees.

### **Impact of trade liberalization and fluctuations of commodity prices on Government finances: the case of St. Lucia**

*35 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.586*

This paper provides an assessment of the effects of trade liberalization and fluctuations in banana prices on government finances in Saint Lucia. Trade liberalization has been pursued within the context of the Common External Tariff (CET) of CARICOM. Fiscal reforms were implemented at each stage of implementation of the CET. This strategy has been highly successful and, as a result, revenue losses from import duties have been neutralised by revenue gains from consumption taxes. The paper also highlights the importance of banana exports to the economy. The over-dependence on banana exports renders the Saint Lucia economy highly exposed to changes in export markets.



### **Trade policy in CARICOM: overview of the main trade policy measures**

*31 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.591*

This paper reviews trade policy regimes in CARICOM countries during the 1980s and 1990s. CARICOM trade policy regimes have undergone substantial changes in the 1990s reflecting the desire of the group's member countries to move away from inward-looking to more outward-oriented growth and development. The growing recognition of the importance of export promotion policies led to the adoption of a programme for the Harmonization of Fiscal Incentives to Industry in 1993. All the CARICOM countries have introduced a series of export promotion measures, including fiscal incentive regimes and export financing schemes. Despite the policy of trade liberalization adopted by many countries and which, in general, has resulted in the reduction of tariffs, many CARICOM countries continue to apply additional trade charges, such as customs surcharges, stamp duty and discriminatory rates of consumption taxes. These taxes affect imports of non-CARICOM and CARICOM countries.

### **Recent trade performance of Caribbean countries**

*42 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.592*

The paper analyzes the evolution of trade patterns of the countries comprising the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) with the following integration groupings: Andean Community, the Central American Common Market (CACM), the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Union (EU) in the 1990s. The comparison of CDCC trade is determined by its production structure, while preferential

trading arrangements and historical links influenced its direction of trade. Despite repeated attempts at diversifying their economies, both in terms of products and markets, CDCC exports remain highly concentrated on a narrow range of relatively low value added primary products and manufactured goods, which are principally exported to North America and the EU. The United States remain, by far, the dominant partner for these countries.


### **Recent global economic developments**

*28 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.596*

This paper highlights salient economic developments which have influenced the global context in which small open island economies, such as those in the Caribbean, must operate. Output and inflation, trade developments, international finance with special reference to the Asian crisis, savings and investment and developments in capital flows are among the areas reviewed.

### **Report of the meeting of experts to discuss the establishment of a Caribbean Digital Library on the Web**

*31 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean LC/CAR/G.610*

The meeting was held to discuss modalities for collaborating in the establishment of a digital library for the Caribbean. The meeting discussed the organization and proposed administrative structure of the digital library; the subject matter, technical web management issues and other areas such as copyright, financing and suggested target audience. All decisions taken at the meeting, including the decision to form a Caribbean Digital Library Consortium, are recorded in the report. The ECLAC Director's remarks to the opening session, as well as the discussion note prepared to give focus to the deliberations are annexed to the report. 



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Third Floor, CHIC Building, 63 Park Street, P.O. Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
 Tel: (868) 623-5595; Fax: (868) 623-8485; E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

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