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**PROPOSED DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC
SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Biennium 2004-2005

By subject areas

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SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Biennium 2004-2005

Introduction

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean—which also serves as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)—is responsible for implementing this subprogramme and, as such, will continue to provide support to governments of the Caribbean in the formulation of policies and the adoption of decisions for dealing with the main challenges arising from the process of sustainable development in the areas of economic and social development.

The events over the recent past have warranted a re-examination of the state of the economies in the Caribbean subregion. The Caribbean has been subjected to setbacks which were, for the most part, externally propelled and for which they were not prepared. Given the high degree of vulnerability of national economies, these events have affected economic and social development throughout the subregion. The economic diversification strategies, which were put in place in the late 1990s, have not resulted in the macroeconomic stability many had hoped for since the countries of the subregion continue to be highly vulnerable to external shocks. In response to these developmental challenges, the programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium has been organized into six thematic areas.

The work programme, which covers the macroeconomic policies and economic performance in the subregion, is based on issues that need to be examined in light of ongoing trends in the subregion. Economic and social development in the subregion is predicated on achieving sustained growth with equity, complemented by good governance and greater participation by the people. Some of the impediments that have to be addressed to achieve that objective include significant growth of the labour force without commensurate growth in employment, high income volatility in the region, high wages and low productivity (unit costs), low levels of domestic savings and relatively high levels of interest rates. The studies proposed to be carried out under this subprogramme are intended to address these issues.

The issue of transportation costs and their effect on intraregional trade, proposed new trade arrangements between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other economic groupings, intraregional investment and macroeconomic convergence in the subregion are important to the objectives of sustainable growth and development. In this regard, the effects of international trade and economic integration/cooperation on economic growth and development in the Caribbean subregion will be addressed at meetings and in the studies prepared by the secretariat.

The secretariat will continue to provide support for the consolidation of the integration process within the wider Caribbean, including the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and will help to ensure that Caribbean countries derive the greatest possible benefits from existing trade liberalization programmes or those that may be negotiated in the future.

The continuing problems of data access and quality in the Caribbean derive from information infrastructures that cannot carry the load of services and data that are now demanded of it. These structures are at the point of breaking down. As a consequence, the present work programme is designed to feed ECLAC with the required data and information, while assisting the countries to develop their own capacities. As such, the activities for the 2004 – 2005 biennium have been designed to continue to provide the necessary information in a timely manner. Existing, as well as new databases, will be produced and maintained to support the work of the secretariat, policy makers and other users.

As regards the *Sustainable Development Programme in the Caribbean*, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (UNGCSIDS) and commonly referred to in the Caribbean, as *the SIDS POA*, provides the basic framework within which social, economic and environmental components of action are developed and implemented in promotion of the sustainable development of the small island States of the Caribbean subregion. The very close relationship facilitates a functional approach to their treatment, with due regard to the formal requirements of an institutional nature that may be prescribed in the context of a body such as the CDCC which operates at the intergovernmental level.

The science and technology programme for the 2004-2005 biennium is built on the basis that agricultural activities would continue to remain a priority in some areas of the subregion to specifically redress the decline in production and productivity within the sector. Agriculture provides the opportunity for linkages between other productive sectors for the promotion of nutrition and good health, industrial development, foreign exchange earnings and recreational facilities within the subregion. The preservation and management of the environment, within which all activities take place, will also remain a fundamental responsibility of the programme. Keeping in mind that a number of initiatives are as the result of reaction to near crises situations, it will be necessary to critically assess policy directives, resource allocation, and the priority setting exercises so that a more holistic approach to development can be shaped and promoted to foster technological development in the subregion.

Within the above parameters, programmes in science popularisation; policy considerations and institution building and strengthening; and new technologies and their impact on development are all elements of the technical assistance programmes that will be rendered to member States to support their efforts at industrial, economic and human resource development.

The work of the Social Development Unit will have as its context the social vulnerabilities of small island States. Over the biennium the work programme will seek to critically examine the interactions of social and economic policies and their impact on development in the subregion; strengthen capacity for evidenced-based social policy; and explore issues in human resource development and gender equality and equity.

1. Activities

Subject area 12.1: Macroeconomic policies and economic development

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Meeting of experts to examine the evolution of the labour markets in the subregion, in particular the relationship between wages, employment and productivity.

(b) Recurrent publications

Report on economic trends in the countries of the subregion (one for each year of the biennium).

(c) Non-recurrent publications

i. A study which examines the evolution of the labour markets in the subregion, in particular the relationship between wages, employment and productivity;

ii. A study to examine income volatility in the Caribbean;

iii. A study of financial intermediation and its implications for capital accumulation in the Caribbean;

iv. A study on production restructuring and competitiveness in the Caribbean;

v. A study on savings and investment and long-term growth in the Caribbean.

(d) Technical materials

Contribution to the statistical summary and text of the Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean, editions 2004 and 2005. Notes on the economy of the countries of the subregion.

(e) Operational activitiesi. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries of the subregion that request it, with respect to the impact of world economic trends on policies adopted nationally and subregionally and changes in macroeconomic policies and economic performance in the subregion;

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.2: Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

- i. CDCC session, including the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation (2004);
- ii. Meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee (2005).

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meeting of experts

Meeting of experts to examine trade relations between the European Union and the Caribbean after the Cotonou Agreement, on trade preferences between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) States.

(c) Non- recurrent publications

- i. A study to examine the trade relations between the European Union and the Caribbean in the context of the Cotonou Agreement on trade preferences between the EU and ACP States;
- ii. A study to analyse aspects related on trade and transportation among member countries of the CDCC countries;
- iii. A study to evaluate the effects on the Caribbean of specific aspects of global economic developments in the context of globalization;
- iv. A study on convergence and policy coordination among Caribbean countries;
- v. A study on cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the Caribbean;

- vi. A study of the impact of Free Trade Agreements on Enclave Industries in the Caribbean.
- (d) Information materials and services
- i. Publication of the quarterly bulletin Focus (UN Focus on the Caribbean) covering CDCC activities (English only);
 - ii. Preparation and distribution of information notes on selected aspects of trade of relevance to CDCC member States in the context of current and future negotiations.
- (e) Operational activities
- i. Advisory services
Provision of technical cooperation to countries of the region that request it on issues relating to trade, investment, integration and subregional cooperation;
 - ii. Group training
Organization of seminars and workshops, at the request of member States of the subregion, on various aspects of hemispheric and international trade in the context of the advances of hemispheric integration and the new international trade regulations.
- (g) Intermediate activities
- Preparation of studies and information papers on issues relating to trade in the context of advances with respect to hemispheric integration and new international trade regulations;
- The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: Statistics and information management for development

- (a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts
- i. A meeting of experts to examine the modalities for improving the statistical services in the subregion and on improving the supply and distribution of government statistical services;

- ii. Technical meeting of experts to evaluate the progress of the Caribbean Digital Library (CDL).
- (b) Recurrent publications
- Selected Statistical Indicators – online and limited hardcopy versions (two reports).
- (c) Non-recurrent publications
- i. A study of the statistical information infrastructures in selected Caribbean countries;
 - ii. A report on the development perspectives of statistical information service in selected Caribbean countries;
 - iii. A study to evaluate the use of the Caribbean Digital Library and its technical and management structure as a model for similar initiatives.
- (d) Technical materials
- i. Preparation of the Abstracts of Major Statistical Publications, a bibliography of principal statistical publications;
 - ii. Updating and improvement of existing databases and the design and creation of databases on new issues;
 - iii. Regular updating and improvement of the institutional website and digital library.
- (e) Information materials and services
- Electronic publication of the quarterly Current Awareness Bulletin.
- (f) Operational activities
- i. Advisory services
- Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it in information management and the organization of statistical services;
- ii. Group training
- Organization of a course on the development and updating of Internet sites for information specialists and librarians as well as a seminar on information management.

(g) Intermediate activities

Statistical support for activities and projects executed by the subprogramme and supply of inputs for activities conducted at ECLAC Headquarters;

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources

Subject area 12.4: Sustainable development in the Caribbean(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

- i. Meeting of experts to examine the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development;
- ii. Expert meeting to consider aspects of tourism relevant to Caribbean countries;
- iii. Expert meeting to examine the lessons learnt with respect to the evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters in the subregion;

(b) Technical servicing of inter-agency meetings

- i. Meetings of the open-ended Bureau of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Inter Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for the implementation of the SIDS POA, including the preparation of a report on the revised Joint Programme of Work;
- ii. Meetings with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and CARICOM on the designation of the Caribbean as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

(c) Non-recurrent publications

- i. A study to evaluate common problems in the management of semi-enclosed seas;
- ii. A report on the social, economic and environmental impacts of cruise ship tourism and its impacts on the development of Caribbean States;
- iii. A study to examine the lessons learnt with respect to the evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters in the subregion.

(d) Technical materials

Update and improvement of databases on Small Island Developing States.

(e) Information materials and services

Distribution of information material and press releases on the situation of the development of the SIDS in the subregion.

(f) Operational activitiesi. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it, on issues relating to the new phases of the implementation of the SIDS POA, including the formulation of national development strategies, the conceptualization of approaches applicable to problem areas and the formulation of project proposals. These services would also develop materials related to the evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters in the Caribbean subregion and will be coordinated from the ECLAC Subregional Office in Mexico as the focal point of the ECLAC system for this subject.

ii. Group training

Conduct of national training seminars in the use of the ECLAC methodology for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of natural disaster, coordinated by the ECLAC Subregional Office in Mexico as the focal point of the ECLAC system for this subject.

iii. Intermediate activities

Participation in the IACG and support for the subregional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SIDS POA and related decisions adopted in multilateral forums. Collaboration with other subregional, regional or international agencies with offices in the Caribbean on issues relating to the execution of the joint work plan for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The execution of operational activities and those indicated in (a) iii. and (c) iii. will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources

Subject area 12.5: The application of science and technology to the Caribbean

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

Expert meeting to examine the recommendations on the study on innovative technologies that have a positive impact on development in the Caribbean.

(b) Non-recurrent publications

- i. A study on innovative technologies with potential impact on Caribbean development;
- ii. A study on new technologies and intervention methodologies for promoting development in the Caribbean;
- iii. A study on the impact of new information technologies on the performance of the Caribbean economies;
- iv. A study on the trends in the Caribbean region towards the adoption of a science and technology policy and the operations of National Science and Technology Councils in the context of globalisation with particular reference to World Trade Organization (WTO) technological compliance;
- v. A paper on technology innovation and competitiveness in the Caribbean, with particular reference to decision-making in science and technology, priority setting and policies.

(c) Technical materials

Development and compilation of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean and the preparation of a manual on the same subject.

(d) Information materials and services

Publication of the quarterly bulletin "Info Bits", information related to events in science and technology.

(e) Operational activities

i. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it in areas relating to the contribution of science and technology to sustainable development in the Caribbean.

ii. Group training

Workshops in analysing the role of technological transfer in fostering technological innovation, particularly at the level of small and medium-sized companies and for devising programmes for the wide dissemination of science through electronic means.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.6: Social development in the Caribbean

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

- i. Ministerial meeting on Women in the Caribbean, in preparation for the Ninth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Platform for Action of Beijing +10;
- ii. An intergovernmental meeting to evaluate progress in implementing plans of action for specific issues related to the World Summit for Social Development;
- iii. An intergovernmental meeting to evaluate progress in implementing the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development.

(b) Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

- i. Meetings of experts to study links between incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the subregion and social vulnerability;
- ii. Meeting of experts to explore the incidence of HIV/AIDS among young women in the Caribbean;
- iii. Meeting of experts to analyse the links between gender relations, family responsibilities and poverty;
- iv. Meeting of experts to review progress made in the subregion in achieving sustainable growth with equity;
- v. Meeting of experts to review the impact of Protocol 2 of the CSME on migration patterns, with special emphasis on the impact of CSME and on other aspects related to social development in the Caribbean;

- v. Meeting of experts to examine the impact of changing gender relations and youth in the subregion and their implications for cross-sectoral policy development.
- (c) Non-recurrent publications
- i. A study on the links between social vulnerability and the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDs in the Caribbean;
 - ii. A study of gender-related factors which explain the raising incidence rates of HIV/AIDS among young women in the Caribbean;
 - iii. A study on the links between gender relations, family responsibilities and poverty;
 - iv. A study to assess the progress made in achieving equitable growth in the Caribbean SIDS;
 - v. A study on migration patterns in the subregion, in the context of Protocol 2 of the CSME and on other aspects related to social development in the Caribbean;
 - vi. A study on the impact of changing gender relations and youth in the subregion and their implications for cross-sectoral policy development;
 - vii. Two studies on the evolution on aspects of social development in the Caribbean (one in each year of the biennium);
 - viii. A review of the Caribbean subregional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in preparation for Beijing+10;
 - ix. A study of the impact of CSME on social development in the Caribbean subregion;
 - x. A review of efforts at the elimination of poverty.
- (d) Technical materials
- Updating and improving the database on women and development in the Caribbean, including information on gender equity and the database of socio-demographic statistics for the subregion.
- (e) Information materials and services
- Publication of the quarterly newsletter on Gender Dialogue.

(f) Operational activitiesi. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries that request it in the application of the Beijing Platform for Action, the presentation of national reports on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women, fostering gender mainstreaming in all spheres, the assessment and analysis of census data and the incorporation of socio-demographic information in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes.

ii. Group training

Training in the use of social statistics for social policy formulation and analysis for technocrats, policy makers and statisticians.

The execution of operational activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Inter-agency cooperation and liaison

The activities under this subprogramme will include close collaboration and periodic consultative meetings with other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and with intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations that conduct activities in the subregion.

With respect to activities relating to economic development, linkages with the global economy and regional integration and cooperation, meetings will be held with the secretariats of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), CARICOM, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the ACS, as well as with the central banks of the member countries of those organizations.

Activities relating to the application of science and technology to development will be conducted in close collaboration with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and with the Office of Technology and Energy of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Working relations will be maintained with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), other United Nations bodies and other international organizations, as appropriate, and the subregional secretariat will remain in close contact with relevant national agencies.

For the work linked to the services of statistics and information management for development, meetings will be held and close collaboration maintained with the secretariats of the OECS and CARICOM and the national statistical offices of member States.

Activities relating to sustainable development in the subregion will be conducted in a coordinated way and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP and other United Nations bodies, as well as with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and the CDB.

In the area of social development, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will collaborate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with issues relating to population and women and development, in particular with the CARICOM and OECS secretariats, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

3. Users and anticipated uses of outputs

The main users of the outputs of this subprogramme will be government authorities and officials responsible for economic and social affairs and for the formulation and execution of policies, programmes and projects in the fields referred to as well as international, regional and subregional organizations concerned with integration and cooperation. The outputs will be suitable for use in the formulation of proposals and as reference material for users in their respective fields.

Other major users will include various public- and private-sector organizations, including business, labour and professional associations, universities and other academic institutions, applied research institutes and centres for the development and diffusion of technology.

Users will receive documents, publications and materials and information services through traditional means as well as through the most up-to-date electronic media, including the full range of options provided by the Internet technologies. Other forms of contact will include technical cooperation.