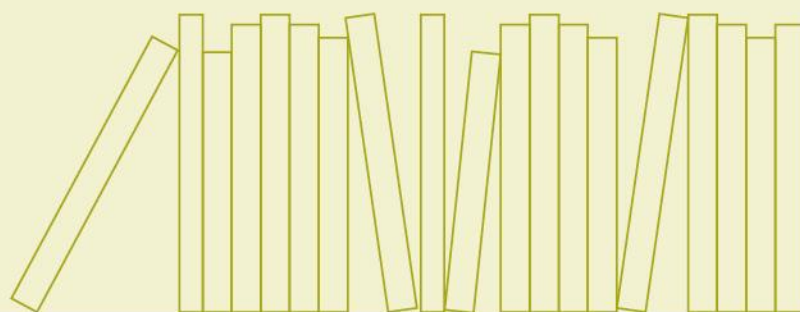


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



UNITED NATIONS



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
19 May 2017
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2017/5
26 July 2017
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING
COMMITTEE OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

This report was reproduced without formal editing.

This document was prepared by Johann Brathwaite, Programme Officer, under the supervision of Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

The views expressed in this document, which has been reproduced without formal editing, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Organization.

CONTENTS

A.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	2
B.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK.....	2
	1. Place and date of the meeting.....	2
	2. Attendance.....	2
	3. Officers	3
	4. Documentation	3
C.	SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	3
	Opening of the meeting.....	3
	1. Adoption of the agenda	5
	2. ECLAC's contribution to Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years	5
	3. Report of the first meeting of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development.....	10
	4. Progress on the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work for the Caribbean	12
	5. Other matters	14
	6. Date and venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	14
	7. Conclusions and recommendations	14
Annex I	List of participants.....	16
Annex II	List of documents	21
Annex III	Statement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as Rapporteur of the meeting (ad verbatim)	22

A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) adopted the conclusions and recommendations below, which are based on the statement made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as Rapporteur of the meeting, and appended *ad verbatim* as annex III of this report.
2. The meeting acknowledged the excellent work of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean over the past year, and challenged the office to launch a new phase of creative thought in the region to assist member States in the implementation of the SDGs.
3. Within the framework of creative thinking on development, ECLAC should inquire more directly into what the Caribbean could do to address the participatory governance issues in the region. ECLAC should also give consideration to the issue of urbanization in the Caribbean, particularly given its key link to climate change, energy, water, housing and disaster risk reduction.
4. The Monitoring Committee took note that in accordance with the established practice of rotation by country in English alphabetical order, Saint Lucia is the next in line for the Chairmanship of the CDCC. The Committee therefore welcomed the announcement of the Government of Saint Lucia to assume the Chairmanship of the twenty-seventh session of the CDCC in 2018. The Secretariat would consult with the Government of Saint Lucia with a view to finalizing the date for the twenty-seventh session of the CDCC.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the meeting

5. The eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 19 May 2017.

2. Attendance

6. Representatives of 14 member States of the CDCC attended the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.
7. Representatives of three associate members were present at the meeting: Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, and Curaçao.
8. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
10. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

11. Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Guatemala, Panama and Spain attended in the capacity of Observers.
12. The full list of participants may be found in annex I.

3. Officers

13. The officers elected to serve the twenty-sixth session of the CDCC presided over the Monitoring Committee, as follows:

Chairperson:	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Vice-Chairpersons:	Antigua and Barbuda British Virgin Islands Dominican Republic
Rapporteur:	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

4. Documentation

14. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the meeting is attached as annex II.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the meeting

15. At the opening of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, remarks were made by the following speakers:

- Reita Toussaint, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago
- Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC
- The Honourable Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Chair of the CDCC

16. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean opened the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC. She welcomed participants and noted that, in recognition of the upcoming 70th anniversary of ECLAC, the agenda included an opportunity to sensitize member States to this milestone and to reflect on the contribution of ECLAC to the region during this period.

17. The Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago noted that ECLAC had evolved over the years to take better account of the pressing development needs of the region. She observed that the 2030 agenda provided an opportunity to revitalize regional cooperation and integration as well as increased resource mobilization. She acknowledged the responsibility of Caribbean governments in advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in fostering the participation of all stakeholders in the process.

18. She pointed to the provision of technical advice to Caribbean countries as one of the strengths of ECLAC, and brought to the attention of the meeting the range of technical assistance ECLAC had provided to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago during the biennium. This included support for the

transformation of the Central Statistical Office, REDATAM training and post-training follow-up for the online dissemination of census data, capacity-building on energy efficiency and renewable energy policy development, and disaster assessment methodology training. She also signalled that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had aligned its national development priorities with the SDGs, and expressed the hope that ECLAC would support the implementation of their 2016-2030 national development strategy.

19. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC conveyed the greetings of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. He recalled previous visits to the Caribbean in 2015 – which coincided with the Caribbean reflecting on the MDGs and preparing for the adoption of the SDGs – and complimented the Caribbean’s current focus on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and pursuing a framework for holistic integrated development offered by Agenda 2030. Within this context, he offered four crucial issues for consideration to ensure meaningful implementation of a sustainable development agenda in the Caribbean. First, he noted that the high debt burden and resulting limited fiscal space - which could not be ignored - made it difficult for the Caribbean to harness necessary resources to move forward quickly, and pointed to evidence-based policy-making being key to mainstreaming and implementing the SDGs in the Caribbean. Second, he suggested that the Caribbean should reflect on how strategic and deliberate it had been in exploring opportunities for cooperation and support from the international development community - and must seek to optimize those opportunities - particularly through global agreements such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Third, he flagged the issue of the Caribbean’s middle income classification and the resulting lack of access to concessional resources. He stressed the need for member States to examine opportunities to raise financial and other resources at the national level through incentives to the domestic private sector and civil society, coupled with fostering an enabling business environment for productive investment. Finally, he emphasized the importance of modernizing national statistical systems to support reliable and timely data gathering for the monitoring and measurement of progress towards the attainment of the SDGs.

20. He reiterated the commitment of ECLAC to promote the “*debt for climate adaptation swap*” initiative on behalf of the region, as well as its willingness to provide support through technical cooperation to improve the production and dissemination of data for development. He brought to the attention of the meeting the fact that ECLAC would be celebrating its 70th anniversary in February 2018, and noted that the coming milestone offered an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of the Commission to Latin American and Caribbean development during the period.

21. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Chair of the CDCC advocated the need for the Caribbean to craft a more integrated development strategy within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, building on momentum of the first meeting of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development, held in Mexico City in April 2017. He emphasized that if the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was to fully address the unique challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS, the region also needed to create synergies with other platforms such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SAMOA Pathway for the sustainable development of SIDS and Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing sustainable development. He agreed that the well-known economic, social and environmental challenges facing the subregion - including high debt, low growth, reduced global demand for exports, limited concessional financing, lower FDI, high unemployment among high school and university graduates, non-communicable diseases, climate change and the impact of extreme events - be tackled with innovative policies.

22. He highlighted three critical points to guide the member States’ embrace of the 2030 agenda and the related development platforms, even as they responded meaningfully to those development challenges. First, he noted that in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs should be

integrated seamlessly into national development frameworks and policies. Second, he underscored the need for long term development planning, which should transcend cycles of political administrations and embrace more inclusive policy making. Third, he acknowledged the likelihood that financing for sustainable development would have to rely more on domestic resource mobilization as well as the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms and non-traditional partnerships. In concluding, he also acknowledged the impending 70th anniversary of ECLAC as an opportunity to celebrate the demonstrated and ongoing commitment to advocating innovative solutions to persistent economic problems of the region. In this context, he highlighted the contribution of two giants in development thinking: Raúl Prebisch, pre-eminent economist who advanced structuralist theory – for which the Commission became known – as the central strategy to address development challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Nobel laureate Caribbean economist Sir Arthur Lewis, the “father” of economic thinking in the Caribbean subregion.

1. Adoption of the agenda

23. The meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting without any changes (MCCDCC.18/1)).
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. ECLAC’s contribution to Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years.
 3. Report on the first meeting of the forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development.
 4. Progress on the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work for the Caribbean.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Date and venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.
 7. Conclusions and recommendations.

2. ECLAC’s contribution to Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years

24. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters of the Caribbean indicated that the Commission was eager to have member States actively participate in commemorating the 70th anniversary of its establishment. She introduced a self-narrated video, which provided a historical review of the Commission from its inception and expansion into the Caribbean region. The video highlighted its role in monitoring emerging issues, analyzing its impact on regional and national policy agendas, generating new ideas, proposals and policy recommendations, and providing technical cooperation services and activities that directly benefitted the countries of the region. Member States were invited to join ECLAC in celebrating its contribution to the development journey of Latin America and the Caribbean through the years.

25. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented some of the essential elements of the contribution of ECLAC to Latin America and Caribbean development thinking, including as a think tank which advanced economic ideas and assisted in the design of policy responses to address the development

challenges faced by the member States. He recalled Prebisch's influence in internationalizing ECLAC thinking on development, and his emphasis on industrial planning, policy advice and capacity building, which he advanced as head of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). He pointed to the link between ideas on development, planning, statistics and practice being as important today – as the Caribbean addressed the SDG monitoring and implementation – as it was fifty years ago.

26. He noted that the work of ECLAC continued in this tradition, and cited key areas of modern focus which included: (i) progressive structural change; (ii) the challenge of poverty; (iii) the need to achieve gender equality; (iv) the lack of data; and (v) environmental security. He pointed to the Commission's leadership in facilitating and monitoring global sustainable development mandates, including the SDGs, SAMOA Pathway and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. He recalled that Prebisch and Lewis provided keen analysis of the challenges facing the region, and highlighted that they both advocated industrialization to boost productivity and export growth as a means of addressing the foreign exchange and employment challenge in the region. He noted that equality was at the core of ECLAC thinking on how best to promote sustainable development in the region.

27. He suggested that the region should also focus on balanced growth that integrated key sectors and addressed poverty. He further suggested that the region needed to maintain the momentum of the regional integration process to facilitate trade and capital flows and to achieve better terms of trade with developed economies. He pledged the continued support of ECLAC to the subregion including the championing the cause of the subregion in international fora and addressing international mandates. He challenged Caribbean small States to be flexible and nimble, and to better leverage regional and international support to create more competitive and resilient societies.

Panel discussion: Transformative development thinking and practice to address new Caribbean realities

28. The panel discussion was chaired by the Professor and Senior Fellow of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at Mona, UWI (Chair of the Panel). The meeting received presentations from an expert Panel comprised of the Professor from the School of Business and Management at Mona, UWI (School of Business Professor), the Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Distinguished Professor at the University of Technology in Jamaica (Senior Research Fellow), and the Senior Fellow of Global Economy and Development from the Brookings Institution (Brookings Senior Fellow), respectively. The discussion reflected on the role of ideas in Caribbean development and the currency of those ideas as member States prepared to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. The School of Business Professor presented on “The Lewis legacy in institution building for sustainable development in the Caribbean”. She highlighted the role of institutions in the work of Sir Arthur Lewis, which was later popularized in Douglas North's work. She noted that institutions were key to the enabling environment for economic development, and recalled Lewis' assertion that they should promote growth according to: (i) the scope which they allowed for specialization and trade; (ii) the extent that they associated effort with reward; and (iii) the freedom they permitted for seeking out and seizing economic opportunity. She also indicated that Lewis focused on both macro and micro institutions, and advocated that wealthier nations should institute a Marshall plan to enable poorer countries to improve their public service. She highlighted the fact that both macro and micro institutions were necessary for economic development, and observed that macro institutions pertained to property rights, competition policy, constitutions and laws, among others, whereas micro institutions related mainly to the administrative capacity of state institutions that were responsible for development.

30. She echoed Lewis' recognition of the institutional void that existed in underdeveloped countries, noting that he explicitly articulated the creation of institutions as facilitators of economic development.

She underscored that with respect to foreign investors, developing country governments should focus on building an enabling environment that alleviated problems faced by the investors. Further, she felt that institutions should be granted embedded autonomy, which was critical to the implementation of industrial policy that would enable developing countries to attract and optimize the gains, particularly from foreign direct investment. She noted that, of late, the region had lost ground with respect to private sector development, and suggested that there was a need to deal with the cultural and psychological aversion to risk taking and entrepreneurship.

31. The Senior Research Fellow addressed the meeting on the topic “Pursuing the sustainable development goals to address economic transformation in the Caribbean”. He highlighted the region’s low savings relative to investment, which led to high debt and foreign exchange gaps. He observed the meeting that the destruction of the capital stock from hurricanes was also a major challenge for the region. He argued that economic transformation in the Caribbean, through, *inter alia*, skill-intensive exports, required that productivity grow faster than wage growth as well as the capital-labour ratio. One solution was that the region needed to deploy underutilized labour to create the domestic capital in areas such as the music industry in depressed areas.

32. He suggested that development strategies for the region should be financed through collaborative resource mobilization, and that the region should be unified in its pursuit of the SDGs around four themes: (i) Building awareness of SDGs and treating them as linked through the underlying targets; (ii) Stressing links between policy and science and technology; (iii) Providing clear plans with projects to commit resources to each of the areas identified; and (iv) Finding a way to devise an implementation mechanism to achieve themes. In relation to the development of domestic capital, he highlighted the use of such capital through tertiary education for export and the creative industries. In addition, he felt that ICT and innovation were central to the successful pursuit of the SDGs.

33. He proposed a number of issues the Caribbean should address to support the development of the capital goods sector, including addressing the historical challenges in accessing the necessary financial assets to help innovative communities; pursuing a vigorous agenda to deal with gender and all other likely forms of inequality; strengthening participatory decision-making; mainstreaming excluded communities into the policy-making process; prioritizing investment for sustainable development through international collaboration; and targeting global partnerships, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

34. The presentation of the Brookings Senior Fellow addressed “A new World order and the role of ECLAC in the sustainable development of the Caribbean and Latin America”. He recalled being a student of Arthur Lewis and working with him for three years post-graduation. He also hailed the Commission’s leadership on development thinking. In highlighting the integrative nature of the SDGs, he advocated the need for a holistic approach that linked short, medium and long-term growth.

35. He put forward five major challenges to sustainable development in the Caribbean in the context of the new global order: (i) Major headwinds in the global economy - investment rates in the region had stagnated when they should have been growing, and macro-economic stabilization had come at a high cost in terms of growth and unemployment; (ii) the threat of rising inequality - because of trade, technology and the rising share of capital relative to labor income; (iii) the future of work - machines were replacing white collar workers because of breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and the capacity of machines to take on increasingly complex, non-routine tasks; (iv) new uncertainties of the trajectory of globalization and global dominance - the significant tightening of the United States on its immigration policies; and (v) the threat of climate change - the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, though significant, had not led to the expected increased investment activity in mitigation and, in particular, adaptation.

36. He suggested that to properly address those challenges the region needed to rethink the role of government and fiscal policy. He pointed to the central link between the Caribbean debt overhang and the cost of financing, and noted that the vulnerability of the region to shocks - and the need to have the capacity to handle the shocks - required both national action and better international cooperative action.

37. The Chair of the Panel noted a few universal ideas in the work of Lewis: (i) There was no single growth model; (ii) Development should balance incentive with good governance; and (iii) Development was social as well as economic. He recalled key pillars of Lewis' thinking, which included that the quality of leadership was critical to creating new economic spaces; and that the diaspora provided a platform for Caribbean development.

DISCUSSION

Climate change:

38. The representative of the British Virgin Islands pointed to the ambivalence of the United States on the issue of climate change, and queried the likely impact on the region. The Senior Research Fellow asserted that Caribbean countries could not afford such ambivalence. It was therefore important to ensure that countries like the United States honour their commitments and that the issue was kept on the radar of the international community. The Chair of the CDCC pointed to the impact of global politics on matters of great import to the Caribbean, noting how the change in leadership in one country could derail the years of effort and diplomacy expended in crafting the Paris Accord on Climate Change. He highlighted the vulnerability of the region in these matters, considering that the Caribbean had little influence on their outcomes. The Brookings Senior Fellow pointed out that, while the United States administration had signaled that it would not abide by its commitment to the Paris Accord, many other countries seemed to be committed to preserving the Accord. He suggested that the Caribbean leverage their international connections to stem the creeping tendency of some countries to default on their commitments to fund climate change. He reminded the meeting that Fiji would be the Chair of COP 24 in 2018, which provided an excellent opportunity for the region to both maintain international pressure for climate action and highlight the importance of the Paris Accord to vulnerable small island developing States.

Small businesses:

39. The representative of Guyana noted that small- and medium-sized businesses did not play as significant a role in Guyana as it did in many Caribbean economies. He reported that his country was exploring mechanisms to enhance the contribution of small businesses to the economy and to the expansion of green industries. The Senior Research Fellow noted that within the framework of sustainable development the ability of small businesses to produce domestic capital by developing new products would support the transformation of the economy. The Senior Fellow of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at Mona, UWI (SALISES Senior Fellow) felt that a re-conceptualization of small informal enterprises might be in order. He suggested that a more effective paradigm would be to establish networks of small businesses, rather than encourage individual small businesses to become formal medium or large enterprises.

Capital formation:

40. In keeping with the point on capital formation made by the Senior Research Fellow during his presentation, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda asked whether there was really insufficient capital formation, or whether there were inadequate mechanisms for transferring that capital to businesses that needed it. He queried if all banks were risk-averse, and pointed out that there were banks in the region which boasted of being liquid, yet there were businesses that were starved for capital.

41. The Senior Research Fellow, in addressing the issue of banks and their aversion to risk, recalled the investment in specialized development banks for agriculture when the industry was seen as a driver

for economic development. He noted, however, that the same effort was not extended to the music and entertainment industry, even though the latter contributed significantly more than the former to the GDP of Trinidad and Tobago. On domestic capital formation, he suggested that the fundamental solution to raising domestic capital - which he agreed was too low - was to invest in building the capacity of the Caribbean people to generate capital, particularly through new knowledge and ideas, and pointed to the gains achieved through the introduction of new commodities and services by musicians and ICT workers. The Brookings Senior Fellow suggested that there was insufficient capital formation, and that there was also a need to better utilize the capital that was available. He underscored the need to improve public investment in infrastructure, but to do so the debt burden would have to be reduced, so as to create the requisite fiscal space.

Data:

42. The representative of Jamaica emphasized the need for timely and accurate data to improve analysis. She highlighted as an example the challenge in capturing data on the largely informal creative industries. The School of Business Professor agreed that developing this particular industry was challenging, and opined that dialogue with the relevant ministries might facilitate better data capture. The Senior Research Fellow supported the need to fill data gaps as expressed by the representative of Jamaica, noting that scholars have been unable to test theorems on their work - including the impact of domestic capital accumulation on economic transformation - due to the lack of data.

Institutions:

43. The representative of Jamaica also spoke of the institutional relationships as they related to the private sector, and noted the government's challenge in integrating them into the strategy for implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The School of Business Professor pointed to a mechanism in Jamaica which was attempting to link business, government and civil society members in policy-making, but stressed the inherent challenge of such a pioneering effort.

44. The Chair of the Panel also pointed to the need to redesign public institutions. He noted that primary industries in the Caribbean were changing and that institutional structures needed to be more forward looking. He suggested that new strategies and institutions were needed to deal with the non-traditional sectors of the economy, such as informal businesses, the diaspora and migration. The Senior Research Fellow highlighted the challenge confronting the institutional arrangements through which individuals participated in policy-making. He noted that, across the region, few mechanisms existed for citizens to effectively raise issues with legislators, and suggested that the lack of a participatory decision-making system challenged long-term development and growth.

Creative thinking:

45. The SALISES Senior Fellow signalled that evolving US policy placed remittances to the Caribbean under threat, with the potential disruption of migration flows. He challenged ECLAC to launch a new phase of creative thinking in the region to assist member States in implementing the SDGs, which he noted should include a more careful analysis of the concept of the firm in the Caribbean, as well as ways of measuring services in economies with high levels of informality and significant threats to their viability. The Senior Research Fellow also urged ECLAC - as part of the move towards creative thinking on development - to incorporate more directly what the Caribbean could do to address participatory governance issues in the region.

46. The Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean informed the meeting of current ECLAC-led research in the creative industries, and pointed to work being done in the music, film and craft sectors. He noted that "firms" in that sector functioned on a model which was less formal than that of a traditional firm, and highlighted the need to explore types of financing, extension services, innovative mechanisms and technology to

support the industry. The Deputy Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean noted that the office had explored and published works on financial innovation, and the role of Bitcoin and other kinds of new financial mechanisms for financing small businesses. He also signalled the ongoing interest and inquiry by the office into the role of ICT in institutional arrangements in small States.

Other:

47. The representative of the British Virgin Islands raised concern regarding the implications of the restrictions imposed by the international financial institutions on Caribbean financial centers, noting that the revenue from the financial centers supported the pursuit of the SDGs. The Brookings Senior Fellow noted that, as a result of Dodd Frank and other regulatory measures, a degree of risk aversion has emerged in dealing with banks and other institutions, particularly in small jurisdictions. He felt that, while there were comparative advantages for the Caribbean in certain areas of financing, the current rules placed the Caribbean at a general disadvantage. He pointed to the need for the Caribbean countries to address this issue in a unified manner.

48. The representative of the CPDC enquired of the role that domestic investment might play in Caribbean economies, and how it might affect foreign reserves. He also questioned the role of the diaspora in supporting Caribbean economies.

49. The Brookings Senior Fellow argued that domestic sources of growth such as diversified tourism remained an important source of private sector potential, but needed complementary public capital. He underscored the fact that each major economic or environmental shock diminished public capital and resulted in higher public debt, so a more resilient infrastructure needed to be built.

3. Report of the first meeting of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development

50. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean reported on the first meeting of the forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development, held in Mexico City in April 2017. She noted that the meeting was organized as part of the support of ECLAC to the integration of the SDGs in national development planning and budgeting process, with the specific aim to: (i) Strengthen institutional architecture; (ii) Integrate SDGs into national development planning; (iii) Build national capacity; (iv) Develop a regional observatory on planning for sustainable development; (v) Promote regional and national strategies for statistical development; (vi) Strengthen regional and national data systems; (vii) Promote regional and South-South cooperation; (viii) Provide institutional support to the LAC members of the Inter-Agency Expert Group/High-Level Group (IAEG/HLG) - SDGs with a view to establishing a Regional indicators framework; and to (ix) Enhance capacity of the National Statistical Systems.

51. She underscored that a key objective of the forum was to strengthen data and statistical systems in the region in order to ensure that there was effective assessment of progress of the hemisphere with respect to the SDGs. She indicated that the forum was open to all development agencies in the region, and would meet annually under the auspices of ECLAC. She emphasized the importance of the forum specifically for the Caribbean subregion, as a facility for advocacy in responses to the particular development challenges of the subregion. The Director encouraged the widest participation in the forum on the part of the Caribbean, since the forum represented the regional platform from which participation in the global SDG process could be launched.

52. The meeting then received a presentation from the Barbados Permanent Secretary for Sustainable Development, titled “Financing the SDGs – The Role of Fiscal Policy and Elements of a Budgetary Approach”. He elaborated a historical perspective on the approach to fiscal policy in the subregion since independence. He noted that prior to emergence of the sustainable development paradigm emphasis was placed on economic growth - which in many instances ended in fiscal crises - and fiscal policy was assessed by the robustness of the growth and welfare that followed. He suggested that, in light of the SDGs, the focus should now be on sustainable growth, which could be monitored through the system of national accounts. He noted that the fiscal tool for the implementation of the SDGs was the national budget, and underscored that, in this context, governments should determine the size and affordability of a sustainable budget by: (i) Efficiently predicting the necessary revenues for running the economy annually; (ii) Estimating the optimum level of fiscal deficit for sustaining investment – ideally not greater than three per cent; and (iii) Determining the size of total expenditure. He underscored that financing sustainable development should address more than government programmes, project and activities; it should also embrace the activities of the private sector and civil society.

53. He highlighted the challenge - which emerged from the first meeting of the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development - of the Caribbean’s ability to source low cost financing and financing for sustainable development. He alluded to the role of public private partnerships (PPPs) in supporting the SDGs, noted how costly they were in the Caribbean, and suggested that a more suitable model for small States was required. He pointed out that the achievement of a number of the SDGs could be linked to sustained job creation and employment, as well as balanced GDP growth. He recommended the programme performance budgeting system for governments to support the mainstreaming and implementation of the SDGs within their national development frameworks, since it showed how the various elements of the strategy were aligned. He stressed that the process needed to be inclusive and transparent in order to be successful.

DISCUSSION:

54. The representative of the British Virgin Islands recalled an op-ed issued by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC which was deemed to be inimical to the interests of the financial sector of small financial jurisdictions in the Caribbean. He underscored that the British Virgin Islands was very proactive in promoting and adhering to the necessary regulatory standards in order to prevent tax evasion. He called upon ECLAC to remove the op-ed from its website, noting that it impacted negatively on the economic interest of the British Virgin Islands.

55. Referencing the presentation from the representative from Barbados with respect to PPPs, the representative of the CPDC called for a SIDS-specific model for PPPs. In response, the representative of Barbados outlined some of the challenges with PPPs as regards financing the payback for projects undertaken under PPPs. He observed that especially in circumstances of limited fiscal space, the PPP financing conditions would need to be more closely aligned with the lending conditions of development banks.

56. The representative of Jamaica noted the achievement of the Latin America and the Caribbean region as the first to have successfully hosted a regional forum on SDG implementation. She observed that the preparatory process for these SDGs followed several meetings in the region - thereby building momentum in the implementation of the SDGs – and suggested that the Caribbean subregion perhaps needed to improve its engagement in preparation for these meetings in the future.

4. Progress on the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work for the Caribbean

57. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters expressed her appreciation to the staff of the office for their dedicated support to the subregion, and presented an account of the progress made in the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work of the organization for the Caribbean. She highlighted the work done by the office in responding to global mandates, CDCC Mandates, and national requests, and also presented a summary of the 2018-2019 work programme for consideration by the Monitoring Committee.

58. In terms of responding to global mandates, she pointed to the active efforts of the office in supporting SDG implementation as well as efforts to review the RCM/TAC in a manner that accommodated the new post 2015 development agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. Additionally, she highlighted the efforts of the office in financing for development, with specific focus on ECLAC's promotion of a new debt reduction strategy for the Caribbean region. She noted that the proposal had been endorsed by the CARICOM Heads, and continued to attract wide interest. She indicated that the initiative would be further pursued with the donor community.

59. She noted that the office was also active in supporting the Caribbean's response to global and regional mandates - with the help of GIZ funding - in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. She pointed to the completion of six national studies in this area, as well as the support provided to three countries in the preparation and/or update of their national energy policies. In addressing the collaborative nature of the work, she touched on the partnerships between ECLAC and the ACS, CARICOM, CDB and the OECS Secretariat in this area.

60. The Director also apprised the meeting of the efforts of the office in the area of disaster assessment. She pointed to the development of an exercise guide to supplement the Handbook for Disaster Assessment, and noted that the team had conducted three disaster assessments, two regional trainings and national trainings for five countries during the reporting period. She reminded the meeting that all work by ECLAC on disaster assessments for the Latin America and the Caribbean region was now centered in the subregional office.

61. She addressed the work done on disability – in collaboration with the OHCHR - touching on the regional workshop to sensitize countries on next steps following ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including the need for reporting.

62. With the arrival of the Gender Focal Point in 2016, the Director acknowledged the strengthened efforts of the office in the area of gender research and advocacy. She spoke of the convening of two meetings by the subregional headquarters – “*A meeting to examine the economic autonomy of women in the Caribbean*” and “*A technical meeting to explore women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean*” - to better prepare the Caribbean ahead of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

63. The Director reiterated that the subregional headquarters was committed to supporting the development efforts of the ECLAC Associate Members, and cited several examples of that commitment. She noted that the Cayman Islands was a beneficiary of a technical mission to review their draft National Energy Policy, and also training on the use of REDATAM for online dissemination of census data. She pointed to the participation of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the “*Subregional consultation on the development of a set of core indicators for monitoring implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in Caribbean Small Island Developing States*”, as well as the active participation of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the US

Virgin Islands in the “*Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning*”. She also informed the meeting of a dedicated Focal Point for Associate Member Countries in the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

64. She cited the extensive range of published material and social media tools of the outreach programme of the office - and their increasing reach - in promoting the work of the office.

65. The Director informed the meeting that technical assistance continued to be a fundamental part of the work of the office, and highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the subregional headquarters in support of development in the subregion during the reporting period. She pointed to specific regional undertakings in respect of: (i) REDATAM Training and support; (ii) DALA Training; and (iii) Public finance management and training in the use of STATA. She noted that the office also responded to several national technical assistance requests including: (i) Grenada - Policy for non-tourism service sector development; (ii) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Review of the national energy policy; (iii) Saint Lucia - Transition framework for government fleet to electric vehicles; (iv) Saint Kitts and Nevis - National Strategic Plan for Yachting Sector development; and (v) DALA Methodology training in several countries.

66. On the issue of ongoing work for the remainder of the biennium, the Director signalled several important areas of research, including: (i) The impact of de-risking; (ii) Offshore financial centers; (iii) Ageing in the Caribbean; (iv) SDGs; and (v) Inclusive social protection. She also identified several priority areas of research for the upcoming 2018-2019 biennium, such as: (i) The aging population in the Caribbean; (ii) De-risking of the financial sector in the Caribbean; (iii) Diversification of the tourism sector through research on creative economy; (iv) ICT for development; (v) Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies; and (vi) The 2020 round of Censuses. She highlighted the importance of the 2020 round of censuses, noting that the data collected should support the work of the SDG monitoring and reporting.

DISCUSSION:

67. The Chair of the CDCC seized the opportunity to place on record both his and his Government’s appreciation for the very valuable support provided by the Director and her team. A number of representatives also commended the office on the support provided through the meaningful work accomplished to date. The representative of the British Virgin Islands thanked ECLAC for its commitment to provide technical support for the alignment of their national plans for the roll out of the SDGs. The representative of Suriname sought specific support in addressing disaster risk reduction and population and development challenges.

68. The delegate of Barbados referenced the intervention of the British Virgin Islands in underscoring the need to incorporate the offshore financial sector in the implementation of the SDGs in the subregion. He noted the important challenge of regional brain drain, and the potential for utilizing the diaspora in investing in the implementation of the SDGs. He also noted that the revitalization of the RCM was a critical issue given that the SAMOA pathway was the key multilateral framework for implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda.

69. The representative of Guyana noted the Director’s reference to the United Nations Declaration of the Decade for Peoples of African Descent, and called on the CDCC to take the mandate of this declaration into account in its work. He noted Guyana’s efforts to date in acknowledging the decade, and signalled his country’s willingness to participate in these efforts.

70. The delegate of Barbados, supported by the representative of Jamaica, raised the question of urbanization in the Caribbean Region. He proposed that ECLAC give this issue due consideration in the

future, particularly given its key link to climate change, energy, water, housing and disaster risk reduction.

71. The representative of the CPCD made the case for consideration to be given to the concerns of the silver economy (the aging) as well as the concerns of persons with disabilities in the region. He also noted the importance of national institutional strengthening and coordination as a pre-condition for the implementation of the SDGs. The representative from Jamaica reiterated the critical issue of aging in the Caribbean, and noted that it was one of the areas covered in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean. She reminded the meeting that the 2020 census would be the only one undertaken in the 2015-2030 period.

72. The representative of Aruba acknowledged the work of ECLAC in the area of the creative economy, noting Aruba's interest in receiving research support in this area. He spoke of the need to address the lack of a statistical framework to monitor the contributions of the creative economy.

73. The delegate of Barbados enquired whether there had been specific outreach to the Caribbean Ambassadors in Washington with a view to mobilizing their support for the ECLAC debt relief proposal. The Chair of the CDCC asked the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for clarification on the status of the proposal. In response the Director asserted that there was no hesitancy on the part of the Caribbean countries, but noted that members of the donor community, including the World Bank, IDB and US Treasury department had raised questions regarding who would bear the cost of the debt relief.

5. Other matters

74. There were no other matters raised in the meeting.

6. Date and venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

75. The Chair noted that, in accordance with the principle of rotation among the member States in the English alphabetical order, Saint Lucia was in line to be the next Chair of the CDCC. The representative of Saint Lucia formally indicated the readiness of his Government to assume the Chairmanship of the CDCC in 2018. ECLAC would continue its consultation with the Government of Saint Lucia on the matter of the date of the twenty-seventh Ministerial Session of the CDCC and notify Member States and Associate Members in due course.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

76. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in her capacity as Rapporteur of the meeting, presented an account of the day's proceedings. The statement can be found *ad verbatim* in annex III.

77. The statement was adopted by acclamation.

78. The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the Chair of the CDCC made closing remarks.

79. The Director expressed appreciation to all participants for their substantive engagement during the meeting. She gave special thanks to the panelists for their contribution to the stimulating discussion, noting its relevance to the work of ECLAC and its reflection of the Caribbean's current reality. She also

thanked the members of the wider ECLAC family as well as the regional institutions. She expressed her appreciation to the Deputy Executive Secretary, noting that his presence demonstrated the support the subregional headquarters office continued to receive from the ECLAC Headquarters. She thanked the current Chair of the CDCC for his continued service, and expressed her appreciation to the representative from Saint Lucia for his government's commitment to assume the Chair in 2018.

80. The Chair of the CDCC expressed his sincere appreciation to the participants for their fulsome engagement to the end of the meeting. He pointed to the excellent and important work being done by the Committee and ECLAC, and commended the Secretariat for the outstanding level of support it provided in delivering a comprehensive Rapporteur's report. He then closed the meeting.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Member States

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representative:

- Amb. Colin Murdoch, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

BAHAMAS

Delegation member:

- Tishka Francis, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the United Nations

BARBADOS

Representative:

- Edison Alleyne, Permanent Secretary, Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office

Delegation member:

- Travis Sinckler, Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of Environment

CUBA

Representative:

- H.E. Guillermo Vázquez Moreno, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Trinidad and Tobago

DOMINICA

Delegation member:

- Kyra Paul, Social Development Planner, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representative:

- H.E. José A. Serulle Ramia, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Trinidad and Tobago

Delegation member:

- Jacqueline Boin, Economist, President of Science and Art Foundation of the Dominican Republic, Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Trinidad and Tobago

GRENADA

Representative:

- Michael Stephen, Chair of the National Steering Committee, National Sustainable Development Plan 2030

GUYANA

Representative:

- Amb. Rawle Lucas, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Foreign Trade and Investment Matters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Delegation member:

- Teandra McKay, Foreign Service Officer II and Desk Officer for ECLAC, Department of Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

JAMAICARepresentative:

- Amb. Sheila Sealy Monteith, Under Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Delegation members:

- H.E. David Prendergast, High Commissioner, Jamaican High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago
- Delita McCallum, Counsellor/Head of Chancery, Jamaican High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago
- Toni-Shae Freckleton, Manager, Population and Health Unit, Planning Institute of Jamaica

SAINT KITTS AND NEVISRepresentative:

- Hon. Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation

Delegation member:

- Lorna Hunkins, Special Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation

SAINT LUCIARepresentative:

- Hon. Ubaldus Raymond, Senator and Minister in the Ministry of Finance

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINESRepresentative:

- Louise Tash, Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour

SURINAMERepresentative:

- Oquemele Denz, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Suriname in Trinidad and Tobago

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGORepresentative:

- Reita Toussaint, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Delegation members:

- Anesa Ali-Rodriguez, Foreign Services Officer, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- Maureen Matheson, Planning Officer, Ministry of Planning and Development
- Cherry-Ann Millard, Director, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- Peter Mitchell, Director of Planning (Ag.), Ministry of Planning and Development

B. Associate members

ARUBA

Delegation member:

- Marcelino Kock, Policy Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Representative:

- Benito Wheatley, Director, British Virgin Islands London Office, British Virgin Islands Government

Delegation member:

- Elvia Maduro, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Premier's Office

CURAÇAO

Delegation members:

- Danaë Daal, Senior Legal Adviser
- Neelam Jethi Melwani, Policy Officer, Directorate of Foreign Relations

C. Observers

ARGENTINA

- H.E. Ana C. Pisano-Ashton, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic in Trinidad and Tobago

BRAZIL

- Otavio Maia Chelotti, Counsellor, Embassy of Brazil in Trinidad and Tobago

GERMANY

- H.E. Lutz H. Görgens, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Trinidad and Tobago

GUATEMALA

- H.E. Marrio Estuardo Torres Townson, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala in Trinidad and Tobago

PANAMA

- H.E. Carmen Menendez, Ambassador of Panama in Trinidad and Tobago
- Joyra C. Quintero, Third Secretary, Embassy of Panama in Trinidad and Tobago

SPAIN

- Oriol Solà Pardell, Deputy Head of Mission/Consul, Embassy of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago

D. United Nations Programmes and Funds

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Trinidad and Tobago
- Shaunna Sankar, Communications Unit, United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNDP Trinidad and Tobago
- Khadine Smith, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF)

- Maya Faisal, Social and Economic Policy Specialist, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office

E. Specialized agencies**International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist for Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Jewel Ali, Head of Office / Project Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago Office

F. Other intergovernmental organizations**Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

- Amrikha Singh, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- Norma Cherry-Fevrier, Programme Officer - Social and Sustainable Development Division

Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

- Gordon Bispham, Executive Director

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Tricia Barrow, Political Adviser
- Natasha George, Legal Adviser

G. Other institutions**Brookings Institution**

- Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow of Global Economy and Development

University of Technology, Jamaica

- Vanus James, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Distinguished Professor

University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Lou Anne Barclay, Professor, School of Business and Management, Mona Campus
- Mark Figueroa, Professor and Senior Fellow of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Mona Campus
- Jacqueline Laguardia Martinez, Lecturer, Institute of International Relations, Saint Augustine Campus
- Michael Witter, Senior Fellow of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Mona Campus

H. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Sheldon McLean, Coordinator, Economic Development Unit
- Johann Brathwaite, Programme Officer, Programme Support Unit
- Michael Hendrickson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development Unit
- Peter Nicholls, Coordinator, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Willard Phillips, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Alexander Voccia, Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Dale Alexander, Senior Programme Management Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Denise Balgobin, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Sita Inglefield, Personal Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director
- Blaine Marcano, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Nyasha Skerrette, Research Assistant, Economic Development Unit
- Rossano Thompson, Computer Information Assistant, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
- Elizabeth Thorne, Research Assistant, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant, Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit
- Ana Fernández, Staff Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Colleen Skeete, Team Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Jeniffer Sankar-Sooknarine, Team Assistant, Programme Support Unit
- Don Charles, Research Assistant (*Individual Contractor*), Economic Development Unit
- Adanna Cudjoe, Research Assistant (*Individual Contractor*), Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Runako Henry, Computer Information Assistant (*Individual Contractor*), Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre

Annex II**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda item 1 LC/MCCDCC.18/1 LC/MCCDCC.18/2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Provisional agenda Annotated provisional agenda Provisional programme
Agenda item 2	The contribution of ECLAC to development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years Presentation
Agenda item 3	Report of the first meeting of the forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development Presentation
Agenda item 4 for LC/MCCDCC.18/3	Progress in implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work the Caribbean Progress report on the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work for the Caribbean
Agenda item 5	Other matters <i>No document</i>
Agenda item 6 LC/MCCDCC.18/4	Date and venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee Date and venue of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
Agenda item 7	Conclusions and recommendations <i>Rapporteur's report</i>

Annex III**STATEMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AS RAPPOREUR OF THE
MEETING (AD VERBATIM)**

Minister Mark Brantley, Chair of the CDCC, other distinguished Ministers and Senior Representatives of Government, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of the United Nations system, regional and international organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the CDCC, it is my pleasure to provide you with a summary of today's proceedings.

Opening of the meeting

The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed the delegates to the 18th Session of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, noted that ECLAC will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2018, and then introduced the first speaker.

The Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago welcomed delegates and wished them a productive meeting. She noted that ECLAC had evolved over the years to take better account of the peculiar needs of the region. She observed that the 2030 agenda provided an opportunity to revitalize regional cooperation and integration as well as increased resource mobilization. She brought to the attention of the meeting the technical assistance ECLAC has provided Trinidad and Tobago in the areas of statistics, disaster assessment training and the processing of census data.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC conveyed the greetings of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. He highlighted four crucial issues for consideration to ensure meaningful implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean context. Firstly, the high debt burden and limited fiscal space; secondly, optimizing opportunities for support and collaboration from the international development community; thirdly, addressing the issue of middle income classification and the resulting lack of access to concessional resources; and finally, upgrading statistical systems to support reliable and timely data gathering for the SDG indicators. He also reiterated ECLAC's commitment to the advocacy of the "*debt for climate adaptation swap*" initiative on behalf of the region. In conclusion, he invited the meeting to engage in memorable and meaningful deliberations.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Chair of the CDCC advocated the need to craft a more integrated development strategy and staying the course, building on momentum of the Mexico meeting. He stressed that, in implementing Agenda 2030, the region also needed to create synergies with other platforms such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Samoa Pathway and Addis Ababa Agenda for financing sustainable development. He opined that the challenges of high debt, low growth and high unemployment among high school and university graduates, which was in excess of 25%, needed to be tackled with innovative policies. He indicated that other key issues needed to be addressed, including non-communicable diseases, climate change and impact of extreme events. Within the context of addressing structural gaps which constrain the implementation of the SGDs, he emphasized three critical imperatives:

- SDGs must integrate seamlessly into national development frameworks and transcend political cycles;
- Domestic resource mobilization, including innovative financing needs to be addressed; and

- The need to continue to advance the ideas of Sir Arthur Lewis and Raul Prebisch which advocated that developing countries should pursue structural transformation through industrialization.

The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean then handed the management of the meeting over to the Chair of the CDCC. The agenda and organization of the work of the meeting was adopted with no amendments.

The contribution of ECLAC to development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years

The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters of the Caribbean introduced a video, which provided a historical review of ECLAC from its inception and expansion into the Caribbean region. The video highlighted the role of the Commission in monitoring emerging issues, analyzing their impact on regional and national policy agendas, generating new ideas, proposals and policy recommendations, and providing technical cooperation services and activities that directly benefit the countries of the region. The video concluded with an invitation to member States to join ECLAC in celebrating its contribution to the development journey of Latin America and the Caribbean through the years.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented some of the essential elements of the contribution of ECLAC to Latin America and Caribbean development thinking. He noted that Raul Prebisch and Sir Arthur Lewis provided keen analysis of the challenges facing the region. He indicated that they both advocated industrialization to boost productivity and export growth as a means of addressing the foreign exchange challenge in the region. He opined that the region should also focus on balanced growth that integrated key sectors and addressed poverty. He further suggested that the region needed to maintain momentum of the regional integration process to facilitate trade and capital flows and to achieve better terms of trade with developed economies.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Chair of the CDCC advocated the need to craft a more integrated development strategy and staying the course, building on momentum of the Mexico meeting. He stressed that, in implementing Agenda 2030, the region also needed to create synergies with other platforms such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Samoa Pathway and Addis Ababa Agenda for financing sustainable development. He opined that the challenges of high debt, low growth and high unemployment among high school and university graduates, which was in excess of 25%, needed to be tackled with innovative policies. He indicated that other key issues needed to be addressed, including non-communicable diseases, climate change and impact of extreme events. Within the context of addressing structural gaps which constrain the implementation of the SDGs, he emphasized three critical imperatives:

- SDGs must integrate seamlessly national development frameworks and transcend political cycles;
- Domestic resource mobilization, including innovative financing needs to be addressed; and
- The need to continue to advance the ideas of Sir Arthur Lewis and Raul Prebisch which advocated that developing countries should pursue structural transformation through industrialization.

The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean then handed the management of the meeting over to the Chair of the CDCC. The agenda and organization of the work of the meeting was adopted with no amendments.

The contribution of ECLAC to development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating 70 years

The Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters of the Caribbean introduced a video, which provided a historical review of ECLAC from its inception and expansion into the Caribbean region. The video highlighted the role of the Commission in monitoring emerging issues, analyzing their impact on regional and national policy agendas, generating new ideas, proposals and policy recommendations, and providing technical cooperation services and activities that directly benefit the countries of the region. The video concluded with an invitation to member States to join ECLAC in celebrating its contribution to the development journey of Latin America and the Caribbean through the years.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented some of the essential elements of the contribution of ECLAC to Latin America and Caribbean development thinking. He noted that Raul Prebisch and Sir Arthur Lewis provided keen analysis of the challenges facing the region. He indicated that they both advocated industrialization to boost productivity and export growth as a means of addressing the foreign exchange challenge in the region. He opined that the region should also focus on balanced growth that integrated key sectors and addressed poverty. He further suggested that the region needed to maintain momentum of the regional integration process to facilitate trade and capital flows and to achieve better terms of trade with developed economies.

Panel discussion: Transformative development thinking and practice to address new Caribbean realities

The Professor from the School of Business and Management at Mona, UWI, highlighted the role of institutions in Lewis' work. She noted that institutions were dynamic and key to the enabling environment for economic development, and recalled Lewis' assertion that they should promote growth according to the scope which they allow for specialization and trade. She also indicated that Lewis focused on both macro and micro institutions, and suggested that the region needed to address the low quality of its administrative capacity.

She noted that presently the region had lost ground with respect to private sector development and suggested that there was a need to deal with the cultural and psychological aversion to risk taking and private sector activity.

The Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Distinguished Professor at the University of Technology in Jamaica highlighted that the region had low savings relative to investment, which led to high debt and foreign exchange gaps. He informed the meeting that environmental destruction of the capital stock from hurricanes was also a major challenge for the region. He also indicated that economic transformation in the Caribbean, through, *inter alia*, skilled-intensive exports, required that productivity grows faster than wage growth as well as the capital-labour ratio. It was also suggested that the region needed to deploy underutilized labour to create the domestic capital in areas such as the music industry in depressed areas.

He noted that the region should unify around four themes:

- Build awareness of SDGs and treat them as linked to underlying targets;
- Stress links between policy and science and technology;
- Provide clear plans with projects to commit resources to areas identified; and
- Find a way to devise an implementation Commission to achieve themes.

The Senior Fellow of Global Economy and Development from Brookings Institution noted that ECLAC had long been a leading intellectual light among commissions and others on development thinking agencies around the world. He advocated the need for an integrated approach that linked short, medium and long-term growth. He put forward five major challenges to sustainable development in the Caribbean presented by the new global order. He also highlighted the fact that investment rates in the region have

stagnated when they should be growing, and macro-economic stabilization has come at a high cost in terms of growth and unemployment.

He provided three ways to address the challenges with respect to the future of work:

- Major adaptation in education to match skills demand with supply;
- The creation of a modern and sustainable social welfare system; and
- Development of strategies to manage migration.

He opined that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, though significant, had not led to the expected increased investment activity in adaptation and mitigation, suggesting that the region may need to rethink role of government and fiscal policy.

The Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Economics at the Mona Campus of UWI noted a few universals in the work of Lewis:

- There is no one growth model;
- Development should balance incentive with governance; and
- Development is social as well as economic.

He recalled key pillars of Lewis' thinking, which included that the quality of leadership was key to creating new economic spaces; and that the diaspora provided a platform for Caribbean development.

DISCUSSION

The issue of climate change was addressed during the ensuing discussion. It was noted that Caribbean countries could not afford any ambivalence on this issue by the United States, and needed to petition the US to honour its commitments. The suggestion was made that the Caribbean must leverage their international connections to stem the creeping tendency of some countries to renege on their climate change funding commitments. It was also emphasized that many of our economies depended on small and medium size businesses, which made a significant contribution to our economies. Therefore, it was intimated that the region should make capital more readily available to SMEs and facilitate their entry into green sectors.

It was also noted that in relation to small businesses both insufficient capital formation and the absence of a mechanism for transferring capital to the private sector were challenges to be addressed. Member States re-emphasized the need for timely and accurate data to improve analysis, e.g. capturing data on the creative industries is challenging. It was noted that evolving US policy placed remittances to the Caribbean under threat due to potential disruption of immigration flows. ECLAC was challenged to launch a new phase of creative thought in region to assist member States in implementing the SDGs.

Report on the first meeting of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development

The meeting resumed after lunch with a presentation by the Director for the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean on the first meeting of the forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development. The Director noted that the meeting was organized as part of ECLAC's support to the integration of the SDGs in national development planning and budgeting process, with the specific aim to:

- Strengthen institutional architecture;
- Integrate SDGs into national development planning;

- Build national capacity;
- Develop a regional observatory on planning for sustainable development;
- Promote regional and national strategies for statistical development;
- Strengthen regional and national data systems;
- Promote regional and South-South cooperation;
- Empower ECLAC's Statistical Conference of the Americas and its institutional support to the LAC members of the IAEG /HLG- SDGs: Regional indicators framework; and
- Enhance capacity of the National Statistical Systems.

She elaborated on the institutional context of the forum and the intension of the forum as a mechanism to streamline efforts at implementation of the SDGs. She specifically cited the need to strengthen data and statistical systems in the region as an intention of the forum in order to enhance the LAC indicator framework for the assessment of progress of the hemisphere with respect to the SDGs. She reported that the forum is open to all development agencies in the region, and will meet annually under the auspices of ECLAC, and emphasized the importance of this forum specifically for the Caribbean Sub region, as a facility for advocacy in responses to the particular development challenges of the sub-region.

Highlights of the discussions of the forum were noted as follows:

- Presentation of Reports;
- Peer Reviews;
- Analysis of the three dimensions of development;
- Special session on artificial intelligence; and
- Special session on means of implementation.

The Director also cited the relevant outcomes of the forum as identified in the forum reports, and reminded the meeting of the need for agencies and countries to fully educate its peoples about the issues pertinent to the post 2015 development agenda, especially given that these developments were intended to affect all persons in the broader society.

Speaking specifically to the participation of the Caribbean subregion, the Director reiterated the important possibility for the subregion in the forum given that some 26 countries of the Caribbean were potential forum participants in spite of the fact that only five countries participated in the first forum.

The Meeting then received a presentation from the Barbados Permanent Secretary for Sustainable Development, titled “Financing the SDGs – The Role of Fiscal Policy and Elements of a Budgetary Approach”. In this presentation, he elaborated a historical perspective on the approach to fiscal policy in the subregion since independence, and its link to the newly crafted SDGs. He noted that the fiscal tool for the pursuit of national development goals is the National budget. Sustainability therefore implies that in the national budget the following requirements were key:

- Government must efficiency predict the necessary revenues for running the economy annually;
- Estimate the optimum level of fiscal deficit for sustaining investment – ideally three per cent.
- Determining the size of total expenditure.

In the context of financing the SDGs, he then raised a number of questions relating to fiscal support for the SDGs in the Caribbean. He also alluded to the role of PPPs in supporting the SDGs, as well as how the achievement of the SDGs can be linked to job creation and growth and the issue of performance budgeting.

DISCUSSION:

The BVI delegate noted the recommendation of respect of financing for development and cited an op-ed

of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC which was deemed to be inimical to the interests of the financial sector of small financial jurisdictions in the Caribbean. He noted that contrary to that perspective, the BVI was indeed very proactive in promoting and adhering to the necessary regulatory standards in order to prevent tax evasion matters as suggested. He called upon ECALC to have the op-ed removed from its website, noting that it impacted negatively on the economic interest of the BVI.

Noting the presentation from the Barbados Permanent Secretary for Sustainable Development with respect to PPPs, the CPDC delegate called for a SIDS-specific model for PPPs. In responses, Barbados Permanent Secretary outlined some of the challenges with PPPs related to the financing of the payback for projects undertaken under PPPs. He observed that in conditions of limited fiscal space, the PPPs financing conditions would need to more closely aligned with the lending conditions of development banks.

The Jamaica delegate noted the achievement of the Latin America and the Caribbean region in its being the first region to have successfully hosted the Forum on SDG development. She nevertheless observed that the preparatory process for these SDGs followed several meetings in the region, thereby building momentum in the implementation of the SDGs, but lamented that the Caribbean sub-region perhaps needed to strengthen its preparation for these meetings.

Progress in implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work for the Caribbean

The meeting received a presentation from the Director of the ECLAC sub-regional headquarters for the Caribbean. She noted that the report responds to global mandates, CDCC Mandates, and national requests. The report also presented a summary of the 2018 – 2019 work programme for consideration by the Monitoring Committee.

In terms of Response to Global Mandates, the efforts in supporting SDG implementation was noted, as well as efforts to review the RCM/TAC in a manner that accommodates the new post 2015 development agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. Additionally the office's efforts in financing for development were highlighted, with specific focus on ECLAC's promotion of a new debt reduction strategy for the Caribbean region. It was noted that this proposal has received and continue to receive wide spread promotion and acceptance within the global donor community.

She noted that the office was also active in supporting the Caribbean's response to global and regional mandates, under support with GIZ in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency, through the completion of six studies in this area, as well as support to two countries in the preparation and or update of national energy policies.

The meeting was also apprised of the offices efforts in the area of Disaster Assessments, noting that the work of ECLAC-wide disaster assessments is now centered in the Sub-regional office. Over the review period activities to further strengthen the office's efforts in the area of gender research and advocacy, was also proactive on supporting the development efforts of the Associate Member Countries.

The outreach programme of the office was also cited, noting the extensive range of published and social media tools for promoting the work of the office.

In terms of technical cooperation assistance specific undertakings were made in respect of:

- REDATAM Training
- DALA Training
- Training in the use of STATA

The office also responded to several National Technical Assistance requests including:

- Grenada – Policy for non-tourism sector development
- DALA Methodology training – several countries;
- Transition framework for government fleet to electric vehicles in St. Lucia;
- National Strategic Plan for Yachting Sector development.

In summarizing the future activities of the office over the short term the following specific issues will receive focus:

- Aging population in the Caribbean;
- De-risking of the financial sector in the Caribbean;
- Diversification of the tourism sector through research on creative economy;
- ICT for development;
- Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies; and
- The 2020 round of Censuses.

DISCUSSION:

The Barbados delegate referenced the intervention of the BVI by noting the need to incorporate the offshore financial structure in the implementation of the SDGs in the sub-region. He also noted the important challenge of regional brain drain, and the potential of utilizing the diaspora in investing in the implementation of the SDGs.

In respect of the debt proposal the delegate questioned also whether there has been specific outreach to the ambassador sector in Washington in terms of promoting the ECLAC debt promotion. Finally he noted that, the revitalization of the RCM is a critical issue given that the SAMOA pathway is the defacto multilateral framework for SIDS cooperation. He also questioned on the issue of urbanization in the Caribbean Region, and proposed that ECLAC give this issue due consideration in the future particularly given its key link to climate change, energy, water, housing and disaster risk reduction.

The Guyana delegate commended the office for the work to date, and noted the Director's reference to the UN's Declaration of the Decade for Peoples of African Descent, and noted the importance for the CDCC to follow through on this declaration and that some further meaningful actions would be undertaken. He noted Guyana's efforts to date in an acknowledging this decade and offered Guyana willingness to participate in these efforts.

The Jamaica delegate commended the Sub-regional Office's efforts in its work programme to date, and reiterated the critical issue of aging in the Caribbean. She further supported the proposal by Barbados that ECLAC gives consideration of the issue of urbanization in the region. She finally noted that the census will be the only one undertaken in the 2015-2030 period.

The BVI representative thanked ECLAC for its support, in particular ECLAC's commitment to provide technical support for the alignment of their national plans for the roll out of the SDGs.

The representative from Suriname noted ECLAC's efforts in its work programme, and sought specific support in addressing disaster risk reduction and population and development challenges.

This CPCD representative also applauded the work of ECLAC to date. He also made the case for consideration to be given to the concerns of the silver economy (the aging) as well as the concerns of persons with disabilities in the region. Finally he noted the importance of national institutional

strengthening and coordination as a pre-condition for the implementation of the SDGs.

Aruba extended commendations to ECLAC on its work programmes so far, and recognized the efforts in creative economy, noting the specific interest of Aruba to receive support in research in this area. The delegate noted the lack of a statistical framework to monitor the contributions of the creative economy.

In concluding the session's discussions, the Chair asked the ECLAC Director for specific clarification in respect of perceived reticence towards the ECLAC debt proposal. In response the Director noted that there was no hesitancy on the part of the Caribbean countries, but noted that the Work Bank, IDB and US Treasury department have expressed concerns regarding who will bear the cost of the debt relief.

Other matters

There were no other matters.

Date and venue of the 27th Session of the CDCC

The meeting indicated that using the modality of proceeding in English alphabetical order, Saint Lucia is next in line to chair the twenty-seventh session of the CDCC. The representative of Saint Lucia formally indicated the readiness of his Government to assume the Chairmanship of the twenty-seventh CDCC in 2018.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report of the day's proceedings.



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org