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**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC  
SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN\***

***SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN***

**Biennial Programme Plan**

**Biennium 2008-2009**

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\* As approved at the sixty-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

### Introduction

Implementation of this subprogramme, composed of five subject areas, falls under the responsibility of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, located in Port-of-Spain. This office will continue to provide secretariat and other substantive and operational services to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), as part of the regular activities undertaken under the area of cooperation and integration. The Committee is a unique Caribbean intergovernmental subsidiary organ of ECLAC, whose mission is to enhance integration and collaboration in the subregion, with Latin America and with the global community.

Additionally, the subprogramme has four thematic focuses which include economic development, environment and technology, statistics and social development, and knowledge management. In the area of economic development, two main concerns inspire the proposed work programme, given that by 2008, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME) will be established and the process of integration into the global economy should be intensifying. First, external constraints to growth are likely to remain, as the income elasticity of imports is structurally higher than that of exports. Strengthening competitiveness, especially the export performance of private businesses, and increasing the level and quality of foreign investment flows, will continue to be priority issues for economic growth. Second, the deepening of regional integration will likely require improved macroeconomic coordination among participating countries. The reform of existing fiscal policy regimes, including tax reform, is a critical area in which a regional approach takes precedence.

With respect to environment and technology, such factors as environmental degradation, climate change, increased disaster risk and the impacts of the integration of the Caribbean subregion in an increasingly globalized world will pose ever greater challenges to sustainable economic and social development. The lack of adequate institutions to manage the Caribbean Sea as a common physical area will continue to inhibit collective efforts to address the problems that are sure to arise. Technological progress and innovation are the only possible solution for combining economic growth, environmental sustainability and social well-being, but endogenous capabilities in the region need to be strengthened. The development of policy frameworks for the identification, adaptation and application of new technologies and renewable energy sources, as well as for disaster risk reduction, will be of paramount importance.

Regarding statistics and social development, the monitoring of progress on the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, has highlighted weaknesses in data availability for social policy formulation. The geographical position of the Caribbean subregion makes it an attractive transit route and base of operations for illegal activities and this will continue to pose problems in the form of social derailment and violence. These conditions warrant giving the highest priority to improving the availability of social statistics, strengthening analytical capabilities and supporting the design of policy initiatives. The vulnerability of specific social groups, changing age structures brought about by the demographic transition, the epidemiological transition resulting from changing lifestyles and its impact on public health, the fight against HIV/AIDS and continuing gender imbalances should receive special attention in this regard.

Concerning knowledge and information management, developments in information and communications technologies will continue to be explored as a means of overcoming the limitations of small size and commercial isolation. The breathtaking innovations in information and communications technologies should be harnessed to bolster inclusive economic and social development while capitalizing on the knowledge base and potential of the region. The enhancement of local capabilities for the production of internet content must be pursued.

The proposed activities are intended to achieve the medium-term goals of the subprogramme, as well as the more specific results expected during the biennium, all of which will be measured by means of the indicators outlined below.

<b>Objective:</b> The Caribbean subregion will have improved its economic and social development, consolidated its integration processes and enhanced its cooperation within the subregion, with Latin America and with the broader international community.	
<b>Expected accomplishments:</b>	<b>Indicator of progress:</b>
1. Enhanced participation in forums and increased use of information and analysis by policy makers, researchers and the general public regarding issues of sustainable development and integration in the context of the Caribbean Basin.	1. (i) Increased number of participants rating as useful the meetings and forums organized by the subprogramme  (ii) Increased number of references in policy documents, academic literature and mass media to ECLAC publications and data on Caribbean development.
2. Improved human resource capacity and technical expertise for economic and social policy-making in the Caribbean	2. (i) Increased number of participants in training activities organized by the subprogramme who assess the training received as “useful” or “very useful” for their work  (ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance in the Caribbean satisfactorily fulfilled by the subprogramme.

### Strategy

The strategy to achieve the subprogramme objective is guided by the principles of collaboration, partnership and teamwork. At one level, this refers to coordination within the Secretariat, since ECLAC activities in the Caribbean are not confined to those contained in this subprogramme. In most other subprogrammes the Caribbean is fully considered. Closer coordination and collaboration between the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, responsible for the implementation of this subprogramme, and other ECLAC substantive divisions, subregional and national offices is crucial for achieving the proposed objectives.

At another level, the strategy refers to coordination with regional and subregional organizations. The geographical focus of this subprogramme covers 23 Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Among them, the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Dutch-speaking Suriname have important subregional organizations, which assist them in areas also covered by ECLAC. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are prime examples. The subprogramme aims at strengthening the involvement of and collaboration with the Secretariats of these organizations, while concentrating on activities in which its contribution is unique and can add most value. Another group is the seven non-independent countries and territories which are associate members of ECLAC and for which membership of ECLAC and the CDCC constitutes a rare window for communication and cooperation with independent countries in the Caribbean. This subprogramme therefore aims to support and enhance the participation of non-independent countries in ECLAC activities and in United Nations global summits and international conferences in the economic and social field to which they are invited. In addition, the subprogramme also includes Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, insofar as coordination and collaboration in the Caribbean require their participation.

The strategy will be geared to continue to provide the full range of analytical, capacity-building, advisory and technical cooperation services to the Caribbean countries members or associate members of ECLAC. To translate this strategy into practice, activities of a diverse nature will be conducted, including applied research, organization of expert meetings, training courses and workshops, creation and provision of support and technical backstopping to knowledge networks to promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, and the implementation of technical cooperation projects.

In the economic development area the focus will be on building up Caribbean countries' own capacities and competences in national accounting and analysis of macroeconomic, trade and sectoral policies, and to gradually start developing new capabilities related to economic forecasting and modelling. In environment and technology, the subprogramme will support regional collaboration and coordination for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, with special emphasis on promoting technologies for the sustainable development of the small island developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean. In statistics and social affairs, the aim is to strengthen capabilities in the Caribbean to support the collection and analysis of social statistics for the monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Thus, activities will focus on the integrated follow-up to and implementation of various programmes of action derived from the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the design and implementation of social policies, including gender mainstreaming policies.

In knowledge and information management, the strategy will make full use of the advantages of information and communications technologies to increase dissemination of research and analysis concerning economic and social development issues in the Caribbean. Finally, ECLAC has a unique expertise in disaster assessments. Efforts will be made to build up national capabilities in disaster preparedness and risk reduction strategies.

## External factors

The objective and the expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achievable, based on the following assumptions:

(a) The general conditions of stability in the socio-economic and institutional framework of the region will be maintained or improved, in the absence of major disruptive external shocks that could affect the regional development agenda and priorities.

(b) The international community will continue to support and assign priority to crucial integration endeavours in the Caribbean, such as the establishment by 2008 of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). In addition, the economic partnership agreements with the European Union will also be in place.

(c) The Caribbean regional community will continue to improve coordination of economic policies within existing integration schemes and will strive to expand the integration process with the eventual incorporation of other actors that play a significant role in the subregion.

(d) Availability of resources, including those from extrabudgetary sources, will be sufficient to fulfil the subprogramme's mandates and to facilitate interaction among its key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

## Activities

### **Subject area 12.1:      **Cooperation and integration****

#### 1. Meetings

##### Organization and substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

(i) One session of the CDCC, involving the preparation of reports and the relevant substantive documentation. The meeting will address the progress made on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) One meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

#### 2. Other substantive activities

##### (a) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the progress achieved in implementing the Mauritius Strategy (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on critical issues on migration, with particular reference to the analysis of remittances flows (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

##### (b) Information materials and services

Publication of the quarterly bulletin *UN Focus on the Caribbean*, covering activities carried out by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (8 issues in the biennium, in English only) (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

### 3. Technical cooperation

#### Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to international collaboration within the Caribbean and between the Caribbean and Latin America and to the Working Group of Associate Member Countries to support specific initiatives.

### 4. Intermediate activities

Integrated follow-up to the major global summits and international conferences in the economic and social field, such as the Mauritius Strategy, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Millennium Summit (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

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

## **Subject area 12.2: Economic development**

### 1. Meetings

#### Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) One meeting of experts to examine macroeconomic policy coordination in the Caribbean, with special focus on fiscal and monetary policy regimes (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) One meeting of experts to discuss trade integration and productive restructuring in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

### 2. Other substantive activities

#### (a) Recurrent publications

Annual publication of the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* (two issues in the biennium) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

#### (b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on fiscal policy regimes in the Caribbean, centring on the process of implementation of reforms, its failures and successes (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on the objectives, instruments and transmission mechanisms of monetary policy in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on economic modelling in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) A study on the impact of new global, hemispheric and regional trade agreements on the Caribbean countries (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(v) A study on structural changes in the Caribbean, with special emphasis on the linkages between the services sector and the other sectors of economic activity (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(vi) A study on the financial resources for investment needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(c) Technical material

(i) Regular updating and maintenance of the trade statistics databases (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Regular updating and maintenance of the economic statistics databases and the framework for modelling and forecasting in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) Contributions to the text of the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008 and 2009 editions. Notes on the economies of the countries of the subregion.

3. Technical cooperation

(a) Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to macroeconomic policy issues, including trade and integration, investment and sectoral policies (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) A three-day training course on trade statistics analysis for students of international trade (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A two-day training workshop on economic modelling for researchers and staff of planning institutes, central banks and similar institutions (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

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

**Subject area 12.3:      **Environment and technology****

1. Meetings

Organization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

(i) A meeting of experts to discuss risk reduction strategies in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A meeting of experts to examine the development of environmental technologies in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Other substantive activities

(a) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the development of biotechnology in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on energy issues in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) A study on risk reduction in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iv) A study on the cumulative effects of natural disasters and their development implications for the subregion (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(v) A study on disaster management in selected countries of the Caribbean subregion (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(b) Technical material

(i) Regular updating and maintenance of the sustainable development databases (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Technical cooperation

(a) Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to policies oriented to promote environmental technologies in the Caribbean, including disaster preparedness and risk reduction (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Training courses, seminars and workshops

Two one-week training workshops on disaster impact assessment and risk reduction strategies for government personnel involved in disaster assessment and prevention strategies (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

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



## **Subject area 12.4: Statistics and Social Development**

### 1. Meetings

Organization and corresponding substantive servicing of expert group meetings

(i) An expert group meeting to review the achievements regarding improvement of social statistics for measuring and monitoring Millennium Development Goals (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) An expert group meeting to identify critical areas in the provision of social services and economic security programmes, particularly to vulnerable populations (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(iii) An expert group meeting on social marginalization, crime and violence in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) An expert group meeting to review the achievements regarding the implementation of major global and regional programs of action in the area of population and development (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

### 2. Other substantive activities

#### (a) Recurrent publications

(i) A bi annual Caribbean Development Report (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Abstracts of Major Statistical Publications of Caribbean Countries (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

#### (b) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on planning for social policies and poverty reduction in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study to identify critical issues with regards to the provision of social security for particularly vulnerable population segments (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) A study on policies to improve social marginalization, and combat crime and violence in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) A study to assess the degree of implementation of various programs of action in the area of population and development (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(v) A study to identify the linkages between gender equality, poverty and achieving the MDGS (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(c) Technical material

(i) A web-portal for sharing information on gender issues in the region (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Update and maintenance of the Caribbean Social Statistical Databases (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2)

(iii) A report on the use of databases of social and gender statistics in the development of policies and programmes (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

## 3. Technical cooperation

(a) Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation to countries of the region that request it with respect to social policies in the region. (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Training courses, seminars and workshops

One training workshop for national statistical offices to strengthen national capacities in demographic analysis and to ensure the inclusion of standardized gender indicators in the collection of data for the 2010 Census. (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(c) Execution of technical cooperation projects

A technical assistance project will be designed and proposed to donors to enhance capacities in the region to collect, disseminate and analyze social statistics. (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

## 4. Intermediate activities

(ii) Preparation of inputs for databases on social statistics located at ECLAC Headquarters and for the annual flagship publications *Social Panorama of Latin America* and the *Statistical Yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean* (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

**Subject Area 12.5: Knowledge and information management**1. MeetingsOrganization and substantive servicing of meetings of experts

A meeting of experts to discuss issues pertaining to the information society in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Other substantive activities

(a) Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on approaches to measuring the information society in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on the progress made in information and communications for development in the Caribbean (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(b) Technical material

Regular updating and improvement of the website and the Caribbean Digital Library database (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(c) Information materials and services

(i) Electronic publication of the *Current Awareness Bulletin* (12 issues in the biennium) (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Monthly online publication of the *Current Contents Newsletter* (24 issues in the biennium) (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 1)

3. Technical cooperation

(a) Advisory services

Provision to countries of the region, upon request, of technical cooperation with respect to policies on information and communication technologies in the region (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(b) Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) Two-day seminar on change management for information specialists (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Two-day workshop on personal knowledge management for senior policy makers in Government institutions (medium correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extra budgetary resources.