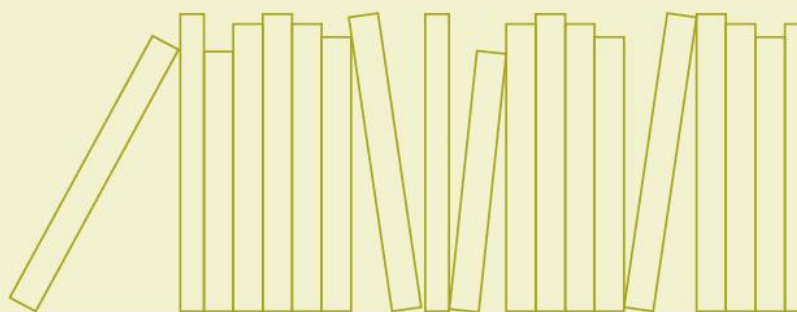


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Report of the expert group meeting on monitoring frameworks for Sustainable Development Goals reporting in the Caribbean



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

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**REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON MONITORING
FRAMEWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
REPORTING IN THE CARIBBEAN**

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A. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. One of the most crucial steps involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level is the establishment of a strong institutional framework for promoting, coordinating and overseeing implementation of the Global Goals. Some countries in the Caribbean have already started the process of establishing an institutional framework, however, most of the countries are still far behind in having a home for the SDGs. An institutional framework should, therefore, be set up at the highest level of government, preferably under the Office of the Prime Minister and it should include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning or the Planning Institute, and the National Statistical Office. Without an office that is directly accountable for the SDGs, there will be limited awareness of the SDGs and/or lack of coordination in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general.

2. Another factor that determines the successful implementation of the SDGs in a country is the level of statistical capacity. Timely production and dissemination of quality, disaggregated data to successfully measure national and regional progress in the attainment of the SDGs is important. However, the Caribbean subregion is confronted with many data challenges, especially relating to the production and dissemination of data. In fact, evidence has shown that the periodicity and timeliness of reporting of official statistics has been very low in the Caribbean. Therefore, more concerted effort is required towards improving statistical capacity of Member States for there to be a more coordinated approach to data sharing and dissemination as countries mainstream the SDGs in their national development plans (NDP).

3. Member States should promote broader stakeholder engagement to include the local communities, private sector, civil society and other grassroots stakeholders for the successful implementation of the SDGs. Governments need to strategize on ways to create a paradigm shift to encourage more engagement and awareness raising at the local levels, in order to promote national ownership of the SDGs.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

4. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean provided technical support to the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) of Jamaica and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) of The University of the West Indies (UWI) in convening the Nineteenth Annual SALISES Conference. The conference, with the overall theme of “Sustainable Futures for the Caribbean: Critical Interventions and the 2030 Agenda,” provided a forum to discuss the challenges to sustainable development in the Caribbean and proffer practical options for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the subregion. The conference took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 25 to 27 April 2018. The conference provided a platform for ECLAC to hold its expert group meeting on “Monitoring frameworks for SDG reporting in the Caribbean.” In addition, ECLAC co-organized the following sessions at the conference: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; Future Earth – Leaving no one behind; Leaving no one behind – Using evidence to inform development; and a distinguished lecture. This report summarizes the discussions held in those sessions and the resulting outcomes.

2. Attendance

5. The conference brought together government officials and policymakers with responsibility for planning, tourism, sustainable development and economic development, as well as representatives from other regional and international organizations. The following Member States were represented at the conference: Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as an associate member: Aruba. Other conference participants included United Nations agencies such as the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) and regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and The University of the West Indies (UWI).

3. Sessions

1. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
2. Future Earth- Leaving no one behind
3. Leaving no one behind- Using evidence to inform development
4. Distinguished lecture

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

6. The Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC, in his presentation entitled “Setting the Stage for a Successful Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean,” outlined the requirements for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Caribbean countries. He stated that based on the experience from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Caribbean was particularly challenged by a lack of institutional frameworks for implementing and monitoring the goals as well as limited data for measuring progress in achieving the MDGs. However, with the onset of the 2030 Agenda, the Caribbean will have an opportunity to embark on a new programme of sustainable development which would encompass the more inclusive 17 SDGs, and the financing for development and climate change agreements. Therefore, it is critical to strengthen national institutional capacities in order to derive the maximum benefit from these global agreements.

7. Before the adoption of the SDGs, ECLAC convened a symposium on the post-2015 development agenda where Member States and associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), as well as civil society and academic stakeholders, acknowledged that the subregion face the risk of falling behind in the global quest for sustainable development, based on the MDG process. There was also expressed concern regarding the decline in official development assistance (ODA) as well as the perception of a lack of preparation on the part of Caribbean countries for the post-2015 development agenda. At this symposium, participants underscored the importance of a participatory and inclusive approach; identification of critical roles for regional organizations; and a regional approach to data collection and monitoring. There was also an ECLAC symposium in 2017 which focused on assisting Caribbean countries to implement the SDGs. The outcome of that workshop showed, as well, that there were two major factors retarding the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean, namely the lack of an institutional mechanism for comprehensive oversight, and the scarcity of data to monitor and report on the SDGs.

8. ECLAC has been focusing on these two important areas, institutional frameworks and statistical capacity, for technical support to Member States. ECLAC has participated in Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Strategy (MAPS) exercises of the United Nations Development Group. ECLAC has also conducted SDG scoping missions to Caribbean countries which featured discussions with the government, civil society, private sector, the United Nations system and other international partners on national development priorities and their alignment with the SDGs. To is end, ECLAC has been working

on strengthening the regional institutional architecture to promote partnerships and other means of support for implementation of the SDGs.

9. The Coordinator emphasized that for there to be success in achieving the SDGs, there must be an institutional arrangement to oversee its implementation, monitoring and reporting. An institutional framework should be set up at the highest level of government, preferably under the Office of the Prime Minister and it should include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning or Planning Institute, and the National Statistical Office. He mentioned that some countries have already started the process of establishing an institutional framework, but many countries of the subregion are still far behind in finding a home for the SDGs. Without an office that is directly mandated to implement the SDGs, there will be limited awareness of the SDGs and/or lack of coordination in the implementation of the Global Goals.

10. Another indicator that determines the successful implementation of the SDGs in a country is the level of statistical capacity. The Coordinator noted that the Caribbean subregion had data limitations and even greater challenges with the dissemination of the data. Evidence showed that compared to East Asia and the Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin American regions, the Caribbean recorded low levels in the periodicity and timeliness of reporting of official statistics. He reiterated that ECLAC has been working and will continue to work with a number of national statistical systems in the Caribbean to have a more coordinated approach to data sharing and dissemination which would benefit countries as they mainstream the SDGs in their national development plans (NDP).

11. The Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry of Aruba presented on the country's experience with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to date. In the initial stages, the Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs, strategized on the best institutional framework to implement the 2030 Agenda and by February 2017 two institutions were formally established backed by a ministerial decree- a National SDG Commission (which included the Department of Economic Affairs and the National Statistical Office) and a SDG Indicator Working Group. An informal group that focused on public awareness, communication and media outreach was also formed to promote national ownership.

12. He highlighted some of Aruba's accomplishments since the establishment of its institutional framework. In early 2017, Aruba hosted a MAPS mission that was conducted by UNDP and ECLAC, and which resulted in the production of a rapid integrated assessment report and a SDG roadmap which was in being reviewed by local stakeholders. During this time, the government continued to raise awareness by engaging the local community, private and public sectors and civil society in ways that enabled their participation in the SDG process. Aruba was also able to create a website called "SDG Aruba" to facilitate more awareness raising as part of the communication plan for the SDGs.

13. Even though Aruba had made some progress, the Policy Advisor did acknowledge that there had also been a number of challenges which ranged from political sensitivities to statistical capacity. There was a change in government administration in September 2017 which meant that a lot of the ground work that was initially done for the SDGs were put on hold. Eventually, the new administration embraced the work that was already done to ensure that the SDGs would be mainstreamed throughout the new government national policy plan. Another main challenge in Aruba had to do with statistical capacity and the culture surrounding the collection and dissemination of data. There was very little data sharing as well as limited coordination between different stakeholders. Furthermore, there was little to no data on gender statistics and there were limited funding opportunities to strengthen statistical capacity.

14. The way forward for Aruba will include the development and implementation of an inventory of available data based on the 109 Caribbean SDG indicators that was drafted by CARICOM. The draft

inventory showed the current limited data available to measure the SDGs, and as such the Government approached the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to have them assist with this data challenge. Together with the CBS and ECLAC, the Government of Aruba will work on establishing its national statistical system to better position the country to implement the SDGs. Other next steps include appointing a SDG focal point in each ministry; promoting data sharing among ministries and other stakeholders; finalizing the national development plan and moving towards more evidence-based policy planning.

15. Discussions were focused on how to raise the level of public awareness and local engagement for the implementation of the SDGs. It was agreed that Member States should promote broader stakeholder engagement to include the local communities, private sector and civil society. Most governments have not achieved this level of engagement as yet and it is the responsibility of the United Nations and the international community to assist in the creation of this space for there to be progress with the implementation of the SDGs.

2. Future Earth - Leaving no one behind

16. The Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC presented on the topic “Debt, Climate Change and Financing for Caribbean Development” which provided an insight into the position of the Caribbean in terms of competitiveness as well as recommendations to address the current debt burden in the subregion.

17. When compared to Latin America, the Caribbean has experienced a steady decline in terms of competitiveness since the global recession and post-recession periods. The reality of the Caribbean is that there has been a heavy reliance on foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances which are highly susceptible to global shocks, such as the recent global recession, resulting in increased gross debt, owed to external and domestic creditors.

18. Given the debt situation of Caribbean SIDS, ECLAC has been promoting green growth based on environmentally sensitive production and consumption which is expected to result in new growth for the Caribbean with the potential to contribute positively to poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. There are two critical steps that will be required to get this done: (i) old systems of production and uncompetitive industries will need to be restructured and (ii) activities in sectors such as tourism and agriculture will need to be modernized to become more environmentally sensitive and productive. These steps will allow for the promotion of the social consciousness of alleviating poverty and reducing inequality between households and across nations, as well as the development of new products and services that are in high demand.

19. ECLAC also developed a proposal called the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap to address the debt burden in the Caribbean subregion. Due to the need for fiscal consolidation and structural reform, this initiative will create the fiscal space to invest in growth inducing sectors to relieve the high indebtedness of most of these countries in the Caribbean. Depending on the composition of debt, countries will be entitled to 100 per cent buy-back. For those countries with external multilateral debt, buy-back will be the option, and for those that have a high level of domestic debt, the debt buy-back through schemes of equity swap would be the option to consider. What the countries would have had to initially pay for this debt would now have to be paid into a resilience fund which would be managed by a regional financial institution to be determined. Member States will have to apply to the fund for green growth and investment which will be vetted by a committee that would be responsible for the approval of the conditions for governments to ensure that they do not return to debt.

20. In her presentation on “Resilience and capital flows in the Caribbean”, the Economic Affairs Officer of the ECLAC Washington D.C. Office looked at trends in financial flows within the context of the subregion’s need to channel resources towards the 2030 Agenda and also to strengthen its resilience.

21. Based on recent trends in financial flows to the Caribbean, there has been a substantial decline in ODA and an increasing importance on private flows in the global external environment. Statistics have shown that ODA net flows to the Caribbean represented 1.1 per cent of the region’s gross national income in 2016, which was lower than 3.1 per cent average registered in the 2000s and 4.4 per cent average recorded for the 1980 to 2016 period. Foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances became the main sources of external financing flows in the 1990s and have remained so to date. Caribbean economies receive substantial FDI flows relative to their size, and a large share of their economic activity is conducted by transnational corporations. Migrant remittances have also increased substantially, to the point that it has exceeded ten per cent of gross domestic product in some Caribbean countries. Additionally, portfolio investment flows have shown more volatility and cyclicalities and have increased since 2014, following some important debt restructurings but still represent a much smaller share of the total. The Economic Affairs Officer pointed out that in going forward, the Caribbean should find a way to mobilize and channel private capital flows towards economic development objectives to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

22. It was acknowledged that the Caribbean has been plagued with a number of challenges, with the main one being unequal access to international finance markets. Caribbean States have relied on international finance to supplement their fiscal deficits, however, unless they are commodity exporters or have a service sector geared to the external market, many of these states are not sufficiently big or creditworthy to raise funds in the international capital markets. Another challenge has been that Caribbean countries have not borrowed as frequently or on the same terms as some of the larger economies in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region. Their small size, which implies a narrow range of economic activities and limited economies of scale, as well as vulnerability to economic shocks are among the factors that impair access. Despite record issuances in the LAC region since 2009, debt issuance by Caribbean countries has remained a small share of the region’s total. Furthermore, Caribbean debt issuance in international bond markets has shown more volatility than the debt issuance for the LAC Region as a whole. For the period 2000 to 2017, Caribbean issuance totalled US\$ 32 billion, which represented only 2.5 per cent of the LAC region’s total with the top three issuers in the subregion being Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

23. Recommended strategies for building Caribbean resilience include finding more proactive and long-term solutions for long-term development challenges, which would require a broad set of new ideas and initiatives. It also includes linking debt solution to resilience measures, such as what was proposed in the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swaps. Another example would be to build new financial buffers for small economies which can include green bonds, diaspora bonds and blue bonds. Green bonds are used to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy. The Caribbean participation in the global green bond market is minimal, however, there is an upward trend in issuances with a green focus in the LAC Region.

24. In closing, the Economic Affairs Officer reiterated that new initiatives and strategies are needed to strengthen resilience which would require closer collaboration among Caribbean States, multilateral institutions, and international development partners. Furthermore, only with a collaborative effort will there be room for the subregion to implement the 2030 Agenda and finally address its development challenges.

3. Leaving no one behind - using evidence to inform development

25. The Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC engaged in a dialogue session on the various SDG indicator frameworks for the Caribbean and how they should be implemented by the

Member States. There are currently three sets of frameworks which guide SDG implementation that are relevant to the Caribbean subregion: the global framework, the regional Latin American and Caribbean framework and the CARICOM subregional framework.

26. The global SDG indicator framework consists of 232 indicators which were proposed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). The Coordinator recalled that about two years ago, ECLAC did a survey to assess the statistical capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean subregion to produce data for the global SDG indicators and it was found that Cuba was the only country with the capacity to produce data for more than 50 per cent of the indicators, followed by Jamaica with about 33 per cent. Some of the reasons for the limited data production of data for certain indicators included the fact that there was no prior need to produce these data and as such no methodology had been established. Other factors were lack of technical capacity and financial resources as well as lack of timeliness of dissemination. The Coordinator did, however, stress that there is now a need to collect data for these indicators as they are part of the SDG frameworks.

27. The regional SDG framework consists of about 264 indicators which include the global indicators as well as others that are considered to be region-specific which countries in the Caribbean will also have to report on. The Statistical Conference of the Americas which is the regional body of NSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean created a Statistical Coordination Working Group for the 2030 Agenda which proposed and developed the regional framework. The Caribbean is represented in this working group by Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. There are also 109 draft CARICOM core indicators that was developed by CARICOM in collaboration with ECLAC and UN DESA which are a subset of the global set that the Caribbean subregion regards as essential to produce.

28. The Coordinator stressed that for there to be successful implementation of the indicator frameworks, four main issues had to be addressed. Firstly, there needs to be the alignment of the indicator framework to countries' national priorities and targets. ECLAC and UNDP are currently assisting some of the Member States with their national development planning to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed into their national development goals, to allow for easier monitoring and evaluation. The second issue that needs to be addressed is that of standardization since in many of the Member States, there are various government ministries that are responsible for different SDGs, however, most of them do not have an in-house statistician to ensure that the data being produced are aligned to the standard definitions of the SDG indicators. There should also be the promotion of partnerships with development agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), CARICOM, the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), UWI and the United Nations with the aim of delivering support to Member States in the implementation of the SDGs. The fourth issue to be addressed is that of timeliness, which is particularly relevant for the NSOs, to improve on the dissemination of data. The Coordinator suggested that data can be shared with researchers who can analyze and make the data more informative and available to other stakeholders, thereby adding value to the information needed for reporting on the SDGs.

29. The United Nations system in the Caribbean subregion has already started to work with Member States to support their work on the implementation of the SDGs. However, the aim is to develop a "One United Nations Approach" in the Caribbean where the various frameworks, which would also include national frameworks, be integrated for better coordination and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs. This strategy came about based on a Caribbean United Nations system inter-agency meeting in 2017 where there were discussions on how to deal with the issues of data and coordination of the SDG implementation. It was agreed that the United Nations agencies would act as custodian agencies for specific indicators needed for reporting and follow up on the SDGs. As custodian agencies, they will also have a critical role in funding statistical activities which will have bearing on the availability of data. Specifically, in the case of ECLAC, the organization serves as the regional mechanism for follow-up and reporting on the SDGs through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable

development. The forum serves as a platform for Member States to provide updates on their progress with implementation of the SDGs as well as highlight the challenges encountered, while providing a space to learn from other countries on strategies for successful reporting and implementation. To that end, the forum also serves as the regional platform for countries to present their voluntary national reviews (VNRs).

30. Discussions were focused on the standardization of definitions for measuring indicators at the national level for the practical implementation of the SDG frameworks. National definitions of the indicators should be clearly documented in meta data to ensure that everyone understands what is being measured. There must also be reliable evidence that can be verified to support the data collected as well as for making valid projections.

4. Distinguished lecture

31. The University Director, SALISES welcomed participants to the guest lecture to be presented by the Director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. She informed the conference that every year a scholar is chosen to present a distinguished lecture in memory of Sir Arthur Lewis. Sir Arthur Lewis was a scholar in the field of development economics who in 1979 became the first person of African descent to receive a Nobel Prize in a category other than peace. Lewis was honored for his work in economics and was the author of 12 books and over 80 technical works in development economics. In 1959, he served as the Principal and the first Vice-Chancellor of UWI and is recognized every year at the SALISES conferences with a lecture in his honor. She then acknowledged and thanked all partners, including ECLAC, that contributed to the success of the conference.

32. The representative of the National Integrity Action (NIA) in Jamaica delivered remarks on behalf of his organization which plays an instrumental role in mobilizing youth participation in various forums such as this one. He commended the organizers of the conference for their research which has influenced policy within the Caribbean space as well as the significant training of Caribbean citizens and continuous social engagement.

33. He stated that the distinguished lecture would focus on charting a pathway on just and sustainable futures which has become clearer more than ever before. He highlighted SDG 16 which focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and to build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, which aligns with NIA's mission to ensure that institutions of governance are strong, transparent and accountable to its citizens. The representative further stressed that the social movement of building integrity and combating corruption was quite relevant and the SDG framework provides further context of the robust and inclusive dialogue and action needed to ensure that policymakers intentionally chart the way of sustainable futures in a transparent manner. The plan is to advance learning and create knowledge and innovation in a positive way that has to be embedded or ingrained with integrity in action and deed.

34. The Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit of ECLAC thanked the colleagues and the guest lecturer for their participation and the rich discourse at the conference. He emphasized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has at its core the promise to leave no one behind, which in essence signifies that inequalities need to be eliminated. For this to take place, policymakers need to bring more equity into the system, which is the focus of the distinguished lecture. He mentioned that the Executive Secretary of ECLAC is a major proponent of equality in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. ECLAC has already published three studies that speak to the issue of equality and how the structural obstacles and uneven growth should be addressed for there to be a sustainable future in the region.

35. The Director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex delivered her distinguished lecture entitled “Equity in the Anthropocene: Charting transformational pathways to just and sustainable futures”.

36. She began her lecture by highlighting that the Caribbean is currently faced with a major challenge characterized by inequalities mainly as a result of the subregion’s history and natural vulnerabilities. According to the 2016 International Social Science Council’s World Social Science Report, evidence has suggested that there has been a dramatic rise of the top one per cent of global earners who constitute a small elite with wealth and political power. Additionally, there were very uneven shares in global income growth with a rising middle class in India and China and the poorest percentiles in African countries and many other small island developing States. These trends further intensified during the financial crisis in 2008 due to dynamics such as monopoly, capitalism and the illicit financial flows in the global economy. Based on the global picture, it was easy to assume that inequality within countries has also increased as in the case of the United States and Europe, as well as those countries in Latin America and the Caribbean which have registered even higher levels of income inequality than in the global north. The main reasons for inequalities in countries were associated with diminishing returns of the working group labour market; displacement of labour by new technologies particularly digital platforms; and very weak policy implementation and exclusion from social policies.

37. Inequalities affect society’s ability to meet many other priorities as it can hamper economic growth and as well as reduce the impact of that growth, for example in poverty reduction. Also, health and nutrition outcomes tend to be generally worse in countries with higher income inequality. Furthermore, inequalities threaten democracies and access to justice, undermine trust, and contribute to alienation and victim disenfranchisement. When speaking about inequalities, one must also consider the concept of equity which refers to ensuring that everyone is afforded a level of fairness and well-being in order to reach the same goals. The Director further stressed that the concept of equity should underlie the notions of well-being and fairness in the Anthropocene for the achievement of the SDGs.

38. To understand and respond to inequality and its relationship with sustainability and other developmental goals, the Director emphasized that countries needed to address six forms of inequalities: (i) political inequalities; (ii) social inequalities; (iii) cultural inequalities relating to disparities of ethnicity and cultural provisions; (iv) environmental inequalities including uneven access to resources and ability to be protected from the effects of environmental shocks; (v) spatial inequalities and (vi) inequalities related to knowledge. These inequality dimensions also intersect with each other which often create conglomerations of disadvantage in quite complex ways. Intersecting inequalities drive marginalization and policymakers should therefore tackle multiple forms of inequalities at the same time.

39. She put forward the question of how countries should identify and support patterns of systematic change which have positive outcomes for both equality and sustainability. She suggested that countries needed to identify and build pathways towards sustainability and social justice with the idea of a pathway being a pattern of intervention and change often supported by social commitments and stories about what is happening in the world which is entwined with politics and power. Countries should not only focus on growth but fundamentally about the quality and direction of that growth and perhaps to accept that prosperity and sustainable and fair futures might involve less growth, or at least growth or very modified growth of very different kinds. Furthermore, when looking at transformative pathways, policymakers need to acknowledge the roles for technologies, state actions, business and market action and the roles for citizens. Some of the change that will be needed will come from the top down with changes in policies and regulations, but others will come from the bottom up. For countries to move towards equitable sustainability, there is the need to challenge the unsustainable and unjust pathways and to seek out these alternatives that can respond to diverse contexts and challenges. These pathways should foster inclusive

democratic debate about what a fair and sustainable future looks like and develop strategies to move in those directions.

40. The Director argued for the inclusion of the grassroots (those living in the margins and often at the bottom of some of the hierarchies and at the extreme ends of some of those vulnerabilities) in policy approaches. Grassroots experiences and expertise have often been written out and obscured by pervasive knowledge inequities, however, they should be regarded more as the source of the seeds of transformation. In the knowledge and experience of people living with everyday challenges of inequalities, the inclusion of people in the grassroots is just one example of potential pathways to sustainability and fair futures. The critical question was: how can these small initiatives positively affect the big Anthropocene challenges and help with this global challenge of achieving equitable sustainability through the SDGs? The Director surmised that small cases can often link up with bigger networks that push for wider change.

Annex I**List of participants****A. Member States****BAHAMAS**

- Nicola Virgill-Rolle, Director, Economic Development and Planning, Office of the Prime Minister

JAMAICA

- Carol Coy, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

B. Associate members**ARUBA**

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

C. United Nations Programmes and Funds**United Nations Development Programme**

- Ivan Gonzalez de Alba, Regional Adviser, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development
- Serge Kapto, Policy Specialist, Data for Development

D. Other organizations and institutions**University of Sussex**

- Melissa Leach, Director, Institute of Development Studies

The University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Aldrie Henry-Lee, University Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Faculty of Social Sciences
- Michael Witter, Senior Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Faculty of Social Sciences

E. Other participants

- Teejani Christian, Representative, National Integrity Action, Jamaica

F. Secretariat**ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit
- Colleen Skeete, Team Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit

ECLAC Washington, D.C.

- Helvia Velloso, Economic Affairs Officer



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