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**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2020
SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

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Presentation

The countries of the Caribbean will face formidable challenges to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) which underpin the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among these are poor growth performance, arising from a lack of robust investment in tourism and related service industries, and depressed export commodity prices. Low growth has resulted in high levels of unemployment, particularly among women and youth.

Countries of the subregion also continue to face a sizable public debt, with average debt-to-GDP ratios being unsustainably high. This high public debt burden and the attendant focus on fiscal consolidation have limited the capacity of governments to sustain a full range of social services. This has raised concerns on how to finance critical social sectors and to address the growing needs of the poor and vulnerable. The Caribbean remains the subregion with the second highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world, and the rise in lifestyle and non-communicable diseases has increasingly become an urgent health and development issue.

The subregion's challenges have been further exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise and by a growing exposure to extreme weather events, particularly Atlantic superstorms, which continue to increase in both frequency and intensity, with devastating impact on physical infrastructure, social well-being and economic productivity, retarding medium-term prospects for positive growth and development. These challenges require long-term, low-cost development finance to help reduce risk and build the resilience of the region. It is in this context that the debt swaps for climate change adaptation strategy has been promoted as an innovative approach to transforming the debt of the subregion into a source of investment in resilience, while at the same time re-energizing growth and promoting economic transformation in the economies of the subregion through investment in adaptation projects and green industries.

Related issues of energy and food security remain prominent on the policy agenda, as the subregion seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on fossil fuel exploration and imports with the development of biofuels, solar and other alternative energy technologies.

To address the SDGs, Caribbean States must rekindle private and public investment, encourage innovation - especially among the youth - and expand employment. Caribbean States will also need to pay attention to better fiscal management, so that the benefits of debt reduction can be preserved. Public expenditure reviews as well as revenue planning and forecasting are some of the mechanisms that can help to integrate government priorities with efficient public spending. Integral to this is the institutionalization of long-term sustainable development planning that is evidence-based and participatory in nature and which transcends any particular administration.

In addition, much more targeted investment in human capital is required to build domestic technical capacity and to promote innovation. Subregional development policy should also explore opportunities for expanded trade and investment with Latin America, even as efforts to strengthen the Caribbean Single Market and Economy continue. Attention will also be given to addressing important demographic trends, including growing demand for social protection services for ageing Caribbean populations. Strategies to

benefit positively from migration by harnessing the skills and resources of the Caribbean diaspora will be explored. The creative industries can be exploited to benefit from opportunities under the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement. Policymakers have also reaffirmed their commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, and attention to the needs of persons living with disabilities.

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) offer new solutions to development challenges, including fostering sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The effective use of ICTs in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services that are responsive to national needs and priorities requires expanded efforts to minimize the digital and broadband divide, while taking into account considerations of gender and culture, and the impact on underrepresented groups, such as youth.

Data for evidence-based decision making focused on economic, social and environmental issues remains a priority. New forms of disaggregated data generation - including the use of big data - and the strategic use of census data are integral to achieving the SDGs. Policymakers acknowledge the need to strengthen infrastructure and expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly important issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons living with disabilities, and gender-based violence. Particular attention should be paid to the production and use of gender-disaggregated data.

Subregional and national action will continue to be framed by the significant global platforms which advance the sustainable development agenda of small island developing States (SIDS Agenda), through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Agreement on Financing for Sustainable Development in particular. These will be pursued in synergy with the SDGs, by promoting the institutionalization of integrated, long-term sustainable development planning that is evidence-based and participatory in nature, with a view to ensuring that the subprogramme continues to support Caribbean policymakers in promoting sustainable growth and development for the countries of the subregion. The subprogramme will also continue to be engaged in actively supporting the sustainable development aspirations of the Non-Self-Governing countries and other Territories in the Caribbean as associate members of the Commission.

The proposed activities seek to pursue the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme and to achieve the expected accomplishments during the biennium. The progress achieved will be measured by the indicators described below.

Logical framework of the subprogramme:

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the sustainable development process in the Caribbean in the economic, social and environmental dimensions, and enhance the subregion's cooperation with Latin America.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

(1) Improved institutional capacity in countries of the subregion to address major subregional, regional and/or international agreements in the economic, social and environmental development fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Agenda, in an integrated manner.

(i) Increased number of policies, programmes and measures adopted or updated in the areas of economic, social and environmental development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Agenda, which are gender sensitive and informed by ECLAC technical inputs, analyses and recommendations.

(ii) Increased number of Government institutions, policy makers and other stakeholders acknowledging that they have benefited from ECLAC products and services to improve their work and better address economic, social and environmental development needs.

(2) Enhanced subregional dialogue, cooperation and collaboration in the Caribbean to articulate and formulate strategic responses to the Sustainable Development Goals, the SIDS Agenda and other economic, social and environmental development needs.

(i) Increased number of Caribbean governments, institutions and other stakeholders endorsing or adopting the outcomes of subregional dialogue and/or cooperation and collaboration mechanisms coordinated by ECLAC that advance the economic, social and environmental development of the countries of the subregion.

Strategy

The strategy is built on five pillars. First, implementation of the activities will occur within the context of coordination and collaboration with other divisions of ECLAC and the wider United Nations system. Second, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will, through alignment with the guidance provided by the Committee, and the identification of priority areas and development challenges, ensure the continued relevance of the work of the subregional headquarters to the needs of the subregion. Third, the activities will facilitate the active engagement of Caribbean countries in the follow-up to global conferences, embracing also those deriving from the SDGs which underpin the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fourth, the response to the development needs of the countries served by the subprogramme will adopt a multidisciplinary approach, including: (i) promoting sound fiscal management and market diversification, within the context of better assimilating Caribbean economies into the global economy; (ii)

facilitating wider application of ICT for development; (iii) refining the monitoring mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals; (iv) enhancing the role of social development, including issues on gender, within the context of the broader sustainable development process; (v) promoting the integration of disaster risk reduction measures into national planning; and (vi) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries to support more effective evidence-based policymaking. Fifth, acting as a think-tank, the subregional headquarters will continue to articulate strategies and approaches for subregional development based on analytical insights arising from its empirical and conceptual framework of analysis.

In support of its objectives, the subregional headquarters will undertake research and analysis of the emerging issues and challenges facing the Caribbean and work closely with Caribbean development partners, such as the CARICOM Secretariat and CARICOM-related institutions, the Association of Caribbean States Secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and international development partners like the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union (EU), to inform policymaking in Caribbean countries, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services. Ultimately, the visibility of the work and major achievements of the subregional headquarters will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme, including more active engagement of Caribbean countries.

External factors

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

- (a) Confidence in the relationship between ECLAC and the key national stakeholders is maintained and enhanced;
- (b) Collaboration and cooperation are enhanced between regional and international organizations operating in the subregion, which are crucial to the overall success of the subprogramme.

Activities

Subject area 12.1: Caribbean development and cooperation

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Intergovernmental meetings

(i) A session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Recurrent publications

One issue of the *Caribbean Development Report* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 3; moderate correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

(i) ECLAC Focus in the Caribbean for 2020 (four issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) ECLAC Newsletters on economic, environmental, ICT for Development, social and statistical development issues for 2020 (12 issues) (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Intermediate activities

Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Decolonization Section of the Department of Political Affairs on issues related to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Subject area 12.2: Economic development and integration

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on appropriate monetary and fiscal policy for reducing debt and fuelling growth in Caribbean economies (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) A meeting on the industrial restructuring of services producing economies of the Caribbean as a necessary antecedent to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Recurrent publications

(i) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2020* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2020* (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on appropriate monetary and fiscal policy for reducing debt and fuelling growth in Caribbean economies (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) A study on the industrial restructuring of services producing economies of the Caribbean as a necessary antecedent to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on macroeconomic policies and regional integration (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Intermediate activities

Contributions to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean; Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy*, and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: ICT for development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting on selected issues of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on selected issues of ICT for development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

Update and maintenance of the Caribbean Knowledge Repository (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on ICT for development (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Intermediate activities

Provision of inputs for ECLAC databases on ICT indicators, including integrated follow-up to the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.4: Social development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A review of the implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2020 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A meeting to examine selected issues on gender and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Recurrent publications

(i) A study to examine selected issues on gender and development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2020 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Other substantive activitiesBooklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kit

Policy brief on a selected area of social development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on gender equality, social and population development in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

A workshop on sustainable social protection programmes in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

7. Intermediate activities

(i) Contribution to the text of the *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

(ii) Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Division for Gender Affairs.

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.5: Statistics1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

A meeting on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

Updating and maintenance of databases on selected statistical indicators (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of statistics and statistical development in the region (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on evidence-based policy planning for sustainable development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1; moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

6. Intermediate activities

Preparation of inputs for the following publications: *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and preparation of inputs for the *Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.6: Climate Change, SIDS and Disaster Risk Management

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on selected relevant issues related to SIDS development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A meeting on disaster risk reduction measures in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on selected relevant issues related to SIDS development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) A study on disaster risk reduction measures in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

The regular update and maintenance of the database on the economic, social and environmental costs of extreme natural disasters in the countries of the subregion (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

(i) Preparation of public education material and information on issues related to climate change, Caribbean SIDS and disaster risk management (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of environmental development, disaster-preparedness and disaster risk reduction (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

(i) Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on disaster risks and resilience building in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

(ii) Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on the use of the updated ECLAC Disaster Assessment methodology (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1 and 2).

6. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that a project will be underway on a relevant issue related to environmental development in the Caribbean (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services and training activities, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.