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**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2021  
SUBPROGRAMME 12: SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**



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

### Objective

The main objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the sustainable development process in the Caribbean in the economic, social and environmental dimensions and to enhance the subregion's cooperation with Latin America.

### Presentation

The countries of the Caribbean will face formidable challenges to achieve the SDGs that underpin the 2030 Agenda as a result of poor economic growth, high unemployment (particularly among women and youth), and considerable public debt.

This debt burden and the attendant focus on fiscal consolidation have limited governments' capacity to sustain a full range of social services, raising concerns about how to address the growing needs of the poor and vulnerable and the rise in non-communicable and other lifestyle diseases.

The subregion's challenges have been further exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise and by growing exposure to extreme weather events, particularly Atlantic superstorms, which continue to increase in both frequency and intensity, exerting a devastating impact on physical infrastructure and social well-being, and delaying medium-term prospects for positive growth and development. These challenges require long-term, concessional development finance to help reduce economic and environmental risks and build the region's resilience. Against this backdrop, the strategy of debt swaps for climate change adaptation has been promoted as a means of converting the subregion's debt into a source of investment in resilience, while at the same time re-energizing growth and promoting economic transformation.

To address the SDGs, Caribbean States must rekindle private and public investment, encourage innovation—especially among youth—and expand employment. They will also need to strengthen their fiscal management, so that the benefits of debt reduction can be preserved. Public expenditure reviews, revenue planning and forecasting are 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.

More targeted and consistent investment in human capital is required to build domestic technical capacity and promote innovation. Opportunities for expanded trade and investment with Latin America should be explored. Attention will also be given to addressing the 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 should be further exploited, and greater attention paid to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and the right to decent work.

The effective use of ICTs in the design of public policies and the provision of public services, especially for persons with disabilities, requires greater efforts to minimize the digital and broadband divide.

Data for evidence-based decision-making, focused on economic, social and environmental issues, remains a priority. New forms of generating disaggregated data—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 actions will continue to be framed by the significant global platforms that advance the sustainable development agenda of small island developing States (SIDS). These will be pursued in synergy with the SDGs, with a view to ensuring that activities under the subprogramme continue to support Caribbean policymakers in promoting sustainable growth and development for the countries of the subregion. Support will also be given to the sustainable development aspirations of the non-self-governing and other territories in the Caribbean that are associate members of the Commission.

### Strategy

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme, which will focus on the following subject areas: 1. Caribbean development and cooperation; 2. Economic development and integration; 3. ICTs for development; 4. Social development; 5. Statistics; and 6. Climate change, SIDS and disaster risk management. Therefore, the main contributions to the 2030 Agenda under this subprogramme will be related to SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 13 and SDG 14.

The subregional headquarters will undertake research and analysis of the emerging issues and challenges facing the Caribbean. It will provide technical assistance and advisory services to member States, upon request, and conduct training activities, seminars and workshops for knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. It will work closely with Caribbean development partners — including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) family of institutions, other subregional intergovernmental organizations and international donor institutions— and in coordination with the resident coordinator system to inform policymaking in Caribbean countries, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services.

The strategy is built on five pillars. First, activities will be implemented 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 ensure that the work remains relevant to the subregion's needs. Third, the activities will facilitate the Caribbean's engagement in the follow-up to global conferences, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fourth, the multidisciplinary response to the development needs of the countries will include: (i) promoting sound fiscal management and market diversification; (ii) promoting wider application of ICTs for development; (iii) refining the monitoring mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the SDGs; (iv) enhancing the role of social development, including issues on gender; (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, as a think tank, the subregional headquarters will continue to articulate strategies for development. The visibility of its work will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme, including more active engagement with Caribbean countries.

The main beneficiaries under the subprogramme will be government authorities and officials from the region's countries, civil society entities, academic and private sector institutions, and subregional entities.

### Activities

#### Subject area 12.1: Caribbean development and cooperation

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Intergovernmental meetings

A meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

2. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

(i) Four issues of the FOCUS magazine.

(ii) Twelve issues of The Hummingbird newsletter covering matters such as ICTs for development and economic, environmental, social and statistical development.

3. Intermediate activities

Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding 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 refocusing the education sector to expand the skillset needed to advance sustainable development in the Caribbean.

(ii) A meeting to assess the state of financing the implementation of the SDGs in highly indebted middle-income countries in the Caribbean.

2. Recurrent publications

(i) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2021.*

(ii) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2021.*

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on refocusing the education sector to expand the skillset needed to advance sustainable development in the Caribbean.

(ii) A review of the state of financing the implementation of the SDGs in highly indebted middle-income countries in the Caribbean.

4. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kit

A policy brief on economic and trade issues in the Caribbean.

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on macroeconomic policies and regional integration.

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and regional bodies to develop or support training activities in areas relating to trade indicators and trade policy for analysing trade patterns and trade dynamics in the Caribbean.

7. Intermediate activities

Contributions to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *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 extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 12.3: ICTs for development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting on a selected area of ICTs for development in the Caribbean.

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of ICTs for development in the Caribbean.

3. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kit

A policy brief on a selected area of ICTs for development in the Caribbean.

Technical materials

Update and maintenance of the Caribbean Knowledge Repository.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on ICTs for development.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and regional bodies to develop or support training activities in areas relating to selected ICTs for development issues in the Caribbean.

6. 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 meeting to examine selected gender and development issues in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A meeting to examine selected population and development issues in the Caribbean.
- (iii) A meeting to assess the status of institutional infrastructures in Caribbean countries and their impact on integrated decision-making.

2. Recurrent publications

A study to examine selected gender and development issues in the Caribbean.

3. Non-recurrent publications

- (i) A study to examine selected population and development issues in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A review of the status of institutional infrastructures in Caribbean countries and their impact on integrated decision-making.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on gender equality, social and population development in the subregion.

5. Intermediate activities

- (i) Inputs for 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: Statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

A meeting on a selected area of statistics for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

2. Non-recurrent publications

A study on a selected area of statistics for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

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

A policy brief on a selected area of statistics in the Caribbean.

Technical materials

Updating and maintenance of databases on selected statistical indicators.

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of statistics and statistical development in the subregion.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies to develop training activities on the use of REDATAM for the online dissemination of census and household survey data in the Caribbean.

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on voluntary national reviews for the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

Preparation of inputs for the publications: *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the annual report of 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 management1. Substantive servicing of meetingsAd hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting on selected SDGs and their implementation in the Caribbean.

(ii) A meeting to examine the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in the Caribbean.



2. Non-recurrent publications

- (i) A study on selected SDGs and their implementation in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A study on the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in the Caribbean.

3. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

Updating and maintenance of the database on the economic, social and environmental costs of extreme natural disasters in the subregion's countries.

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

A policy brief on a selected area of environmental development or disaster risk management in the Caribbean.

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.

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/or regional bodies for the development of training activities on an environmental development issue relevant to the Caribbean.

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