



Distr.  
LIMITED  
LC/CDCC.29/DDR/2  
26 September 2022  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
22-00816

---

Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development  
and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of the Economic Commission  
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Paramaribo, 14 October 2022

## **PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2023**

### **Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup> From the *Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023* (LC/PLEN36/3), adopted at thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.



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

### Objective

The objective to which this subprogramme contributes is to strengthen the sustainable development processes 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 face significant challenges that constrain their ability to achieve sustainable development as small island developing States (SIDS). These include high debt levels, weak economic growth, finance constraints, declining export capacity, high unemployment (particularly among women and youth), high vulnerability to natural events and environmental degradation threats. The fundamental challenge is therefore building resilience to respond effectively to these obstacles.

Climate change, rising sea levels and exposure to extreme natural and weather events, particularly tropical cyclones, all continue to present existential challenges to the Caribbean countries. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the subregion and the volcanic eruptions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021 further exacerbated the vulnerability of these small States. In addition, their narrow economic base leaves them exposed to negative economic shocks. Measures implemented to curb the spread of the disease have caused significant financial stress for countries already burdened with high debt and debt servicing levels in the subregion. Urgent injections of liquidity are therefore needed to ease the pressure on already narrow fiscal space, in order to help countries build resilience to both the impacts of the pandemic and the ongoing threat of climate-related and other natural events. The debt for climate adaptation swap initiative proposed by ECLAC responds to this need, by proposing the conversion of the subregion's debt into a source of investment in resilience, while at the same time reinvigorating growth.

Technology, particularly ICT, has assumed a more vital role in the subregion's development, especially in the wake of COVID-19. Strategies to develop domestic technical capacity will have to be prioritized. Strengthening the ICT infrastructure will be essential for advancing the SDGs, particularly given the increased reliance on technology for governance, communication and education at a time when movement has been sharply restricted by the pandemic. Under the subprogramme, work will also be done to assess and promote strategies for the effective use of ICT in the design of public policies and the provision of public services that facilitate resilience-building in a post-pandemic era, with special attention to persons who are most vulnerable.

The trade policies of member States should be redesigned to better support intraregional and extraregional trade and investment. Attention will be given to strategies to promote the recovery of the tourism industry in the subregion, through innovative approaches. Exploration of measures to determine how best to harness the skills and resources of the Caribbean diaspora will be undertaken to assist in the economic recovery of the subregion. Economic diversification will be assessed through further exploration of pandemic-proof business opportunities in the creative industries. Greater attention will also be given to promoting and supporting gender mainstreaming, gender equality and women's empowerment, tackling increasing threats of gender-based violence and defending the right to decent work.

As regards the continuing challenge of data deficiency in the subregion, priority attention will be given to strengthening infrastructure and expanding capacity for data collection and analysis, particularly in areas such as environmental data; the multisectoral impact of the pandemic, climate impacts and the informal economy; and the production of gender-disaggregated data, among others.

Subregional and national actions will continue to be framed by global platforms that advance sustainable development in SIDS, within the wider context of the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, with a view to ensuring that activities under the subprogramme continue to support sustainable growth and development in the subregion for both members and associate members of ECLAC. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the institutional infrastructure of Caribbean States, with a view to enhancing governance and integrated policy planning for attaining the SDGs. Relevant elements of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic will be integrated into all activities as necessary.

### 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. ICT 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 SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

The subregional headquarters 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) institutions, other subregional intergovernmental organizations and international donor institutions—and in coordination with the United Nations country teams in the Caribbean to inform policymaking in the subregion, including through the provision of advisory and technical cooperation services.

The strategy is built on five pillars. First, activities under the subprogramme will be implemented in close cooperation with the substantive divisions and other subregional and national offices of ECLAC, in the context of the “Caribbean first” strategy launched by the Commission, and in collaboration with the wider United Nations development system. Second, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the subregional headquarters 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 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Agreement. The COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery strategies will be integrated into these development platforms. Fourth, the multidisciplinary response to the development needs of the countries will include: (i) promoting sound fiscal management, trade and industry development; (ii) promoting wider application of ICT for development; (iii) strengthening the institutional infrastructure and refining the monitoring mechanisms for more effective oversight and coordination of the implementation of global agendas; (iv) emphasizing the role of social development, including mainstreaming gender throughout the work under the subprogramme; (v) addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction; and (vi) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries.

Special attention will be paid to supporting national efforts to secure access to both short- and long-term resources according to the vulnerability of each country. These resources will be used to

support the recovery of Caribbean economies in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and disasters that have occurred. Finally, and fulfilling its think tank and thought leadership role, the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, will continue to undertake research and analysis and to promote strategies for sustainable development, paying particular attention to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery plans. The visibility of its work will be enhanced through a vibrant outreach programme.

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 selected areas relating to resilience-building in the Caribbean
- (ii) A meeting on economic restructuring in the Caribbean

2. Recurrent publications

- (i) *Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2023.*
- (ii) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2023.*

3. Non-recurrent publications

- (i) A study on selected areas related to resilience-building in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A study on economic restructuring in the Caribbean.

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

A policy brief on a selected area of economic development 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, regional integration or economic development in the Caribbean.

7. Technical cooperation projects

It is expected that a project will be undertaken on the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery of tourism-based economies in the Caribbean.

8. Intermediate activities

Contributions to the annual editions of the ECLAC flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of 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 12.3: ICT for development

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of experts to discuss a selected area of ICT for development in the Caribbean.

2. Recurrent publications

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

3. Other substantive activities

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

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

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on ICT 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 on a selected issue on ICT for development in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

Provision of inputs for ECLAC databases on ICT indicators, including integrated follow-up to the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society 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

A meeting of experts to examine selected population and development issues in the Caribbean.

2. Non-recurrent publications

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

3. Advisory services

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

4. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and/ or regional bodies for the development of training activities on inclusive social protection in the Caribbean.

5. Intermediate activities

- (i) Inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America* and the annual report of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (ii) Contribution to substantive servicing of selected activities of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

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 of experts to discuss 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 activitiesTechnical materials

Updating and maintenance of databases on selected statistical indicators.

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

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



4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries on 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 related to a selected area of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in the Caribbean.

6. Intermediate activities

Inputs for the annual editions of the ECLAC flagship publications *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and for 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 of experts on selected areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean.
- (ii) A meeting of experts to examine issues related to SIDS and the SDGs in the Caribbean.
- (iii) A high-level meeting in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

2. Recurrent publications

A study to examine issues related to SIDS and the SDGs in the Caribbean.

3. Non-recurrent publications

- (i) A study on a selected area of climate change or disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean.
- (ii) An assessment of implementation of the Samoa Pathway in the Caribbean (in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States).

4. Other substantive activitiesTechnical materials

Updating and maintenance of the science- and technology-related database in the Caribbean.

Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits

A policy brief on a selected area of climate change or disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean.

5. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation and advisory services to countries in the area of environment and natural resources management, including coastal and marine resources, as well as disaster-preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

6. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, academic institutions, international organizations and regional bodies to develop or support training activities on an area related to environment and natural resources management, disaster risk management or resilience-building in the Caribbean.

7. Technical cooperation projects

It is expected that a project on environmental development, disaster preparedness or disaster risk reduction will be undertaken.

8. Intermediate activities

Input to the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

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