



CEPAL



**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
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FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

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Outlook on international migration in the Caribbean

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY¹

DRAFT VERSION SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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¹ Based on William Mejia (2017), *Panorama de la migración internacional en el Caribe*, report prepared for ECLAC, unpublished, under the supervision of Jorge Martínez Pizarro (CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC).

Introduction

This document summarizes one of the inputs that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) delivers as a contribution to the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM), to be agreed upon in 2018, as provided by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2016. It is part of the task entrusted to ECLAC to generate information and updated knowledge on migration processes in the three sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean: Mexico and Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Delimitation of the Sub-region

In this document, the Caribbean sub-region is assumed to include the string of islands located in the Caribbean Sea and its surroundings, up to The Bahamas, running from off the coast of Yucatan and Florida to Venezuela, around an imaginary axis whose approximate centre is Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). It does not include inland countries or territories with coastlines along the Caribbean, or their islands within it.

The territories which, according to our definition, comprise the Caribbean sub-region are 13 countries and 17 dependent administrative areas (also referred to as "dependencies"): 5 of the United Kingdom, 6 of The Netherlands, 4 of France, and 2 of the United States. The population – more than 43 million people in 2015 – is very unevenly distributed across this region, with 94% being concentrated in only six territories, and ranging from a few thousands in some countries to more than 11 million people in Cuba.

1 Migration and Migrants – Outstanding Aspects and Trends

Based on the latest estimations of the United Nations, in 2015, a total of 7,773,471 Caribbean people were living in a national territory other than where they were born, in some cases in a territory within the same sub-region. On the other hand, the populations of Caribbean countries and dependencies include 1,367,407 international immigrants, including those cases just referred to (UNDESA, 2015).

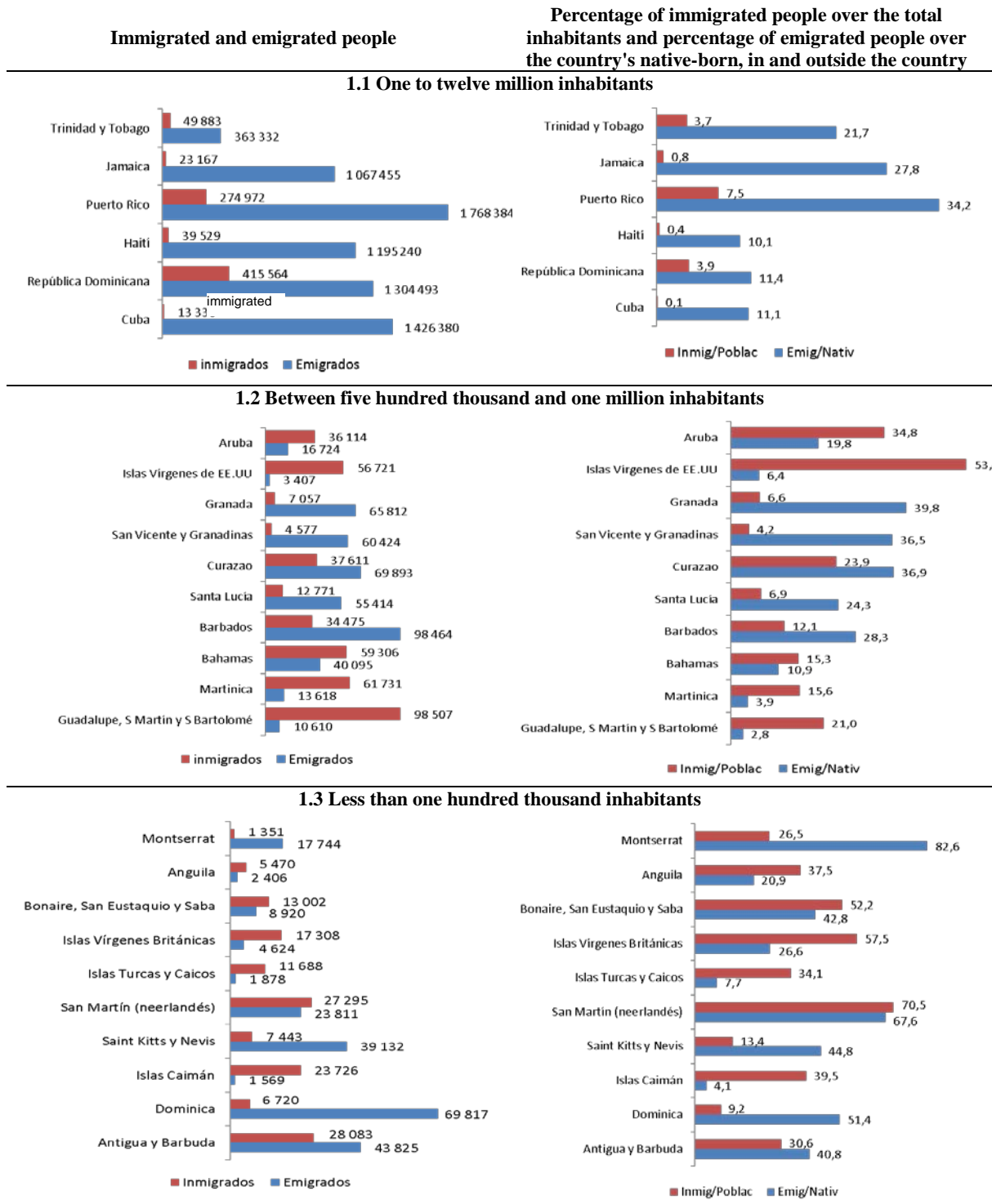
Immigration can, therefore, be rated as middle-low, as 3.2% of inhabitants were born outside their country or dependency of residence. Also, in relative terms, emigration may be considered high, as emigrants account for almost 16% of the native-born population in this sub-region, according to data available from UNDESA (2015).

When combining immigrants and emigrants data (Figure 1), proportions differ greatly based on the population size, with differences tending to be greater in smaller territories for both groups of migrants. For countries with less than one hundred thousand people, where the highest proportions are seen, 42% of the native-born population live abroad, while one third of their inhabitants are immigrants.

As destination countries, the United States and Canada concentrated 77.5% of the emigrated population, while the Caribbean itself and the inland countries in its basin – here referred to as the continental Caribbean – hosted 10.4%, with almost half of that percentage being Haitians who

emigrated to the Dominican Republic, which constitutes the main intra-regional migration. The European metropolises in former or existing colonies in the sub-region were together the third aggregate destination and hosted 9.2% of Caribbean migrants.

Figure 1. Immigrant and emigrant stocks and their relative significance, by country and dependency, grouped by number of inhabitants, 2015



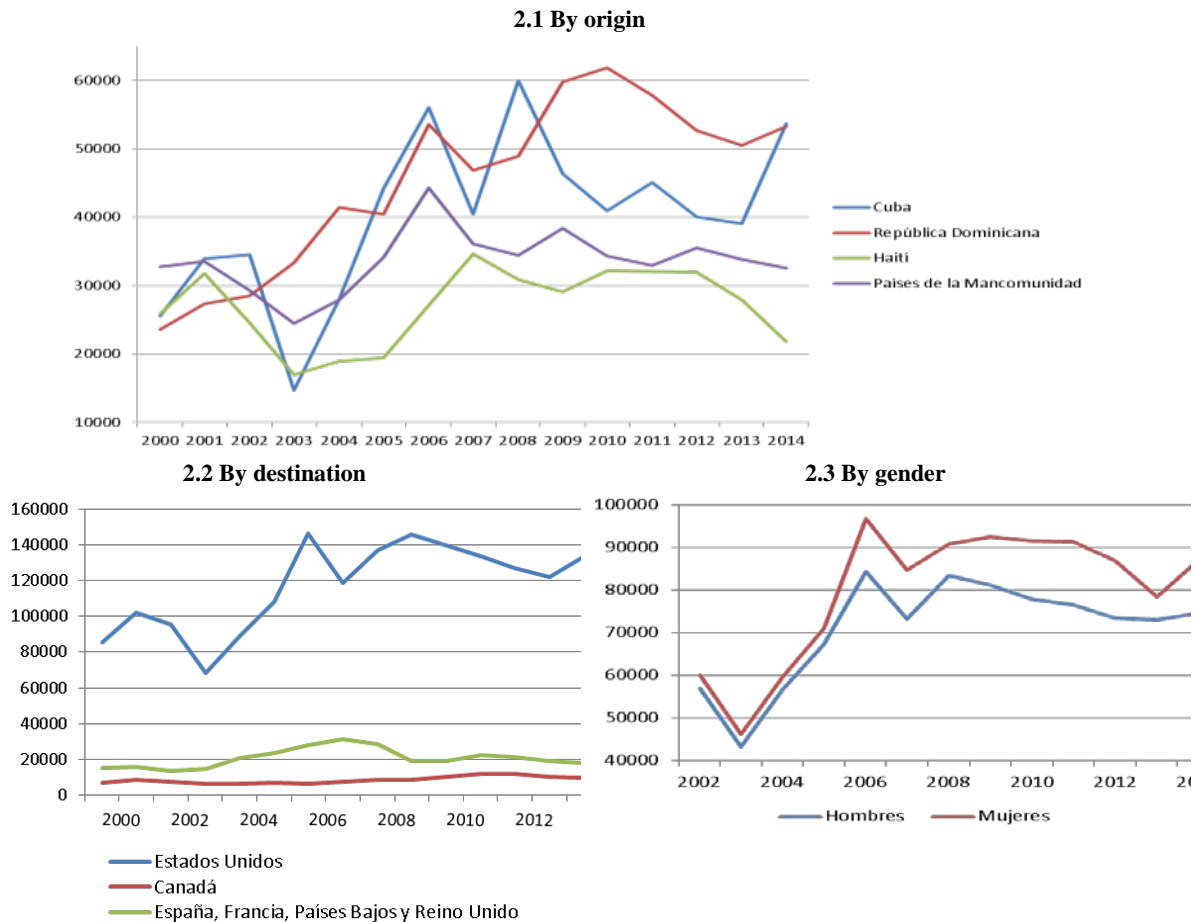
Source: own production based on UNDESA data, 2015

As for immigrants, 51% were from to this same sub-region (intra-regional migration), followed by North America with 19%, Europe with 14%, and South America with 7%. The rest of the world contributed a 9% of immigrants. On a per-country basis, the 25 most relevant territories of origin (led by Haiti, the United States, France, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana) concentrated 87.8% of the immigrated people.

UNDESA data point at a 1.6% growth in the total number of immigrants in this sub-region between 2010 and 2015, with positive changes in all territories except for Puerto Rico, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Cuba. In 2015, the Dominican Republic (with 329,281 Haitians, among others) and Puerto Rico (with 165,147 US nationals and 57,891 Dominicans, among others) concentrated 50.5% of the total immigrants.

During the 2010-2015 period, the Caribbean was the second region in the world, following Central Africa, in terms of migration intention, with 8.1% of its adult population with migration plans and 2.6% preparing to migrate, based on Gallup's national representative annual survey conducted in 160 countries (Laczko and Jasper, 2017: 5). Figure 2 shows different volumes of annual outflows to some countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), between 2000 and 2014, by migrants' origin, destination and gender.

Figure 2. Annual outflow of migrants from independent countries to the United States, Canada and European metropolises, by origin, destination and gender, 2000-2014

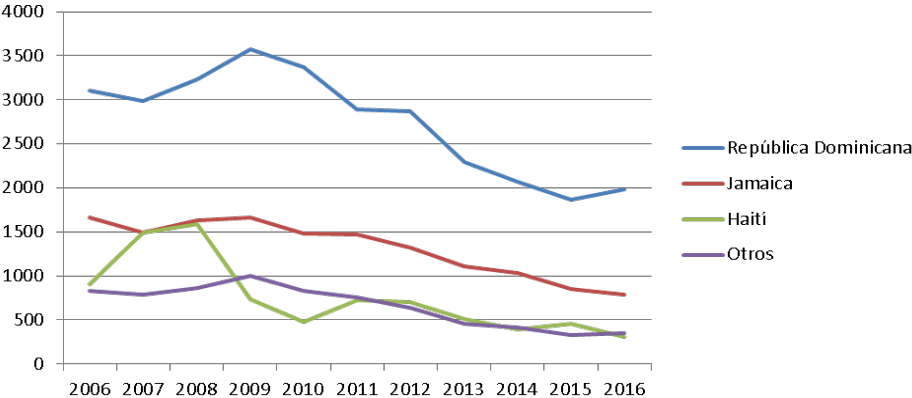


Source: own production with OECD data processed through its software application on PC-AXIS

The increasing outflow from Haiti to South America, especially to Brazil and Chile, deserves particular attention. As regards Brazil, its fast evolution is evidenced by the leap from 13 people registered as permanent immigrants in 2010 to 10,622 people in 2014 (ILO, 3016: 46) and the fact that in late 2015 an authorization was granted to issue permanent resident visas for 43,871 Haitians that had entered and settled in the previous four years (SG/OEA-OIM, 2016: 22).

Figures for Caribbean nationals deported from the United States show a decreasing trend between the 2011 and 2016 fiscal years (Figure 3). There is uncertainty over the proportion who returned to their origin because the departing country may, at its option, send them to either their country of origin or to the country where they had come from.

Figure 3. Deportation of Caribbean nationals from the United States, by fiscal year, 2011-2016

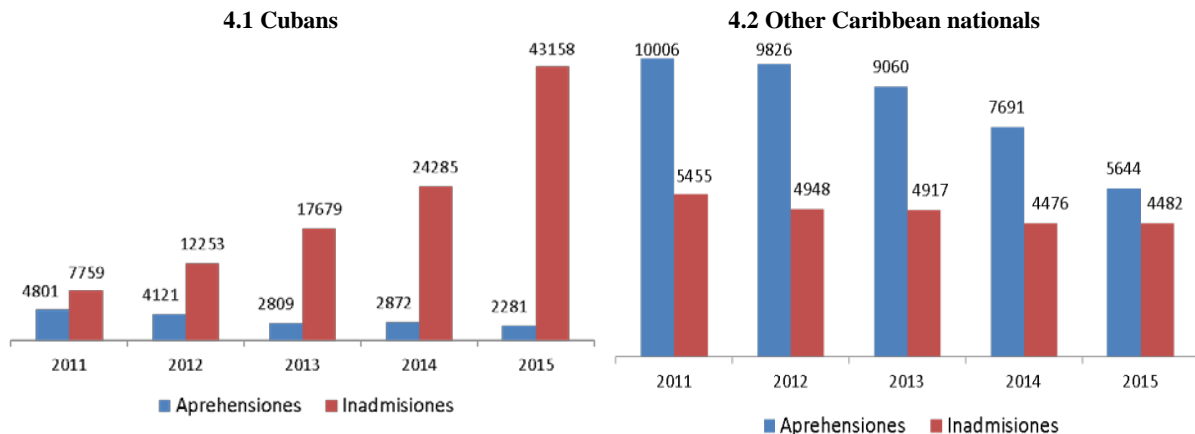


Source: prepared based on United States data (2016 and 2016a)

The aggregate number of Caribbean people deportations from the United States in 2016 is 3,466, with more than half being Dominican people. This figure is lower than the 5,398 "repatriations", of largely Haitian people, performed by the Bahamas in 2015 (OBMICA, 2016: 46).

United States data on apprehensions and non-admissions for the 2011-2016 period shows two opposite trends (Figure 4): an increasing trend for Cubans and a decreasing trend for the rest of Caribbean nationals. It should be noted that the "non-admission" is a category that usually results in "voluntary return", the immediate return of the person to the country from where they intended to enter, or their detention while the deportation or asylum application, if any, is being processed. However, under the "dry foot, wet foot" policy (further discussed below) applied to Cubans until it ended in January 2017, a "non-admission" almost invariably resulted in a parole status which allowed Cubans to complete the one-year stay provided by the Cuban Adjustment Act (also discussed further below) in order for them to obtain their permanent resident status. The foreseeable termination of that policy resulted in a noticeable increase in the inflow and (merely theoretical) "non-admission" of Cubans.

Figure 4. Apprehensions and non-admission of Caribbean nationals at United States borders, by fiscal year², 2011-2015



Source: own production based on United States data (2016: Tables 34 and 37)

A slight majority of the total immigrant population are males (51.3%), especially in the 25-39 age range, where there is a significant concentration. As for migrants located in the United States, the data points at a higher education level among migrants coming from English-speaking countries, which could explain, together with the language, the higher income levels and the lower poverty rates among people from such origins.

Most territories lack effective national asylum procedures and laws allowing the granting of the refugee status, which hinders the ability of the States to address the specific protection needs of asylum seekers, refugees and other vulnerable people (Cartagena +30, 2014: 4), though not their arrival. According to UNHCR, in 2016 there were 1,033 asylum seekers and 1,129 refugees and people under refuge conditions in this sub-region.

2 Migration Management and Governance

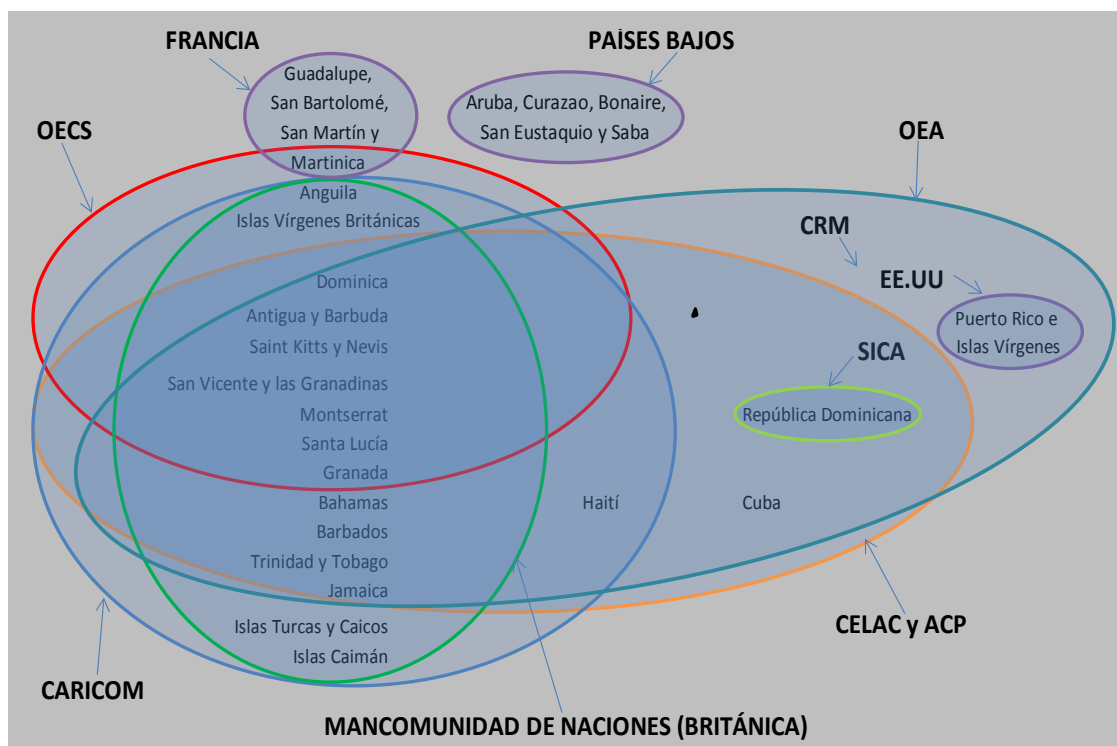
The Caribbean lacks a common single forum that exclusively convenes all of its countries and dependencies for discussion and decision-making in connection with common issues and interests, as well as differences, due to the lack of autonomy of the dependent territories.

In spite of this, the multiple spaces for integration, dialogue, and cooperation – apart from the United Nations – where the countries in this sub-region participate could provide an opportunity for joint migration governance in general and specifically in connection with the GCM, although the prime and decisive spaces for governance are those at country-level, for it is there that migrants are accepted or rejected and the observance or denial of their rights is staged.

The Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) have been driven by IOM with support from UNHCR. If they succeed in consolidating and becoming a permanent inter-government consultation Conference, the Caribbean would take a step forward in terms of sub-regional governance of migration and the definition of guidelines for governance in its territories. In addition, it would become a key body capable of driving the implementation of the GCM.

² From October 2 to September 30

Chart 1. Spaces for multilateral integration, cooperation or dialogue of the Caribbean relevant to the migration issue, by territories included, 2017



Source: own production based on the official websites of the relevant entities

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There are some projects from inter-government agencies aimed at improving migration governance. The Caribbean Information Platform for Migration Governance (CIPMG) is an IOM-supported initiative dedicated to advancing the dissemination and exchange of information aimed at improving migration governance in the Caribbean. Moreover, this sub-region partially benefits from labour migration projects led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its regional office for Central America, Haiti, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Finally, the presence of the regional office of ECLAC is a great asset. With all independent countries being Member States and all dependencies being Associate Members, this regional office serves as a forum for sub-regional reflection that facilitates contact and cooperation among its members.

However, without the engagement of other committed actors, government management does not constitute governance and this is something the sub-region needs to continue pursuing. Fortunately, there are a number of institutions from the civil society with experience in migration matter, but they need to be given more and more relevant formal spaces for them to contribute to governance and support the creation and strengthening of migrant organizations, which also need to be engaged in the processes.

3 Some Global Debate Issues from a Sub-regional Viewpoint

Irregular migration is a matter of great interest to the sub-region, not only due to what happens in its territories in relation to immigrants, but also, and perhaps most importantly, due to the violations to human rights and the risks to personal integrity suffered every year by their people while in transit, especially outside the sub-region, to North America, particularly the United States, or to other South-American countries, especially Chile, and also Brazil – which has recently lost relevance as a destination.

As regards the consequences of such movements, in the Caribbean, between January 2014 and July 2017, IOM recorded the deaths, mostly by drowning, of 319 migrants and the disappearance of five, of which 279 were identified as Caribbean, 24 as South-American and 1 as Asiatic. In that same period, based on IOM data discriminated by origin, there were 286 deaths and 24 disappearances of Caribbean migrants, with 279 of those cases taking place in the Caribbean itself, 17 in South America, 10 in Central America including Mexico, and 4 in the border between the United States and Mexico³.

As for trafficking in persons, the latest report on this matter issued by the United States State Department (United States, 2017a) includes most Caribbean territories on level 2, which comprises those countries whose governments do not fully observe the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)⁴ but are making significant efforts to abide by them.

3.1 Human Rights of the Migrant Population

A particular source of concern are the risks faced by irregular migrants or asylum seekers travelling on precarious vessels, as well as the lack of aid, and sometimes mistreatment, suffered by migrants in South and Central America, including Mexico.

In addition, considering that the end of the US "dry foot, wet foot" policy tends to end Cuban migration through Mexico while Haitian migration grows, it is the latter that should be paid attention to, especially considering the critical economic and social conditions in Haiti, which deserves to be afforded special humanitarian emergency treatment, as demanded by a remarkable group of institutions and people recently convened. Specifically for Haitians already in the United States, demands should be made for the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) (currently extended to January 2018) to be maintained.

Within this sub-region there are also violations to the rights of migrants and asylum seekers that deserve attention (refer to: CIDH, 2014; United States, 2017b; Marquez et al., 2017, among others). The solution to this problem belongs in the sub-region itself, which should commit to solving this problem before demanding that similar situations in other parts of the world be addressed.

³ IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre. Map tracking migrant deaths and disappearances, <http://gmdac.iom.int/map-tracking-migrant-deaths-and-disappearances>, accessed on 07/12/2017

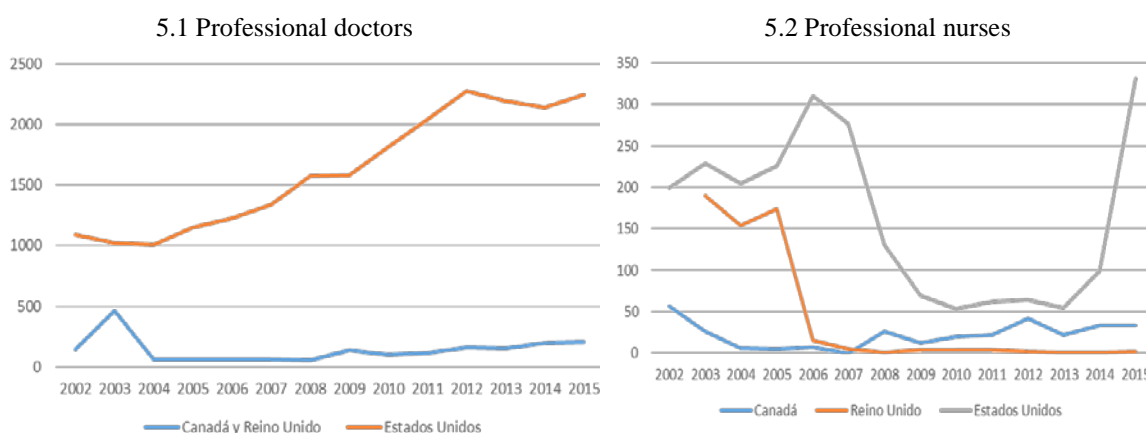
⁴ Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Div. A of Pub. L. No. 106-386, § 108, as amended.

3.2 Labour Migration, especially of Qualified and Health Workforce

In 2015, of the Caribbean non-Puerto Rican immigrants in the United States aged 25 and up, 13.5% had an undergraduate degree and 6.7% a postgraduate degree. For Puerto Rican immigrants these percentages were higher, standing at 16.6% and 10.1%, respectively⁵. According to our estimates, they account for a total of 760,000 people.

As regards doctors, their flow has been increasing, especially to the United States (Figure 5.1), which has resulted in a significant increase in stocks. Based on OECD.Stat data processed by us⁶, the number of doctors trained in the Caribbean (excluding Puerto Rico) increased two-fold in Canada and the United States between 2006 and 2015, going from 407 to 850 in Canada and from 15,305 to 31,521 in the United States, and increased six-fold in the United Kingdom, going from 84 to 493. In Spain this number was 3,198 in 2011, but there is no other data available for comparison.

Figure 5. Flows of professional doctors and nurses from independent territories in the Caribbean to Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, 2002-2015



Source: own production based on Health Workforce Migration, OECD.Stat

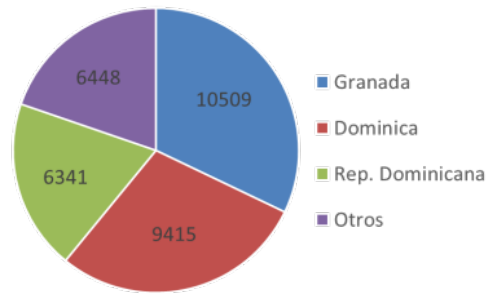
The evolution of professional nurse stocks between 2006 and 2015 is different from that of doctors. In Canada, it barely increased from 529 to 561, while in the United Kingdom it fell from 1,323 to 881, according to the same OECD source. As for Caribbean professional nurses in the United States, we only know the stock for 2000, which was 40,795, including 4,966 Puerto Ricans (Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries DIOC, OECD.Stat). However, flow data (Figure 5.2) point at a slow increase, at least from independent territories.

Figure 6 shows the distribution by origin of the professional doctors trained in Caribbean independent territories who worked in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom in 2015. If we compare the number of doctors from Grenade and Dominica to that of their native-born doctors (both emigrated and non-emigrated) in 2015, we find a proportion of at least 6.1% and 6.6%, respectively.

⁵ 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

⁶ <http://stats.oecd.org/>, Health Workforce Migration database

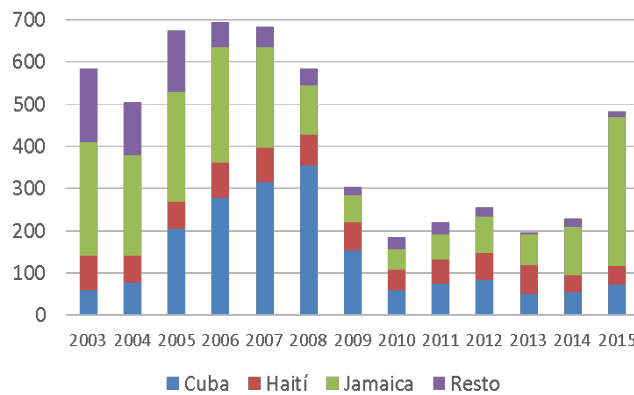
Figure 6. Distribution by origin of doctors trained in Caribbean independent territories who work in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, 2015.



Source: own production based on OECD.Stat, Health Workforce Migration database.

Figure 7 aggregates the flows of professional nurses from Caribbean countries to Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, already shown on Figure 5.2.

Figure 7. Annual flows of professional nurses from independent territories in the Caribbean to Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, broken down by origin, 2002-2015



Source: own production based on OECD.Stat, Health Workforce Migration database.

In addition, it should be noted that Cuba has health agreements in place with 62 countries (including the Caribbean), which are coordinated through Comercializadora Servicios Médicos Cubanos S.A and which cover several business lines (Republic of Cuba, 2017). According to its director, in 2014 more than 50 thousand workers performed those tasks, of which about 25 thousand were doctors⁷.

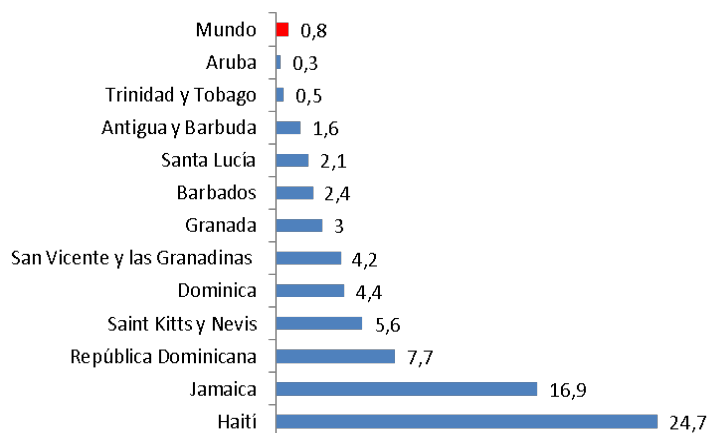
The implications of the health workforce emigration for this sub-region are as manifold as the situations, types of professionals and volumes to which it is associated in each territory. However, it is clear that the contribution of the Caribbean is vital to address the global deficit of health professionals, estimated under the Millennium Development Goals in 12.9 million for 2035 for midwives, nurses and doctors, (Campbell et al. 2013: x), as well as to address the deficit of doctors in the United States, estimated in 46,100 to 90,400 for 2025 (Dall et al.: 2015).

⁷ Fonticoba, Onaisys (2014). "Cuba has doctors all around the world. Interview with the general director of Comercializadora Servicios Médicos Cubanos S.A. of MINSAP". Granma, Official Body of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, Havana, 03/25/2014. <http://www.granma.cu/cuba/2014-03-25/cuba-tiene-medicos-por-todo-el-mundo?page=5>

3.3 Remittances, Costs and Channels

The significance of remittances received in the Caribbean, measured as a ratio of the GDP, is highly variable across the sub-region (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Caribbean, remittances as a ratio (%) of the GDP, by country, 2015



Source: own production based on data from <http://datos.bancomundial.org/indicador/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS>

Between 2011 and 2016, the remittances received showed a positive trend, with very different paces among the 11 of the 14 territories for which information was available. Barbados, Curacao and Saint Martin (part of The Netherlands) were the exceptions. The greatest growth rates were observed in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

In the first half of 2011, the average transfer cost for remittances to this sub-region stood at 7.3% (for sending USD200), while in the first half of 2017 it reached 7.8%, which is higher than that for Central America (4.7%) and South America (6.0%). However, behind averages there are great variations depending on the specific origin and destination, and even on the channels and operators used for one same origin and destination.

3.4 Response to Natural Factors that Contribute to Migration

Among the multiple factors that contribute to migration, this sub-region is particularly sensitive to two. The first one is related to its high exposure to natural disasters due to being located in a seismic, volcanic and hurricane area. The aforesaid, combined with an also high vulnerability (possibility to suffer damages, limited capacity to mitigate negative consequences and limited capacity for social adaptation), leads to worrying levels of risk (Garschagen, 2016 and Beck, 2014).

The other factor is climate change. Its potential effects – including on water resources, the coastal environment, agriculture, fisheries and food safety – especially impact on families in poverty conditions and increase the risks of certain types of natural disasters and damages to the habitat. All of the aforesaid may ultimately spur human mobility processes, usually internal and for a short period in case of disasters occurred over short periods of time, though they may also derive in international migration.

3.5 Governance Cooperation – Engaging other Actors

The aforesaid aspects cannot be dealt with under the GCM, or outside it, without international cooperation, both within and outside the sub-region, especially considering that the United States, Great Britain, France and The Netherlands are not only relevant destinations, but also sub-regional origins, through their dependencies.

Cooperation within the sub-region requires the consolidation of a forum for dialogue and coordination involving all the territories, including dependencies. It should be noted, however, that this could seem overly complicated if we bear in mind the different spaces for multilateral integration, cooperation or dialogue shown on Figure 1, which could also be considered an opportunity.

4 Other Migration-related Situations in this Sub-region

There are other situations which may help understand Caribbean migrations and deserve attention if we are to achieve the goals set in the GCM.

Special situations which have contributed to the increased number of sub-regional emigrants and refugee seekers include: poverty in Haiti, weak and unstable economies –especially in smaller territories–, and certain policies or measures imposed on Cubans and Haitians in destination countries.

4.1 Poverty in Haiti

Regarding the situation in Haiti, the United Nations Security Council recently recognized that to achieve lasting and sustainable stability, it was necessary to make progress in the reconstruction of the country as well as in its social and economic development, including women and youth, and reiterated the need for security to be "accompanied by sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, including efforts in risk reduction and preparedness that address the country's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters" (United Nations, 2017a: 2).

Two months after the United Nations' pronouncement, in May 2017, representatives of international cooperation organizations, universities, and human rights, migrant and civil society organizations from different countries released a joint declaration to propose Haiti "as a country of special importance for the agenda of the Worldwide Pact on Migrants and Refugees and to consider Haitian Afro-descendants as subject to special protection in specific cases within the framework of the United Nations International Decade for Afro-descendants (2015-2024)" (<http://www.codhes.org/index.php/14-articulos-de-opinion/234-foro-migracion-haitiana-en-las-americas?templateStyle=8>).

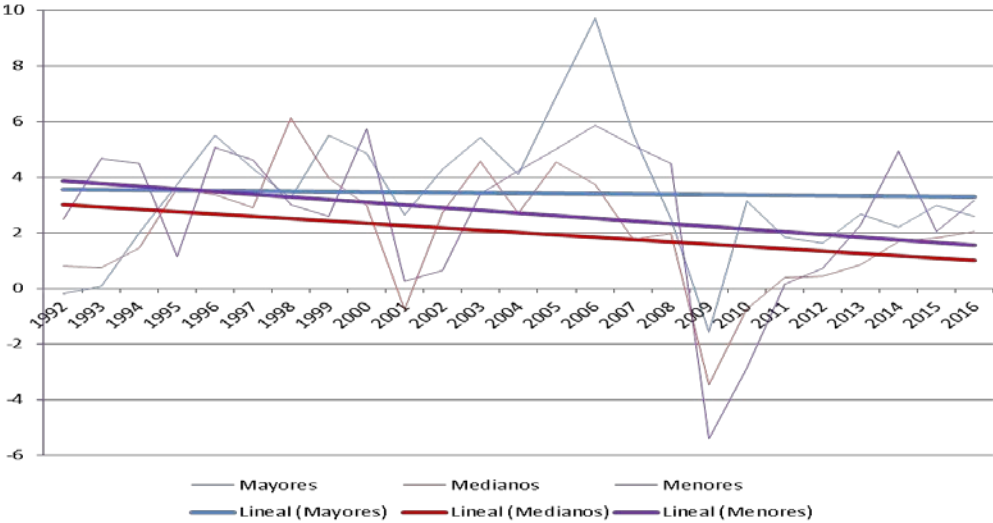
4.2 Sub-regional Economic Performance

In the countries and dependencies with smaller populations there are productive schemes that do not offer enough possibilities for economic development and which could influence their inhabitants' decision to emigrate (Medeiros et al., 2011; OBMICA, 2016). Considering that in many of those territories such schemes are concentrated on one or a few goods and services, such as petroleum and tourism, with the earlier being subject to significant price variations and the latter to climate

variations and impacts, we may understand the vulnerability and instability of their economy and their employment levels.

Figure 9 shows the annual GDP growth rate averages for independent territories in the three population size levels defined earlier⁸. The trend for the largest territories to sustain their aggregate growth rate in the long term should be noted. On the other hand, growth in the other two groups of countries tends to gradually slow down, with the slowdown in smaller countries being slightly higher (by almost half a point) than that of middle-sized countries. Such trends are coupled with abrupt annual changes, which are consistent with the vulnerability and instability mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Figure 9. Caribbean independent territories, GDP growth rates (annual %) and linear trends, by country groups based on population size, 1992-2019



Source: own production based on information from the databank of the World Bank, <http://databank.worldbank.org/>

4.3 Caribbean Migration Policy and Politics – Key Cases

The condition of the United States as a destination for Caribbean people in general and of the Dominican Republic for Haitians in particular has been key in the configuration of the sub-regional migration scenario –and will probably continue to be so, at least in the medium term. In both cases, active policies focused on certain groups have had very diverse purposes and outcomes, driving or deterring migration or return, promoting or denying rights, and always discriminating – either positively or negatively– specific national groups.

Unfortunately, as it usually happens with migration policies everywhere, they have usually been driven by domestic policy estimations seeking to satisfy only part of the electorate (which is considered relevant), but have also, in some cases, been tied to the international political chess board. A good –though not the only– example of this, are some Dominican policies for Haitian migrants and US policies for Cubans and Haitians, which are worth mentioning due to their relevance.

⁸ Large: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. Middle-Sized: Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenade. Small: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis

5 Proposals with a view to the GCM

By identifying and analysing situations, a number of courses of action and potential specific measures have emerged, which we have put forward as proposals with a view to the GCM, and which we summarize below in order of appearance.

- Requesting that countries with colonies in the sub-region specify their commitments in relation to those colonies, notwithstanding their size and hierarchy within the structure of the States.
- Urging Latin-American, Central-American and Caribbean governments to commit to aiding Caribbean migrants and asylum seekers in transit through their territories.
- Revising deportation procedures, especially as regards family separation, the right to retain possession and use of property held at destination, the time frames for completion of the deportation procedure and conditions during imprisonment prior to deportation.
- Requesting the United States to extend beyond January 2018 the TPS enjoyed by Haitians and create ways towards their final regularization.
- Confirming commitments and defining new mechanisms to monitor the performance of international agreements on refugees.
- Exploring the possibilities for joint migration governance offered by the different integration, dialogue and cooperation spaces where the countries in this sub-region participate.
- Due to their strategic nature and the binding effect that their commitments may have, CARICOM and OECS should be considered as primary natural scenarios to pursue the sub-regional implementation of the GCM. In addition, the three bodies where all the independent territories in the region participate should be considered as alternative spaces, and could provide some sort of arbitration for disputes: OAS, ECLAC and ACP.
- Considering utilizing the initiative for "Supporting the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development" conducted by IOM to progress towards migration governance and the implementation of the agreements reached under the GCM, especially in aspects involving the European Union.
- Requesting the Dominican Republic, which is part of the Regional Conference on Migration, to serve as representative of the region in such Conference, especially as regards the transit of Caribbean people through Central America, including Mexico.
- Progressing towards the consolidation of the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) and moving towards their conversion into a Caribbean Conference on Migration, which should convene other qualified actors, like those referred to in Section 2 (apart from governments), and serve as a platform for dialogue and governance-building for all the countries in the sub-region.
- Supporting the development of the Caribbean Information Platform for Migration Governance (CIPMG), promoting to this end alliances with inter-government agencies and the academy.
- Affording humanitarian emergency treatment to Haiti, its migrants, and its asylum seekers.
- Seeking agreements internally and with other ALC sub-regions on the treatment to be afforded to Caribbean migrants in transit and the provision of due assistance, notwithstanding their documentation status.
- A particular source of concern are the risks faced by irregular migrants or asylum seekers travelling on precarious vessels, as well as the lack of aid, and sometimes mistreatment, suffered by migrants in South and Central America, including Mexico.
- Addressing, through consensus within the sub-region, the situations of violation to the human rights of migrants and refugees that take place in the sub-region.
- Proposing that the GCM should assume the comprehensive vision of international migration proposed by ECLAC, and that it should be based on a human rights approach that rejects the

criminalization of irregular migration and all forms of racism, xenophobia, and discrimination against migrants.

- Including the issue of recruitment of foreign health professionals with a view to preventing the problematic situations that result from their departure in some countries of origin and harnessing the advantages that it may bring to all origins and many countries with deficits of that type of workforce.
- Supporting the review of the WHO Code of Practice on the Recruitment of Health Personnel and request that in those areas, like the Caribbean, where there is an absolute surplus of professionals, their recruitment should not be stopped, and that mechanisms and compensations to be assumed by the countries benefited with such personnel be considered for purposes of filling vacancies and offsetting other potential negative effects of migration.
- Using the preparation of the GCM, as well as the implementation of its agreements, as an opportunity to improve migration governance, with the participation of not only the Member States but also migrants, organizations of professionals, universities, educational institutions and the community at large, disclosing their interests, which should be negotiated for the common benefit.
- Insisting on pursuing mechanisms to reduce remittance transfer costs, especially in the most expensive corridors. Such pursue should involve designing and bringing into motion alternative transfer channels – probably through institutions – which address the increased withdrawal of correspondent banks.
- Demanding greater international cooperation to reduce the risks of natural disasters, as well as to address them when they occur.
- Also demanding greater international cooperation to address the potential impacts of climate change.
- In the process of consolidating the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) and their transformation into a permanent conference, strengthening the technical secretariat and the operational coordination held by IOM and contemplating support from an inter-agency technical round table convening, apart from IOM, other agencies including at least: ILO, UNHCR, ECLAC, WHO and UNFPA.
- Confirming the need for international cooperation to support the development of the region at large and with particular emphasis on smaller territories, apart from Haiti.
- Seeking mechanisms to address the withdrawal of correspondent banks, which affects the cost of remittances and may even compromise their flow, apart from preventing the development of economic activity in smaller islands.
- Evaluating the possibility to harness the favourable conditions of the sub-region and transform it into an important "shop window" for health services provided in situ, through missions and also online.
- Defining commitments to put an end to the use of migrants as a government weapon in the field of international policy and as a populist banner within the countries' domestic policies, particularly recognizing migrants' human rights.

The treatment of the above mentioned issues, when pertaining to people, should be cross cut by gender, age and ethnic considerations, when relevant. As regards territories, emphasis should be placed on environmental sustainability, as well as economic and population differences and any other difference which needs to be considered for the sake of equitable agreements.

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