



ECLAC

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**REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Port of Spain, 11 September 2024

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A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee decided to forgo the presentation of the meeting summary by the Rapporteur at the end of the session, given the hybrid format and full programme of work of the meeting, and the limited time between the thirtieth session of the Committee and the fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Instead, it was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a draft report of the meeting for the consideration of the Rapporteur, which would then be circulated to the Committee members for their review. The meeting report would be considered final on 27 September 2024, to facilitate its availability at the fortieth session of the Commission.
2. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work for 2025, including subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean, and expressed appreciation for the work carried out in the subregion in 2023 in resolution 113(XXX), entitled “Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean”.
3. The Committee also endorsed the proposal to establish a working group to facilitate United Nations system collaboration on assistance to associate members in resolution 116(XXX), entitled “Support for the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean”.
4. In addition to resolutions 113(XXX) and 116(XXX) mentioned above, the Committee adopted resolution 112 (XXX), entitled “Support for the implementation of the outcome of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States”; resolution 114(XXX), entitled “Strengthening support for improved disaster response and resilience in Caribbean small island developing States”; and resolution 115(XXX), entitled “Harnessing international migration for sustainable development in the Caribbean”.
5. The Committee took note of the preparations under way for the fortieth session of the Commission, to be held in Lima from 9 to 11 October 2024.
6. The Committee agreed that the twenty-second meeting of its Monitoring Committee would be held in Port of Spain in 2025. The exact date and venue would be determined by the Chair in consultation with the secretariat of the Committee.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the session

7. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its thirtieth session on 11 September 2024 in Port of Spain.

Attendance¹

8. The thirtieth session was attended by the following members and associate members of the Committee: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Election of officers

9. Article 10 of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee stipulates that the Chair of the sessions is rotated among member countries in the English alphabetical order of their names. The chairship of the thirtieth session therefore passed to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Delegations were elected as Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur to complete the Bureau, as follows:

Chair: Trinidad and Tobago

Vice-Chairs: British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Saint Lucia

Rapporteur: Saint Kitts and Nevis

Adoption of the agenda

10. The session adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Commemorating the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at 30: what next for the Caribbean?
3. Rethinking and transforming Latin America and the Caribbean's development model to make it more productive, inclusive and sustainable.
4. Accelerating implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

¹ See annex 1 for a full list of participants.

5. Addressing the sustainable development challenges of associate members of ECLAC.
6. Matters relating to the programme of work.
7. Fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
9. Other matters.
10. Date and venue of the twenty-second meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.
11. Close of the session.

Procedural matters and organization of work

11. The session was chaired by Penelope Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago.

12. The Committee was reminded that the report of its meeting was an official document to be considered at the fortieth session of the Commission, to be held in October. In light of the hybrid format and full programme of work of the meeting and the limited time between the thirtieth session of the Committee and the fortieth session of ECLAC, the Committee agreed that no summary would be presented by the Rapporteur at the end of the meeting. Instead, the secretariat would consult with the Rapporteur and circulate a full draft report of the meeting to member States and associate members on 18 September 2024 for their review, questions and/or suggested amendments. The report would be considered final on 27 September 2024 and prepared for submission to the Commission at the fortieth session.

13. The Committee adopted the preliminary programme, setting out the organization of work and procedural matters proposed by the Chair.

Documentation

14. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Committee at its thirtieth session is attached in annex 2 of the present report.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

15. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, speaking in his capacity as outgoing Chair of the Committee, said that the Caribbean was not isolated from

the rest of the world. It had to return to stronger global multinationalism to navigate the challenging times that it faced, which would require willingness and a commitment to change. He called upon universities, think tanks and, in particular, politicians, to reflect on Caribbean policymaking, as policy was the foundation upon which a sustainable future could be built. The Caribbean's fundamental challenges were to determine paths for addressing common concerns and to develop a common vision. Security and social conflicts were also among the issues facing the subregion and were further aggravated by climate change. He called for a heightened emphasis on disaster risk management and encouraged members to be more pragmatic in their response to climate change. In view of the issues that smaller islands encountered when applying for grants and international financing, the Caribbean should look beyond traditional arrangements and pursue creative and durable solutions to secure support.

16. The Minister reflected on his country's service as Chair of the Committee over the previous two years, noting challenges and achievements, all of which underscored the resilience and unity of the Caribbean community. He joined in the celebration of the Committee's thirtieth anniversary, encouraging all countries, in their search for solutions to development challenges, to renew their efforts to engage their Latin American neighbours through trade and investment, knowledge-sharing, strategic partnerships, strengthened regional integration, and South-South and triangular corporation, which were integral to the Caribbean's advancement.

17. The Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, in her capacity as incoming Chair of the Committee, echoed the outgoing Chair's sentiments regarding climate change. The disappearance of endemic species was not a future possibility, but rather a present reality. The time for warnings had passed, and the Caribbean needed to take decisive action to protect itself and ensure its future. It was well known that the subregion's geographical isolation, limited resources and susceptibility to the impact of climate change compounded its economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities. Those who were unfamiliar with and unaffected by the subregion's unique circumstances would not likely champion its cause, so the obligation resided with Caribbean citizens. She called upon the countries of the subregion to take action and seek endogenous solutions to challenges, and she hoped that the session would spark renewed commitment to solidarity and strengthened regional engagement.

18. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC congratulated the incoming Chair of the Committee and pledged the support of ECLAC during the chairship of Trinidad and Tobago. The team at the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean looked forward to supporting the Chair's work. Noting that the thirtieth session allowed for reflection on past achievements and the road ahead, he recounted a brief history of the establishment of the Committee, which had been the brainchild of Caribbean leaders Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago and Fidel Castro of Cuba. They had been visionary in identifying the need for a forum where the unique challenges of the smaller Caribbean States would not be lost in the wider Latin American discourse. The Committee was the only subsidiary body of ECLAC that had a geographical rather than thematic scope, and it had a unique membership in terms of its associate members, whom he was pleased to see well represented at the session. He invited the participants to consider what ECLAC should do better or differently to support the subregion's progress towards a brighter future.

19. The Executive Secretary discussed progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean. The subregion was not where it should be, given that only five years remained until 2030 deadline. Only 20% of SDGs in the Caribbean were on track for achievement; 33% had made progress but were not on track for 2030; and 47% were moving in the wrong direction. The lack of available data was a challenge in monitoring SDGs, including their indicators on gender inclusion and climate action. ECLAC had made efforts to address the issue over the years and it continued its effort to strengthen data capacities in the subregion and advocate for greater statistical literacy. He suggested that the subregion should take a creative approach in collecting data from various sources. He joined the outgoing Chair in calling for strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation, knowledge-transfer and regional solidarity, and he emphasized the need to work diligently to implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

Commemorating the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at 30: what next for the Caribbean? (agenda item 2)

20. The Minister for External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs of Saint Lucia presented a summary of the issues addressed at the eighth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable. The participants had highlighted the importance of action to increase the coverage of early warning systems and the need to integrate risk reduction and resilience-building measures into planning for effective climate action and disaster response. They had underscored the need for the Caribbean to improve access to innovative climate finance to bolster investment in adaptation and structural change. The production of data for effective application of the multidimensional vulnerability index was a challenge, but one worth the effort, considering the index's importance to the subregion. Other issues that had been addressed at the meeting included a proposed multilateral development bank for resilient prosperity; the possible development of a subregional emissions trading scheme to reduce pollution, in the form of a cap and trade mechanism; the ECLAC vision for productive development policies, which sought to move the economies of the region beyond traditional industrial policy, incorporating lessons of the digital revolution where various sectors could drive economies of scale; and greater production of tradable goods and services. That approach would facilitate multi-stakeholder and multilevel collaboration, which would create opportunities to accelerate growth.

21. A video presentation commemorating the thirtieth session of the Committee and chronicling its history was shown following the summary. It served as an introduction to the ensuing plenary discussion on the topic, allowing delegations to frame their reflections on the most critical development challenges that the subregion had confronted over the years and to share ideas on how best to realize the Caribbean's development aspirations.

Plenary discussion

22. Delegates expressed their sincere congratulations on the occasion of the thirtieth session of the Committee. They noted its role in providing space for meaningful dialogue on the shared aspirations of Caribbean small island developing States, acknowledged the important work that it had undertaken, recognized how that work had benefited the Caribbean and lauded the Committee as one of the few spaces

providing a voice for associate members. The Committee was a useful and important forum for the exchange of ideas on strategic political and development issues, and delegates hoped that it would continue to guide the subregion's work going forward. They also acknowledged the contributions of the Committee in aligning subregional priorities with global frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

23. Delegates acknowledged the shared history, cultural aspects and challenges of Caribbean countries and their shared vulnerabilities and unique circumstances as small island developing States. They expressed grave concern regarding the impact of climate change and its consequences for the subregion, including extreme weather events, ocean and atmospheric warming, sea level rise and sargassum landings. Several delegations noted climate change, resilience-building and increased access to climate finance as top-priority concerns; others underscored the difficulties of securing investment for mitigation and adaptation within the framework of the current international financial architecture. There was a need to reform the Bretton Woods system, including by ensuring greater representation, to accommodate the concerns and unique circumstances of small island developing States. Many associate members described their particular challenges in accessing international assistance as non-independent territories, and emphasized that climate change, sargassum and natural disasters did not discriminate on the basis of political status. Several delegates highlighted the multidimensional vulnerability index and its potential utility in securing additional financing for sustainable development. Delegates also stressed the need for a collective approach and sustained partnerships to ensure that no country was left behind.

24. Regarding economic development, delegates from across the Caribbean noted the many external shocks that the subregion had suffered, ranging from climate change and COVID-19 to the reverberations of wars and instability around the world. Noting that their economies were dependent on a single sector, several delegates positioned economic diversification as one of their priorities. Low productivity was also a continuing concern.

25. With regard to social development, delegates named social inclusion, population decline and ageing, crime and violence, and inequality as issues of continuing concern that needed to be addressed. Some said that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda was an important foundation for collective efforts going forward, although there was concern that many of its solutions might not be accessible to associate members. Noting the necessity of funding for the SDGs, delegations highlighted challenges in access to financing and hoped that the multidimensional vulnerability index would support greater access. They also raised the need to accelerate the adoption of technology and artificial intelligence.

26. The associate members, speaking with one voice, welcomed greater support from the United Nations system and further action from ECLAC, while noting the continued uncertainty around their status. They sought the support of member States in advocating on their behalf in the United Nations system and called for greater access to funds to address their sustainable development challenges. Associate members constituted almost half the Committee's membership, and while they shared challenges similar to those facing member States, they were not eligible for aid. One delegate urged the development of an associate member agenda similar to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda. Associate members said that inclusivity, one of the Committee's

key strengths, was important for ensuring that their territories achieve the SDGs. More broadly, delegates indicated the need for a multilateral system that worked for all, expressed hope for a constructive outcome of the Summit of the Future and urged greater impetus and momentum following the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, for the benefit of the subregion as a whole.

27. Delegates expressed their gratitude for the work of ECLAC and for the support of its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in strengthening technical, institutional and statistical capacity to develop a range of sectoral policies and development strategies over the years. The Committee had long fostered regional cooperation, but it needed to become a more effective vehicle for collaboration and strategic engagement. ECLAC could boost its impact by advocating for new, innovative solutions—including debt-for-climate swaps—and focusing on mainstreaming the recommendations from the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda and other development agendas.

28. Delegates also expressed great hope for the future. The principle of leaving no one behind was invoked by many, and the need to strengthen regional ties was underscored. One delegate called for strengthened means of implementation and a greater focus on partnerships, in line with Goal 17. Delegates noted that the successes of the Committee to date had been the result of cooperation and solidarity. The subregion's challenges could not be resolved at the national level alone; they would require regional and global action. Delegates invited countries to work together to harness the subregion's unique strengths and pursue a forward-looking strategy, with urgency and responsibility, to pave the way for a just, prosperous, inclusive and resilient future.

29. Delegates from nine member States² and seven associate members³ made statements during the plenary discussion.

Rethinking and transforming Latin America and the Caribbean's development model to make it more productive, inclusive and sustainable (agenda item 3)

30. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC shared with the Committee his vision for rethinking, reimagining and transforming the development model of the Latin American and Caribbean region to become more productive, inclusive and sustainable. The region was caught in three development traps: low economic growth; high inequality with low social mobility and cohesion; and weak institutional capacities with ineffective governance. He identified a 10-point catalogue—or decalogue—of gaps, which constituted priority areas of action for public policy and transformation. The critical gaps included low, volatile and unsustainable economic growth with highly informal labour markets; limited fiscal space and high financing costs; insufficient regional economic integration; increasingly diverse international migration flows; weak education and occupational training systems; environmentally unsustainable development; high gender inequality; widening digital divides; and worsening inequality and social immobility. To that decalogue he added an eleventh area for action, with a focus on how to move from the present situation towards desired goals, which would require greater attention to governance and institutional infrastructure challenges. Such

² Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

³ Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Montserrat and Sint Maarten.

an approach would present opportunities for more effective policymaking and social dialogue to improve the future management of change and transformation in the region.

Discussion

31. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the British Virgin Islands, addressing the scope of the analysis presented by the Executive Secretary, highlighted the different dynamics and challenges faced by micro-territories as opposed to small States. Further study focused specifically on micro-States was needed. The Executive Secretary acknowledged that differences in size would impact the magnitude of challenges facing different countries. He reiterated the importance of rethinking and reimagining development policies to fit specific contexts, noting that his presentation had included a menu of options for the variety of economies in the region.

32. The representative of Barbados recalled a successful example of social dialogue in his country in 1991, when government, labour unions and other stakeholders had collaborated to address macroeconomic and social issues. He emphasized the importance of including civil society in tripartite dialogues.

33. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis referred to the impact of pre-pandemic external policies, such as the United States Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, and the need for socioeconomic approaches that considered those broader effects.

34. The representative of Cuba highlighted the need to address environmental challenges, strengthen social protection and secure human and financial resources, noting that the United States trade blockade had hindered the country's progress. The Executive Secretary agreed with the representative of Cuba and mentioned an upcoming meeting with Brazil on new development metrics.

35. The Executive Secretary emphasized the crucial role of structured social dialogue processes with built-in accountability measures in successful policy implementation and building trust among stakeholders. He noted the potential for leveraging international partnerships and frameworks to influence development outcomes for smaller countries.

Accelerating implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (agenda item 4)

36. The Chair, in introducing the panel discussion on accelerating implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, reminded the Committee that the Agenda set out to address key challenges faced by small island developing States, including climate change, geographical isolation and the burden of debt. The Agenda also addressed the importance of sustainable development finance and provided a comprehensive plan of action focused on the survival, resilience and sustainable development of small island developing States. The panel discussion, led by representatives of the United Nations country team, would focus on priorities for implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, taking into account its alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The discussion would also highlight the many contributions of the country team entities in supporting countries' development aspirations in the subregion and advancing the aims of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda.

37. The Resident Coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten moderated the discussion on the role of the United Nations in supporting the development priorities of Caribbean small island developing States. She said that the main focus of the discussion would be on how best to align the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda with the SDGs and the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026. She emphasized the need to accelerate progress in Caribbean small island developing States, given their unique vulnerabilities.

38. The Resident Coordinator highlighted the importance of the SDGs and the significant challenges that Caribbean small island developing States faced in achieving them, including climate change, overfishing, marine pollution, poverty and energy insecurity. She focused on four main priority areas in which the United Nations system could provide meaningful support to Member States: climate change, digitalization, data and food systems.

39. The Resident Representative of the Multi-country Office for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) addressed climate change and digitalization and described the UNDP Climate Promise, a global programme helping small island developing States to develop climate plans aligned with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Countries needed to pursue more ambitious nationally determined contributions to reduce their emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. He underscored the importance of collective action on climate finance and referred to important issues that would be addressed at upcoming meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Many Caribbean countries were working on digital transformation, too often in isolation. He advocated for a regional approach, citing successful projects like Saint Lucia's DigiGov and smart city initiatives in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

40. The Director of the United Nations Population Fund for the Caribbean said that the United Nations system continued to contribute to the strengthening of national data capacities. Data played a critical role in decision-making and progress monitoring in small island developing States. United Nations efforts in that regard included building national statistical capacities, supporting open data initiatives and using innovative technologies, such as big data and geospatial information. She called for a comprehensive Caribbean data strategy, which should ensure data disaggregation by gender, disability and other variables to avoid leaving marginalized groups behind.

41. The Director of the Caribbean Multi-country Office of the World Food Programme, addressing the issue of food systems—including the impact of natural disasters and the pandemic on food security in the region— noted that 43 per cent of the Caribbean population remained food-insecure. The United Nations was undertaking initiatives linking social protection to smallholder farming to boost local food production and resilience and, through agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, was working to enhance food security by improving supply chains, supporting smallholder farming and integrating social protection with agricultural development. That integration allowed food security in countries to recover in the wake of crises affecting food prices or availability.

42. The Director said that the focus was on disaster risk management, supply chain optimization and innovative climate finance to strengthen food systems, in particular following disasters. The United Nations was supporting disaster risk management strategies to protect food systems from the impact of climate change. Financing opportunities were also being explored to further strengthen food security in the region, such as parametric risk insurance to reduce the need for countries to incur debt in order to recover from climate shocks.

43. The Resident Coordinator concluded the panel discussion by calling for continued multilateral cooperation among small island developing States, the United Nations and other partners to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda and the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026, which prioritize economic resilience, climate action, social inclusion and governance, should be viewed as complementary. The United Nations, through its various agencies and technical experts, stood ready to support transformative efforts across the Caribbean.

Discussion

44. One of the critical concerns raised during the discussion that followed was the deficit in institutional capacities, which the Executive Secretary of ECLAC had identified as a major obstacle to achieving regional development objectives. Emphasis was placed on how the United Nations system could assist governments in the subregion, specifically in addressing institutional weaknesses, to implement the recommendations of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda and achieve the SDG targets.

45. The Resident Coordinator said that an initiative had recently been launched in Antigua and Barbuda to develop a road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda at the national level. The road map was designed to translate high-level objectives into actionable steps that were relevant and feasible for the country. The United Nations system, in collaboration with various agencies, had been working closely with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to design the road map, with a focus on practical implementation, in particular in the energy and agriculture sectors, where institutional capacities needed to be strengthened to achieve the SDGs and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda objectives.

46. The Resident Coordinator also said that United Nations support for the development of national vulnerability profiles would be key in operationalizing the multidimensional vulnerability index at the national level. The index was an essential tool for measuring the unique vulnerabilities of Caribbean countries, including economic, social and environmental factors.

47. The Resident Coordinator Office would be collaborating with other United Nations agencies to develop those vulnerability profiles. In addition, the Small Island Developing States Centre of Excellence being established in Antigua and Barbuda would serve as a hub for training and capacity-building efforts related to the multidimensional vulnerability index, and it was expected to play a pivotal role in equipping local institutions with the skills and knowledge required to address national vulnerabilities effectively.

48. The representative of the Pan-American Health Organization highlighted the importance of access to services for non-communicable diseases. Attention was being given to improving primary healthcare services and addressing risk factors for non-communicable diseases. Data collection through health surveys was a useful tool to establish baselines and monitor public health, including the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Lastly, he mentioned the impact of climate change on health and the resurgence of diseases post-COVID-19.

49. The Resident Coordinator, in her closing remarks, noted that although the panel had focused on only four priorities, other important topics and priorities —like access to financing and social exclusion— would be addressed at future meetings of the Committee, in line with the continued commitment of the United Nations system to identify concrete solutions to the challenges faced in the Caribbean.

Addressing the sustainable development challenges of associate members of ECLAC (agenda item 5)

50. The Minister for External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs of Saint Lucia moderated the panel discussion dedicated to the associate members. In his introductory remarks, he said that associate members were a special group that faced unique challenges, and supporting them required the establishment of a more concrete mechanism of assistance. Associate members received very little support from the United Nations system owing to their political status, and therefore needed the solidarity of Caribbean member States in advocating for their support in the relevant forums of the United Nations. In that regard, his country currently chaired the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, an appropriate forum for such advocacy. He thanked ECLAC for its continued attention to the development needs of associate members.

51. The Minister said that the panel discussion presented an opportunity for the members of the wider Caribbean community to gain a fuller appreciation of associate members' circumstances. The discussion was prefaced by a presentation by the Programme Management Officer of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, which provided context for the experiences that the representatives of four associate members⁴ would subsequently share.

52. The Programme Management Officer of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, in his capacity as focal point for the associate members of ECLAC, highlighted critical issues such as public debt, declining and ageing populations and climate change, as challenges shared by the countries of the wider Caribbean but which disproportionately affected associate members. As with member States, climate change was an existential issue for associate members, who were already experiencing the damaging effects of heat stress and sea level rise. Between 2000 and 2024, 51 major natural disasters struck the associate members, with damages estimated at over US\$ 100 billion, exceeding the losses suffered by Caribbean member States and Latin American countries combined during the same period. Associate members had limited resources and limited capacity, undermining their ability to formulate resilient responses to the cross-sectoral challenges that they faced. Moreover, the associate members, not being full members of the United Nations, had a very limited voice on the global stage.

⁴ Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Martinique and Montserrat.

53. The persuasive call to “leave no one behind” was reiterated by the representatives of the associate members who participated as panellists during the discussion. The representative of the British Virgin Islands said that the key challenge for the ECLAC family in that regard was to make international partners aware that the associate members were not receiving the needed funding through their constitutional arrangements. For example, the British Virgin Islands did not receive aid from the United Kingdom, nor had it done since 1978. The representative of Aruba echoed that message, emphasizing that the autonomous countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands were precluded from receiving development assistance from its government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when the economy had contracted by 24 per cent (2020), Aruba had been able to receive loans from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but those loans were tied to the implementation of certain conditions, inspired by IMF facilities, which imposed structural austerity measures. The Premier of Montserrat said that, while his country did receive aid from the United Kingdom, it still needed development assistance. He also highlighted the issue of the limited sovereignty of associate members.

54. Panellists discussed their sustainable development challenges and needs, including the need for economic diversification, higher living standards, reduced inequality and greater social inclusion. The representative of Aruba said that resilience, productive development, inclusion and equality were among the government’s principal aims, but a lack of long-term planning, a shared long-term vision, integrated governance and institutional capabilities and capacity were key constraints. The representative of Martinique referred to ongoing protests in the territory due to the high cost of living, caused in part by a heavy dependence on European imports. He highlighted the island’s high poverty rate (30%), high youth unemployment rate (37%) and negative trade balance, and expressed the need for Martinique to strengthen and diversify its economy.

55. Economic diversification and a circular economy strategy were among the actions listed to address the aforementioned challenges. The Premier of Montserrat, noting that the sustainable development process had helped to raise standards of living and reduce inequality, said that development challenges remained in his country. They included undeveloped natural resources, such as geothermal energy, as well as an ageing population and non-communicable diseases. Associate members must take ownership of the development process, assess barriers and think critically about how to proceed, as poor planning could lead to fiscal distress. The path to sustainable development should be internally driven.

56. Panellists highlighted climate change as a key challenge for the sustainable development of associate members. They emphasized that climate change did not discriminate on the basis of countries’ political status. Coastal erosion, shrinking beaches, negative impacts of sargassum, impacts on fisheries and agricultural losses, with concomitant impacts on food security, were among the challenges discussed. The representative of the British Virgin Islands said that all small island developing States, including associate members, should receive funding for adaptation. In the lead-up to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the wider family of such States had issued a joint call to support the associate members, but it remained to be seen whether they would receive support under the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda. He noted the negative impact of ineligibility for and lack of access to assistance on associate members. For example, when Hurricanes Irma and Maria had hit the British Virgin Islands in 2017, 85 per cent of all buildings had been damaged or destroyed, with losses estimated at over US\$ 3.2 billion. Despite those severe

losses, the islands had received no assistance from international or United Kingdom sources, because of their high per capita income level and political status. Instead, they had been encouraged to procure loans to rebuild from that climate change-related event. He emphasized that the British Virgin Islands was wholly responsible for addressing climate change in its territory yet unable to receive any funding for adaptation—a clear vulnerability that needed to be addressed. He urged every United Nations entity to follow the example of ECLAC by considering how they could provide support to the associate members using existing resources.

57. Other panellists echoed the call for greater support from the United Nations system. The representative of Aruba expressed the need for greater commitment to and sustained engagement with associate members, through structured, honest dialogues and ongoing collaboration, to help them to leverage multilateral support. The Premier of Montserrat called for the development of implementable plans of action, expressing hope for more tangible action from the United Nations. The representative of Martinique called for greater inclusion of his country in ECLAC documents and statistics, and for publications to be made available in French, in recognition of the linguistic differences among Caribbean countries and territories.

Discussion

58. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Grenada noted the apparent lack of material benefits for the territories and the imposition of onerous conditions on them, and asked what kept the territories attached to the colonial powers. Hurricane Beryl had marked the third time in 20 years that Grenada had experienced devastation, and his country had been able to access US\$ 13 million for reconstruction through its own efforts. The Citizenship by Investment programme had been the vehicle to save and set aside those funds, yet Grenada and other countries with similar programmes were threatened with black- or grey-listing by international actors, simply for doing what was needed to support their populations. He urged greater advocacy for the sovereignty of the small States. Grenada had lost access to the European market through the imposition of non-tariff and other barriers, despite existing free trade arrangements. To suggest that aid was being offered verged on hypocrisy. All that the small States needed was a fair and level playing field.

59. In response to the question posed by the representative of Grenada, the representative of the British Virgin Islands explained that, as one of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, his country received visits from the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which assessed the people's readiness for self-determination. The British Virgin Islands was taking steps to see how arrangements for independence could be made, noting internal dissatisfaction regarding the lack of assistance from the international community and the United Kingdom. He asked the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to consider his country's request for regular support from the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

60. The representative of Sint Maarten echoed the call for an agenda for associate members and asked ECLAC to provide official assistance to the associate members through a working group.

61. The Regional Manager for the Caribbean of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed the desire to find expanded opportunities for financing for member States and associate members. She said that the Bank had convened a meeting to explore a concrete plan of action to work with the associate members, individually and as a unit. The Bank supported strengthening its partnership with ECLAC, and there was a strategic opportunity to work more closely with ECLAC to expand associate members' opportunities to access development financing. She pledged to explore plans of action for working with territories to consider different parameters that would allow new members to join the Bank and that would provide development financing and development cooperation assistance.

Matters relating to the programme of work (agenda item 6)

62. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean delivered a presentation on the implementation of the programme of work for 2023 and briefed the Committee on the activities under way in 2024 and on several areas of focus for 2025.

63. The Chief noted that her office's research aimed to address areas of need for Caribbean countries. Since the discovery of oil off Guyana's coast and potential finds linked to Suriname, ECLAC had conducted research on the elements of an optimal hydrocarbon fiscal regime, which had generated recommendations on key areas for governments to ensure that their countries benefited optimally from regimes established by oil companies. Other research areas included international migration, including a study that had considered the net impact of Caribbean immigration and emigration and how that information could inform policy development. The office had also undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the 10 years of implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway—prepared ahead of the fourth International Conference on small island developing States—which examined Caribbean countries' accomplishments and challenges in their efforts to implement the Samoa Pathway.

64. The Chief highlighted key subregional meetings organized by the office to facilitate member State and associate member reviews in various sectors, in preparation for their broader regional and global reviews. She highlighted, in that regard, the Caribbean Forum on Population and Development, which was convened at the subregional level ahead of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the small island developing States' preparatory meeting that had been held ahead of the fourth International Conference on small island developing States. She also highlighted the Economic and Social Council youth forums as another area in which the office supported the active involvement of the subregion's member States.

65. The Chief reported to the Committee on technical assistance provided to Caribbean countries, including support for the preparation of voluntary national reviews in Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis and addressing SDG data gaps in Grenada and Saint Lucia, with a view to facilitating more effective monitoring and implementation analysis. She also highlighted the support provided to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to draft a national science, technology and innovation policy.

66. The Chief described the capacity-building initiative on computable general equilibrium modelling, which had facilitated a better understanding of various economic sectors' performance in Belize and how each could be affected by the adoption of a free trade agreement. Other training initiatives included measuring the digital society for digital inclusion, strengthening geospatial information management, and the processing, analysis and dissemination of census and survey data. She highlighted significant projects, including a project on the development of climate change and disaster indicators, which explored data collection for more effective analysis of the impact of disasters; a project on supporting post-COVID-19 recovery in tourism-dependent economies which, through rigorous analysis, was exploring ways to diversify those economies; and a project on modernizing Trinidad and Tobago's statistical ecosystem for SDG data development, which included a master class for Members of Parliament to enhance their statistical literacy and to demonstrate the importance of data in evidence-based policymaking.

67. The Chief said that, in 2024, ECLAC had been heavily invested in supporting the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the small island developing States of the Caribbean leading up to and during the fourth International Conference on small island developing States. ECLAC had been responsible for one of the five interactive dialogues that had been integral to the Conference. The subregional headquarters had prepared the background paper and had drafted the summary report on the dialogue and recommendations on critical financing and aid effectiveness. It was also very actively involved in the interactive dialogue on leveraging data and digital technology to build effective institutions. She referred to the side events that had been organized by the subregional headquarters in the Caribbean, including a high-level associate members consultation and an event on the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition. Work in 2024 had also included research on sargassum challenges; enhancing geospatial information systems and frameworks; and the continued training of Caribbean statisticians in the use of Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM), an interactive computer application that facilitates the processing, analysis and dissemination of information from major data sources, such as censuses, surveys and administrative records.

68. Looking ahead to 2025, the Chief shared some priority areas of focus, including the multidimensional vulnerability index pilot project; follow-up to the fourth International Conference on the small island developing States; regional economic integration; information and communications technology for development; population and sustainable development; and climate change and disaster risk management, in particular for Caribbean small island developing States. She reiterated the subregional headquarters' commitment to continue to support the efforts of the Committee members in responding to their priority needs.

69. With regard to ECLAC work on sargassum, the Chair of the Committee said that her government had appointed a National Sargassum Task Force, and she offered to liaise with ECLAC on that issue. She noted that entrepreneurs in Tobago were already using sargassum to make personal products, such as soaps, oils and creams.

Fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 7)

70. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC provided information on the substantive preparations and the main theme for the fortieth session of the Commission, which would be held in Lima on 9–11 October 2024. The session was the Commission’s most important biennial event, as it allowed for the consideration of issues relevant to the region’s development; enabled member States and associate members to review the Commission’s activities; and defined the mandates that guided the Commission’s work.

71. The Executive Secretary presented the programme for the fortieth session, which included his presentation of the position document *Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them*; a dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities; a high-level seminar with four panels; presentations of the report on the activities of the Commission, 2023, and the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2026; and the consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission. Registration for the session would close on 2 October 2024.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 8)

72. The Chair drew the attention of representatives to five draft resolutions before the Committee for consideration and adoption, which had been circulated to all member States and associate members of the Committee in advance of the meeting. Delegations had been afforded the opportunity to transmit to the secretariat their suggested changes, all of which had been duly incorporated. Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Guadeloupe proposed additions to resolution 114(XXX), and the British Virgin Islands proposed an addition to resolution 116(XXX). The Committee then adopted the five resolutions contained in section D of the present report.

Other matters (agenda item 9)

73. There were no other matters for discussion.

Date and venue of the twenty-second meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (agenda item 10)

74. In accordance with article 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,⁵ in the years when there is no regular session of Committee, meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall be held at the office of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, unless a member of the Committee offers to host the meeting within the period stipulated. The Committee agreed that the twenty-second meeting of the Committee Monitoring Committee would be held in Port of Spain in 2025.

Close of the session (agenda item 11)

75. The Executive Secretary said that the Committee had amply demonstrated its continuing vital importance to the Caribbean. He noted that Committee members had reaffirmed their commitment to

⁵ LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1.

regional cooperation and underscored the value of the Committee and the Caribbean Development Roundtable in facilitating both technical cooperation and more effective advocacy for the Caribbean within the multilateral system. Bearing in mind current trends —the gradual stagnation of the region’s economies, the persistence of social inequalities and rapidly intensifying climate change—, he said that a willingness to cooperate was needed more than ever.

76. The Executive Secretary emphasized the need to change the Caribbean’s development trajectory. The subregion needed to formulate key transformative measures to create a more dynamic and sustainable development model. Essential aspects of the reform agenda should include fostering inclusive and sustained growth by investing in more productive sectors and activities, reducing inequality and expanding social protection systems. In addition, the subregion needed to pursue environmental sustainability through better strategies to adapt to and mitigate climate change; to accelerate the digital transformation by investing in the modernization of digital systems; and to strengthen institutional capacities and social dialogue to enhance buy-in for those reforms.

77. The Executive Secretary acknowledged associate members’ calls to pursue fuller integration in regional cooperation and to consider the special needs of micro-States. He also acknowledged the call for assistance in advocating for improved access to concessional development financing, strengthened capacity-building and technical assistance in developing climate-smart solutions, and he assured the Committee of the Commission’s commitment to providing support in those areas. He thanked the representatives for their active participation in and contribution to the rich dialogue that he hoped would continue in Lima during the fortieth session of the Commission and in many other forums.

78. The Chair of the Committee expressed her deepest gratitude to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC for his inspiring and thought-provoking contributions to the eighth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable. She also thanked the distinguished panellists and delegates for their active participation and insightful remarks over the previous three days.

79. The Chair said that the discussions highlighted the Caribbean's resilience in the face of economic, geographical and resource-related challenges and emphasized the potential for growth through collaboration and global partnerships. She recalled the keynote presentation at the eighth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, delivered by the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, who had stressed the importance of resilient growth and sustainable development and had said that challenges were surmountable with strategic action. The Chair noted that proposed solutions focused on renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, climate mitigation and enhanced early warning systems and that they underscored the importance of leveraging marine resources and cultural heritage to boost productivity.

80. The Chair highlighted the critical role of data in decision-making and the necessity for improved measurement and assessment across key areas. The discussions had called for reshaping development policies to enhance competitiveness in areas like artificial intelligence, gender equality and support for small enterprises, and had identified economic diversification as essential for transformation.

81. The Chair underscored the urgency of moving from discussion to action, calling for collective efforts to address challenges and seize opportunities. By fostering shared commitment, the Caribbean could navigate complexities and work towards a resilient, prosperous future.

82. Lastly, the Chair declared the thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee officially closed.

**D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION**

**112(XXX) SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME
OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Bearing in mind that the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024 pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 77/245 of 30 December 2022 and 77/328 of 25 August 2023, adopted the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity,¹

Noting that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States outlines the sustainable development aspirations and priority concerns of small island developing States which, after three decades and three successive programmes of action, remain a special case for sustainable development given their unique vulnerabilities related to size, capacity and high exposure to exogenous shocks;

Acknowledging that the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, well articulated in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),² the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³ and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁴ will be more effectively pursued in synergy with other key internationally agreed development instruments, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ the Paris Agreement,⁶ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁸ the New Urban Agenda⁹ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁰

Bearing in mind the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026,¹¹ which serves as the instrument for planning and implementing development activities across the United Nations system towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 78/317.

² United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994.

³ See General Assembly resolution 61/277.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 69/15.

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶ *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015 (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1)*.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 69/313.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 71/256.

¹⁰ See [online] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>.

¹¹ See [online] <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/multicountry-sustainable-development-framework-english-and-dutch-speaking-caribbean-2022>.

Underscoring that the success of the subregion's efforts to effectively implement the new agenda for small island developing States and secure a resilient future will require the commitment and political will of member States, a readiness to pursue collective and cooperative action, and the fullest support of the international community, buoyed by a renewed spirit of multilateralism, solidarity and partnership,

Welcoming the adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, which offers the prospect of a more comprehensive and effective measure of the vulnerability of the middle-income countries of the subregion, providing scope for greater access to concessional financing for investment in adaptation and resilience,

Recognizing that the countries of the subregion face the continued challenge of national statistical institutions that are under-resourced, both financially and technically, resulting in scarcity of data and limited capacity for national development planning, as well as weak frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on progress in sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 104 (XXVIII), by which the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordinating Mechanism was renamed as the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development, expanding its mandate to serve as a subregional mechanism to monitor and support the implementation of sustainable development in the Caribbean,

Noting that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States provides for systematic monitoring and evaluation of its mandates, with a call for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, beginning in 2026, to conduct a comprehensive biennial review of progress in the countries of the subregion with a view to informing the reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States,

1. *Calls upon* the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and in cooperation with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, regional organizations and other development partners, to prepare an agreed monitoring and reporting framework to facilitate the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, beginning in 2026, along with implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other sustainable development agendas;

2. *Also calls upon* the Commission to make every effort to ensure the full participation of all Caribbean stakeholders at national and subregional levels in the preparation of the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

3. *Requests* that the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development serve as a regional platform for the organization and convening of meetings, preparation of reports and other agreed activities supporting the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the Commission to support the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development to enable preparation of the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States for the Caribbean subregion.

**113(XXX) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recalling also resolution 29(XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55(XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

Recalling further resolution 75(XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

Recognizing the significant contribution of the Committee, since its inception, to increased cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and to the development of the subregion as a whole,

Bearing in mind resolution 85(XXV) of 2014 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, in which it expressed its support for the request to ensure greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Considering resolution 105(XXVIII) of 2020 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the efforts already being made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Considering also resolution 111(XXIX) of 2022 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which underscored the importance of the role of the regional economic commission in providing substantive support to the small island developing States agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related development platforms,

Noting the efforts of the countries of the Caribbean to enhance their economic competitiveness, including efforts to diversify their economies and implement wide-ranging institutional reforms,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the offices of resident coordinators in the Caribbean, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account the special development challenges faced by countries in the Caribbean subregion, including their small size; open, narrow and undiversified economies; fragile ecosystems; and other inherent vulnerabilities, and underscoring the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the small island developing States development agenda to national development planning processes, as integral elements of the response to those challenges,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the valuable role that the Committee has played as a unique forum within the United Nations system to facilitate the articulation and advocacy of subregional positions on issues of regional and global concern, and as a mechanism through which specific concerns of the subregion are brought to the attention of the United Nations;

2. *Takes note* of the *Report of the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee*, which was held on 3 November 2023;¹

3. *Expresses appreciation* to the secretariat for the work carried out under subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean during 2023, and particularly for the results achieved and impact derived from its implementation;

4. *Endorses* the proposed programme of work for 2025, subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean;²

5. *Notes with appreciation* the consistent efforts made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic, environmental and statistical reports prepared by the Commission;

6. *Underscores* the importance of the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in providing substantive support to the small island developing States agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States and other relevant development instruments, particularly through its capacity for comprehensive multidisciplinary research, statistical analysis and evidence-based policy advice;

7. *Requests* the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the overall programme of work of the Commission under subprogramme 12, and to report on progress in this regard to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its thirty-first session.

¹ LC/MCCDCC.21/4.

² LC/PLEN.37/3.

114(XXX) STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED DISASTER RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE IN CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming its resolutions 58(XIX) of 2002, 66(XXI) of 2006, 81(XXV) of 2014, 91(XXVI) of 2016, 98 (XXVII) of 2018 and 103 (XXVIII) of 2020 in support of efforts to strengthen disaster risk management and enhance national capacity to conduct disaster assessments,

Concerned that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of hydroclimatic events in the subregion, resulting in repeated and cumulative development setbacks,

Noting in this regard the devastation caused by the passage of Hurricane Beryl through the Caribbean, affecting the lives and livelihood of many across the subregion,

Highlighting the impact of sargassum upswelling, aggravated by pollution and ocean warming affecting the biodiversity and the economy especially the tourism industry of the Caribbean but also the health of the Caribbean population,

Acknowledging that disasters are a major threat to socioeconomic development in the Caribbean and that a single event can reverse decades of progress, exacerbating public debt and limiting productive capacity and economic growth,

Underscoring that countries of the Caribbean have limited human, technical, financial and institutional capacity for prevention, preparation, response and resilience-building in the face of existential risks,

Recalling that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States¹ affirms that small island developing States, including those of the Caribbean, are inherently and uniquely vulnerable to exogenous shocks, in particular natural disasters and hazards,

Recalling also that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),² for the same reasons, calls on countries to develop and strengthen their disaster preparedness and management systems, mainstreaming them into development planning,

Underscoring the need for greater access to adequate and innovative climate finance mechanisms, including parametric insurance and contingency funds, to support investment in recovery and reconstruction plans that focus on building back better to mitigate future disaster risk,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 provides a blueprint for disaster risk reduction in small island developing States with emphasis on better risk management, especially as it relates to resilience-building and improved risk governance,

Acknowledging that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States calls for strengthening institutional capacity for improved disaster risk reduction and management, integrating climate change adaptation into country disaster risk reduction plans and programmes and improved post-disaster recovery centred on building back better,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 78/317.

² United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994, p. 4, III.1.

Noting with appreciation the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in disaster management, especially its conduct of damage and loss assessments and provision of recommendations for resilient recovery and reconstruction tailored to country needs, as was done recently in Barbados in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl,

1. *Calls upon* the Commission to increase its support for member States in building capacity to upgrade their data and information systems, including on national accounts and the environment, to ensure, at the request of the countries, more robust damage and loss assessments to better inform resilient post-disaster strategies;

2. *Calls for* greater support in the mobilization of appropriate innovative financial mechanisms for mitigating and adapting to disaster risk, including through improved insurance, microinsurance, catastrophe bonds, the repurposing of special drawing rights and state-contingent instruments such as hurricane clauses;

3. *Also calls for* the capitalization of the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund as well as the full capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, including a quick disbursement window to facilitate ready access to resources to expedite post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

115(XXX) HARNESSING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Noting that the Caribbean is undergoing a demographic transition with declining birth rates, increasing life expectancy and a net emigration of the population resulting in shrinking labour forces and strained national pension schemes and care systems for older persons,

Concerned that the emigrant population of the Caribbean is predominantly high-skilled, in which has led to a significant loss of human capital and a brain drain that has undermined labour productivity and exacerbated the adverse effects of the demographic transition,

Recalling that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, emphasizes the collection and utilization of disaggregated data on the different aspects of international mobility to manage migration through data-driven policies,

Recalling also that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration promotes the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, including through the creation of social, economic and other conditions to minimize the drivers that compel people to leave their countries of origin and through the enhancement of security and other measures intended to combat irregular migration and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that “the human rights of migrants are a priority in all initiatives relating to cooperation on migration and that concerns about the protection of migrants are shared by the international community and should be included in all cooperation agendas,” as stated in chapter F of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,

Acknowledging that inward migration to countries of the Caribbean can rejuvenate an ageing workforce and replace workers lost owing to population decline, thereby increasing labour productivity in the countries of destination,

Acknowledging also the need for governments to balance the protection of forcibly displaced persons with the promotion of migration pathways for migrants, incentivizing the mobility of workers possessing skills in high demand in national economies to boost labour productivity,

Welcoming the increase in intraregional migration between 2000 and 2020, encouraged by subregional cooperation through existing protocols for the movement of persons, such as the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,

1. *Encourages* further subregional cooperation in migration through data-driven monitoring and the evaluation of existing protocols for the movement of persons, as well as the further promotion of subregional mechanisms harnessing international mobility to offset a shrinking workforce and increase labour productivity;

2. *Notes with concern* that the emigration of highly skilled Caribbean nationals results in substantial human capital loss for countries of the subregion and exacerbates the limited capacity that poses a challenge for Caribbean small island developing States,

3. *Requests* member States and associate members to design and implement education reforms and training strategies geared towards the acquisition of functional skills by the future workforce to help to address the increasing skills mismatch in the labour market and declining labour productivity in the subregion;

4. *Encourages* member States and associate members to promote policies fostering the active contribution of all citizens, wherever they may reside, to the economic development of the Caribbean, including by engaging the Caribbean diaspora in the sustainable development of their countries of origin by investing skills and resources, in order to offset brain drain and enhance labour productivity;

5. *Underscores* the essential role of the timely collection and dissemination of quality data in informing evidence-based policies that aim to leverage international migration and mitigate the adverse effects of the demographic transition and brain drain in the subregion, thereby contributing positively to the sustainable development of the Caribbean.

116(XXX) SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 75/123 of 10 December 2020, which, inter alia, invites organizations of the United Nations system, actively to support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism¹ during the Fourth International Decade,

Noting that the plan of action provides that concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be developed with a view to supporting the economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment, in the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 78/83 of 7 December 2023, which, inter alia, stresses that given the limited development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, the continued cooperation and assistance of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations is needed to advance their sustainable development,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States and other instruments, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement, as frameworks vital to the shaping of sustainable development strategy in associate member countries,

Bearing in mind the unique vulnerabilities that the associate members share with small island developing territories, including debt and liquidity challenges and high exposure to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events,

Bearing in mind also the specific political and economic constraints faced by associate members in their pursuit of sustainable development,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members require support for their sustainable development aspirations, including through access to technical, financial and other assistance programmes of United Nations system, as well as regional and global development mechanisms,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to integrate the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members into regional and global dialogues on sustainable development, as well as to support their high-level participation in meetings of the Commission, including the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Taking into account the call for their continued inclusion in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies,²

¹ A/56/61, annex.

² See Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LC/FDS.7/5), 18 April 2024.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Commission to collect high-quality economic, social and environmental data on the associate members to ensure that more of such data are included in its reports on the sustainable development of the subregion,

Aware of the need to strengthen statistical capacity in associate members to enhance national capacity in the compilation of data to monitor and measure their sustainable development progress,

1. *Decides* to periodically review, at least every two years, the compilation by the secretariat of statistical economic, social, and environmental data and capacity of the associate members;
2. *Calls upon* the Commission to pursue the full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in support of its associate members;
3. *Requests* the Commission, where possible, to expand the collection of data and reporting on its associate members in key sectoral areas, with a view to shaping appropriate programmes of assistance to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors in associate members;
4. *Calls upon* the Commission, in this regard, to establish a working group to facilitate United Nations System collaboration on assistance to ECLAC associate members;
5. *Calls upon* the Commission to support the associate members in their efforts to monitor and review implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in this context, to consider at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2025, the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the associate members in their pursuit of sustainable development, with a view to mobilizing regional and international solidarity and support;
7. *Calls upon* the Commission to support the associate members in preparing, conducting and presenting local voluntary reviews of their progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Committee at its thirty-first session on the implementation of this resolution.

Annex 1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES¹**

A. Member States/Estados miembros

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA/ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA

Representative/Representante:

- Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, email: aubrey.webson@ab.gov.ag

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación:

- Anthony Liverpool, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, email: anthony.liverpool@ab.gov.ag

BAHAMAS

Representative/Representante:

- Elaine Monica Davis, Honorary Consul, email: thebahamasconsulatett@gmail.com; elainemonicaDavis@bahamas.gov.bs

BARBADOS

Representative/Representante:

- Patrick McCaskie, Permanent Secretary (a.i.), Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment Economic Affairs and Investment Division, email: Patrick.McCaskie@barbados.gov.bb

CUBA

Representative/Representante:

- Gustavo Daniel Véliz Olivares, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Trinidad and Tobago, email: comercial@tt.embacuba.cu

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Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

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Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)/Centro para el Cambio Climático de la Comunidad del Caribe (CCCCC)

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CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) /Fondo de Desarrollo de la CARICOM

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Annex 2

List of documents

Agenda item 1 LC/CDCC.30/1 LC/CDCC.30/2	Opening of the session Provisional agenda Annotated provisional agenda Preliminary programme
Agenda item 2 LC/CDR.8/2	Commemorating the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at 30: what next for the Caribbean? Summary report of the eighth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable
Agenda item 6 LC/CDCC.30/DDR/1 LC/CDCC.30/DDR/2 LC/CDCC.30/DDR/3	Matters relating to the programme of work Implementation of the 2023 programme of work - subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean Programme of work for 2024 - subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean Proposed programme of work for 2025 - subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean
Agenda item 8	Consideration and adoption of resolutions Resolutions