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Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Lisbon declaration on Youth policies and programmes

Catarina Camarinhas
Dwynette D. Eversley

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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Abstract

The Subregional review of youth policies and strategies in the Caribbean offers an overview of national policies on youth in 29 Caribbean countries and overseas territories that are Member or Associate Member Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The report aims at providing a comprehensive review of the state of youth policies and programmes in the Caribbean, the current operational status of these policies and programme, and the involvement of youth in guiding future implementation, including enhancing the understanding of the complex and multifaceted challenges facing youth empowerment, based on a set of international and subregional standards for youth policies.

Against this background, and in the context of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, this study seeks to provide a critical overview of the state of youth policies and programmes in the Caribbean and a reflection on the social and developmental role of youth policies, particularly in view of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of providing recommendations to improve public policies on and programmes for young people. The study also aims to share good practices and examples of evidence-based and participatory youth policies for broader adoption and implementation by national governments.

This report, prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in consultation with member States and regional development partners, has been structured to support the dialogue and review of youth policies in the Caribbean. It provides a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved and continuing challenges in the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration. The first chapter provides an overview of the current situation of youth in the Caribbean. The second chapter presents a comparative analysis of progress made in the subregion in terms of youth policies and programmes, including thematic analysis of goals, a review of youth institutional framework in the Caribbean and lessons learned from Caribbean youth policies. The report ends with a summary of the findings and a list of recommendations for future action within a framework of a Caribbean youth platform for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace, promising to leave no-one behind. The Agenda commits leaders to "provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities".[2] It calls young men and women "critical agents of change",[3] who "will find in the new Goals a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world".[4] It highlights youth employment as a particular challenge for sustainable development and refers to young people as being at particular risk of marginalisation.

ECLAC aims to promote equality as a structural pillar for development, and policy as the instrument to reach that horizon.[5] The integration of youth into development processes is seen as a crucial step in the process towards more egalitarian societies. Progress in achieving sustainable development with equality requires policies that may promote the autonomy of the most vulnerable groups and that attend to their vulnerabilities, addressing those inequalities that especially affect youth. The United Nations is committed to support Member States in the implementation of youth policies that are rights-based, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, comprehensive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountable.

In this continuous process of promoting sustainable development in the Caribbean that recognizes the youth as active stakeholders, this subregional review of youth policies and strategies in the Caribbean subregion offers an overview of national policies on youth in 29 Caribbean countries and overseas territories that are Members or Associate Members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), namely: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic,

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[1]   UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1.

[2]   *Idem*, par. 25.

[3]   *Idem*, par. 51.

[4]   *Ibidem*.

[5]   ECLAC (2015). *Towards the social inclusion of youth: Tools for analysis and policy design*. Equality is viewed as going beyond the distribution of means, such as monetary income, to include equal opportunities and capacities. This implies understanding equality as the full exercise of citizenship, with dignity and the reciprocal recognition of actors.

Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

Between February and July 2018, a research team was assembled to conduct a review of National Youth Policies of Caribbean countries using a consultative process that involved different stakeholders including government officials from Member and Associate Member Countries of the CDCC, youth organisations, civil society, the UN system and other international development partners. This team, led by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, included the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and regional youth organisations, namely the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors and The University of the West Indies Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT). The consultative process included development partners such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Organisation of American States (OAS). From the United Nations system, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Labor Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) participated in the team. The study and associated meeting provided a converging platform for policy-makers, youth experts, researchers, and representatives of civil society and youth organisations, as well as the United Nations system to meet and evaluate the implementation of youth policies and programmes and exchange good practices towards the development and full participation of the Caribbean youth in the sustainable development of the subregion.

A.   Background

In 1995, the Member States of the United Nations directed the international community's response to youth issues by adopting the "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY)". Three years later, the delegates at the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, in Lisbon, Portugal, committed themselves to National Youth Policy (NYP). The recommendations were subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its follow-up resolution 54/120 in 1999. The Assembly, by the same resolution also encouraged the United Nations regional commissions to follow up the WPAY in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organisations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region.

The WPAY provides a policy framework as well as practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of youth around the world. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The role of a National Youth Policy is crucial in that it provides the overarching vision for all programs and activities relating to youth in each Member State. The 15 priority areas of the WPAY, adopted in 2007, indicate the range of policy areas to be covered, namely: Education; Employment; Hunger and Poverty; Health; Environment; Drug abuse; Juvenile delinquency; Leisure-time activities; Girls and young women; Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making; Globalisation; Information and communications technology; HIV/AIDS; Armed conflict; and Intergenerational Issues.

In 2009, the UN Economic and Social Council identified a series of goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the areas covered by WPAY. These goals and targets address youth as a specific socio-demographic group and focus on the issues that impact directly on youth development. Twenty years after the adoption of the WPAY, the first Global Forum on Youth Policies produced guiding principles for integrated and inclusive youth policy development. The Baku Commitment to Youth Policies outlined eight key guiding principles and ten follow-up actions.

Complementary to global initiatives on youth development, the Caribbean subregion in 2012 adopted the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2012-2017). This Action Plan was recently

revised to cover the period 2017-2022 and advances the 2010 Declaration of Paramaribo on the future of Youth in the Caribbean. Furthermore, Member States of the Caribbean are currently implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the planning, implementation, and follow-up and review stages of this global Agenda, the crucial role of youth in the Caribbean cannot be overemphasized.

Therefore, a review of the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean over the past 20 years is very timely. Such a review will provide recommendations to improve public policies on and programmes for young people. Attaining this outcome required consultation and sharing of best practices among stakeholders that comprise of Member States, youth organisations, civil society, the UN system, and regional and international development partners.

Following a consultative process, the research team conducted a review of youth policies and strategies in the Caribbean to provide a platform, at the subregional level, to promote effective policies and programmes for youth development thus contributing to the sustainable development of the Caribbean. The review process raised opportunities to develop a better understanding of guiding principles for integrated youth policy development and of dynamics between concerned stakeholders at different levels, which are analysed in this report. This study, therefore, allowed a space for recommendations on a Caribbean Youth Platform (CYP) for the SDGs, its operationalisation, including suggested activities for the CYP, and its links to the World Programme of Action on Youth. Furthermore, it facilitated the identification of specific needs for technical assistance by Member and Associate Member Countries of CDCC in the future development and implementation of integrated youth policies and programmes.

1. Definition of Youth

Definitions of youth have changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and sociocultural circumstances. "Youth" is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. It is a social rather than biological construct which explains why it may be applied differently according to culture and context to define that period of transition.

However, age is the easiest way to define youth, particularly in relation to education and employment. Therefore, "youth" is often referenced as the age group in which individuals may leave compulsory education and find the first employment. This latter age limit has been increasing, as higher levels of unemployment and the cost of setting up an independent household puts many young people into a prolonged period of dependency. This also sets, depending on particular contexts, new interpretations and delimitations of the age group.

The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines "youth" as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrated by the annual yearbooks of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, education, employment and health.

Apart from the statistical definition of the term "youth" mentioned above, the meaning of the term "youth" varies in different societies. This report applies the UN definition of Youth as the period from 15 to 24 years of age. However, other organisations use different age ranges: The Commonwealth, for example, categorises persons 15 to 29 years old as youth and the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) presents a range from 10 to 29 years old. For this reason, when referring to activities of other organisations or at the national level, for example when analysing a National Youth Policy, "youth" may be interpreted in a more flexible manner.

Therefore, ECLAC uses the terms "youth", "young people" and "young person" interchangeably to mean age 15 to 24 with the understanding that member States and other entities may apply different definitions.

2. Review of International standards on National Youth Policy

The central aim of a youth policy is to ensure the full enjoyment by young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in that sense the political ambition for governments should be to develop and implement purposive and cohesive youth policies, which are designed in alignment with international standards and ensure genuine participation, opportunities and access to youth across all spheres of national development.

As represented in Table 1, there is a whole body of documents and declarations bearing witness to international and regional/subregional agreements established by Member States on the content of youth policy. These are designed to achieve progress and commit governments to the youth field. The General Assembly (GA) has, since 1965, adopted important mandates on national youth policy and the United Nations Secretariat has promoted the implementation of such mandates on national youth policies. As a follow-up to International Youth Year in 1985, the General Assembly endorsed the Guidelines for Further Planning in the Field of Youth. In these Guidelines, the GA indicted that future development may depend upon the ability of Governments to manage substantial changes and to improve the situation of youth under conditions of limited or moderate growth and considerable international uncertainty. The Guidelines of 1985 are at the root of current youth policy development standards and many of its underlying objectives and recommendations remain valid today.

In honour of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations International Youth Year, the General Assembly adopted on 14 December 1995, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. By that Programme, the GA sought not only to make general recommendations, but also specific proposals for action, such as those on the question of an integrated national youth policy. Governments, which had not already done so, were urged to formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy as a means of addressing youth-related concerns. That should be done as part of a continuing process of review and assessment of the situation of youth, formulation of specific, time-bound objectives and a systematic evaluation of progress achieved, and obstacles encountered.

Reinforcing youth-related concerns in development activities can be facilitated through the existence of multilevel mechanisms for consultation, dissemination of information, coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The Assembly further recommended that those mechanisms should be cross-sectoral in nature and multidisciplinary in approach and should include the participation of youth-related departments and ministries, national nongovernmental youth organisations and the private sector. Special and additional efforts were also recommended towards strengthening national capacities for data collection and dissemination of information, research and policy studies, planning, implementation and coordination, training and advisory services, as well as to develop and disseminate model frameworks for integrated policies, and to identify and organise an appropriate division of responsibilities among both governmental and nongovernmental entities concerned with youth-related issues. National coordination mechanisms should be appropriately strengthened for integrated youth policies and programmes. Where such mechanisms did not exist, Governments were urged to promote their establishment on a multilateral and cross-sectoral basis.

In 1998, the United Nations First Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon, committed themselves to National Youth Policy in the first section of the Declaration. This commitment is reproduced in Box 1.

The Lisbon declaration marked the first time in the history of the United Nations that the General Assembly invited all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide greater support to NYPs and programmes within their country programmes. Previously, most of the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system did not provide support to cross-sectoral national youth policies and programmes, but only to sectoral youth projects on education, employment and or health.

The World Youth Conference held in Belize in 2017 sought to reaffirm the promotion of meaningful participation, the realisation of rights and the integral development of young people. The conference highlighted the important role of the mobilisation of young people in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, seeking to continue the implementation of the SDG's framework and to facilitate an inclusive

dialogue among youth leaders, practitioners, policymakers, and academics through the creation of a collective youth commitment document, the Mahogany declaration (The Belize declaration on Youth), that will aid in the continuation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals while remaining connected via global-level dialogue and networking.

These frameworks, and the processes of international political cooperation that support their

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Box 1
National Youth Policies in Lisbon Declaration

- Ensuring that NYP formulation, implementation and follow-up processes are, at appropriate level, accorded commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources;
- Developing national youth policies and operational programmes, at appropriate levels, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, considering the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts;
- Establishing the necessary policies and programmes by the year 2000 to improve living standards for young women and young men and to permit the effective implementation of NYPs, of an inter-sectoral nature, foreseen, among others, in the Programme of Action;
- Reviewing the situation of youth and their needs and incorporating young people's own assessment of priorities, through their participation in a consultative process, and ensuring that young women and young men actively contribute to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and local youth policies, programmes and action plans;
- Developing capacity building through the empowerment of formal and informal coalitions and networks of youth;
- Strengthening responsible partnerships among all key stakeholders, especially youth networks, non-governmental youth institutions and organisations and other non-governmental organisations also including young women, particularly the girl-child, and young men, their families, governments, international agencies, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector and media in order to create synergies to better address youth potentials and problems both at national and at local levels;
- Introducing measurable time-bound goals and indicators to allow a common basis for national evaluation of the implementation of the above-mentioned policies;
- Supporting bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international exchange of best practices at the national level in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy, and the provision of appropriate development tools and technical assistance, through the creation of networks;
- Ensuring the mainstreaming of national youth policy and international development, plans and programmes.

Source: Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, Lisbon, Portugal, 12 August 1998.

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development, have led to a growing consensus around a set of principles that should guide the youth policy design and ultimately the evaluation/assessment of their performance. The Baku Commitment to Youth Policies of 2014 summarises these principles of youth policy as rights-based, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, comprehensive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountable.

3. Subregional actions to promote National Youth Policies

The Caribbean's recent[6] institutional framework for youth development is rooted in the Regional Strategy for Youth Development (RSYD), a regional framework guiding governments in strengthening their youth development portfolios and addressing critical issues confronting youth. CARICOM developed the RSYD in 2001 in response to the 1995 WPAY to guide policy and programming for adolescents and youth

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[6]   Historic dimensions of Caribbean youth policies can be traced to the West India Royal Commission (Moyne report) which was established by Royal Warrant in 1938 to investigate the social and economic conditions in the British colonies. The report, published in 1945, was a basis to several improvements in the health and education systems, as well as to the emergence of new socio-political movements and community-based clubs and groups which also significantly influenced the evolution of public policy on matters pertinent to young people. During the 1970's there was an upsurge in grass roots advocacy and the proliferation of socio-political and socio-cultural formations demanding social justice, economic equity and the 'democratisation' of governance processes. Notable policy shifts in the Commonwealth Caribbean coincided with the emergence of the Commonwealth Youth programme in 1974. UNDESA (2015), Outcome document from the workshop "Evidence-based Policies on Youth Development in the Caribbean".

between the ages of 10-29. The RSYD focused on: i) Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health and Rights (outcomes relating to HIV and AIDS, Early initiation in sexual activities, and Teenage pregnancy); ii) Adolescent Youth Leadership, Governance and Participation (with outcomes relating to Representation nationally and regionally – youth networks, advocacy and governance; Participation in decision making at all levels; school, community, national governance levels; access to information and opportunity to influence national agendas; political and social disenchantment and disconnectedness); iii) Social and Economic Empowerment Opportunities For Youth Development (with outcomes relating to education and skills building for enhanced employment and employability, enhanced financing and access for youth wealth creation and standard of living, and enhanced access and opportunities for youth employability and skills); and iv) Youth Care and Protection (Negative Peer Pressure, Crime and violence on and by youth, Suicide).

With its focus on adolescents and teens the RSYD specifically integrated reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the framework of UNFPA on the rights of persons to reproductive health information and services. In a review of NYPs[7] of CARICOM members at the time, there was evidence of a generally consistent representation of the RSYD priorities, except for the area of "Youth Protection". The 2001-2009 RSYD provided a regional focus for reorienting national youth portfolios, coordinating the work of regional development partners and fostering youth participation in regional development and integration. The strategy was implemented by a mix of public/private institutions and youth organisations/NGOs. In 2007, at the Sixteenth Meeting of CARICOM's Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) focusing on Culture and Youth,[8] the difficulty experienced by Member States in coping with the impact of constant social and economic change on Caribbean adolescents and youth was reported, in particular, the increasing incidence of crime and gun-gang violence, HIV and AIDS, and unemployment. The report advocated for the development of the youth sector to be integrated as a national priority, within the scope of the national development plans. This required, it was stated, increased investment in youth; clarification of roles and responsibilities, as well as increased visibility in communities and responsiveness to youth needs, notably regarding work and professionalisation.

Youth in the Caribbean face many economic and social challenges, which hinder their full development potential. This was recognised in the findings of the report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD).[9] The report makes a strong case for investment in youth development by CARICOM governments and highlights the opportunity cost of the lack of such investments.[10] The report confirmed expert's belief that young people do not trust their education system to prepare them adequately for their professional future, noting that rapid advances in information and communications technology over the past few decades had not yet translated into the education system and the labour market with consequent record high levels of youth unemployment in the subregion when compared to the world. Against this backdrop a Regional Education and Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy was launched aiming to ensure a new transversal approach to education.

The 2010 Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in the Caribbean Community sets out commitments from CARICOM Heads of Government to implement the recommendations of the CCYD. The role of youth in development and integration is clearly articulated in the Declaration of Paramaribo which reinforces the importance of regional integration in advancing the interests of youth and its relevance to achieve economic resilience and integration at the national and subregional levels, while affirming the right of adolescents and youth to participate in decision-making on matters in which they have an interest and that affect them. Further to these initiatives on youth development, member States of

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[7]   A representative sampling of NYPs of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos informed the 2009 CARICOM report.

[8]   The meeting was held in Guyana, under the theme "Realising the Potential of Youth and Culture in the Development of the Community".

[9]   CARICOM (2010), *Eye on the Future: Investing in Youth Now for Tomorrow's Community*.

[10] For example, the report concludes Jamaica's GDP would increase by 0.78 percent if it could achieve full enrolment in primary education, by 1.37 percent if there was a similar outcome in secondary education, and by 5.47 percent with a 30 percent enrolment at the tertiary level. Likely, by reducing youth unemployment to adult levels the report mentions GDP could grow by 2.46 percent in Saint Lucia, by 2.3 percent in Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, by 1.3 percent in Haiti and by 1.1 percent in Belize.

the Caribbean Community adopted in 2012 the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP, 2012-2017), recently revised to cover the period 2017-2022. The plan provides a multi-sectoral institutional framework for national policy, integrated planning and action. The CYDAP operationalises the Declaration of Paramaribo, and mainstreams adolescent and youth well-being and empowerment; it is anchored in six Goals which provide a framework to monitor progress towards regionally and nationally agreed targets in the following areas: education and economic empowerment; protection, safety and security; health and well being; culture, identity and citizenship; policy and institutional framework; and leadership, participation and governance.

Complementary to subregional initiatives, the Commonwealth initiated its commitments to youth work through its support for the implementation of the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development Work in the 1970s. The 2007 Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting committed to the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), an enhanced framework guiding governments and civil society in empowering young women and men aged 15 to 29. Since then, the Commonwealth has expanded its contributions to youth work education and training through establishing the emerging Youth Work Education Qualifications Consortium. PAYE provided a framework for Commonwealth action in youth affairs and as such it is seen as a foundational document for the Commonwealth Youth Programme and its ministerial network, and a guiding document for youth policy and programming in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The PAYE also seeks to stimulate and guide action by other development partners: from intergovernmental agencies, to NGOs, to organisations formed of young women and men themselves.

Figure 1
PAYE's action areas integrated into CARICOM's NYP's
(number of plans that integrate the action area)
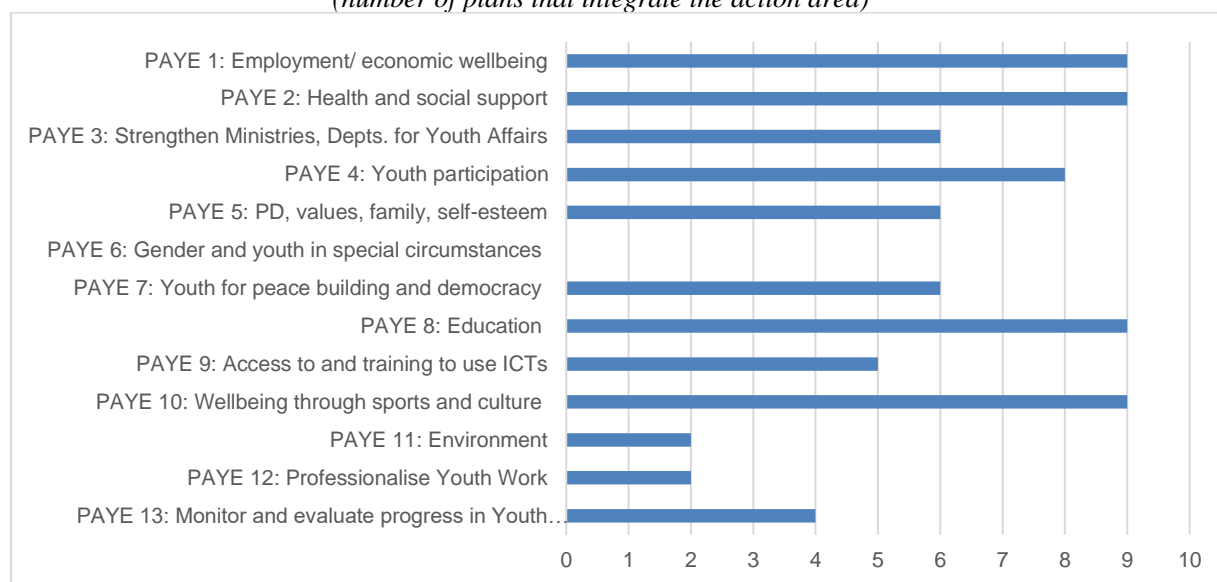
Source of data: Eversley, 2009

At the 11th Commonwealth Youth Forum in April 2018 a Declaration by the Young People of the Commonwealth,[11] "Powering Our Common Future", was signed, reaffirming the powerful potential of young people across the Commonwealth in devising solutions for a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fairer future. The declaration, expressing current policy recommendations of young people from the Commonwealth, was supported by an Action plan outlining the key recommendations made.

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[11]   Remarkably, the Caribbean now holds four positions on the nine members of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC). The newly elected Chairperson of the CYC, Mr Tijani Christian, is a national of Jamaica.

Table 1
Framework for youth policy at international and subregional level

Year	Title of document/event	Summary	Comments
		INTERNATIONAL	
1965	**Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples**	From 1965 to 1975, both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council emphasized three basic themes in the field of youth: participation, development and peace. The need for an international policy on youth was emphasized as well.	Resolution 2037 (XX)
1969	**UN Secretary General Report on "Long-Term Polices and Programmes for Youth in National Development"**	The Assembly recommended that Governments, in formulating national youth policies, should ensure a more coordinated approach to meeting the needs and aspirations of youth. It further recommended to Governments that, especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, youth and youth organisations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies engaged in various studies and programmes on the problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development to identify separately the problems and needs of youth in the developing countries and suggest possible solutions accordingly.	Resolution 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969, Economic and Social Council resolution 1407 (XLVI) of 5 June 1969.
1985	**Guidelines for Further Planning in the Field of Youth**	The guidelines are significant for their focus on young people as a broad category comprising various subgroups, rather than a single demographic entity. They provide proposals for specific measures to address the needs of subgroups such as young people with disabilities, rural and urban youth and young women. The themes identified by the General Assembly for International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace reflect a predominant concern of the international community with distributive justice, popular participation and quality of life. These were reflected in the guidelines, and they represent overall themes of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond as well.	In 1979, the General Assembly, by resolution 34/151, designated 1985 as International Youth Year. The General Assembly endorsed, by its resolution 40/14 in 1985, Guidelines for Further Planning in the Field of Youth (document A/40/256) as a follow-up to International Youth Year.
1995	**World Programme of Action for Youth**	In 1995, on the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, the United Nations strengthened its commitment to young people by directing the international community's response to the challenges to youth into the next millennium. It did this by adopting an international strategy—the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Originally adopted in 1996 and amended in 2007, the WPAY has long been drawn upon to identify the minimum key policy areas in which young people should be specifically considered, of which it names 15: employment, poverty, leisure, participation, HIV/AIDS, girls and young women, and armed conflict. In addition to the WPAY, various UN agencies have, over time, produced structural and thematic frameworks at a global level. The WPAY provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The WPAY focuses on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society.	A/RES/50/81 (10 thematic areas) and A/RES/58/133 and A/RES/62/126 (5 additional thematic areas – supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth). The determination of the goals and targets was conducted through a participatory process involving experts from the various organisations of the UN System, academia and representatives of youth organisations. For further details: Commission for Social Development Res. 45/2; UN General Assembly Res. 62/162; Reports of the Secretary General on the follow-up to the WPAY (A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7 and A/64/61-E/2009/3).

Table 1 (continued)

1998	**Lisbon Declaration**	At global level, modern youth policy standards are rooted in the 1998 Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, agreed at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. The first point articulated the need for governments to develop "national youth policies and operational programmes, at appropriate levels, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, considering the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts." Ministers signed up to a range of commitments, including the need to match a policy with implementation processes and resources, mainstream youth issues beyond a singular policy document, consider the needs and priorities of young people themselves, develop measurable goals and indicators for accountability, and collect data and commit research and make its findings public.	(A/53/378) Braga Youth Action Plan was adopted during the 3rd World Youth Forum of the UN System, Braga, Portugal, 1-7 August 1998
2001	**Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy**	The Forum's recommendations cover youth concerns in the 10 areas addressed by working groups, namely education and information and communications technology, employment, health and population, hunger poverty and debt, environment and human settlements, social integration, culture and peace, youth policy, participation and rights, young women and girls, and youth, sports and leisure-time activities. The meeting's recommendations were regarded by observers from United Nations agencies, bodies and organisations as reflecting the vision of youth empowerment as seen by young people and as demonstrating their desire to participate in shaping policy on youth matters.	Adopted at the fourth session World Youth Forum of the United Nations System
2002	**UN General Assembly resolution on Youth Policies and programmes**	Calls upon all States, all UN bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations concerned, in particular youth organisations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues; also calls upon all parties concerned to consider the appropriate ways and means to provide follow-up to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference on Ministers Responsible for Youth; expresses deep concern over the fact that approximately half of new HIV infections are in youth aged 15 to 24 years old; calls upon Member States, all UN bodies and non-governmental organisations to continue to implement fully the guidelines adopted by General Assembly resolutions 40/14, 32/135 and 36/17 on youth activities; invites all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to contribute to the UN Youth Fund; requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its 58th session on the implementation of the present resolution.	(A/RES/56/117)
2005	**The Baku Commitment to Youth Policies**	First Global Forum on Youth Policies, marking the 20th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and reaffirming its importance as an overarching global youth policy framework, and recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, the First Global Forum on Youth Policies specifically aimed at elevating the youth policy debate, with the particular purpose of advancing youth policy development and its full and effective implementation at all levels. The Baku Commitment on Youth Policies highlights eight guiding principles for youth policy development and puts forward 10 concrete commitments with a view to support the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy. This commitment aims to ensure that youth policies are rights-based, comprehensive, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountable, while also pledging to further promote synergies between youth policies and broader development policies and frameworks, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Among the Forum's commitments, one of the key commitments is the development of a Global Initiative on Youth Policies to support Member-States in implementing the WPAY and ensuring the efficiency of their youth policies.	2004 – UN General Assembly resolution on tenth anniversary of WPAY (A/RES/59/148) and 2005 – UN General Assembly resolution on Policies and Programmes involving youth (A/RES/60/2)
2017	**Mahogany Declaration**	The Mahogany Declaration (The Belize declaration on Youth): a comprehensive document created by young leaders that established their commitment towards the implementation of the SDGs and solidified their commitment to serve as leaders of change, thus providing an inclusive youth approach and shared ownership of the SDGs to the young people.	Results from the World Youth Conference held in Belize in 2017

Table 1 (continued)

Year	Title of document/event	Summary	Comments
		SUBREGIONAL	
1970	**Commonwealth Youth Programme**	The Commonwealth Secretariat established the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre (CYPCC) to support youth development in newly emerging and independent countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean.	CYPCC focused from its inception on supports to governments and youth-led democratic networks and worked in 4 main areas: youth work, youth policy, youth participation and youth governance, and youth entrepreneurship.
1985	**International Youth Year**	Within the context of International Youth Year, many CARICOM States established or expanded Youth Departments. It also revitalized government programming for youth and reinvigorated National Youth Councils (NYCs) to play a strong advocacy, brokerage and catalytic role in the national youth agenda.	Five United Nations conferences on youth were held in cooperation with each of the 5 United Nations regional economic commissions and 20 regional meetings of Governmental Ministers responsible for youth.
1987	**Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)**	The Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY) was established and served as an umbrella body for NYCs which effectively increased youth representation and advocacy at the regional and global levels.	
2000	**Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE)**	Enhanced framework guiding governments and civil society in empowering young women and men aged 15 to 29. Commonwealth's guiding strategy to guide youth empowerment and participation in the coming years, and is in keeping with the Commonwealth's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).	Revised for the period 2007-2015
2001	**Regional Strategy for Youth Development (RSYD) 2001 – 2009**	CARICOM's Regional framework aimed at guiding governments in strengthening their youth development portfolios and addressing critical issues confronting Youth. The RSYD provided a regional focus for reorienting national youth portfolios, coordinating the work of regional development partners and fostering youth participation in regional development and integration.	
2006	**Twenty-Seventh Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government**	Mandated the establishment of a Commission on Youth Development, tasked with undertaking "a full-scale analysis of the challenges and opportunities for youth in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); and making recommendations to improve their well-being and empowerment".	
2007	**CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD)**	The CCYD has the mandate to provide an analysis of the challenges and opportunities for youth in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); and to make recommendations on how to improve their well-being and empowerment.	
2010	**Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in the Caribbean Community**	Sets out commitments from CARICOM Head of Government to implement the recommendations of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development. The CCYD Report argues that young people comprise the sector of the population best positioned by their creative potential to play the leading role in responding to the challenges of globalisation and, therefore, to the demands of regional integration and the CSME.	Four critical actions: a) understanding the transitional character of adolescents and youth; b) tangible recognition of their contribution to the Region; c) more investment in them for greater returns to both country and Region; and d) a radical shift towards partnering with them.

Table 1 (concluded)

2011-13	**Caribbean Regional Youth Council**	The establishment of a Caribbean Regional Youth Council came out of decisions made at three Caribbean Youth Leaders' Summits between the years 2011 and 2013, which recognized the need for a unified regional body to advocate for and advance the development agenda for youth. The development of the CRYC was supported by the Commonwealth as part of their youth governance and participation programming for the Caribbean. The CRYC seeks to establish itself as a strategic youth governance and advocacy network/movement working towards regional representation, integration and cooperation as a platform for youth development.	
2012-2017 and 2017-2022	**CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP)**	Advances the 2010 Declaration of Paramaribo on the future of Youth in the Caribbean. The plan is a holistic and multi-sectoral institutional framework for national policy, integrated planning and action. The CYDAP operationalises the Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in the Caribbean Community, complements the implementation of the CSME and supports mainstreamed adolescent and youth well-being and empowerment.	Recently revised to cover the period 2017-2022.
2018	**Powering Our Common Future**	The Declaration by the Young People of the Commonwealth reaffirms the powerful potential of young people across the Commonwealth in devising solutions for a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fairer future. The declaration was supported by an Action plan expressing current policy recommendation of young people from the Commonwealth.	Adopted at the 11th Commonwealth Youth Forum in April 2018. Remarkably, the Caribbean now holds 4 positions on the 9 members executive committee of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC). The newly elected Chairperson of the CYC, Mr Tijani Christian, is also Caribbean (national of Jamaica).

B.   Methodology

The study on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration of Youth Policies and Programmes was developed within a consultative process which included surveys and youth dialogue sessions integrating all Member and Associate Members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The study will be further analysed within the wider scope of population and development issues and will be discussed in the framework of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development which is scheduled to be held in July 2018 in Georgetown, Guyana. The meeting will provide an avenue for advancing ongoing dialogue towards the identification of practical support needed by Member and Associate Member Countries in the implementation of youth policies and programmes and in the involvement of Youth in the 2030 Agenda during the early years of implementation.

The Forum serves as a consultative platform to address youth policies and programmes, and for monitoring and reporting on youth platforms and agreements in the Caribbean, especially relating to the World Programme of Action on Youth, the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2012-2017), and the SDGs. The meeting provides not only an avenue to identify the status of implementation of youth policies and programmes in Member States and the required technical assistance in the implementation of youth policies, it also affords multiple stakeholders involved in supporting the planning, implementation and monitoring of youth-related goals and targets of the SDGs in the Caribbean an opportunity to design a Caribbean Youth Platform (CYP) for the SDGs, in order to support Member States in the involvement of youth in the 2030 Agenda.

The research team used various approaches and methodologies in the different phases of the youth policy review:

- Contextualisation of an evaluation framework for the subregional analysis. An initial evaluation framework was developed and contextualized at national level. During the initial phase of the project, the research team developed an evaluation framework that was adapted at the national level for analysis and review of youth policies. Through this exercise, the team was able to identify the types of information to be collected for the review, as well as the most relevant data sources and the methods to employ for data collection.

- Desk review and Empirical Research – During this phase, the research team engaged in a background review of youth policy documents, legislation, and previous reviews of the youth policies; the team also conducted research on the situation of youth in the Caribbean subregion. Due to insufficient data and statistics on youth policy in the Caribbean, this desk review was conducted with focus on the National Youth Policies and CARICOM Youth Development Plan (CYDAP, 2012-2017 and 2017-2022), held in conjunction with focus groups discussions and interviews with stakeholders.

- Survey – For the purpose of this study a survey instrument was administered to senior government officials from 29 CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries in the field of youth policy, in order to collect inputs for the review on the status of implementation of the Lisbon declaration. Furthermore, in cooperation with CARICOM, Youth Ambassadors provided research and follow-up support to the process of data collection.

- Statistical overview on youth in the Caribbean – A statistical overview on youth in the Caribbean was conducted, in terms of the compilation and analysis of youth indicators pertaining to the WPAY that could inform the evaluation of the current state of Youth policies and programmes in the subregion.

- Best practice database – A best practice database was compiled, in collaboration with Youth organisations, in order to select best cases and success stories from the Caribbean for presentation and discussion at the Caribbean Forum.

- Focus groups discussions – Youth dialogue sessions with youth groups were held and an evaluation matrix was developed to collect the views of youth organisations. In addition to desk

research, the team led key focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with representatives of youth organisations, youth leaders, youth activists, and university youth representatives. The youth dialogue sessions provided a deeper insight into the policy environment and the status of Caribbean youth. Through these interviews and background research, the team mapped out relevant actors and stakeholders who could be a good source of information. Results from these sessions are presented in Annex 3.

- Draft Subregional report– A preliminary report was drafted based on the analysis of data collected from the initial desk review and the responses received from countries on the survey. In addition, this initial report provided a background summary of the youth policy environment, thus serving as a basis for the formulation of the youth panels, discussion sessions and main recommendations at the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development. In this draft report, the research team developed some initial hypotheses and conclusions, including the draft recommendations on the Caribbean Youth Agenda for involvement of Youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These recommendations would be considered at the Caribbean Forum. The main limitation in conducting the study was that there were no readily available data to inform reporting for Curaçao, Haiti, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Suriname and United States Virgin Islands. It can be assumed that the youth policy formulation, implementation and programming in the Dutch and the French Caribbean are guided by the respective youth policy provisions of the Government of the Netherlands, and the Government of the French Republic and the overarching soft policy guide for Members of the EU contained in the EU Strategy for Youth 2010-2018, which align with the Lisbon Declaration 1998 and the WPAY.

- Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development (see Annex 1). The Caribbean Forum will take place in Georgetown, Guyana, between July 24 to 26, 2018. The draft Subregional report will be presented to various stakeholders, including government officials, youth, and development partners for discussion. Representatives of Member and Associate Member Countries of CDCC will participate as panellists and moderators. Youth representatives also have critical roles to play in various panels and sessions, including as presenters and moderators.

- Finalisation of subregional report. The information and perspectives that were collected during the Caribbean Forum would be incorporated in the final Subregional report. Hence, the synthesis report will reflect the current status of youth policies in the Caribbean. It will also contain conclusions and recommendations for the improvement of youth policy process, successful implementation, and follow-up actions.

C.   Criteria for country analysis of National Youth Policies

Youth development in general, and youth unemployment in particular, have become increasingly growing concerns for Caribbean countries which are currently implementing youth policies and programmes in response to these concerns and have designed National Youth mechanisms for implementation. The region does not suffer from a shortage of policies and programmes to address the very specific needs of children and youth but, as previously noted,[12] the structural lack of analysis and monitoring of the situation does not allow for targeted and efficient action for longterm successful outcomes. Despite the multiple efforts[13] to assist policy-makers to bridge this policy-practice gap, more needs to be done to ensure that the data available is analysed to provide the empirical background information for evidence-based policy formulation and monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of the efforts undertaken. Moreover, having committed to the SDGs and other SIDS-specific development platforms, Member States now need to

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[12]   ECLAC (2008), *Socio-Demographic Analysis of Youth in the Caribbean – A Three Country Case Study*, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (Studies and Research Papers), p. 18.

[13]   Population and household censuses are conducted every decade and a variety of household surveys, such as surveys of living conditions, labour force surveys and special surveys focusing on particular sub-groups of the population are conducted, dependent on the resources available, to a varying degree in the countries of the subregion. One such example is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) that assess the situation of children and youth in different Caribbean countries.

synergise these programmes and platforms in order to guarantee the full participation of youth in the implementation and monitoring stages.

To ensure that comprehensive and current data are used in the conduct of the subregional review which examines progress made by Caribbean States at the national level, and the achievements and continuing challenges faced by the subregion in the implementation of the Lisbon declaration on Youth policies and Programmes, a questionnaire (see Annex 2) was developed to capture information on the following themes itemized in the Lisbon Declaration. Youth dialogue sessions were undertaken with Caribbean Regional Youth council representatives, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, and student representatives, and a survey was conducted, covering 29 CDCC member States and associate members, to measure the impact of National Youth Policies and Programmes, using the following structure of analysis for the formulation of questions:

I. National Youth Policy

II. Implementation

III. Thematic Areas

- **Youth empowerment and participation** in all spheres of society and decision-making processes (e.g. support to marginalized, vulnerable young women and young men, especially those who are separated from their families, and children living and/or working in the streets; building of communication channels with youth; measures to encourage youth voluntarism).

- **Peace and security** (e.g. any measures aiming at preventing the participation and involvement of youth in all acts of violence, particularly acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, xenophobia and racism, foreign occupation, and trafficking in arms and drugs; measures to integrate into the system of education and training aspects related to peace, social progress, fighting inequalities and recognizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation, etc).

- **Youth employment and entrepreneurship** (e.g. measures to help young people to enter the labour market or start their own business, for example, provision of training or resources; laws against sex-based discrimination in the labour market; measures to protect including migrant workers, against other forms of exploitation, for example sex tourism, prostitution, with due regard to the situation of young women).

- **Information and communication technologies** (e.g. measures to promote equal access to and use of new information technologies).

- **Personal Development** (e.g. new partnerships to enable young women and young men to learn, create and express themselves through cultural, physical and sports activities).

- **Intergenerational relations** (e.g. measures to reinforce and design new partnerships to improve the relationship between different generations; creation of mentoring programmes, etc.).

- **Poverty and hunger** (e.g. policy to combat poverty and any actions on the alleviation of poverty; specific programmes and mechanisms within an integrated perspective of families, etc).

- **Education in all its aspects**, namely formal and non-formal education as well as functional literacy and training and life-long learning (Explain guarantees taken regarding the equal access and continuity of basic good quality education, especially in rural areas and among the urban poor. Do time-bound goals exist for the expansion of equal access for young women and young men to secondary and higher education and for the improvement of the quality of education?).

- **Health development** for young women and young men (e.g. measures to combat treatable diseases, preventing and responding to non-treatable diseases, programmes to reduce the consumption of tobacco, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and the abuse of alcohol; special health needs; safe water supply, sanitation, and waste disposal; establishment of a database on youth reproductive health; prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; measures to ensure full protection from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence,

sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; measures regarding health relief under natural disasters and other emergencies, etc.).

- **HIV/AIDS** (e.g. measures to ensure access to free and confidential voluntary counselling and testing; providing accessible treatment and counselling with special care to children infected and affected by AIDS, including orphans; programmes to end stigmatisation and discrimination, etc.).

- **Drug and substance abuse** (e.g. strategies aiming at preventing abuse, reducing the demand for drugs, combating trafficking and promoting support for treatment for and rehabilitation of drug abusers focusing on their social reintegration; efforts to fight illicit production, supply and trafficking; awareness of youth, etc.).

- **Environment** (e.g. measures to encourage awareness and commitment to sustainable development principles and practices, especially regarding environmental protection; environmental education; the elevation of environmental issues amongst young people).

- **Urbanisation and housing** (e.g. measures to enhance the role of youth organisations in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and local development plans; measures to ensure safe, healthy and secure living and environmental and working conditions, including shelter; etc).

- **Youth justice** (e.g. measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth from juvenile detention; engaging youth in crime prevention activities; emphasizing leadership training; promoting crime prevention with focus on life skills education and positive self-development).

- **Girls and Young women** (e.g. measures to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women; development of educational materials and practices that are gender balanced and promote an educational setting that eliminates all barriers impeding the schooling of girls and young women, including married and/or pregnant girls and young women; removal of discriminatory laws and practices against girls and young women in food allocation and nutrition, as well as in access to health services, etc.).

- Others (please indicate any other thematic areas that may be relevant to your Ministry and/or country).

The thematic areas that were examined in the survey and analysed in the study were identified based on previous youth policy frameworks and reviews, as indicated in Table 2.

IV. Monitoring, reporting and reviewing

D. Structure of the report

The synthesis report is structured into three chapters. Following the Introduction, the first chapter provides an overview of the current situation regarding youth in the Caribbean. The second chapter takes as its starting point a comparative analysis of progress made in the subregion in terms of youth policies and programmes, subsequently focusing on thematic area analysis, review of goals and review of Caribbean institutional framework. The following chapter addresses lessons learned from Caribbean youth policy and a separate chapter presents an analysis of the potential of investment in youth in relation to the demographic dividend. The report closes with a brief summary of recommendations for future action within a framework of a Caribbean youth platform for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 2
Thematic areas in the main youth policy frameworks and reviews

WPAY (1995)	LISBON DECLARATION (1998)	WPAY 10-y REVIEW (2005)	WPAY 20-y REVIEW (2015)	ECLAC SURVEY	ECLAC Study – Analysis
Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making	Participation	Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes	Participation	Youth empowerment and participation	Participation
Leisure-time activities	Development	Personal Development	Leisure	Personal development	Leisure-time activities
Armed conflict	Peace	Youth and Conflict	Peace & security	Peace and security	Youth & Conflict
Education	Education	Education	Education	Education	Education
Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment & entrepreneurship	Employment and entrepreneurship	Employment
Health	Health	Health	Health	Health	Health
Drug abuse	Drug and substance abuse	Substance Abuse		Drug and substance abuse	Drug abuse
Girls and young women			Gender equality	Girls and young women	Girls & young women
Juvenile delinquency		Juvenile Justice	Youth & Justice	Youth Justice	Juvenile delinquency
Hunger and poverty		Poverty and Hunger		Poverty and hunger	Hunger & poverty
Globalisation		Globalisation			Globalisation
Information and communications technology		Information and communication technologies	Information & Communication	Information and communication technologies	Information and communication technologies
HIV/AIDS		HIV/AIDS		HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS
Environment		Youth and Environment	Environment	Environment	Environment
Intergenerational issues		Intergenerational relations		Intergenerational relations	Intergenerational issues
			Social inclusion		
			Urbanisation & Housing	Urbanisation and Housing	
			Volunteerism	Others	

I.   Overview of the current situation regarding youth in the Caribbean

A.   Demographic snapshot

The Caribbean subregion is home to nearly 7.5 million youth representing 7 percent of the Latin American and the Caribbean region's youth population (cf. Table 3). Young women and young men in the 15 to 24 age range comprise almost 17 percent of the subregion's total population with the largest Caribbean youth being in Haiti (2.2 million), Dominican Republic (1.9 million), and Cuba (1.4 million), as represented in Figure 2. Approximately 42 percent of the subregions citizens are under 25 years old. The Caribbean is hence still a youthful subregion and there are more young people in the subregion than ever before, creating unprecedented potential for economic and social progress. Youth possess tremendous potential to serve as agents of social and economic transformation on – this is all the more critical given projections that populations in the subregion will age rapidly. However, youth, as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood, is neither finite nor linear and young people face multiple attendant challenges that may affect the full developmental potential of the subregion.

Most countries of the Caribbean are still in the vital demographic dividend period.[14] This window may be fairly narrow for some countries: it will close in the 2020's for at least five countries,[15] while for the remainder the period will extend well into the 2040s and 2050s. This conveys a sense of urgency for investing in youth in the subregion.

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[14]   The demographic dividend refers to the period when the working age population is the largest population group, and to the growth potential that results from the increase in this group *vis-à-vis* the inactive population. ECLAC classifies potentially active population as comprising persons between the ages of 20 and 64, and the potentially inactive populations persons under 20 and over 64. ECLAC (2018), *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, pp. 199 – 202.

[15]   Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The period will extend into the 2040s and 50s for Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, and Haiti.

Table 3
Age distribution, 2000 and 2015
(thousands)

	2000						2015					
	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	total	youth *(% of total population)*	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	total	youth *(% of total population)*
Antigua and Barbuda	24.7	12.4	41.0	5.5	83.6	14.8	24.5	16.9	51.9	6.6	99.9	16.9
Aruba	21.1	11.2	51.7	6.9	90.9	12.3	19.5	14.9	57.3	12.7	104.3	14.3
Bahamas	87.3	51.4	143.3	15.9	297.9	17.2	80.0	64.9	209.9	32.1	386.8	16.8
Barbados	59.2	39.6	139.9	31.1	269.8	14.7	55.0	36.6	152.3	40.3	284.2	12.9
Belize	100.8	50.4	86.5	9.7	247.3	20.4	116.6	74.1	155.1	13.5	359.3	20.6
Cuba	2431.3	1482.1	6140.4	1096.9	11150.7	13.3	1866.9	1441.2	6559.7	1593.8	11461.4	12.6
Curaçao	32.9	16.1	69.5	13.6	132.1	12.2	29.8	19.7	84.0	24.5	158.0	12.5
Dominican Republic	3001.1	1683.8	3438.2	439.5	8562.6	19.7	3154.2	1917.9	4755.9	700.4	10528.4	18.2
Grenada	35.6	21.2	36.9	7.9	101.6	20.9	28.3	20.0	50.8	7.6	106.8	18.8
Guadeloupe	102.6	63.6	215.2	43.3	424.6	15.0	87.5	63.8	225.2	73.8	450.4	14.2
Guyana	272.4	136.9	313.6	30.4	753.3	18.2	229.2	161.0	339.6	38.7	768.5	21.0
Haiti	3448.0	1773.3	2979.3	348.5	8549.2	20.7	3614.1	2163.2	4437.7	496.0	10711.1	20.2
Jamaica	853.5	477.6	1116.3	209.3	2656.9	18.0	673.6	545.7	1385.4	267.2	2871.9	19.0
Martinique	89.1	51.8	199.3	46.8	387.0	13.4	70.8	41.4	205.0	68.7	385.8	10.7
Puerto Rico	894.6	613.0	1859.6	429.7	3797.0	16.1	685.8	555.4	1899.7	532.9	3673.7	15.1
Saint Lucia	50.6	29.8	64.7	11.9	156.9	19.0	35.0	32.4	93.2	16.6	177.2	18.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	33.9	21.7	44.8	7.5	107.9	20.1	26.8	19.3	55.3	8.0	109.5	17.6
Suriname	152.9	82.5	211.2	25.9	472.4	17.5	149.0	97.5	269.7	37.0	553.2	17.6
Trinidad and Tobago	324.3	256.0	604.9	82.9	1268.0	20.2	282.6	183.0	766.5	128.0	1360.1	13.5
United States Virgin Islands	28.1	14.6	56.6	9.4	108.7	13.4	21.4	13.6	51.7	18.3	105.0	13.0
Caribbean (20 territories)	12044.0	6889.0	17813.0	2872.6	39618.5	17.4	11250.7	7482.5	21805.9	4116.6	44655.7	16.8

Source of data: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018).

Figure 2
Youth (15-24) population in the Caribbean, by country (2015
(Thousands)
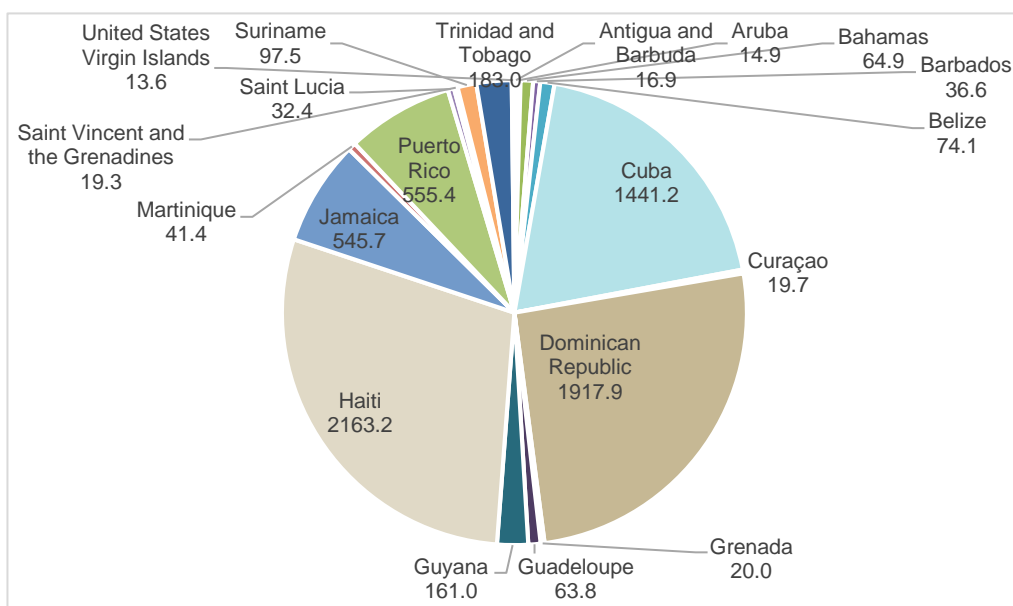
Source of data: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018).

Figure 3
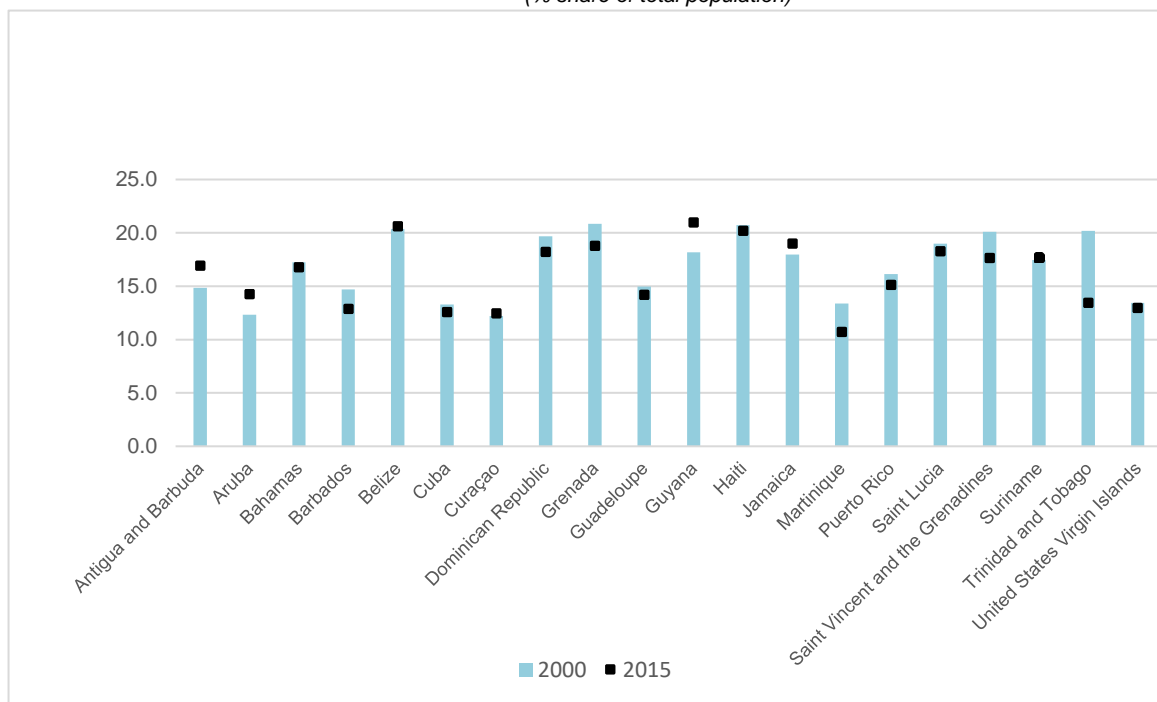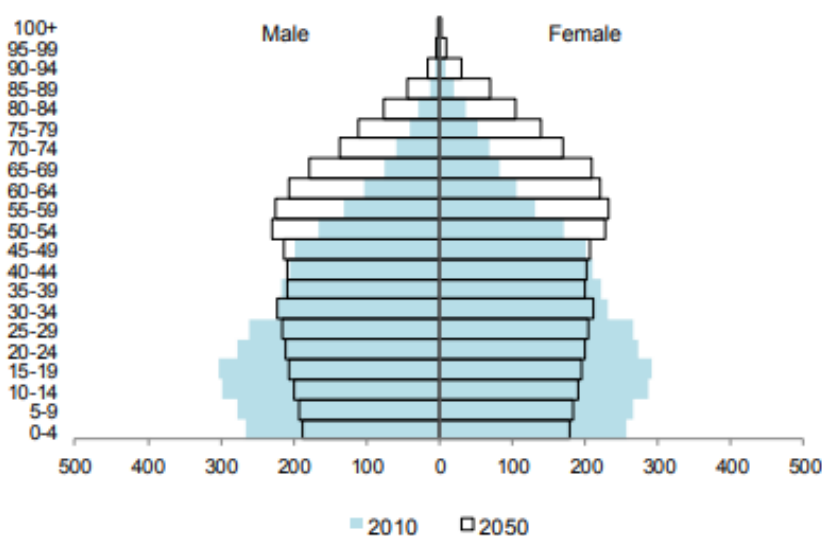**Percentage of country's population aged 15-24 years, 2000-2015**
(% share of total population)

Source of data: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018).

Figure 4 provides a graphical representation of the population in the form of overlapped population pyramids for 2010 and population prospects for 2050 that shows the changing of the age structure towards an older population.[16] Population ageing is a powerful and transforming demographic force and a better understanding of the changing relationship between demographic groups is crucial if we are to create a future that takes full advantage of the powerful resource inherent in the intergenerational potential resulting from interaction between different age groups. The ageing index which measures the relationship between the elderly and the youngest is expected to rise from an average of 43 percent to 152.5 percent over the period 2010-2050 as the increases among the elderly are accompanied by a decline of over 25 percent among the youngest (in this case those under 15 years old) from 1.7 million to 1.1 million.[17]

Figure 4
Population pyramids for ten Caribbean countries, 2010 and 2050
(Thousands)

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

The Caribbean is therefore not exempt from the ageing of its population. While still youthful, Caribbean societies are in the midst of a demographic transition process that has already begun to affect the age and sex composition of the majority of the countries.[18] The ageing process is more visible across the Caribbean than in Latin America, but far less than in North America.[19] The dependency ratio (percentage of persons 65+/persons 15-64) in 2015 was 11 in Latin America, 14 across the Caribbean and 22 in North America. By 2040, it is projected that the dependency ratio will be 24 in Latin America, 28 in the Caribbean and 37 in North America. This means that over this period, the number of older persons is projected to double in the Caribbean. All States and territories across the Caribbean are, therefore, affected by this demographic transformation, although the dynamics of ageing vary from country to country.

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[16] The countries with the highest dependency rates in the subregion are Antigua and Barbuda (34 percent), Saint Lucia (44 percent), Jamaica (39 percent), Bahamas (37 percent), and Trinidad and Tobago (36 percent), and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (33 percent). Nam, Valerie and Francis Jones (2018), *Inclusive social protection and demographic change, the implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean,* ECLAC Studies and perspectives – The Caribbean, No. 66.

[17] Maintaining the population estimates of 2010, the country with the highest dependency ratio in 2050 will be Barbados. By the end of the projection period there will be about five older persons to every ten persons of working-age in Barbados. By then, there will also be a further six countries with dependency ratios of 30 percent or more. Belize will remain the country with the youngest population with a dependency ratio of 17 per 100, albeit showing a more than 100 percent increase over 2010. Cf. *Idem,* pp. 36-37.

[18] ECLAC (2008), *Socio-Demographic Analysis of Youth in the Caribbean – A Three Country Case Study*, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (Studies and Research Papers), p. 18.

[19] Jones, Francis (2016*), Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons*, ECLAC, Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No.45, p.16.

Despite variations between countries, population ageing is a common and pressing issue with considerable impact in Caribbean societies and one which cannot be dissociated from the future prospects for youth development – due to its implications on public policy, notably in terms of the challenging ground for youth development financing it represents.

The proportion of youth in the total population is often referred to as "the youth bulge"; it provides a narrowing demographic window of opportunity in which youth can be engaged as positive resources in the path towards sustainable development. Most Caribbean countries are experiencing a fall in their relative share of youth in the total population, as shown in Figure 4, with countries such as Trinidad and Tobago (6.7 percent drop), Martinique (loss of 2.7 percent) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2.5 percent fall), experiencing recent major declines in the proportion of youth in the total population. Nothwithstanding the fall, seven countries of the Caribbean experienced recent relative growth in the youth age group. The relative loss of youth population may be linked in part to an increasing share of the elderly in the total population, as longevity increased at a rapid pace over the last decades, as well as to aspects linked to emigration. Despite the relative fluctuations in the youth share, in absolute terms the youth population continues to grow at varying paces across Caribbean countries.

B.   Youth unemployment

Lack of good employment opportunities poses a significant challenge to the inclusion of youth in Caribbean societies, with youth unemployment in the subregion being among the highest in the world.[20] Youth employment opportunities for Caribbean youth are mostly found in low skill, low education jobs.[21] Moreover, structural youth unemployment among those who are tertiary educated, in addition to its direct impact on current and future economic growth, may also lead to an undervaluing of education and training among young people. High youth unemployment also affects the youth dependency ratio in the subregion as young people are forced to extend their dependence on families and relatives, a condition which is amplified by a context where a large number of families are already in a position of vulnerability, headed by single mothers or facing social protection measures and with inadequate benefits.[22]

The marginalisation of young people and the failure to fully support their development have been identified as potential threats at subregional level.[23] Data from ILOSTAT[24] suggests that the proportion of youth not engaged in education, employment or training may vary widely across the Caribbean, with countries such as Bermuda (6.8 percent) scoring fairly well in terms of social inclusion via the engagement of youth in socioeconomic activities and Trinidad and Tobago (52.2 percent) where more than half of its youth (15-24) is not fully participating in any of these areas of activity, which are of such crucial importance for social inclusion and development.

The social and economic costs of youth exclusion may be very high for Caribbean societies. Impacts may include alienation, deprivation and growing incidence of youth crime. ECLAC's recent *Caribbean Outlook*[25] presents the situation of youth unemployment within the overall scope of development prospects for the subregion and reflects an environment in which youth unemployment is high, gendered and poses a threat to long-term development of the Caribbean. In fact, a quarter of Caribbean youth is unemployed – more than three times the adult rate of 8 percent[26] – and gender differences are notable, as represented in Figure 5. Among Caribbean countries young females experienced unemployment rates of over 30

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[20]   Caribbean Development Bank (2015), *Youth are the future: the imperative of youth employment for sustainable development in the Caribbean*, p. 11.

[21]   Lashley, J.G. and D.D. Marshall (2015), "Youth and Employment in the Caribbean", Background Paper for the UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report, UNDP.

[22]   ECLAC (2018), *Caribbean Outlook*, ECLAC – Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No. 42.

[23]   *Ibidem*.

[24]   SDG Indicators Global Database, see https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=8.6.1

[25]   *Idem.*

[26]   Caribbean Development Bank (2015), *Youth are the Future: The Imperative of Youth Employment for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean*. In some countries (for example, the Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica), youth unemployment rates are nearly three times that of those aged 30 and over.

percent in 2016, while male youth experienced rates of 20 percent. The contracting workforce characterized by increasing job loss and limited job creation has mostly affected women and youth making them more vulnerable in society. The global financial crisis of 2008 had a particularly strong effect on the unemployment rate for those between the ages of 15 and 24[27] and together with crime and violence, the extremely high levels of youth unemployment present a key bottleneck to growth in the Caribbean, and and contributed to an increase in illegal activities and crime among young people who lacked economic opportunities and other social safety cushions, further compromising development prospects.

Figure 5
Unemployement rate by sex among 15-24 years old in the Caribbean, 2002 and 2016[a]
(*Percentages*)
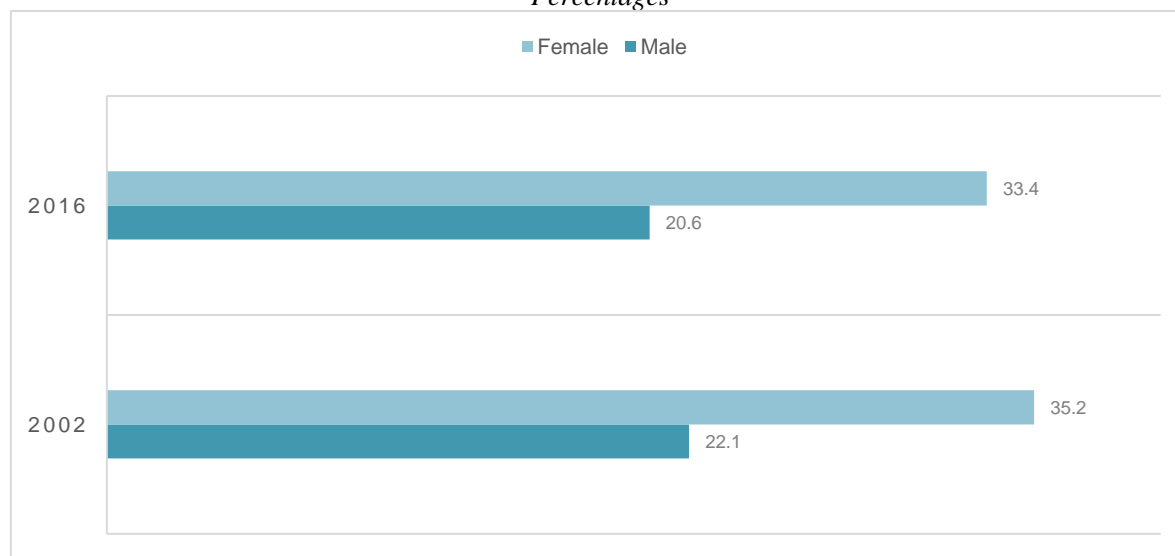
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of figures from the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), *in* ECLAC, Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges, 2017 Available at: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42269/1/S1700768_en.pdf
[a] Simple average of the following countries: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

C. Poverty among the youth

According to the Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) of the CDB[28] , youth are disproportionately represented among the poor and vulnerable. Based on ILO estimates, aproximately 7 percent of Caribbean youth are affected by extreme poverty,[29] with large discrepancies being observed at the subregional level in disaster-affected countries (e.g. Haiti 23.3 percent, Barbados 1.6 percent).[30] When analysed at national level and according to national estimates and national poverty lines, poverty is much more severe. Young people in the Caribbean are significantly affected by poverty (22 percent) with countries such as Belize (43 percent) and Grenada (48 percent) experiencing close to half of its youth population living in poverty (see Table 4). Available evidence suggests that female-headed households are more likely to be affected by poverty, especially where there are more occupants in the household effectively raising the dependency ratio.[31]

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[27]   Wong, Joyce and Uma Ramakrishnan (2017), *Crime and Youth Unemployment in the Caribbean*, International Monetary Fund.
[28]   The Caribbean Development Bank routinely conducts Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) in the Caribbean..
[29]   As defined by the World Bank and the UN, below the international poverty line of USD$1.90. See for example, UNICEF and the World Bank Group (2016), *Ending Extreme Poverty: a Focus on Children*.
[30]   Data for 2016, compiled in the SDG Indicators Global Database, see https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=1.1.1
[31]   Stuart, Sheila, Lydia Rosa Gény and Abdullahi Abdulkadri. (2018), *Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, ECLAC Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No. 60, p.23.

While there are no in-depth studies in the Caribbean establishing a direct causal link between unemployment and poverty for the youth, data from poverty studies have indicated that the unemployment rate is higher for those living in poorer households. The 2011 United Nations Common Country Assessment (UNCCA) in Jamaica provides valuable insights into the key challenges faced by Caribbean young people: in a context of low growth and inequity, youth are particularly affected by the attending structural constraints. The 2012 Situation Assessment of Youth in Jamaica shows that poverty is often transmitted across generations, expressing the concern that youth who consider themselves to be excluded from decision-making processes and who are frustrated by poverty may opt to find alternate – including underground – avenues to survive, with serious social and economic consequences.[32]

Table 4
Poverty rate by age in selected Caribbean countries
(Percentages)

Country	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All persons	Poverty line (*dollars per adult male per year*)	Year
Antigua and Barbuda	24.6	21.6	14.0	15.3	15.2	18.4	2 366	2005-2006
Belize	50.0	43.0	35.0	31.0	34.0	41.3	1 715	2009
Bahamas[a]	13.9	9.1	4.9	3.5	6.3	9.3	2 863	2001
Dominica	38.7	29.1	27.2	21.2	23.0	28.8	2 307	2008-2009
Grenada	50.8	47.7	33.0	24.8	13.3	37.7	2 164	2007-2008
Jamaica	20.2	18.6	11.9	14.0	18.7	16.5	...	2009
Saint Kitts and Nevis	31.3	28.0	17.6	10.9	10.6	21.8	2 714	2007
Saint Lucia	36.9	32.5	25.0	21.3	19.1	28.8	1 905	2005-2006
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	38.1	36.1	28.0	21.7	18.8	30.2	2 046	2007-2008
Trinidad and Tobago	23.0	22.1	15.6	11.5	6.7	16.7	...	2005
Average (simple)	32.8	28.8	21.2	17.5	16.6	25.0	...	...
Average (population weighted)	24.1	21.9	15.1	14.3	15.6	18.8	...	...

Source: Country poverty assessments and ECLAC – calculations based on Surveys of Living Conditions.
in Jones, Francis (2016)*, Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons*, ECLAC, Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No.45, p.32.
[a] Figures correspond to the following age groups: 5-14, 15-19, 35-54, 55-64, 65+

D.   Youth and education

Secondary school enrolment rates vary widely across the Caribbean from 61 percent in Suriname to over 90 percent in several countries of the Caribbean (96 percent in Cuba, 95 percent in Barbados, 94 percent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 93 percent in Guyana) but in average are higher than global levels,[33] with a strong gender bias in favour of female youth. Socioeconomic conditions and urban/rural location impact access to and quality of available education.

However, in most Caribbean countries, educational infrastructure and the quality of teaching still need to be improved. Several authors, including CARICOM[34] and ECLAC,[35] note the significant accomplishments in the Education sector while still emphasising that "member States recognise that severe systemic and cultural deficiencies threaten the contribution of their respective Human Resource Development sectors to national and regional development". [36] In the *Caribbean Outlook*, ECLAC points out that despite good progress in secondary school enrolment, years of educational attainment, and relatively high levels of budgetary expenditures devoted to education, there are still major challenges to

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[32]   United Nations Jamaica Country Team (2011), *United Nations Common Country Assessment: Jamaica*.
[33]   The global net secondary school enrolment is 76%. World Bank Education Statistics, 2016.
[34]   CARICOM (2017), *Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy*. Endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government at their 38th Regular Meeting, Grand Anse, Grenada, July 2017.
[35]   ECLAC (2018), *Caribbean Outlook*, ECLAC – Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No. 42.
[36]   CARICOM (2017), *Op. cit.*, p. 29.

overcome in the area of education. These include low school performance, especially in Mathematics and English Language and a low pass through rate in the region from secondary to tertiary education – a rate that at about 15 percent is much less than half the OECD average.[37]

E.   Impact of crime on youth

Homicide rates are widely recognised as an indicator of the levels of violence within a society and, as referenced in a recent IMF study,[38] the highest homicide rates in the world are found in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. LAC also ranks first in the world in terms of deaths from violence among young people: 77 out of 100 deaths among young men are caused by violence. Within the LAC region, the study indicates that homicide rates in the Caribbean are generally higher than those of countries in the LAC region, but below those of Central America and a common trend among the five Caribbean countries surveyed is the dominance of violent crimes.[39]

Young people are both the primary victims and perpetrators of crime in the Caribbean with reports of victims of violent crime being predominantly between the ages of 18 to 30 and of lower levels of income, while 80 percent of prosecuted crimes were committed by people aged 17 to 29 years.[40] Victimisation rates for assault and threat also differ greatly when analysed by gender, age, and income. In fact, rates for male victims are significantly higher than for women, as well as for youth ages 18–30. Although males are the main perpetrators and victims of crime and violence, females are the main victims of domestic, intimate partner, and sexual violence.

F.   Adolescent fertility rates in the Caribbean

The sexual and reproductive health of young people in the subregion is highly differentiated but in general there is an early beginning of sexual life, with relatively high use of contraceptives and exposure to STD risks. It is estimated that adolescent pregnancy rates have risen among the disadvantaged (estimated at 20-35 percent of 17-year-old girls), with adolescent pregnancy presented as one of the main factors restricting access to education and work. Statistics from country reports present a very difficult environment for girl children in the Caribbean with main vulnerabilities identified in the areas of fertility patterns, threats from HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse and violence, human trafficking, educational barriers and economic insecurity.[41]

In Guyana, on average 9 percent of adolescent girls aged 15-19 are mothers, with the average age of first sex for in-school youths, both boys and girls, at 13 and half years, and the age of consent at 16 years old. However, it is worth highlighting that the adolescent fertility rate has decreased in all 17 territories analysed except Guyana (cf. Table 5). Countries like Grenada (-58 percent), Saint Lucia (-53 percent) and The Bahamas (-52 percent) now record less than half the number of teenage pregnancies registered in the 1990s. This is a remarkable improvement for the region as captured in Figure 6. Despite this important advance, the reintegration of teenage mothers into the education system remains a challenge. Many of the teenage mothers do not go back to school after giving birth due to an unwritten policy of discriminatory administrative or bureaucratic practices.[42]

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[37]   Enrolment across the subregion varies – in Jamaica post-secondary enrolment now approaches 30 percent and is even higher in Barbados, while in some countries, such as Guyana and Saint. Lucia, it is much lower. www:oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm

[38]   Alleyne, Trevor et al (2017), *Unleashing growth and strengthening resilience in the Caribbean*, International Monetary Fund.

[39]   IMF reports that the number of victims of assault and threat as a share of the population (6.8 percent) is markedly higher than in any other region of the world, with the highest levels of assault and threat in the Caribbean at nearly twice the world average. By comparison, property crimes (theft and burglary) in the Caribbean are relatively low compared with the international scale. *Ibidem*.

[40]   Zimmermann, Robert; Carol Lawes and Nanette Svenson (2012), *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security*, UNDP, p. 34. On this matter, see also Sutton, Heather and Inder Ruprah (2017), *Restoring paradise in the caribbean: combatting violence with numbers*, Inter-American Development Bank, pp. 85-85.

[41]   Mondesire, Alicia (2015), *Caribbean synthesis review and appraisal report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, ECLAC – Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean, No. 42.

[42]   *Idem*, p. 33.

Table 5
Adolescent birth rates in the Caribbean by country, 1990-2015

(births to women aged 15-19 per 1,000 women of that age)

	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	Variation (%)
Antigua and Barbuda	71.9	68.7	62.8	55.5	49.3	-31.5
Aruba	49.1	47.3	41.1	33.9	28.5	-42.0
Bahamas	69.6	61.9	44.0	39.4	32.8	-52.9
Barbados	57.9	52.0	49.1	47.9	46.9	-19.0
Belize	121.7	106.3	91.2	76.2	69.7	-42.7
Curaçao	51.5	43.5	36.7	33.7	34.2	-33.7
Grenada	83.5	61.5	51.2	42.4	35.4	-57.6
Guadeloupe	25.8	21.8	20.3	18.8	15.8	-38.8
Guyana	88.8	92.7	100.2	92.6	90.1	1.4
Jamaica	97.7	93.8	84.0	74.0	60.8	-37.8
Martinique	28.7	26.0	24.5	24.2	21.1	-26.4
Puerto Rico	73.2	72.4	65.4	50.6	43.8	-40.2
Saint Lucia	94.6	69.8	54.6	48.2	44.2	-53.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	88.0	76.1	64.6	58.9	54.5	-38.0
Suriname	66.0	60.8	56.3	52.3	49.3	-25.3
Trinidad and Tobago	56.1	44.3	38.4	38.1	34.8	-37.9
United States Virgin Islands	77.0	64.5	49.4	50.0	47.3	-38.6

Source: UN population division

Figure 6
Adolescent birth rates for seventeen Caribbean countries, 1990 to 2015

(births to women aged 15-19 per 1,000 women of that age)
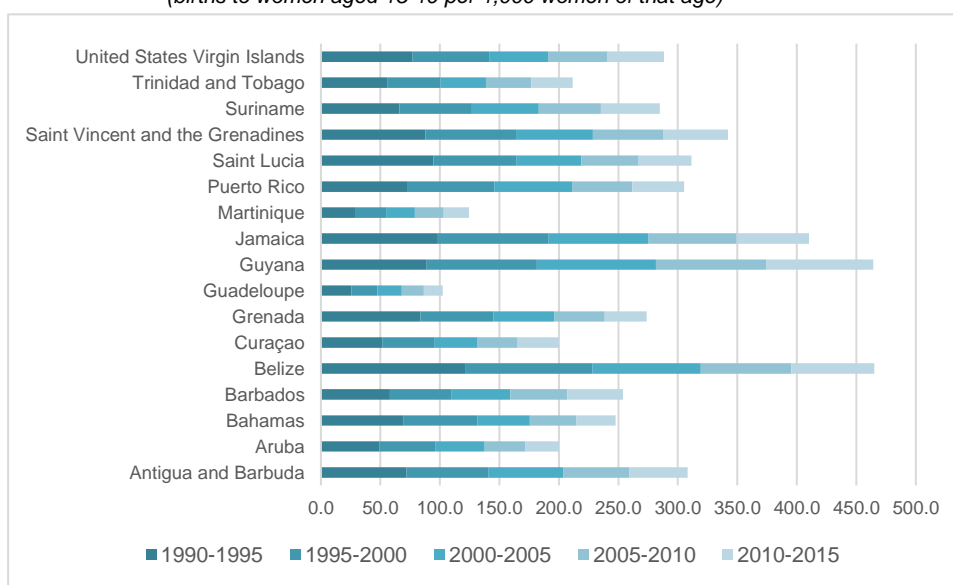
Source: UN population division.

Reports from UNICEF reveal that young women in the 15-19 age group face health risks and even death due to difficulties in pregnancy and childbirth, with maternal mortality rates five times higher than women in the 20 to 25 age group. While these trends are found in many developing countries, the eastern Caribbean is reported to have remarkably high maternal death rates among the teen age population. The correlation between teenage pregnancy and school dropout rates is also noted: in Jamaica, 50 percent of teen girls who had dropped out of secondary school gave pregnancy as their reason for dropping out, and were unable to attend school consistently after the pregnancy.[43]

G.   HIV/AIDS among young women and adolescent girls

An important challenge for Caribbean youth remains the effective control of HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS data, HIV prevalence in the Caribbean has been stable over the last decade with a reported HIV prevalence of 1 percent among youth and an estimated 310,000 people living with the disease at the end of 2016. Through programmes such as the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV 2014-2018, significant results have been achieved over the last decade in terms of a 52 percent reduction in AIDS-related deaths and a decline of five percent in new infections. However, and as referecend in the UN Global AIDS report, young women remain at unacceptably high risk of HIV infection. In 2016, young women in the Caribbean accounted for 22 percent of new HIV infections,[44] despite making up just 8 percent of the population. Young people in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially those who are also members of key populations, are disproportionately at risk of HIV infection. Factors contributing to this are the barriers young people face to accessing prevention services,[45] cultural practices of early initiation of sexual activity and the lack of knowledge of HIV prevention among young people: UNAIDS reports that knowledge of HIV prevention varies widely across the Caribbean countries, with countries such as The Bahamas, which has the highest HIV prevalence rate of the region (3.3 percent among adults aged 15 to 49) reporting that only 4.4 percent of their youth aged 15-24 has HIV prevention information of which only 2.8 percent young women aged 15-24 had knowledge about HIV prevention.

H.   Youth development in the Caribbean

The Youth Development Index (YDI)[46] measures the status of 15-29 year-olds according to five key domains measuring levels of education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation for young people. The Youth Development rankings over the past five years show progress for all of the 19 countries in the LAC region with the exception of only two – Haiti, a country which is still recovering from the devastating 2010 earthquake, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, mostly due to a deterioration in terms of political participation.

The Caribbean had solid improvement in levels of youth development between 2010 and 2015, increasing its overall YDI score by approximately 2.6 percent. Trinidad and Tobago made notable progress in its YDI score, showing the largest improvement in the LAC region, raising its YDI score by 10 percent between 2010 and 2015 because of a large improvement in its scores for the Civic Participation and Political Participation domains. On the other hand, the 8 percent drop in Haiti's YDI score was also the highest for any country in the region; while Saint Vincent and The Grenadines' score deteriorated by 4 percent. Despite Haiti's operational plan for 2010–2015, putting main focus on its education reform, the lack of a NYP has led to a large decline in Haiti's score in the Political Participation domain.

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[43]   *Idem*, p. 34.
[44]   UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (2017), *Ending AIDS: Progress towards the 90–90–90 targets*, Global AIDS update 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.
[45]   UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (2016), *The Prevention Gap Report*. In nine out of 17 countries, minors require parental or guardian consent to take an HIV test and find out the results. A few countries in the Caribbean have developed policies allowing minors to access HIV testing without parental consent, either allowing it at any age (such as in Guyana) or above the age of 14 (as in Trinidad and Tobago).
[46]   The YDI is a composite index of 18 indicators developed by The Commonwealth that collectively measure multi-dimensional progress on youth development in 183 countries, including 49 of the 53 Commonwealth countries. YDI scores range from 0-1, 0 being the lowest youth development and 1 the highest. The YDI is guided by the Commonwealth definition of youth as people between the ages of 15 and 29, while recognising that some countries and international institutions define youth differently.

Caribbean countries have experienced a general progress in YDI rankings over a five-year period leading up to 2016 (Table 6) and most are featured among high or very high YDI countries with the exception of Belize and Haiti who have attained medium to low Youth Development performance. However, within the Youth Development Index rankings, employment, as a composite index, underperforms some other Youth Development factors, especially for Belize, Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti, as visible in Figure 7.

Table 6
Caribbean Youth Development Index, 11 countries, 2015

	Civic Participation	Education	Employment and Opportunity	Health and Wellbeing	Political Participation	YDI Overall Score
Antigua and Barbuda	0.62	0.80	0.48	0.77	0.54	0.66
Bahamas	0.62	0.82	0.51	0.74	0.54	0.66
Belize	0.47	0.67	0.33	0.73	0.86	0.61
Barbados	0.62	0.96	0.50	0.77	0.87	0.75
Cuba	0.91	0.78	0.48	0.86	0.33	0.67
Dominican Republic	0.71	0.74	0.48	0.79	0.73	0.68
Grenada	0.62	0.83	0.50	0.69	0.58	0.65
Haiti	0.46	0.65	0.42	0.45	0.36	0.48
Jamaica	0.95	0.78	0.53	0.72	0.72	0.71
Saint Lucia	0.62	0.81	0.49	0.76	0.37	0.64
Trinidad and Tobago	0.83	0.85	0.30	0.60	0.76	0.63
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.62	0.79	0.51	0.73	0.37	0.63

Source: The Commonwealth Youth Development Index and Report, 2016.

Figure 7
Caribbean YDI, radar chart of sub-component scores, 2015
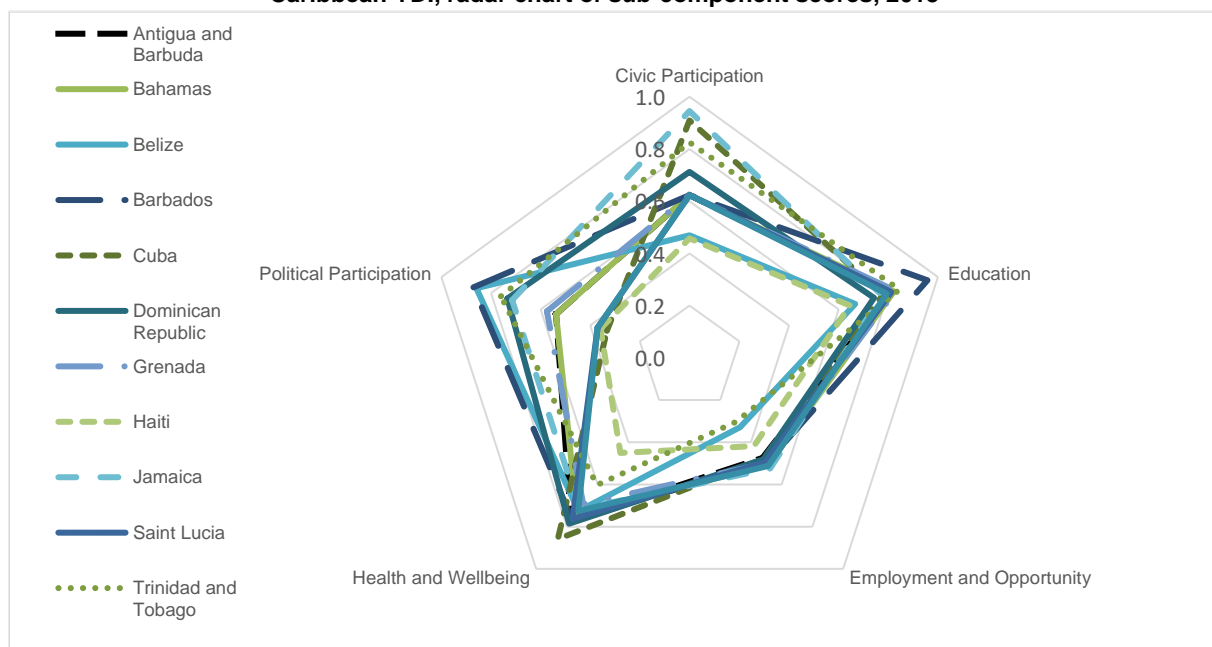
I.   **The role of youth policy in youth development**

The difficult circumstances that Caribbean citizens experience in many countries of the subregion affect young people in a disproportionate manner because of limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment and health and social services, and because of a growing incidence of substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. At subregional level, the following trends are observed:

- Longer and more complex transitions from childhood to adult life, partly as a consequence of a difficult labour market, but also as a global trend as life expectancy rises and more education and training is expected of young people.

- Very high youth unemployment and over-representation of young people in marginal and precarious employment.

- High dependency rates with reliance on family structures and social support systems.

- Despite important improvements, an education system that still reflects low school performance and a low pass through rate from secondary to tertiary education.

- Increasing violence suffered and committed by youth, with significant health risks.

- Significant improvements in adolescent fertility rates and overall youth development index.

These trends should inform the development of relevant policies and programmes to address the shortcomings experienced and consolidate the gains made in youth development in the Caribbean.

As reflective of the global trend, young people in Caribbean countries comprise a relatively smaller proportion of the total population because of generally lower birth rates and longer life expectancy. Notwithstanding the lower ratio adults to youth in some cases, youth comprise today a social group that is particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by crime, unemployment and poverty, and other impacts of persistent hunger and poverty that impact access to education, health and other essential services. Caribbean youth are also struck by diverse uncertainties regarding their future, in part due to climate change and demographic transition but which are further enhanced by an economically vulnerable region with limited appropriate opportunities for youth employment. As they move into work, today's generation of Caribbean youth will face an increased burden in supporting the remainder of the growing population who will depend on the working-age group, for example, in terms of maintaining quality public health and education systems, as well as pension schemes.

Despite these challenges, which are already being observed and addressed globally, Caribbean young people represent an important resource for the sustainable development of the subregion and can potentially be key agents of change, at the social, economic and environmental levels. The ways in which the challenges and potentials of young people in the Caribbean are addressed by policy will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations. Youth can contribute with their creativity and impetus in the design and implementation of innovative youth policies and programmes at all levels, articulated meaningfully to promote a new development path towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Review of the implementation of the Lisbon declaration on Youth policies and programmes

Information provided by Member and Associate Member Countries revealed the increasing application of the Lisbon declaration and the continuing development of national youth policies and programmes to support its implementation. The majority of CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries have progressed in developing a NYP, be it recently passed, current, in draft, or otherwise incipient while only five NYPs have accompanying Action Plans. With the majority of active NYPs developed during the previous five years, a second generation of youth policies is emerging imbedded in a new, 'Baku oriented' policy design, one that is rights-based, inclusive, participatory, comprehensive, gender-sensitive, global/intersectoral, evidence-informed, etc.

However, there are a number of identifiable weaknesses or shortcomings in the implementation of youth policies and programmes. These weaknesses, which point to the need to improve on the implementation of the Declaration, are highlighted as follows:

- Not all respondents to the questionnaire recognized that Youth coordination mechanisms are responsible for ensuring opportunities for widest participation: civic, economic and political.

- Some countries appeared to implement and monitor their NYP routinely. Others, with similar levels of development activity and similar possibilities to implement National Youth policies and programmes, appeared to be more reluctant or unable to embark on consultations and so limited their experience in the application of the Declaration.

- Few countries had had experience of carrying out post-project analysis.

- There was a continuing need for countries to achieve coherence in, inter alia, language, the monitoring frameworks, the time frames and deadlines, the procedural steps, the timing of public participation, the interpretation of various terms in legislative frameworks (including "children" "youth", "youth-serving"), the content of the National Youth Policy and the requirement for evaluation, and to identify external and internal partnership agreements to advance youth policy implementation and intended development results.

- Gender equality, Hunger and Poverty, and Globalisation, under-represented in earlier youth policies still do not appear to be adequately represented in discrete policy actions and programmes commensurate with the importance of these topics in the Caribbean contexts for social justice, rights and genuine inclusion.

A.   Comparative analysis on country actions to implement National Youth policies:

1. Summary of actions undertaken by governments on NYP

The NYPs of the Caribbean took on certain common characteristics:

- Relative standardisation of the legal definition of youth as a range of 10-29, influenced equally by CYDAP and PAYE. Some older NYPs still retain ranges of 0-35 (Antigua and Barbuda).

- Focus on education, employment, health, participation and safety and security in all policies.

- Deliberate programming on life skills building for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training" (NEET) and at-risk youth, vocational skills and employability skills for the job market, and the introduction of dedicated entrepreneurship programming.

- Changed paradigms on youth participation and access as a right, on youth as assets and enablers of their own development; and on ensuring the provision of youth-friendly services, including in the health sector to reduce systematic barriers to participation.

- More deliberate preparation and the inclusion of diverse youth in the social research agenda in support of policy formulation.

- Establishment of or enhanced support to youth movements and networks for roles in national youth programming, and for wider representation of youth in decision-making in varying thematic issues in regional and global fora.

- Contextual precision to Caribbean realities in the articulation of policy priorities on youth crime and violence especially gang violence, to manage behaviour transformation, impulsive risk taking leading to conflicts with the law, on restorative justice and other alternative sentencing for justice-involved youth.

- Attempts for more comprehensive coverage of WPAY priority areas, for example, the integration of strategies on girls and women (gender), ICTs, leisure, intergenerational issues and the environment as "cross-cutting" to the five core priority areas.

- A focus on building a culture of multisectoral supports and collaboration for youth policy formulation and implementation.

- Research on youth and building capacity for data collection, compilation and use for youth policy and programming.

- Promoting youth mainstreaming as indispensable to the realisation of policy goals and successful youth outcomes.

- Focus on strengthening youth ministries and departments as main coordinating bodies for youth policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation and focus on professionalising youth work.

These three latter policy pathways included in NYPs are very significant. They reflect a genuine interest and paced progression towards professional youth work science, notably in the management of youth departments in the public sector. They mirror the commitments of Lisbon Declaration to ensuring a

sound environment for youth formulation as well as monitoring and evaluation of its outcomes and impact.[47]

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[47]   The CYDAP Goal 5 and in the PAYE Action Points 3, 12 and 13 also provided guidelines in these areas.

Table 7
The Status of National Youth Policies in CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries

CDCC	Name of Document	Policy Year	Main Agency	Status | Comments
1. Anguilla	Anguilla National Youth Policy	Updated 2012	Department of Youth and Culture, Ministry of Social Development	Anguilla recently prepared a request (with effect from May 2018) for technical assistance to review the NYP.
2. Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua And Barbuda National Youth Policy – *Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today*	2007	Youth Department, Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development	Unknown
3. Aruba	1st Integral Youth Policy 2015-2020 for Aruba: "Generation of Leaders"	2015	Unknown	Target group is 0 to 18 years
4. The Bahamas	The Commonwealth of The Bahamas National Youth Policy – "Engaging, Empowering, and Enabling Our Youth	2014-2021	Department of Youth Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	Active
5. Barbados	The National Youth Policy of Barbados	October 2011	Division of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	Policy implementation and impacts under national review preparatory to revision
6. Belize	National Youth Development Policy of Belize	2012-2022	Department of Youth Services Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Policy being implemented within framework of available resources.
7. Bermuda	Children and Youth Engagement and Participation Policy	2018 draft	Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation falls under the Ministry of Youth, Families and Sports	Draft under review. Bermuda Government. Ministry of Community, Culture and Sport. Public Access to Information: Information Statement
8. British Virgin Islands	Virgin Islands National Youth Policy and Strategic Framework	2014-2019	Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education and Culture	Active
9. Cayman Islands	National Youth Policy	2011	Youth Services Unit Ministry of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture	Active

Table 7 (continued)

10. Cuba	No single youth policy. Several acts that integrate an enabling and developmental framework Priorities for education, employment and health sectors	Constitution of the Republic (1976), Law 1285/1975 – the Family Code, Law 16/1978 – Childhood and Youth Code, Law 49/1984 – the Labour Code, Social Security Laws No. 24/1979 and No. 105/2009, Law 51/1985 -the Civil Registry, Law 59/1987 – the Civil Code, Laws 62/1987 and 87/1999 – the Penal Code, Cuban Electoral Law 72/1992, Law 75/1994 – the National Defence and Decree-law 224/2001 of the Military Service.	Cuban Parliament has a Permanent Commission for the welfare of children, the young, and women's rights (1982).	Youth policies are managed and funded by the State, through relevant subject Ministry. Policies are governed by following principles • comprehensive approach, • social equity, • high participation, • differentiated treatment for disadvantaged social groups (Foro Latinoamericano, 2013)
11. Curacao	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12. Dominica	The Commonwealth Of Dominica National Youth Policy	2017-2022	Youth Development Division, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Constituency Empowerment.	Draft replaces the 2003 Policy. Awaiting official Cabinet approval.
13. Dominican Republic	General Youth Act 49 of 2000 (Ley *General De Juventud 49-2000*)	Passed in 2000. Entered into force in 2002.	Ministry of Youth *Ministerio de la Juventud (MJ)*	Review and reform of the Act recommended, among other things to (a) ensure adequate and appropriate resource allocations to programmes (b) professional youth workers are installed to manage programming (c) better integration of national youth structures in implementation of programming (Red Nacional de Acción Juvenil, 2011)
14. Grenada	National Youth Policy	2015-2020	Ministry of Youth, Sports and Ecclesiastical Affairs	Approved by Parliament on Dec. 18, 2015. Active
15. Guadeloupe	Guadeloupe Integrated Youth Policy *(Schéma des Politiques de Jeunesse de Guadeloupe)*	Developed March 2014. Not in effect.	Departmental Council of Guadeloupe	Policy recommended 10 main goals for youth 16-25 relating to education opportunities for school dropouts and NEET entry into the world of work, youth mental health, reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism, civic engagement, youth rights, access and opportunities, support for parents and families, outreach to youth in their spaces, integrating youth services and support, improving quality of life for vulnerable Youth

Table 7 (continued)

16. Guyana	National Youth Policy 2015 of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana	2015	Ministry of Education, Department of Youth	Adopted by the National Assembly on October 13. 2016 ((DPI/GINA, June 2016).
17. Haiti	None		Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action	USAID/Haiti Youth Assessment Report 2016 recommends "an integrated youth policy as a guiding framework for the effective transformation of the Haitian youth development landscape". Current youth-led advocacy and partnership agenda for the development of a new Youth Policy.
18. Jamaica	National Youth Policy 2017	2017-2030	Youth and Adolescent Division, Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	The National Youth Policy was approved in November 2017.
19. Martinique	No data available	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable.
20. Montserrat	National Youth Policy Montserrat	None	Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports	Several National Drafts with effect from 2004. Most recent (2nd Revised Policy Draft) April 2013
21. Puerto Rico	No data available	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable.
22. Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis Federal Youth Policy	2017-2022	Ministry of Education, Youth Sports and Culture	Draft completed in March 2017. Policy read and approved in Parliament in November 2017.
23. Saint Lucia	National Youth Policy – *A Shared Vision and Commitment for Achieving the Full Potential of Young People in Saint Lucia*	2016-2021	Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports and Local Government	Draft Policy completed in August 2016. Public consultations on draft completed in May 2018. Policy to be submitted for Cabinet approval
24. Sint Maarten	Draft		Department of Youth, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport	Draft NYP includes policies for Youth in different developmental phases; early childhood (0-6 years), childhood (7-12 years), adolescence (13-18 years) and Young adulthood (19-24 years).
25. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Youth Policy Document	1996	Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth	Outdated. Efforts ongoing to secure technical assistance for policy review

Table 7 (continued)

26.	Suriname	Integrated Child and Youth Policy (ICYP)	2014	Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Spots and Youth Affairs	Policy for persons 0-21 years. Young adults 22-29 not included but there is guidance under CARICOM's CYDAP for this population and the Declaration of Paramaribo of January 2010 relating to Youth 12-29.
27.	Trinidad and Tobago	Republic of Trinidad and Tobago National Youth Policy	2012-2017	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs	Island-wide consultations are currently ongoing (May 2018) to commence the NYP review and redrafting with effect from September 2018
28.	Turks and Caicos Islands	Turks And Caicos Islands National Youth Policy	2012	Department of Youth Affairs Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Policy active. Scheduled 5-year revision currently under consideration.
29.	US Virgin Islands	No data available	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

2. Status of National Youth Policies and Programmes of Action in the Caribbean

In addition to the supportive guidance from CARICOM and The Commonwealth to Governments for youth policy formulation, there has been consistent well-subscribed guidance to states since the Lisbon Declaration. There are varying youth policy guides and youth-specific subject area guides such as the Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship (UNCTAD, 2015). DESA's WPAY Guide 2006 is an excellent resource for framing policy recommendations and corresponding programmes. Youth policy trends in different regions of the world are readily accessible as well as global policy documents for research and comparison, latterly through the youthpolicy.org website.

With the work of the UN system and the more recent high-level outreach, education and global youth participation agenda of the Office of the UN Envoy on Youth, more young people are engaged in youth policy direction and development at strategic levels. In The Bahamas and Belize, youth policy formulation was driven by a group of interested young people who managed the accountability agenda to its completion. The Permanent Regional Conference of Youth in Guadeloupe produced their multi-sectoral youth policy agenda for persons 16-25 years old in 2014 (Schéma des Politiques de Jeunesse, 2014) and the Antillean Youth Federation (FAJ) lists, among its core tasks, "following, testing and advising on youth policy".[48]

The status of youth policies and programmes in the Caribbean has also been driven by the requirement of reporting. Meetings of Ministers of Youth convened by CARICOM and The Commonwealth receive updates on the status of national youth policies and serve as both awakening and technical assistance catalyst to complete NYPs.

In 2009, eleven out of the fifteen Member States and four out of five Associate Member countries and territories (75 percent) of CARICOM had a National Youth Policy guiding some aspects of their work. Most were over five years old, with some developed in the late nineties. None included Action Plans or active M&E structures. The five priority areas of Lisbon Declaration and WPAY most represented in CARICOM youth policies at that time were: Youth Employment, Education, Youth Participation, Leisure and Sports and Culture, and Youth Health / Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. Crime, Drugs and Violence was next in importance. However, priority areas such as Gender Equality, and the Environment were not well integrated, nor were youth and ICTs at that time.

Available data (see Annexes 4-6) indicate that:

- Twenty-three out of the twenty-nine (79 percent) CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries have some iteration of a NYP, be it recently passed, current, in draft, or otherwise incipient. Nineteen of the twenty (95 percent) CARICOM members and associate members of CDCC have some iteration of a NYP.

- Five NYPs have accompanying Action Plans (Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia Montserrat).

- NYPs of four other CDCC members (British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) contain guidelines for the formulation of Action Plans and implementation mechanisms.

- Sixteen out seventeen CDCC members and associates (94%) whose NYPs were available for review, provide for the establishment of, or support to, youth-led movements to ensure youth participation in decision-making and for policy support (cf. Annex 5).

- The majority of active NYPs were developed during the previous five years: Aruba (2015), Bahamas (2014), Belize (2012-2022) British Virgin Islands (2014), Dominica (2017), Grenada (2015), Guadeloupe (2014), Guyana (2015), Jamaica (2015) Montserrat (2013); Saint Kitts and Nevis (2017), Saint Lucia (2016).

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[48]   https://faj.cw/en/

- Five CDCC members (Anguilla, Barbados, Bermuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos) have mobilised for policy review, with the intention to complete updated policies in 2018.

The Commonwealth, specifically the CYP, has been influential in rallying commitment and maintaining motivation for the establishment of NYPs, providing technical assistance to five countries in the last three years to draft new youth policies. The Commonwealth also solidified a culture of professional youth work, commencing with its Youth Work certification in the 1980s, and culminating in the Bachelor of Science in Youth Development Work, which is a degree programme that is now available through the UWI Open Campus.

These are all contributing factors to the establishment of NYPs that were part of a major learning curve and paradigm shift about youth policy, moving away from anecdotal work and elections-driven promises to youth towards evidence-based youth development. The finalisation in 2016 of the YDI supports the evidence-based pillar in the theory of change in youth development. CARICOM with its accompanying M&E framework guide for the CYDAP has also supported this critical focus.

B.   A review of thematic areas in Caribbean Policies

Youth is not a sector. The current and emerging priorities in national and global ecosystems are all relevant in shaping a policy environment for young people. This is part of the principle of youth mainstreaming where the implications for youth of trends, developments and investments must be taken into consideration. The Lisbon Declaration of 1998 established this important context with its recommendations on youth mainstreaming and WPAY facilitated wider understanding of the multisectoral approach to youth policy given that young people's access and development must address compounded risks and concerns that coexist across multiple domains.

According to the WPAY Guide 2006, the 15 priority areas are "interrelated and intrinsically linked". It is intended that the recommendations for each priority area should be customized to local contexts and circumstances and for implementation of WPAY to be managed through partnerships commitment of multiple entities at the national, regional and international levels, including parliamentarians, government ministries and agencies, local government, youth, parents and caregivers, media, civil society, private sector, and the international community.

As established previously, the NYPs of CDCC Members whose NYPs were available for scrutiny, and those responding to the subregional survey were influenced by the CYDAP and the PAYE, both of which regional policies were developed to align with the WPAY. The exception is Bermuda, whose 2018 draft Children and Youth Engagement and Participation Policy covers the age range 5 to 25 years old. It seeks to enhance genuine participation of young people in education, health and wellness, sports, the Arts, overall culture in Bermuda, and to prevent anti-social behaviours. This policy references the Australian and Canadian "Engagement Spectrum" in developing the context and scope for meaningful participation in decision-making.

The following sections describe the respective priority areas in WPAY and how they have been represented in Caribbean NYPs under review.

1. Youth and the Global Economy

Priority areas: Education, Employment, Hunger & poverty, and Globalisation.

Education
This priority area details education as a basic human right to help the individual to realise their full human potential, and recommends measures for young people to acquire the knowledge and competencies to manage in all spheres throughout their lifetime, focusing on:

- Responsive and appropriate youth training programmes.

- Government action to strengthen links between youth and employers.

- Educational needs and circumstances of girls and young women to remove barriers to educational attainment and managing gender-based violence (GBV) and gender inequality.

- Non-formal learning for school drop-outs and re-entry, relearning and second chance programming.

- Learning about HIV/AIDS in the classroom with the expected outcome of better education leading to lower rates of infection.

Education as a priority area was included in all NYPs under review, with a universal concern for education and curricula reforms to meet the emerging learning needs of youth for life and for employment. For example, NYPs largely recommended enhanced access and variety in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), with Belize recommending agriculture education and other non-traditional education as viable education options, and improved teacher quality and classroom experiences. NYPs also commonly recommended enhanced tertiary education opportunities for youth, and universal secondary access consistent with SDG Goal 4 targets including for school drop-outs and other young people out of the formal system for extended periods. Most NYPs also included actions for young people who required special supports such as teen parents, youth in rural communities (Belize and Trinidad and Tobago) and hinterland and indigenous youth (Guyana), and for children with learning and physical disabilities as well as gifted children (Antigua and Barbuda). These provisions aligned with the result area of responsive and appropriate youth training programmes were well represented in all NYPs, with linkages to the opportunities and challenges for youth in the formal education system.

On the link between education and employers, the NYP of Grenada elaborated action points for "education that prepares and supports youth participation in the labour market" while Dominica spoke to creating "opportunities for young people to acquire the requisite skills, competencies and experience to access existing and emerging employment opportunities", and Saint Kitts and Nevis recommended more linkages to meet changing labour market demands and to enhance the support base for more inclusive youth transitions to the labour market. Other NYPs opted to reserve the action point on strengthening links between youth and employers for their employment priority area.

Recommendations specific to girls and young women were not found in the majority of NYPs reviewed. The exceptions were Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda with action points to strengthen programmes and initiatives to ensure pregnant teens and teenage mothers could continue their education. Guyana's NYP recommended social and economic supports to improve school attendance by girls, and promoted the participation of girls in non-traditional and vocational education.

NYPs were also comprehensive in their coverage of the needs of youth for informal and non-formal education such as the case of The Bahamas, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, which included "lifelong learning, consistent with needs and aspirations of youth" (Saint Lucia) in the education priority area. Non-formal education provisions considered life cycle needs of young people and availability and access to a range of informal and non-formal opportunities. Saint Kitts and Nevis recommended national literacy and numeracy measurement, and adult literacy and remedial learning programmes to meet needs of youth.

Most NYPs also contained recommendations that integrated important contributing factors to young people's educational attainment and outcomes. There were a variety of recommendations calling for enhanced opportunities and access to arts, ICT based learning and non-traditional subjects for youth. Barbados, The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, and Saint Kitts and Nevis among other NYPs, included actions promoting youth input in decision making in and about the education system, and the creation of student/peer-led movements to represent students' social wellbeing, interests, and academic life representative of the diversity of the school population. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and Jamaica, among others, recommended approaches to secure enhanced parenting involvement in the school system to contribute to better education outcomes for young people.

HIV/AIDS in the classroom, as well as the range of public health and sexual and reproductive health issues of adolescent and youth populations, were integrated into the health priority area.

Employment

This priority area covers a comprehensive framework to reduce employment and address inequities, consistent with the ILO's Youth Employment Network (YEN)'s strategy in areas of employability of young people through investments in training and education; entrepreneurship; employment creation; and ensuring equal opportunities for decent work for men and women, and recommends action to:

- Monitor the needs of the labour market and create more jobs for youth.

- Taking measures to ensure decent work in the informal economy.

- Expanding economic opportunities for youth through volunteering and youth service programmes, microfinance, youth financial inclusion, and youth entrepreneurship.

Employment inclusive of youth entrepreneurship was the priority area most elaborated in all Caribbean NYPs, and recommended actions were consistent with the recommended WPAY framework given the high levels of unemployment in the Caribbean. Measures for "decent work", in the context established by the ILO were incorporated into NYPs of Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis to address high unemployment, with Guyana's NYP analysis reporting youth unemployment to be "hovering" around 40 percent and youth entrepreneurship as low and "unsupported", Grenada's youth policy survey revealing that 40 percent of the respondents were unemployed, with a higher number of females unemployed or employed part-time, and respondents to the youth policy survey in Saint Kitts and Nevis indicating 50.3 percent were employed full time, 33.2 percent were unemployed, while 10.6 were employed part-time. Jamaica's NYP posited that the "challenge of youth employment requires an integrated policy mix, and interventions at the macro- and micro-economic levels to improve labour demand and supply, and the quantity and quality of employment".

In relation to entrepreneurship, a salient feature was the number of dedicated youth entrepreneurship schemes being managed over several years by Ministries of Youth in cooperation with different partners such as in Barbados, Dominica, and Grenada, and the sustained levels of youth-led businesses arising from these partnership initiatives. Such programming involved a package of supports, coaching and mentoring, and access to micro funds. Other NYPs such as Belize, British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis, recommended Government action to develop entrepreneurship programmes that met comprehensive needs of young people wanting to start up their own businesses. The Cayman Islands referred to a "Small Business Initiative' with the Department of Commerce to match interested young entrepreneurs with existing businesses to "spur entrepreneurial spirit". Dominica recognised the need to give more support to young entrepreneurs including through increased access to markets and non-financial supports. Guyana's mechanisms on youth entrepreneurship included efforts to protect youth innovation, intellectual property and patenting procedures, advocacy for a regional virtual regional clearing house to offer youth entrepreneurs improved access to Caribbean and South American markets, and the introduction of youth protection schemes that increase the Government's engagement of youth-owned businesses to at least 10 percent of annual government expenditure.

There were relevant linkages in this priority area to critical partners at national and regional levels to influence and enhance employment creation and entrepreneurship programming including, ILO, ECLAC, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) World Bank (Dominica) on a national youth employment data base and youth employment. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines pointed to the provision of Finance for Small Business and assistance from the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) for small business owners, but it was not indicated whether there are specific provisions for youth entrepreneurs.

NYPs of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, all recommended improved youth access to effective youth service or volunteerism initiatives as community builders and to some extent to enhance readiness for the world of employment.

Hunger and Poverty

This priority area focuses on addressing the impact of poverty on the access to resources as a social justice issue and recommended measures to mitigate young people's disproportionate vulnerability such as:

- Making involvement in agricultural sector attractive.

- Skills-training opportunities to promote income generation.

- Land grants for young citizens.

- Ensuring mechanisms to promote and link food production and distribution between rural and urban youth.

Most NYPs provided for improved access to resources under provisions of employment and youth entrepreneurship, with some recommending enhanced financial inclusion and equitable access for youth to financial services to enable business ownership, and land and home acquisitions. (Saint Kitts and Nevis). The British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands referred to social protections available in the wider national ecosystem for poverty alleviation, but it was not evident whether these contained youth-specific protections. Measures to promote youth involvement in agriculture were integrated within the employment priority area in some NYPs, with a focus on the equitable participation of young women and men into all aspects of agriculture as a sustainable livelihood for young people, for national food security, and as an enabler of overall development (Saint Lucia).

Several NYPs made deliberate pro-youth provisions to address land and housing ownership bearing in mind the chronic problems associated with both for young people. The Bahamas recommended that 22 percent of all government low-cost homes be reserved for young people under the age of 35 years who meet the basic mortgage requirements and creating a National Youth Land Trust Corporation so that Crown Lands could be reserved for young people to purchase. Belize recommended creating a "decentralized land tenure mechanism" to ensure young people's access to land titling and housing opportunities as part of the push for economic advancement and poverty reduction. Barbados included a separate poriority area on housing in response to the difficulty young people face to access affordable housing solutions, and included a specific action measure to provide young mothers, people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses with decent housing and the means to help themselves. The Cayman Islands also included measures to promote youth access to housing.

In general, while policy provisions in this area were a good start in addressing the scope of WPAY's hunger and poverty priority areas they were not explicit in addressing the specific needs of the most vulnerable Caribbean youth populations. These include youth who cannot attract credit and cannot qualify for loans for housing or land because of their lived circumstances, because they are female, because of their sexual identity, because they live in stigmatised zones or areas, or because they are justice-involved. Saint Kitts and Nevis's NYPs recommended a safe house/bridging facility for young people leaving prison, with attention to the "different needs and circumstances of young women and of young men". More attention is needed to establish successful interconnectedness to address compounded aspects of persistent poverty-specific vulnerability.

Globalisation
This priority focuses on the opportunities and challenges of globalisation and its impacts on youth, with attention to:

- Impacts on youth employment opportunities and migration patterns, youth culture and consumerism and global youth citizenship and activism.

- Issues of young migrants and other social and economic hardships faced by youth who are outside of the scope of NYPs and other protections.

- Providing young people with viable alternatives and incentives to stem brain drain especially in countries like Haiti and Jamaica where more than 80 percent of college educated workers were leaving.

- Rights and access of young migrants including through innovative approaches to deal with their rights, integration, economic and financial access and retain links to the home country.

Youth policies tended to respond to the challenges of globalisation in priority areas of education and employment. For example, Jamaica's NYP recommended "youth employment and skills development in the context of globalisation and technological innovation". Other NYPs recognised the need for

education and job readiness in their young citizens to take up opportunities of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), which allows free movement of graduates and skilled workers to work and live in CARICOM countries. There were no provisions to stem the youth brain drain. Belize referred to the challenge posed by migration, human trafficking and related crimes but no corresponding measures were found to manage youth risks in these areas. Provisions to ensure belonging and connectedness with national identity and culture were represented expressly in NYPs of The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago. In some cases, provisions on youth participation e.g. in Barbados, Dominica, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago embraced a larger perspective of preparation and readiness for responsible (global) citizenship.

Mindful of the increased numbers of migrant populations in some Caribbean countries, there were provisions made to address the growing anomaly of stateless youth consistent with CYDAP Goal 4, whose key outcomes included reduced "vulnerabilities of young people migrating in the region through legal and illegal channels,, as well as young family members left behind". Saint Kitts and Nevis's NYP included an action point to ensure "children born of foreign residents residing in the Federation can access an identity and identity documents". However, the NYP of The Bahamas was most comprehensive on the issue of societal dynamics of migrant youth, no doubt due to the large populations of 1st, 2nd and 3rd generations Haitian youth residing there. The NYP of The Bahamas spoke of "young stateless persons" unable to identify as Bahamian or with the nationality of their parents, and the resulting tension created "between Bahamians and immigrants, social unrest, force displacement and regional instability". The NYP included measures to protect stateless youth, to navigate requirements for citizen applications, and for Bahamians of Haitian descent to have (a) fair and equal access to grants (…) to assist them with developing themselves, (b) temporary work permits to qualify for various jobs pending a determination of their citizenship or naturalisation process (c) advocacy campaigns managed on their behalf by the Ministry of Youth to bring awareness and appreciation to the "many complex issues and challenges" with the view of sensitising the public to their plight, and (d) temporary status accorded by Government, pending complex process of determination of their citizenship rights.

2. Youth Health and Wellbeing

Priority areas: Health, HIV and AIDS, Girls and Young Women, Drug Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency, Youth in Armed Conflict.

Health
This priority area concentrated on enhanced access to information and services for young people's physical and mental wellbeing and addressing the range of health improvements for young people focusing on:

- Access to youth friendly health services including readily available information about where to access services in a timely manner to prevent escalation of health risks and fatalities.

- Development of health education programmes focusing on primary health knowledge, healthy life style behaviours and practices and overall health improvements for youth.

- Promotion of health services, including sexual and reproductive health rights, education and services.

Similar to the aforementioned priority areas, all NYPs included policy actions on youth health and wellbeing in all forms critical to the empowerment of young people with measures across a range of public health education, early intervention, treatment, and harm reduction for adolescents and youth to be available in schools and spaces that young people normally occupy. There were important linkages to the school system as a youth space for the promotion of health education and healthy practices, and to health sector policy roll-out managed by the Ministry of Health and targeting adolescents and youth. NYPs included measures to manage chronic life style diseases affecting young people in greater numbers, proper nutrition education, and the promotion of sports and physical literacy in schools and youth spaces for youth healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

Action points for youth programming on tobacco, alcohol and other substance abuse were integrated into public health education to achieve health improvements for young people. Special

recommendations to address mental health concerns of young people were addressed in NYPs of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis. Ensuring youth health improvements in cases of bullying, interpersonal violence, accidents, cyber bullying, and psychological trauma were also mentioned as youth wellbeing issues. Some policy actions for youth mental and emotional wellbeing were located in other priority areas such as in the domains of youth rights, genuine participation, and social inclusion.

Policy measures on youth access to youth-friendly services that were confidential, accessible, and respectful of youth diversity, were also largely covered. There was comprehensive focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights given the precedent established by CARICOM's CYDAP in this area.

HIV and AIDS
This priority area focuses on addressing how poverty, the lack of essential information, stigma, access to education and gender inequality can fuel the vulnerability of youth to HIV and AIDS and recommends action points on:

- Promotion of good sanitation and hygiene practices and prevention of disease and illness among youth resulting from poor health practices.

- Promoting healthier lifestyles including through discouraging substance abuse.

- Taking measures to protect children, adolescents and youth from neglect, abandonment and all types of exploitation and abuse, such as abduction, rape and incest, and pornography, trafficking and acts of paedophilia and prostitution.

- Combating malnutrition among young people.

Only Barbados has a separate policy goal to "enable young people to tackle lifestyle diseases, especially HIV/AIDS", with the NYP reflecting the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a critical of concern. Policy measures recommend prevention and coping with lifestyle diseases; a legal framework to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS; and aligning the age of consent with the age of access so that young persons have the right to get tested for HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) from age 16 without their parent's consent. Most NYP addressed HIV and AIDS in policy actions under Youth Health and Wellbeing specifically in terms of awareness, prevention, testing, counselling and treatment, with linkages to active programmes of the Ministry of Health and other Departments. Belize spoke of apps developed to increase HIV AIDS awareness and supports among youth. Cayman Islands prevention strategies are managed by the Red Cross and by the Cayman AIDS Foundation that educates students and adults. Grenada's NYP advocates for youth representation on the National HIV AIDS Committee. Belize has included the work of peer educators and youth leaders in HIV AIDS education and behaviour change under the HIV/AIDS PANCAP programme.

Most Caribbean countries operate within a legislative agenda of Children Protection Acts and Sexual Offences Acts that contain explicit provisions to protect children, adolescents and youth from abduction, rape and incest. Given their overarching protections and sanctions, such legislation should be integrated into NYP frameworks it would be generally useful and binding helpful if NYPs could incorporate these within the enabling environment of child protections. Child pornography, trafficking and acts of paedophilia and prostitution are however growing issues of concern for Caribbean Governments, and there is a responsibility under NYPs for a proactive programme of education, awareness building, peer supports and other services so that adolescents and youth are empowered as part of their own care and support system against these crimes that carry compounded health and safety risks to youth. It was noted that the NYP of Saint Kitts and Nevis in the domain of youth health and wellbeing recommends actions to manage the negative impacts of pornography on young people, and to enhance health outcomes for fringe populations and marginalised or vulnerable youth at risk of HIV and AIDS, including members of LGBTIQ population, sex workers, Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM), homeless youth, etc.

Girls and Young Women

This priority area emphasizes the need to achieve gender parity in key areas such as education, health and employment and manage systemically all forms of gender discrimination in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) through appropriate measures to:

- Scale up protective services for victims and eliminate violence against women.

- Ensure gender balanced environments within schools – from educational material to gendered streaming.

- Eliminate discriminatory laws and practices throughout society.

- Enforce national laws that protect young females from violence, abuse and exploitation, in all their forms.

- Ensure equal access to employment opportunities for young women and men mindful of gender roles and stereotypes.

Discrete provisions for girls and women in domains of education, health, employment and ICTs were underrepresented in Caribbean NYPs, even though the majority of policies adopted the principle of gender equality for youth development, which is also recommended in the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies. The articulation of the issues of women and girls in the responses are symptomatic of a very confined understanding of the topic, which is borne out in the related NYP provisions. The challenges presented for girls and young women are within context of GBV prevention and awareness, and parity for pay and education. There are helpful measures for example in the NYP of Dominica for a role for all young people in managing GBV. The British Virgin Islands seek to ensure "sport and recreational planning and programmes are gender-aware and diversity sensitive". For the most part, programming responses for girls and women referenced Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, consistent with CARICOM's current policy and programming such as PANCAP.

Belize referenced the more encompassing context of the elimination of all forms of violence against girls as part of the National Gender Policy, which suggests a more strategic partnership in mutually mainstreaming gender in youth development. St. Lucia's NYP also recommended gender mainstreaming provisions to (a) ensure gender equality and gender education in national programming is youth-friendly and age-appropriate, targets all levels of the formal education system, and promotes gender rights and equality as a national cultural practice, (b) promote gender equality and gender diversity for wellbeing and to educate, advocate and address the elimination of discriminatory practices and attitudes towards LGBTIQ youth in schools, workplaces and across communities, and (c) support females in choosing career paths in the field of ICT, including by mapping and mitigating the gender-related dynamics of interest, motivation, efficacy, acceptance and role modelling that can contribute to low participation.

The two countries with stand-alone policy goals for gender are Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Antigua and Barbuda's Gender Relations and Gender Equity priority area promotes the value and principle of gender equality as the basis for the delivery of services for educating teen mothers, motivating boys and young men; addressing prostitution, domestic violence, and increase in HIV/AIDS infections in young women. Saint Kitts and Nevis's NYP cross-cutting gender priority area seeks to "ensure youth development is grounded in human rights, and gender equality is fully integrated into all development work and practice targeting young people" mindful of issues "faced by distinct populations of girls and women that prevent their full, effective and equal enjoyment of rights" (Saint Kitts and Nevis (NYP). However, gender equality and intersectionality and its impacts on all spheres of access and participation for girls and young women were generally under-represented, pointing to the need for more detailed guidance to Governments in framing gender equality provisions in NYPs.

Drug Abuse

Drug abuse is an issue that intersects with young people's health, civic and economic participation, and delinquency and crime and violence that may lead to justice-involved scenarios. WPAY recommends an inclusive agenda to:

- Reduce the demand for and supply of illicit drugs at regional and international levels.

- Integrate young people and their networks in education and advocacy on drug use and addiction supports.

- Provide care, drug rehabilitation and treatment of youth, mindful of specific needs of chronic users and vulnerable youth populations.

In the Caribbean combatting the illicit drug trade and its effects on societies commands high-level political focus, legislation and policy, investments and long-term cooperation agreements such as the Caribbean Basic Security Initiative with CARICOM and USAID. Drug and substance abuse prevention is managed as a national security, economic development issue and health priority. Provisions on drugs and substance abuse in NYPs tend to focus on education and advocacy to prevent and reduce drug use, to promote express linkages to supports established in the national ecosystem to treat addiction, and to promote re-entry and second chance options for youth abusing drugs.

Education, awareness, and peer programmes are integrated into schools. In Belize, there is a drug week established in most high schools for awareness and education on drugs and substance abuse. The British Virgin Island's National Anti-Drug Strategy of 2009 integrates the Department of Youth Services and youth outreach within its multi-agency agenda.

National Drug Units established in Ministries of Health, or under other sector responsibility, tend to lead these initiatives in most countries. A challenge will be to ensure youth as main stakeholders are mainstreamed into comprehensive national programming solutions. Another challenge for NYPs will be to change prevailing behaviours and youth-sub-cultures that normalise marijuana and alcohol abuse. NYPs working with national drug programmes, will also have to develop specificity to manage education and advocacy around the use of new designer drugs.

Juvenile Delinquency

*S*imilar to drug abuse, this is not a stand-alone concern. WPAY recommends action measures to address issues that perpetuate inequality, youth apathy and societal alienation thereby contributing to delinquency, such as:

- Comprehensive programming that ensures inclusion of diversity, equality of access and opportunity among youth in social, civic, and economic spheres.

- Controlling access to guns and small arms.

- Rehabilitation and alternatives to detention using, among other things, community-based approaches that promote social inclusion and strengthen the overall well-being of youth.

The concept of comprehensive programming to build protective factors in response to juvenile delinquency reflects the positive youth development approach in several Caribbean youth policies, notably Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. Positive youth development approaches are those which allow young people to be attached to a variety of social resources and opportunities that facilitate healthy mental development, and caring connections with people and systems, such as families and communities. Programmes that reinforce positive social orientation and provide psychosocial supports to young people living with the effects of trauma, victimisation, and violence, and involve parents, are arranged across several priority areas in Caribbean NYPs. These are mainly youth care and protection, youth safety and security, education, and health wellbeing.

Caribbean NYPs also have developed priority areas on social cohesion, culture and identity which seek to build caring and connections for young people, using the media of life skills, sports, the arts and culture, mentorship programmes, volunteerism training and other schemes. These combine initiatives are designed to help young people develop resilience and protective factors, and to provide psychosocial benefits such as fostering social integration, while promoting active community involvement and building social capital.

Jamaica's NYP makes a specific recommendation for "support in the prioritisation of preventative policies and programmes aimed at juvenile delinquency". Barbados's NYP includes a separate goal on Gangs, Drugs, and Violence with two main recommendations (a) to support and strengthen the work of social groups in all educational institutions from primary to tertiary level that contribute to building positive connections such as Scouts, Guides 4H Clubs to name a few, and (b) to provide "counselling and personal development training for at risk youth".

There were no NYP measures on the control of guns and small arms, nor to control young people's access to them. However, such measures are usually within the remit of crime prevention and suppression master plans and more attention should be paid to integrating them in the context of youth development and social crime prevention benefits.

Youth and Conflict
This priority under WPAY examines care, safety and protections for youth as victims and perpetrators in times of insecurity and instability, and to protect young women and girls from being targeted for sexual violence or exploitation. Exposure to conflict can deprive young people of educational, social, economic, and socialisation opportunities, so recommended measures in this area should focus on:

- Removing the factors that predispose some youth to engage in conflict.

- Contributing to an environment that prevents youth from engaging in conflict.

- Supporting full youth reintegration into society.

Measures to address youth crime and violence are included as a dedicated policy priority in the NYPs of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, and integrated as sub-themes in priority goals of all other NYPs under review. Where Trinidad and Tobago Youth Policy has no explicit goal on Crime and Violence, the NYP is aligned to the Government's Medium-Term Policy Framework which promotes action on human security and the maintenance of law and order. This coverage is reflective of the clear and present violence and insecurity in the Caribbean which impacts youth as victims and perpetrators. The challenges in Peace and Security within national systems are closely linked to the proliferation of drugs and guns within a continuum of negative influences and actions mainly of young and unattached males. In times of social unrest and insecurity, GBV, is often more prevalent.

There is a concentration of programming on social crime prevention in line with PYD approaches and reflective of the Social Ecological Model (SEM) for achieving behavioural and positive social change to pre-empt or reduce violent impulses that land youth in conflict with the law. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the National Commission on Crime Prevention Unit in the Ministry of National Security is mandated to engage youth in various activities, and their Pan Against Crime campaign operating for over 10 years has taught young people to play the steel pan, while also providing mentoring and social skills to build their self-esteem. In Belize, the National Anti-Drug Council applies a multi-agency approach with the police, the probations department, the courts system, and the Youth Department and youth organisations to work on demand reduction for drug use and associated negative behaviours. In Jamaica, the Safe School Programme (Anti-Gang Initiative) is a collaborative initiative between the Ministries of National Security. Police Officers are placed in select (at risk) schools as School Resource Officers to reduce incidents of violence and respond promptly where they occur. The programme includes a psycho-social component that "will help in changing the behaviours of the youth involved". Jamaica's National Police Youth Club Council (NPYCCJ) also works specifically on fostering a better relationship between Communities and the Police through the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Social crime prevention efforts require a strong partnership with the police within safe spaces to build healthy relationships with at risk youth, justice-involved youth, and youth living with trauma who do not normally have positive experiences with the police. NYPs of Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, recommend enhanced capacity and systems building in the police for community policing and a pro-youth and pro-community partnership agenda.

While efforts at peace and security building for youth are often located outside of Youth Ministries and Departments, the Barbados Youth Department manages a crime prevention strategy that connects young people to programmes to strengthen their protective factors and offers other opportunities for self-development and personal well-being. Belize manages a programme to prevent low risk offenders from engaging the justice system and trains at-risk youth to act as peacekeepers in urban and rural communities. Dominica has identified the same peacekeeper goal for its Champions of Peace programme, while the Saint Kitts Youth Volunteer Corps engages at risk young women and men in community-building activities. The British Virgin Islands implements continuous healthy relationships sessions for youth across the education system to prevent violence and anti-social behaviours. These initiatives combine to enhance youth engagement as peace-builders and agents of positive social change.

The policy measures on Peace and Security also contain measures to address re-entry and reintegration of justice-involved youth, and to manage recidivism amongst juveniles. The NYPs of the OECS referred to ongoing efforts to reform the comprehensive legislative framework for child care and protections, probation and related supports under the OECS Juvenile Justice Project. Belize's Community Action for Public Safety project offers a holistic approach to the juvenile justice system, comprising cognitive behavioural therapy, reintegration, and linkages to programmes for skill development, and education re-enrolment for employment. Most NYPs contained policy actions on restorative justice and alternative sentencing options for young offenders.

Some NYPs contain GBV provisions as part of overall crime and violence prevention. Saint Kitts and Nevis recommends steps to "address the abuse, exploitation, trafficking or other forms of violence against children and young people, especially young women in the sex trade", and also recommends in its wider gender priority area "to safeguard and protect youth from abuses such as human trafficking, sexual abuse, grooming, incest, casual sex work, child abuse in all forms, and GBV". Dominica's NYP recommends joint action between the Youth Department and the National Youth Council to "implement strategies and programmes geared towards empowering young people in preventing GBV". In most cases, NYPs recognise the role of Gender Departments in managing youth-appropriate GBV programmes and of Governments in enforcing applicable legislation on gender-based violence where such exists (Jamaica Green Paper).

Overall, NYPs tended to articulate the distinct domains of WPAY relating to crime, violence and their contributing or compounding factors under one all encompassing main priority area.

3. Youth in civil society

Priority areas: Participation, Environment, ICT, Leisure time activity, Inter-generational relations.

Full and effective Participation of youth in the Life of Society and in Decision-Making
WPAY frames this priority area within the rights-based approach that requires youth to be engaged in all aspects of society, with recommendations relating to:

- Providing the conducive environment for freedom of association, the right of assembly, freedom of expression, and right to information.

- Facilitating the capacity building of youth organisations and associations including enhancing sources of financial, educational and technical support for their effective functioning.

- Promoting and including youth in government and policy formation.

- Encouraging participation in all spheres and sectors of society.

This construct of "participation" helps to define not only who is a youth, but the "what" and "how" of youth, through the elaboration of participation avenues and contexts for individual and community development, for economic enfranchisement and for framing the national and global governance agenda. This is referenced in NYPs as youth empowerment. All Caribbean NYPs under review have elaborated measures for youth participation and empowerment in this context.

Enhanced youth participation and representation is mainly enabled in the Caribbean NYPs under review through youth-led governance movements and networks. Such networks are intended to engage more and diverse youth cohorts as part of decision-making on issues that impact youth. From information contained in NYPs and the results of the subregional survey, there are youth-led agencies such as National Youth Councils, Youth Parliaments or country Ambassador Corps and other youth structures in all CARICOM members and associates of the CDCC, although the extent of their activism and influence is not known. National youth movements have a role in youth policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation as provided for in NYPs of Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. There are recommendations for strategic investment in these agencies and youth policy measures recommend funding and other supports to strengthen them to play their full roles.

Barbados and Belize have also established a Youth Volunteer Corps, or a National Youth Service as means of building youth leadership and connections to community, focusing on the benefits of such schemes to enhance young people's civic participation and grounding in their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Young people's economic participation in the context of social justice is provided for under priority areas relating to education and employment.

Youth participation as a human right is a principle that is assuming more traction in the world of public policy and programming. It is a concept that is fundamental to youth mainstreaming especially in sectors where youth voices, concerns and solutions should influence policy directions, including in agriculture, the environment, tourism, technology and national security leading for some recommendations in NYPs for young people to sit on boards and committees across a range of sectors of national influence.

Finally, most NYPs speak to greater inclusion and diversity in youth participation, and most NYPs target "at risk", "vulnerable", and "marginalised" youth populations in discrete priority areas and actions as beneficiaries of programmes, supports, opportunities and services. However, the genuine participation of these groups in framing their own development appears limited.

Environment

The natural environment is important for young people's health and opportunity and they should be fully integrated into the planning and implementation of strategies geared towards ensuring environmentally sustainable growth and development by:

- Integrating environmental education into school curriculum and youth programming.

- Making materials on environmental related information available for youth networks and to foster youth-led exchanges and action on the environment.

- Integrating youth and media in environmental sustainability (through informing on environmental issues to aid protection and preservation).

- Enhancing the role of the media as a tool for widespread dissemination of environmental issues to youth.

This priority area is very underrepresented in NYPs. While NYPs of Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis contain a separate policy goal on Youth and the environment, Barbados identified the challenge common to Caribbean countries with youth and the environment in terms of a need for "continuous education and involvement of more stakeholders in the promotion of healthy practices to sustain the environment". Traditionally youth participation in environmental preservation tended to be relegated to end level actions such as beach clean-ups. Commensurate with more attention-grabbing initiatives in the national ecosystem relating to the green and blue economy, and with the global high-level focus on young people for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the scope and context for integrating environmental sustainability for national development have become more accessible to the general public, including young people.

Dominica's measures on climate change and the environment represent a more comprehensive action agenda for young people to respond to environmental issues as members of civil society. The measures seek to develop youth capacity in environmental research and sciences, as well as to support

youth enterprises that promote sustainable environmental practices. Barbados implemented opportunities to allow entrepreneurs to create innovations leading to green careers, and further promoted green careers in primary and secondary schools under a Garden Project. Belize recommended outreach activities in communities to support youth-led initiatives in environmental awareness and action. Belize also supports youth participation in conferences and capacity building initiatives on environmental sustainability.

In general, NYPs referred to school programmes, Earth Day observance and activities such as school and community gardens, tree planting, and community clean-up drives to engage young people's knowledge and talents in this protecting the environment. Larger national campaigns such as the ban on plastics (Cayman Islands) and on Styrofoam (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) managed by the private sector and the media in both cases, engaged youth populations in environmentally sound and ethical consumerism. Barbados and Saint Lucia recommended measures in partnership with the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN) to integrate more young people in the environmental protection and sustainability agenda. CYEN49 is the regional NGO that focuses on empowering young people and their communities to tackle socio-economic and environmental issues.

Information and communication technologies
WPAY focuses in this priority areas on developing actions to remove disparities in access to ICTs, to make opportunities for young people to become digital natives, and to use ICTs strategically in young peoples' spaces and environments for information and social inclusion. The priority area contains guidelines on using ICTs:

- To enhance education and youth employment.

- To enhance youth engagement and participation

Access and use of ICTs is an important indicator of human development. Most NYPs sampled tended to integrate the use of ICTs for education, consistent with Governments' investments in enhancing access to computers for schools and for families such as the Caribbean-wide *One Laptop per Child* initiative. Policy actions on ICTs and education also required a range of reforms of school curricula and teaching methods to incorporate ICTs for enhanced student retention and educational attainment.

Three NYPs (The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) have a separate priority area on ICTs, concentrating policy actions on young people as "digital natives" and on using and innovating ICTs to improve young people's lives and communities. There were also innovative provisions supporting the use of ICTs in national governance to "ensure elected officials maintain up to date linkages with young people on their work and portfolios", and in entrepreneurship to establish a virtual space for youth entrepreneurs to grow their business and market their services (Saint Lucia). In the areas of ICTs and youth employment, Saint Kitts and Nevis's policy recommends using ICTs to stimulate youth entrepreneurship and foster technology-based business, and to promote more opportunities for young people to innovate mobile applications to keep them connected, safe and informed on national issues. In general provisions and measures on ICTs stress access for youth, with a focus on youth who are out of the mainstream.

Leisure Time Activities
Sports, leisure and recreation are important in the development of all aspects of an individual, in the promotion of social inclusion, in defining young people's identities, and in exploring their culture. WPAY guidelines recommend the following:

- Inclusion of leisure time comprehensively in youth programming and youth policy development to build resilience and protective factors, fight against social ills and provide opportunities for youth to interact positively with adults and their peers and make a difference in their societies.

- Providing facilities that give opportunities to young people active in the fields of drama, the fine arts, music and other forms of cultural expression/

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49   CYEN members are drawn from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Commonwealth of Dominica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St, Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

- Promoting participation of young people in tourism, international cultural events, sports and all other activities of special interest to youth.

- Integrating leisure-time activities as elements of educational programmes, urban planning and rural development and the media to promote youth understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration, including tolerance and non-violent behaviour.

All Caribbean members of the CDCC are signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). CRC imposes obligations on state parties in four areas relating to the rights of the child, 0-18 years of age to rest and leisure, to play and recreational activities appropriate to their age; and to other rights relating to the access to and enjoyment of cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity

Historically, most Departments of Youth are located within a parent Ministry which also includes the national sports portfolio, and in some instances the culture portfolio. As such sports as a leisure activity in primary and secondary schools is integrated with youth programming to the extent that it institutionalises co-functionality in both spheres. This phenomenon has also occasioned a higher quality and quantity of state-sponsored leisure options for younger youth cohorts. More recently, sports as a tool for peace and development has been included in the youth policy actions of Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. Programmes using sports in its fullest sense for high risk youth who distrust or are uncomfortable with formal "classroom" settings contain learning outcomes of participation, inclusion, human values, acceptance of rules, discipline, health promotion, non-violence, tolerance, gender equality, teamwork, among other skills for development and coping.

Sports, the arts, and other culture and heritage pursuits are recommended measures in NYPs to provide young people with leisure and recreation for youth wellbeing outcomes. Other policy actions recommend improved access to quality programmes which provide opportunities to interact positively with adults and peers, build interpersonal skills and contribute to social capital. These recommendations target young people who would not normally access well-established programmes that present favourable youth outcomes. Examples of such programmes are Rotaract, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, 4 H Clubs etc.

There were no innovative options or recommendations noted within the scope of the review but a clear admission of the need for more diversity in the type, scheduling, and location of leisure options available to young people to suit the demands of their life. There are also recommendations for more place-based approaches to the planning and implementation of culture, heritage, sport, and recreation programmes and activities (Saint Kitts and Nevis) so they more optimally meet youth and community needs.

Inter-generational relations
In recognition of an ageing population juxtaposed within the current youth bulge, this priority area focuses on the need for strong ties, social cohesion, and mutually supportive relationships between both populations, among other things, through:

- Government support for inter-generational cohesion e.g. for skills and knowledge mentorship of youth businesses, youth transfer of technologies and learning to adults etc.

- Inter-generational programmes which provide services that benefit youth and older people mutually and increase social cohesion.

- Support to young people who are caregivers to siblings, parents or grandparents, especially where trauma and adversity are involved.

- Partnerships between youth organisations and local and national government to promote innovate and mentorship programmes suitable to the needs of special groups.

In diverse provisions on education, health, youth crime and violence, participation, and employment and entrepreneurship, Caribbean NYPs recognise the importance of intergenerational relationships. In the areas of education and health, for example, provisions universally recommend building capacities of parents as agents of positive health and wellbeing outcomes for young people and to provide enhanced opportunities for parents to participate in the lives of their children to build their resilience and protective

factors, and strengthen the family unit (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos).

In other specific provisions, Belize recommended to promote "spaces for intergenerational dialogue". Cayman Islands and Saint Lucia called for the development of intergenerational good practice models to ensure appropriate child protections and safety, and healthy youth-adult partnerships. Saint Kitts and Nevis included policy actions to build community capacity and supports for intergenerational programmes that reflect community interests and talents in sports, games, and traditional activities, and "to ensure youth-ownership of cultural heritage". The British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands referred to mentorship models such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the role of service clubs in fostering strong and lasting relationship between youth and adults. Jamaica's long-standing programming of the Police Youth Clubs also constituted good practice for intergenerational partnerships for building healthy and trust-based relationships among at risk youth and communities with the Jamaica Police Force.

Under the priority area of employment and entrepreneurship, intergenerational relationships were promoted in recommendations to ensure viable mentorship programmes to support young entrepreneurs from business and personal development standpoints was a recommended. While provisions on gender and health made special mention of the needs of teen mothers and fathers, there was no specific mention of other youth with responsibilities as caregivers.

4. Specific observations on the formulation and arrangement of thematic priorities

In general, the NYPs under review were largely faithful to the scope and purport of the WPAY and the principles of rights-based youth development that shaped the overarching policy framework. The supportive regional framework of CARICOM's CYDAP and the Commonwealth's PAYE were significantly influential in the framing of the NYPs and the issues addressed in thematic priorities. International legal frameworks to which CDCC members are state parties notably the CRC and CEDAW, were relevant in provisions of some NYPs. Both CYDAP and PAYE and the NYPs established prior to 2015 guided by these frameworks were aligned to the MDGs. NYPs of Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, developed after 2015, recognised the 2030 Agenda and recommended building youth capacity and connections to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda that frames all development with implications for youth. Belize has hosted a World Youth Conference to raise youth awareness, action and participation in achieving the SDGs, and is working to secure UNDP support for dedicated national programming on SDG education for young people.

Core commitments of Governments in the Lisbon Declaration relating to education, employment, health, especially youth health determinants and improvements, safety, security, peace and justice, and rights of youth to participation are comprehensively contained in policy recommendations and generally articulate with the WPAY. However, the priority area relating to girls and young women was not sufficiently reflective of the scope and purport of WPAY provisions. Even though most NYPs theorised youth development as a gendered issue, there were few deliberate policy actions aimed at gender equality outcomes using intersectional lens. Programming in education, health, employment, and all other functional priority areas, did not consider whether any special measures for girls and women were required to ensure their access and enjoyment of supports and services were equal to those of boys and men.

While provisions on the environment in NYPs tended to be basic, Dominica's youth policy and that of Saint Kitts and Nevis offered a more comprehensive coverage of the role for young people in all aspects of environmental sustainability and climate change. Given recent catastrophic events in the Caribbean with the passage of two hurricanes in September 2017, it is expected that Governments will give renewed focus to a more strategic role for young people in climate change, disaster management and ecological remediation and restoration. NYCs and other such national organisations should be encouraged and supported to sign on to the Youth for Climate Action initiative under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for better informed youth led advocacy and action-setting on climate change.

Policy actions on hunger and poverty related generally to enhancements in access to young people for employment and livelihoods. However, hunger and poverty and the overarching associated constraints of lack of access to rights, increased exposure to stigmatisation and victimisation, and constraints associated with small island developing states, rapid and unplanned urbanisation and stagnating options in rural life, should be deliberate on supports for young people as customised country-specific initiatives to combat hunger and poverty. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the UN Human Settlements Programme's (UN-Habitat) New Urban Agenda offer expert guidance for youth-specific actions to accelerate human development outcomes.

SIDS leaders have acknowledged that the essential requirements for sustainable development are poverty eradication; changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production; and, protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development. The SAMOA Pathway makes linkages between SIDS commitments focused on sustainable energy, natural resource management, an ocean based and green economy approach and partnerships, thereby providing a holistic view on adaptation measures for SIDS. Caribbean NYPs are typically sparse on the issue of climate change and its impacts on SIDS, so this is critical context for the review and appraisal work especially as issues of SIDS under the SAMOA Pathway were considered in the finalisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Under the New Urban Agenda (2016), leaders have committed to provide basic services for all citizen such as access to housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious food, healthcare and family planning, education, culture and access to ICT.

There were policy themes and priorities in a broader sampling of NYPs that are not included as WPAY priority areas. They can be grouped into two main categories:

a) Thematic priorities reflecting the scope and intent of CYDAP Goal 4 – Culture:

- Restore Core Values – Barbados

- Identification & Self-Awareness – The Bahamas

- Identity, Culture and Social Cohesion – British Virgin Islands

- Socio-cultural identity for all youth of the Cayman Islands

- Youth Identity and Empowerment – Guyana

- Youth and Culture – Montserrat

- Youth and Religion – Montserrat

- Youth Excellence – Saint Kitts and Nevis

- Investing in youth social capital and strengthening their resilience – Grenada

b) Thematic priorities reflecting the scope and intent of Goal 5 – Policy and Institutional Framework for Youth Development, and reflecting PAYE 3 – Strengthening Youth Ministries; and PAYE 12 – Professionalise the Youth Work Sector.

- Restructuring the Ministry Responsible for Youth Affairs – The Bahamas

- Strengthened Capacity and Partnership in the Youth Sector – Jamaica

- Professionalising Youth Work – Dominica

- Institutional strengthening of the Youth Development Division (YDD) and the National Youth Council (NYC) – Dominica

- Youth Development Work and Youth Mainstreaming – Saint Kitts and Nevis

- Provision of quality services for young people by youth-serving agencies – Cayman Islands

In both instances, these priorities were shaped to respond to two acute realities of Caribbean youth development programming not considered within the global soft policy agenda. Specifically: (a)

integrating young women and men within a shared vision and agenda for enhancing the development and appreciation of Caribbean culture and identity and commitment to regional integration; and (b) restructuring the organisational system for youth policy and development in the Caribbean with a focus on People, Tasks, Structure and Technology to achieve professional and technical efficiencies in the public management of youth affairs, consistent with the principles and practice of youth development work.

The approach to youth policy drafting and finalisation followed similar paths in countries under review, with the appointment of an intersectoral body with youth representatives as key elements of the process. In Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, young people were also trained and deployed to collect data to inform the national youth policies. All the foregoing accounted for relative homogeneity in Caribbean NYPs relative to the WPAY agenda. However, attention should be paid to framing unambiguous policy actions that align, as far as practicable to international good practice. WPAY thematic priorities such as the environment and climate change, girls and women, and hunger and poverty (including housing and agriculture), drug abuse, and ICTs are in the domain of UN Systems agencies. Several of them have established a special unit or guidelines for integrating young people into their work which are evidence-informed and offer more robust material for developing programmes with relevant indicators to feed into strong national results framework for youth policy and programming.

Table 8
UN Agencies and International Sources for NYP formulation on WPAY Priority Areas

WPAY	Priority Areas	Summary of how represented in NYPs of CDCC members and associates	UN System Reference and Others
Youth in the global economy	Education	Credible. Guided by education sector reforms, and universal targets on primary and secondary education well. The importance of TVET, informal education, and lifelong learning are more focused in policy and programming	UNESCO, UNICEF
	Employment	Good coverage of the topic inclusive of entrepreneurship. ILO's guidelines and other good practice as well as for the financial inclusion of youth. Economic participation of diverse youth is a persistent issue. Gender, sexual orientation, and age discrimination complexities in employment are not adequately included. Agriculture and potential of other sectors (globalisation impacts) for youth economic participation are not sufficiently integrated.	ILO/ YEN, UNIDO, UNCTAD, World Bank, The commonwealth
	Hunger & poverty	Some references to agriculture (food security) and income generation but not comprehensive treatment to address persistent barriers and systemic impairment of rights and access sustain a hunger and poverty and basic survival existence. Housing, settlements, rights to amenities and specific youth and gendered inequities to be addressed	UN-Habitat - New Urban Agenda, FAO, SDGs, UN Human Rights WPAY, SDGs, IOM, SAMOA Pathway, UNESCO
	Globalisation	Represented as a concern and threat but no articulation of outcomes to leverage the advantages for youth.	
Youth in civil society	Participation	Well represented for Youth Councils and parliaments and other opportunities for youth people at the head of youth-led governance processes. Not enough focus on enabling greater youth diversity, inclusion of vulnerable and hard to reach populations. No references to expanding decision-making to vulnerable and hard to reach populations. More focus on building culture and capacity for peer to peer and youth and community-based/ NGO participation. The normal driving inputs into youth participation programming must be tailored for different audiences, interests, orientations and lived circumstances. Special focus necessary on an accountability agenda for youth-led networks on whom public funds are invested. More opportunities needed to bring together all youth led networks in the national arena for consolidation of youth-led multi-sectoral supports into a common development agenda.	ALL, UN Bill of rights, CRC, UNICEF
	Environment	Mainly basic youth participation in environmental conservation (clean-ups). 4 H clubs and the work of the CYEN in some countries maintain sound youth programming on environmental issues. However the comprehensive environment and climate change agenda, managed in public sector as a "hard issue" is not youth-focused and youth-inclusive, notwithstanding the excellent record of UNEP and its *Children and Youth* project. With the global profile and public education agenda on the SDGs, there is emerging focus on youth as agents of sustainable consumerism, and environmental	Youth in Climate Change, UNFCCC, SDGs, UNEP, SAMOA Pathway

		practices, with a voice to shape the global agenda for the world they pass on to future generations. Young women and men should be supported to participate in Youth in Climate Change initiative of the UNFCCC.	
	ICTs	Enhanced access to computers, and ICTs in school curriculum. Youth ICT centres in communities are underutilised. More deliberate focus on youth as digital natives, use and abuse of ICTs, safety and security concerns of ICTs, addressing cyber-bulling, using ICTs for youth participation and decision making and integrating ICTs in all priority themes especially for education and wealth creation.	ITU, SDGs
	Leisure-time activities	Mainly integrated into health and well-being priority area. school sports and sports as a tool for development and peace.	UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC
	Intergeneration al issues	Parenting and enhanced family support programmes. Attention in some countries to mentorship and Big Brother models to build partnerships for business and interpersonal relationships. More action areas to use the arts and culture to build identity, belonging and social cohesion as mutually beneficial intergenerational programming.	UNICEF, UNESCO, SDG
Youth and their well-being	Health	Good with more recent focus on CNCDs, and issues of youth mental and emotional wellbeing, guided by work of international agencies and health sector reforms.	UNFPA, PAHO, WHO
	HIV/AIDS	Regional coverage and youth leadership under the PANCAP, peer education for HIV AIDS prevention and reducing stigma. More attention has been paid to youth-friendly counselling and responsiveness to address concerns of young people. National HIV/AIDS responses still do not effectively integrate young people nor sufficiently reach youth in their spaces.	
	Girls & young women	The articulation of the issues of women and girls in NYP provisions are in the context of GBV prevention and awareness, parity for pay and education, SRHR, including issues of teen mothers and single mothers, and representational balance. Programmes to focus on gender equality and intersectionality, issues for education, health, employment etc as well as more focus on gender norms and stereotypes	CEDAW, UN Women, SDGs, UNFPA, UN Human Rights, CRC
	Drug abuse	National campaigns target youth vulnerabilities and availability of drug treatment supports. Youth-focused projects using sports and the arts to promote drug-free societies. Huge gap be managed between cultural norms and the rule of law re marijuana. Wider focus on engaging youth with other key partners in managing effects of substance abuse, as well as demand reduction.	PAHO, WHO, UNODC- Youth Initiative, SDGs
	Juvenile delinquency	Greater focus on juvenile justice reforms and revised legislative frameworks translated into NYPs. More promotion of alternative sentencing and restorative justice, managing recidivism, re-entry and reintegration. Gaps- comprehensive support for justice-involved youth and intersectionality concerns for female justice involved youth.	UNODC - Youth Initiative, SDGs, WPAY, CRC, UN Human Rights
	Youth & Conflict	Employment options for unattached youth/NEET, youth apathy, managing youth impulsive behaviour that leads to negative consequences, enhancing relationships between youth and justice actors and training an activities for behaviour transformation. More evidence-based work to build resilience and protective factors and address victimisation	SDG, WPAY, UNODC- Youth Initiative, World Bank

Table 9 summarises WPAY priority areas in Caribbean NYPs and shows UN system and other agencies working in the respective priority area from whom technical references and guidelines are available.

C. Institutional Mechanisms for youth policy implementation and programming

1. Comparative analysis of institutional mechanisms

Information on institutional arrangements available for youth policy implementation in 23 out of the 29 Member and Associate Member Countries of the CDCC confirmed that in 91 percent of these countries, the responsibility for youth development lies with a government youth department or Ministry. In Cuba, there is a permanent commission established by law to manage youth affairs (Youth and Social Inclusion, 2013) while in Guadeloupe, the dormant NYP is under the remit of the Regional Council (Schéma, 2014).

Successful policy implementation requires a strong coordination mechanism and accountability focal point. However, the heavy burden of youth policy implementation remains vested in Caribbean youth

departments, which tends to be small, with weak administrative or institutional bases, working on quick-fix high profile events outside of an evidence-informed agenda, and having to compete for prominence and resources within a constrained public-sector machinery that places minimal value and importance on the youth portfolio (CCYD Report 2010). However, there is very encouraging commitment in NYPs, consistent with the institutional framework of the Lisbon Declaration, for youth departments and governments to be more proactive and professional in the management of youth portfolios. This is a major cultural shift away from the historical context of youth departments being used as either centres for political favours or for public sector banishment, which both combined to produce inept agencies in which no one was interested or accountable. Given the tremendous groundwork put into youth development programming by CARICOM and the Commonwealth, among other agencies, youth work is recognised as a stand-alone professional area which demands key enablers.

Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming is a key youth principle and result-area for CYDAP and the PAYE that is evident in Caribbean NYPs. While all NYPs established the principle, ten made special recommendations for mainstreaming as part of the institutional mechanisms for policy implementation. The Bahamas called for a National Institute of Youth Development to support evidence-based policy and programming. The British Virgin Islands recommended the creation of a National Youth Commission by an act of Parliament, vested with the authority to manage the mainstreaming agenda, and to receive annual reporting from all stakeholders in youth policy implementation to be tabled in Parliament. Belize, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia recommended similar high-level inter-agency initiatives to manage the mainstreaming agenda, linking youth rights and results to a national accountability agenda involving each implementing partner.

Youth Policies of The Bahamas, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia developed recommendations for institutional change and the repositioning of youth departments to function as effective organisational systems for youth development. The recommended interdependent organisation model would realign and optimize the following:

- Tasks (essential functions for youth development (including for policy and programme design, research, project management, conduct of youth work, performance management, monitoring and evaluation, training design and delivery, communications and community relations);

- People (new job specifications, multifunctionality, people skills for results-based management in all task areas, inclusive, participatory, gender sensitive youth work, young people as implementers);

- Structure (assignment of spaces and linkages for youth in programming; units for cross-support and functionality, for managing external stakeholders and joint projects, and for monitoring and reporting on performance results); and

- Technology (software and systems, learning organisation and knowledge management architecture, media and communications for internal and external publics).

Professionalisation of Youth Work

Ten CARICOM Members and Associate Members of the CDCC whose implementation arrangements were reviewed defined their enabling environment for youth policy and programming as interlinking components of a main coordinating body, a youth mainstreaming agenda, youth participation as enabling partners, and the professionalisation of youth work. This was further reinforced on country reporting on good practices where mainstreaming, investment in strengthening a youth department's capacity and programme resources, a solid grounding in positive youth development work and principles and a professionalized youth work sector as the main factors to significantly enhance the effectiveness and impact of the national youth development were emphasized.

Results-framework for youth development

The concept of youth mainstreaming implies that youth development programming and monitoring of performance involve all sectors and interests in the national ecosystem that impact young people in a joined up, intersecting approach. It requires meticulous work to maintain programming scheduling and targets from service providers within and outside of the public sector. Results-based management is a difficult concept to promote in the operating realities of public sector-run youth development. NYP policy and programming setting have tended to be sector-specific without reference to intersectionality, to youth experiences and foundational youth inputs as contributors to the agenda. Notwithstanding the richness of policy actions, there continues to be a piece meal approach to youth development characterized by events and activities that target a specific "problem" to be addressed for youth, and for which a treatment is applied in isolation of composite contextual realities. For example, a wealth-creation programme developed for unemployed youth in a community should consider how education on GBV and STIs would be enriched by the experiences of teen mothers and aggression-prone young men.

In other instances, youth departments build partnerships in reactionary ways to target high profile "national issues" that require a youth presence. Skills training, youth volunteer programmes, youth employment and enterprise programmes, and HIV and AIDS programmes are particularly vulnerable to this trend and can be exploited for expediency by politicians or private sector interests on the requirement of "visibility" as opposed to viability. The much-recommended evidence-based approach to youth development should address these shortcomings and establish clear linkages and results for the theory of change.

2. Youth in Policy Implementation

CARICOM Caribbean Member States have a long history of public sector support to national and regional youth movements, and they have traditionally played a dedicated role of strategic interface with wider youth populations in policy development and implementation. CARICOM and The Commonwealth established their own regional youth development structures as part of implementation mechanisms for the CYDAP, and for the PAYE and wider Commonwealth programming.

Youth asset-based and rights-based principles (UN Bills of Rights), the Lisbon Declaration and the WPAY, imply equality in diversity, inclusion, and participatory approaches for youth in all aspects of policy formulation, monitoring and implementation. These principles are usually translated into recommendations for the establishment or strengthening of discrete youth-led movements for policy implementation supports, such as National Youth Councils, Student Councils, and Youth Parliaments. Young people's views on the priority issues affecting them are also reflected in policy actions for an accelerated menu of supports to be developed. In this regard, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis recommended the establishment of youth entrepreneur networks to boost the local access and supports for sustained business growth and development and market penetration. Belize recommended enhanced supports to young people working in the areas of environmental sustainability.

Working as part of established movements or in individual capacities with the Youth Departments, young people have driven youth policy formulation in Caribbean countries under review. In The Bahamas and Belize, a group of interested young people managed the accountability agenda for NYP completion. The Permanent Regional Conference of Youth in Guadeloupe produced the multi-sectoral youth policy agenda for persons 16-25 years old in 2014 (Schéma des Politiques de Jeunesse, 2014). Young people received training, and were mobilised for the data collection and social research agenda for youth policy formulation in Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

Regrettably, the level of impact and penetration of these youth movements as genuine partners in development is not always ideal. Some NYPs noted that youth movements / youth leaders need a wider menu of supports to perform adequately, especially in quasi-tactical priority areas, for example Dominica recommended more capacity building for youth advocating against youth violence as "peacebuilders and agents of positive social change". In other instances, NYPs and youth leaders functioning in regional movements such as the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) and The University of the West Indies Vice

Chancellor's Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT) Ambassador Corps are perceived as operating within a very narrow sphere of influence with limited grounding in the issues that affect grass-roots, fringe and underserved youth populations. Managing this representation divide must be led equally from within, and by Governments. Care has to be taken to ensure youth participation is truly representative and diverse beyond young academics and more "seasoned youth", who admittedly have vital roles to play in constructing and managing national and regional youth development agendas. More sustained and creative mechanisms must be supported through technical assistance mechanisms so that the circumstances and talents of fringe and underserved youth populations are visible and measurable in highly participatory youth-led development that makes the best use of youth innovation and technology.

In line with the observations on WPAY implementation, for young people to play a meaningful role in implementing NYPs in a post-2015 era, they must have enhanced knowledge of and access to all their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Minimising the "messiah" effect in youth participation and representation where one "youth leader" represents all interests on all issues would be an excellent and transformational approach that further this principle. The 2030 Agenda contains 20 youth specific targets spread over six key SDGs. These are Goal 2 (hunger), Goal 4 (education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work), Goal 10 (inequality) and Goal 13 (climate change). All of these are key concerns of human development in the Caribbean and are priority areas in NYPs. For young people to constitute an embedded force in shaping the national macro-economic policies that drive investments in these human development priorities, young women and men must be subject matter specialists who work to integrate youth perspectives and visioning and impacts into tourism, agriculture, banking and finance, urban and rural development planning, housing and land use, citizen security and other critical areas of development.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Guidelines to manage the M&E requirement for Caribbean NYPs were provided in the CYDAP 2012-2017 and in the PAYE 2008-2013. These "blueprints" suggested core indicators under each priority area, which countries could use in elaborating their own plans. CYDAP's goals in the domains of education, employment, health and well-being and safety and security were aligned to relevant sections of the MDGs, PAYE, and UNFPA Action Plan (CYDAP Report). The PAYE used the MDG indicators for youth policy domains and suggested other practical targets for Governments in PAYE (unique domains such as Action Point 13, Monitor and Evaluate Progress in Youth Development).

This review did not locate any M&E plans expressly elaborated for NYPs. However, most countries displayed a sound idea of what they wanted their M&E plan to achieve, what was to be measured and reported on, and the systems and capacity that would be required to sustain the effort namely.

- Dominica called for capacity in the Department of Youth to collect, disaggregate and analyze youth data for M&E, noting the desirability of a sustained partnership with the Statistics Department to achieve the purpose

- Grenada stated that baseline data "must be a pre-requisite to projects and programme implementation" and that young people should be fully trained and integrated for social research.

- Belize proposed that "a set of indicators be agreed upon to accompany the policy but more generally to monitor youth development in Belize – Youth Development Index".

- The British Virgin Islands committed to developing an M&E Plan to assess the (a) progress and impacts of programmes and supports on youth; (b) the role of youth in policy implementation; and (c) good practices in the policy implementation.

- The Bahamas committed for monitoring and evaluation "to be conducted at the community, local, island and national levels", in which "performance indicators are to be identified at the beginning of the implementation of this policy" and proposed that relevant "stakeholders will identify individual benchmarks, timeframes and indicators specific to each action".

- Saint Lucia committed to develop its M&E Plan guided by available indicators and targets in regional and global M&E frameworks established for relevant policy domains and to pursue dedicated technical assistance for an M&E expert to be embedded in the Youth Department to support M&E planning, systems and related capacity enhancement.

Observations on the difficulties experienced by States in implementing the WPAY 2000 and the MDGs point to the lack of a clear action agenda and M&E Plan. CARICOM is currently working on a discrete M&E Plan to "facilitate measuring progress towards the implementing the CYDAP" and "to institutionalize the use of M&E as a tool for improving programme implementation and management, transparency and accountability". The Commonwealth's 2016 YDI composite index of youth indicators measuring youth development does not include all the priority areas of the WPAY. However, the YDI provides a good starting point to a world of sustained M&E. Governments can look at national averages in the domains to understand where more focus and investments are needed for youth development. They can also apply the YDI methodology to construct country-specific data sets that are more suited to a country's youth development context.

The challenges that persist are the paucity of data in countries and the limited capacity and budgets to collect, collate, and periodically update data on the status of youth. Several CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries were not represented in the YDI because of shortcomings in the quality and quantity of data available on young people. While Departments and Ministries of Youth have embraced the need to collect and use data, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), in which this portfolio is vested, tend to have priority mandates for the census, household surveys, poverty assessment, national labour market surveys, among others, and may not be responsive to youth data demands. A useful step would be to establish working agreements with NSOs for young people to be trained and retained within their usual enumerator component, and for country data in mandated national surveys to be disaggregated within agreed ranges across the full legal country context of youth. This would provide a sound basis for improving the collection, quality and use of data in all youth development work.

4. Specific observations on institutional arrangements, mechanisms and special strategies established for the implementation of NYPs

The institutional arrangements and strategies for NYP implementation all demonstrate a clear understanding of the importance of the fundamental constructs. The theory of change summarised from the experiences and practices reviewed suggest that if a country commits to establishing a framework of development and supports for young people consistent with youth rights as human rights; and if a community of practice across all sectors and interests of national development has the requisite capacity and commitment to establish and implement a shared national programme of youth policy and rights; and if young people receive the access, tools and freedoms to engage broadly with each other and other stakeholders to construct solutions for their progress in varying domains of development; and if technical systems, programmes, products, information, resources and investments are deployed for youth progress consistent with agreed national benchmarks and regional and global targets in youth policy domains, then young people will be well-adjusted and content, living fulfilling and contributing to better societies.

There seems, however, to be a wide chasm of disconnect between producing a youth policy and achieving policy outcomes. Grenada puts it best in their lessons learned on NYP implementation and evaluation: "The Ministry's programmes must fit the framework of the policy". In other words, after the euphoria of commitment and engagement that accompanies the formulation of youth policy, there must be a clear linkage to an integrated accountability framework and budget that translate excellent strategies on paper into life-transforming options for young people who need them the most.

This review has already established that Youth Departments are not elite members of the national macro development hierarchy, and budgets assigned to youth development are dismal. There are no known cases informed by this review where NYPs of Member and Associate Member Countries of the CDCC have been given force of law. For policies to become effective, further measures are required in terms of devolving authority to a special body that will maintain policy oversight as a legal requirement. In the

British Virgin Islands, the National Youth Commission shall be a legally established body for the purpose. The Commission shall also work to secure funds for youth policy implementation to supplement internal budget deficits. Saint Kitts and Nevis also vests similar oversight and authority in a Commission, which shall also establish a Youth Investment Fund. This latter provision seeks to answer the perennial issue of insufficient funds for policy implementation, although the Commission may not be the most effective solution to the problem of implementation and accountability for NYP delivery and results. There will be obvious constraints to be managed in small countries where Commission members may also be part of the implementation machinery. Because a semi-formal caucus of Directors of Youth already exists among CARICOM Members of the CDCC, it may be more expedient for Directors to agree to institute a system of peer-review of NYPs on a rolling annual basis, where a standard methodology and approach is applied. The review should be led by an external Director of Youth and may comprise young people, academia, youth workers, and graduates of the Youth work undergraduate degree, among others, drawn from competent resources.

D. Lessons in Youth Policy Implementation

A national youth policy may be defined in simplest terms as the sum of all the initiatives aimed at young citizens. Youth policy integrates young people's social, economic, and political participation in the national macro-development agenda as a human right and prescribes dedicated programs, legislative reforms and customised strategies involving one or several interdependent domains necessary to affect improvements in the life and wellbeing of young people.

Though variations exist in the circumstances, difficulties, and culture of young people around the world, their physical, psychological, intellectual, and emotional changes are universal (WPAY 2000). As such, policy priority areas elaborated in the WPAY present evidence-informed options for States to consider and customise in formulating NYPs.

1. Policy implementation challenges and terms of its analytical underpinning, flaws and merits

There are challenges across a broad spectrum that impact the implementation of NYPs that that are common to most countries. Some are country specific, some are people-centric, but most relate to the absence of an enabling framework and coordinated supports for youth development. Directors of Youth responded on their main implementation challenges in the following terms:

- Most youth departments are small and low in priority on the national macro-development ranking in countries. They are constrained to operate within the dictates of bureaucracy, political partisanship and expediency, public service human resource arrangements, limited public sector budget and activity-based funding, and knowledge management and ICT limitations. Department personnel are not adequately trained for all areas of implementation and monitoring in a modern policy arena.

- Fundamentally and *a priori*, youth departments must be prepared and resourced to transition to embrace a coordinating and monitoring role for the NYPs. After the significant investments in youth policy formulation and design, Youth Departments must be restructured and give resources to adapt their youth work portfolio and approaches in accordance with the policy.

- Departments of Youth need help to identify and implement evidence-based work. Work that connects research and practice must be more than a concept. The ideal would be to crate spaces that help practitioners manage the challenges and opportunities of integrating youth work practice with researchers. Youth Departments also need support, including external support to document good practices and apply and adapt regional and other good practices models.

- Although conceptually articulated within a youth mainstreaming approach, the design and management of the youth development agenda within a formal NYP construct does not facilitate or enable mainstreaming.

- Implementing and measuring youth development and positive youth development consistent with social ecological and public health approaches rely on data and research driven youth programming, which are largely outside of the reach of Departments of youth.

- Youth development policy and programming for "at risk" or "vulnerable youth" as a one size fit all approach reinforces the thinking that youth are a problem to be fixed, and not that they are influenced by individual, complex and recurring factors, positive and negative in their lived spaces. Policy and targeted programmes must address "historical vulnerabilities captured in the deficit discourse on youth development" that must more strategically address how youth in their own space and circumstances influence factors of their own development.

- Policy implementation requires a wider resource base of talents and perspectives of young people in the national ecosystem than those who may be attached to youth movements. Young people will require capacity to participate effectively in new and emerging spheres that require committed and sustained youth advocacy and engagement.

- Youth departments are not adequately consulted in development planning and programme design on high-level/ high-investment programmes that target youth.

- Countries need holistic programming that is integrative.

It was also observed that there is a major challenge in how policies are formulated so that their intent for young people is unambiguous. Policy and programmes need to be centrally youth focused as opposed to generic policy initiatives aimed at the entire population without any youth specific considerations.

2. Emerging good practices in national Youth Policies

While no definitive Youth Policy evaluations were available to assess how NYPs have impacted young people and their development, Directors of Youth were able to highlight useful practices and lessons in policy development and implementation that may assist this review process. These include:

- Sustaining overall political support for a national youth policy formulation requires a committed youth champion at the Cabinet level. The effort is more likely to succeed if well-structured through the establishment of an interdisciplinary committee or National Youth Policy Implementation Committee that manages the effort and enjoins accountability and responsiveness across the national eco-system. This is an ideal mechanism to engage all relevant and strategic stakeholders in cross-sectoral prgramme design and action planning and sets the culture and practice for youth mainstreaming that will be a critical success factor.

- Youth policy design must analyse and include the management system and organizational structure that would optimally contribute to successful implementation and results. Some elements of an integrated success model for policy implementation will be a professional and competent youth worker base, sound research capacity and systems for evidence-based youth development at all stages, and for monitoring and evaluation.

- Young people are at the heart of a youth policy and should be integrated in myriad ways in the work of youth department, and in wider cross-sectoral decision making in the national ecosystem. Keeping young people engaged at all times is beneficial to a youth policy development exercise, and young people are best suited to work within and across other youth agencies and networks to connect other youth populations to ensure formulation of the policy is inclusive and integrates diverse youth. Youth support is also ideal in managing social and participatory research that should be essential elements to inform youth policy formulation.

- Successful and relevant policy implementation relies on dedicated funding for programmes. Departments of Youth are underresourced and persistently overburdened. A youth policy must be adequately funded so that once completed a Ministry or Department can manage programmes in the policy. Wherever substantial capital investments are to be allocated for youth-centric programmes managed by other ministries, the Youth Department should be strategically

consulted to ensure the programme embraces the concept and practice of asset-based youth development, underserved youth populations benefit, and development is managed consistent with all policy aims.

- A Policy should be supported by an Action Plan that establishes clear indicators of success and time frames.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

This review has identified a progressive move to positive youth development and rights-based approaches in youth development, including direct linkages to the World Programme of Action for youth and subregional youth policy frameworks such as the CYDAP and the PAYE. However, some critical gaps and limitations remain in Caribbean youth policy development. After 20 years of its adoption, the guiding framework of the Lisbon Declaration is still valid. The Declaration provided a comprehensive accountability framework for youth development situated within the context of global and priority human development concerns. That framework for young people 15-24 committed to their transformational development in six broad areas, underscoring the need for high level action, commitments and enabling frameworks by Government, a global UN system-wide agenda of programming and resources dedicated to young people, and a network of private sector and civil society partners to be enjoined in the common pursuit of youth development as national development.

Lisbon declaration framework for transformational development of young people emphasized:

- **Participation** – the rights of young people as human rights to contribute positively in their own lives and determination, and to be integrated meaningfully in finding solutions for the development of their community, and wider society.

- **Development** – the principle of social justice to be applied to youth access to the complex arrangements of supports, information, services and physical assets necessary for life.

- **Peace** – the roles of young people as inheritors and agents of peaceful societies and coexistence.

- **Education** – the indispensable contribution of relevant and accessible formal and non-formal education and life-long learning opportunities, and safe spaces and diverse mechanisms for youth experiential learning to building social capital, and their overall youth wellbeing.

- **Employment** – young people's right to participate in the economy - enjoying decent work, with the right fit of skills for sustainable wealth creation, and with equality of access to such opportunities uncompromised by their age or gender.

- **Health –** making available services appropriate for young people according to their life stage to achieve health improvements, mindful of health determinants that accompany a successful transition into full adulthood.

- **Drug and substance abuse –** managing through education, partnerships and integrated strategies, the effects and impacts of the world drug problem of young people, current at that time and still current with compounding effects.

Therefore, governments should take necessary measures to tackle the challenges in bringing about youth development in the Caribbean.

A. Conclusions

At the Caribbean subregional level, youth directors, as they meet in Georgetown, should take stock of current trends which articulate the subregional situation regarding youth. In this regard, the current study highlights the salient trends as follows:

1. Young people require more education and training to adequately manage the realities of longer and more complex transitions from childhood to adult life, partly as a consequence of a difficult labour market, but also as a global trend as life expectancy rises;

2. Youth are disproportionately affected by high unemployment and are over-represented in marginal and precarious employment;

3. Youth have high dependency rates with reliance on family structures and social support systems that are mostly inadequate;

4. The educational systems do not adequately prepare youth for life as adults;

5. Increasing violence suffered and committed by youth results in significant health and social impacts with consequential effects on youth;

6. Increasing vulnerabilities of youth, in particular those that are affected by poverty as well as rural youth, to the impacts of climate change puts their futures at grave risks;

7. Funding for youth development is critical and must be more strategically managed within the national eco-system and in support of wider regional development goals by leveraging appropriate partnerships and resources.

The survey conducted at subregional level with Youth Directors on the National Youth Policies and Programmes found concrete results in implementation, including integrating youth concerns into development strategies, institutional changes to accommodate the operationalisation of the National Youth Policies and Programmes of Action; policy, legislative and institutional changes in the areas of youth; recognition of the enhanced role of youth organisations; an increased involvement of non-governmental organisations; and improved partnership among United Nations agencies and organisations.

Members and Associates of the CDCC have made encouraging progress in developing youth policy as a guiding national framework to manage commitments and successful outcomes for youth as detailed in the Lisbon Declaration. Using the blueprint of the WPAY, there is clear evidence of a quiet surge towards professional youth development characterised by research and analysis, strong partnerships that complement knowledge and resource gaps in Youth Departments and Ministries that have shaped country-specific and culture specific interventions to address key WPAY priority areas.

Countries have begun initiatives to promote the participation of youth at policy and decision-making levels and progress has been made in advocating for the protection of the well-being of youth. Recognizing the important role of civil society in implementation of the NYPs, many governments have adopted significant measures to promote the involvement of civil society groups in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. Some Governments have taken measures to strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society, including the provision of funds and the removal of legal restrictions.

This synthesis review, although primarily aimed at providing a comprehensive assessment of the status of implementation of the Lisbon declaration, has identified critical issues affecting youth development in the Caribbean that need to be addressed, not only in national policies but also in programmes and interventions designed to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development in the subregion, irrespective of who implements them.

The regional comparative analysis indicates different conceptual approaches to youth roles and participation in Caribbean societies but also unequal experiences of national institutions partnering with and for youth, which reflect evolving legal, social and political national contexts. Forms, process, partnerships, effectiveness and impact of youth policies and mechanisms of youth participation vary from one country to another.

Traditionally, youth processes in the Caribbean have not accorded sufficient relevance to the critical impact of the policy environment. Some the critical policy development constraints include:

- Inconsistent political support and funding mechanisms, including sustainability of resource mobilisation and inconsistency of budgetary allocations. A serious lack of financial resources remains one of the primary obstacles to full implementation of the NYPs. Financial crises and dislocations impeded efforts to implement coherent and strategic action for youth development.

- The capacity and relevance of the institutional frameworks, promoting the competencies and capacities of youth development practitioners and of research capabilities. The institutional arrangements to manage youth development programmes and to support the delivery of youth development services are relatively weak and often lacking in strategic focus. Though efforts at professionalisation are evident, the accomplishment of a professionalized youth development culture and environment remains a major challenge.

- Multi-stakeholders process dynamics. The lack of coordination mechanisms and funding constraints often preclude more extensive collaboration between government and civil society groups. Often, there are no legal frameworks, regulations or guidelines to facilitate partnerships with youth non-governmental organisations. Insufficient human and financial resources and a lack of technical capacity in both Governments and nongovernmental organisations also impede effective partnerships. The private sector continues to remain under involved in population and development activities.

- Inadequacy of youth groups and networks, including participation and roles of youth organisations. The youth policy processes analysed in this report illustrate the need for a flexible definition of youth, allowing for contextualized and coherent policy analysis as well as for tailored interventions taking into consideration the needs of heterogeneous groups and minorities. However, youth actors' roles are often not comprehensively identified. Youth organisations, as well as national youth institutions are not systematically mentioned and analysed: their roles and structure is not adequately captured within the youth policy architecture, hindering the implementation level.

- In many instances young people's contribution to youth development processes are minimal. Indeed, youth participation should not be a tokenistic construct but one where youth are actively engaged in the process from conception to implementation. Too frequently Caribbean young people are simply the beneficiaries of services and products rather than strategic partners in the policy formulation, implementation and evaluation phases.

- Mainstreaming gender in national youth policies is as critical to policy relevance and success as mainstreaming youth across all sectors of development. Priority areas in youth development such as education, health, ICTs, employment and entrepreneurship, sports and recreation are not gender neutral. Special attention must be paid to how programmes are designed to ensure girls and young women can equally access and benefit from opportunities, as well as to ensure, where necessary, that measures are put in place to guarantee participation and access of boys and men.

- Translational gap in building on international and regional frameworks for tangible actions on youth development. The NYP provisions and strategy documents analysed make explicit references to key principles outlined in Lisbon declaration, most of them refer to international instruments and reaffirm the Baku Declaration (2014): rights-based, inclusive, participatory, comprehensive, gender-sensitive, global/intersectoral, evidence-informed, etc. While those commonly agreeable principles encourage a positive vision as well as promising intention for youth empowerment, they do not necessarily lay the ground to tangible indicators, mechanisms or governance tools for the concretisation of the NYP. The lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as well well-defined targets, indicators and access to baseline data places NYPs to be perceived as idealistic reference frameworks rather than operational policies able to direct measurable action for youth development.

B. Recommendations.

1.   Key recommendations

Based on the findings of the synthesis review contained in this report, as well as the consultations and discussions held with subregional stakeholders, the following recommendations are proposed:

- The synergies between youth policies and broader development policies and frameworks need to be strengthened, notably as regards the linkages with the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, regional articulation with SIDs and LAC agendas as well as national development plans. In this regard the youth policies should clearly integrate the relationship among other policy documents or strategies that impact youth.

- Collaboration and partnership in youth policy development among the Caribbean territories should be reinforced. Collaborative work and strategic partnerships are required to enable inclusive and multi-sector multi-stakeholder involvement in youth policy development. The enhanced cooperation among CARICOM, The Commonwealth, the UN system and other development partners, regional youth networks and the academia is highly recommended.

- Every issue is a youth issue. Therefore, youth participation in policy development and implementation should not only be addressed under a single ministry of government. Youth mainstreaming should be the consideration for all ministries to ensure that the youth agenda is not a disjointed, but a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach.

- Institutional capacity building of youth development agencies and youth networks should be strengthened so that they can play a more effective role in the youth development process. This should include but not limited to research capacities, enhance strategic planning capacities and stakeholder engagement.

- A knowledge-based approach is required, integrating measures to develop and utilise appropriate tools, indicators and research methodologies to facilitate the development of evidenced-based, inclusive and integrated youth policies.

- Monitoring and evaluation systems should be an integral basis of a robust NYP, addressed as a transparent and inclusive process. NYPs should be kept up to date and revised or created using appropriate M&E frameworks. Youth policy cannot be assessed merely through the instrumentalisation of quantitative approaches. A qualitative understanding of the situation is vital, for example, through the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including youth organisations, in the review processes. However, to assist in the democratic process of policy- and decision-making and improve good governance in the field of youth policy, indicators may help in reevaluating policy direction.

- The active participation of all strata of youth is key to the success of implementation, including the involvement of young people living in challenging circumstances, vulnerable groups, gender sensitive approaches, in all phases of the process of formulation, implementation and follow-up

and review of the policies. The ownership process will contribute immensely to the relevance and inclusiveness of the youth policies.

- Measures to reinforce volunteerism, gender mainstreaming, climate change, and inter-generational partnerships need to be readdressed in youth policy development.

- From policy to action: appropriate strategies and mechanisms for implementation are required to facilitate the transformation of policies into action. The persistent issue surrounding a National Youth Policy is its diminished relevance to young people and national development if it is not implemented as intended. Having high-level political commitment and championship for policy implementation and investments is a basic requirement, which was an expressed commitment of Governments under the Lisbon Declaration.

- Governments, and development agencies should work together to agree more consistent and targeted funding and programming for youth development and advocacy priorities in a five-year development plan that links to available and measurable indicators and targets.

The other big issue to address in youth policy formulation and implementation cuts across all areas of priority and action setting and underpins the foundational principles of rights and social justice and genuine youth participation with which we hold up NYPs for critical scrutiny. National Youth Policies must be structured and implemented firstly with a focus on youth. Secondly, they must embody the intention to reduce inequalities, which for young people take on more complex layers based on historical and political antecedents. There must exist more careful interrogation, analysis and action setting to enhance youth wellbeing in the fullest context, to retard impacts of hunger and poverty, reverse apathy and disenfranchisement and build social cohesion. Where there exists persistent inaction or insufficient action, for the right people at the right time, under most opportune circumstances, inequalities faced by youth that propel policy setting, may actually increase.

2. Strategies to enhance progress in implementation of the WPAY

A basic strategic requirement for successful NYP implementation is high-level political ownership and investments that articulate within the scope and spirit of the WPAY, and the Lisbon Declaration. This was recognised 20 years ago in the commitments of the Lisbon Declaration. More importantly, youth policies and programming must be allowed to propel youth development beyond partisan politics and the limitations of 5-year electoral cycles ends. To further this aim, while remaining true to country needs and aspirations, countries should as far as practicable demonstrate that NYPs are genuinely inclusive and framed within global youth policy contexts to achieve identified results for enhanced participation and enjoyment of rights and opportunities of all youth equally.

Strategic actions to enhance progress in implementation of the WPAY should consider:

- Intersectoral youth policy coordination committees should interrogate policy and programming in all sectors of national development, and related policy actions, targets, and indicators in the light of the SDGs and applicable treaties, to contribute to evidence-informed integrative and cross-sectoral actions and targets that are youth-focused.

- Ensure NYPs are framed within a non-partisan, evidence-based youth empowerment agenda using the WPAY and other applicable regional policy guides such as CYDAP and the PAYE, among others, especially to ensure coverage in priority areas reflect a diversity of issues for all youth, mindful of the prevailing policies in the national-eco-system.

- Priority areas for youth within the technical domain of UN system agencies and other partners (employment, ICTs, the environment, housing, agriculture, girls and women) should be framed using specific guidance available to support the formulation of evidence-informed strategies and corresponding performance measures, especially to manage gaps in coverage in SDG related areas.

- Ensure all policy formulation exercises are completed with the development of an accompanying Action Plan or Performance Management Plan (PMP). This should be part of a results-based framework around the youth policy work and to ensure policy actions remain unambiguous. Multi-layered strategies and implementation should be relegated to the accompanying Action Plan/Agenda. Action Plans should integrate all applicable indicators including those of the SDGs for alignment of policy to global targets, mindful of targets for girls and women, health, education, violence and victimisation and the range of other issues pertinent to young people and their development.

- All youth policy formulation must review and integrate the legislative agenda for youth development, inclusive of ages of youth, rights and services for youth and other binding provisions related to policy priorities to ensure the NYP implementation agenda incorporates the full gamut of legal compliance, especially in the provision of safety, protective and preferential supports for youth.

- Implement a national youth policy database and tracking system that captures policy programming and implementation capacity and initiatives of all agencies in the public sector, private sector and civil society and facilitates evaluation of investments, especially in areas of high national and global priority.

- Introduce a standard suite of tools to support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NYPs including:

  - A mainstreaming strategy with suggested resources and cross-functionality for NYP implementation, and mandatory monitoring and reporting on progress.

  - A standard design methodology and checklist of qualitative and quantitative markers to inform how key NYP principles - rights-based, gender-responsive, inclusive, participatory comprehensive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed, fully resourced, and accountability-driven (Baku Declaration 2014) - should be represented within hard policy objectives and programming.

  - A standard format for NYP Action Plans / PMPs, which would offer the advantage of supporting regional reporting, sharing of experiences and lessons.

  - A methodology and approach to review NYPs managed as horizontal cooperation or peer review by a Caribbean Caucus of Youth Directors, with evaluation teams led by a Youth Director and comprising young people, academia, youth workers, and graduates of the Youth Work undergraduate degree, among others.

  - A Responsibility Matrix for the Action agenda that delineates policy outputs by priority (high, medium, iterative) by thematic areas, and by responsible (lead) partner, and contributing partners and respective inputs, as a main accountability guide to the main coordinating body and all implementation functionality and cross-supports.

  - A NYP Risk Assessment that identifies cascading impacts of unmet outputs and results in priority areas, who owns these risks, and what contingency measures can be activated so all delivery and related results in any area are not lost.

3.   Strategies to involve youth in the 2030 Agenda implementation

The optimum social, civic, and economic participation of all young people is the overarching goal of all NYPs, and the international development agenda of the WPAY and the SDGs, among other frameworks. Young people need to able to make this vital connection in their spaces, so that their education and awareness can translate into action for change and as agents of change. This is also crucial for young people who lead and convene advocacy and development through individual and agency platforms and advocacy, and community initiatives, and who access national and international participation opportunities, so they understand what interests and outcomes they should be promoting for youth in their

country. This education and preparation should be the dedicated focus of agencies within national ecosystems, coordinated by Youth Ministries and Departments, and supported by other partners to imbed that connection, commitment and participation within the larger remit of youth rights and social justice.

Recommended strategic actions to involve youth in the 2030 Agenda implementation:

- Implement a youth/community relations strategy on NYPs that integrates clear responsibilities for youth leaders, networks and youth-serving agencies for each NYP priority area, according to their talents and interests and related advocacy and action platforms, and which articulates within a wider national accountability agenda that locates lead/sectoral responsibility for planned investments and supports for young people.

- Enhance the ability of youth-led networks, youth leaders and youth-serving agencies to manage peer to peer and youth development within a framework of human rights, social justice and related accountability and responsibility.

- Ensure marginalised, fringe and other under-served youth populations engage equally in the national arena of youth participation and decision-making processes so as not to perpetuate elitism in youth opportunities and access. This will require more innovative measures to find under-served youth in their spaces for more effective consolidation of youth-led multi-sectoral inputs and supports into a common development agenda.

- Regional governance structures such as the Caribbean Regional Youth Council, the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, the Commonwealth Regional Youth Council, among others, should enhance their mobilisation, visibility and outreach, operating from a strategic plan and sustainability agenda that supports institutional memory, long-term programming, and life-cycle learning to monitor and influence the Caribbean youth development agenda and important global decision making with major impacts on young people.

- National and regional youth-led organisations should work assiduously together on a shared agenda of national and regional youth development that leverages their agency talents, reach and resources to close the gaps in supports, representation and impacts for young people they serve. Technical assistance support may be sought to develop an asset register for all youth-led movements and platforms as a source for national and regional decision-making and to support national and global development in WPAY priority areas, especially given young people's expected contributions to the 2030 Agenda, and the Climate Change Agenda, among other merging priorities.

- Youth participation in policies must be enhanced through the use of ICTs and other innovations to equip young people for legacy roles and responsibilities in achieving national and global targets such as for the 2030 Agenda.

This review of NYPs in CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries points to a very good knowledge of the role of a National Youth Policy. Youth Ministers and Youth Departments have placed commendable weight on formulating or updating documents as borne out by evidence available for this review. Generally, policy setting has been guided by secondary data, global, and regional policy instruments, and there is evidence of increasing attention to social research within youth populations and using highly participatory methods led to some extent by young people.

The record of implementation is not as easy to ascertain as the interests in having a policy. That only 2 countries out of those reviewed have Implementation Plans with performance measures may be a procedural accomplishment and not an actual indication of inadequate policy implementation. Because we understand the scope of youth empowerment and development proposed in the Lisbon Declaration extend across many sectors, we may also infer that individual sectoral policies contribute significantly to this goal, although there is no reliable way to measure the comprehensive impacts to young people and their wellbeing.

From survey results available for this review, Directors of Youth reported that sectors implementing programmes for youth fail to integrate them adequately in the process. This may be because in many instances youth departments have not been resourced to transition beyond original labels and perceptions as places offering random short-term skills-building and leisure events for youth. Governments must make youth policy implementation a well-resourced investment, delegated within a clear accountability construct.

Unless Governments require that all sectoral policies and national macro-development frameworks include a section specific to youth development outcomes, the solution returns to the need for a strong and adequately resourced coordinating mechanisms within the national ecosystem to mainstream youth development. In this way the commitment of the Lisbon Declaration two decades ago towards "ensuring the mainstreaming of national youth policy and international development, plans and programmes" assumes more urgency today than ever. If Caribbean countries are to harness the social and economic dividend of the Caribbean youth bulge, especially in fulfilling the aspirational objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the time appears opportune for this second generation of NYPs to delineate a future where Governments and young people may work together to integrate strategic actions and investments for youth development. This integrative youth agenda should promote more deliberate mainstreaming and accountability policies to impact the fullest access and enjoyment of all young people to sustainable development as their right.

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Annexes

Annex 1

Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development
Marriott Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana, 24-26 July, 2018

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 24 July

0830 – 0900	Registration
0900 – 1000	**Opening of the Meeting**

Chairperson: Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana

Opening statements by:

- Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Hon. Dr. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion, Guyana
- Hon. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Suriname - delivering message from H.E. Desiré Delano Bouterse, President of Suriname, CARICOM Lead Head of Government for Community Development

Interlude - Parkside Steel Orchestra

- Monica La Bennett, Vice-President (Operations), Caribbean Development Bank
- Alison Drayton, Director, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Interlude - Spoken word - Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre

- Shaquille Knowles, Chairperson, Caribbean Regional Youth Council - Joint statement from Youth Organisations

1000 – 1030   *Coffee Break and official group photo*

1030 – 1130	**The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes + 20: A Progress Report on the Caribbean**
Session 1 A	Presentation of the *Caribbean Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programme*s, preliminary recommendations and priority areas for action.

Facilitator: Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname

Moderator: Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat

- Catarina Camarinhas, Social Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC
- André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps
- Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies

1130 – 1230	**Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development**
Session 1 B	Presentation and discussion of the *Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: A Review of the Period 2013-2018.*

Moderator: Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC
- Alison Drayton, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, UNFPA
- Andre Richards, Senior Demographer, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Michele Jules, Policy Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Suriname

1230 – 1330	*Lunch / Introduction of youth groups*

1330 – 1500	**Frameworks to Support the Implementation of Youth Policies and Programmes in the Caribbean**
Session 1 C	Presentation and discussion of the main policy frameworks for youth development in the Caribbean: opportunities for synergies and improved coordination.

Moderator: Bren Romney, Director, Department of Youth and Culture, Anguilla

- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Nicola Shepherd, Focal Point on Youth, UN/DESA (Virtual presentation)
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Kemberley Gittens, Social Analyst, Caribbean Development Bank

1500 – 1515	*Coffee Break*

1515 – 1700 **SPECIAL SESSION**	**Mobilizing Youth to Advance the 2030 Agenda** A session about the efforts of young people to advance implementation of the SDGs – with youth participants from the region and contributions from the online, preparatory Youth Dialogue Sessions. **Facilitator**: Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica **Moderator**: Kylah Ciego, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Belize • Beryl Manhoef, SDG Youth Ambassador, Suriname • Michael McGarrell, Youth Advocate, Guyana and Amazon Basin • Chetwynd Osborne, Policy Analyst at the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Guyana • Kurba-Marie Questelles, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago • Melessa Vassell, President, Jamaica Youth Theatre
1700 – 1730	**Day 1 Wrap-up Session** • Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname • Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica • Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago
1800 – 1930 SIDE EVENT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	**CARICOM Side Event: Training/Networking Session** • Sherwin Bridgewater, Youth Development Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago • Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs

Wednesday, 25 July

0900 – 1000 Session 2 A	**Youth Policy Interventions and Programmes: A Best Practice Exchange** A session presenting case studies to address the challenges of youth at risk, providing success stories in the coordination of multidimensional interventions. **Moderator:** John Roach, Chief Youth Development Officer, Dominica • Alicia Glasgow Gentles, Executive Director, The MultiCare Youth Foundation (YUTE Programme) • Courtney Brown, Country Manager, Community, Family and Youth Resilience Program (USAID), Guyana • Andreas Karsten, Executive Director, Youth Policy Labs • Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant
1000 – 1015	*Coffee Break*
1015 – 1120 Session 2 B	**New and Emerging Youth Employment Opportunities** A thematic session highlighting opportunities for youth employment in new and emerging sectors, including the blue, green and creative economies. The session will also discuss policy-level interventions to

address the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment in the Caribbean, including entrepreneurship development.

Moderator: Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator, Child Labour, International Labour Organization

- Raquel Frederick, Research Analyst and Wayne Elliot, Research Analyst, CDB (Virtual presentation)
- Ram Sushil, Programme Manager, The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Richard Berwick, Lead Facilitator, Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO)
- Riane de Haas Bledoeg, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture, CARICOM Secretariat

1130 – 1230 Session 2 C	**Access to Appropriate Education and Training**

The panel will discuss challenges and obstacles hindering access to quality, relevant and appropriate education and training, and will underscore linkages with youth employment through skills development, technology, vocational education and training opportunities.

Moderator: Sophia Zachariah, Senior Programme Officer, Department of Youth Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda

- Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labour and Employment Section, OAS
- Franz George, Caribbean and Americas Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- Paolo Marchi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname
- Patricia McPherson, Deputy Programme Manager, Education, CARICOM Secretariat

1230 – 1330	*Lunch / Introduction of youth groups*

1330 – 1500 Session 2 D	**Youth Political and Civic Participation**

The panel will discuss strategies and approaches to ensure active youth participation in political and socio-economic development processes at community, national and regional levels.

Moderator: Gregory Willock, Parliamentary Secretary, Montserrat

- Tijani Christian, Chairperson, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)
- Zaviska Lamsberg, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname
- Latoya Charles, Interim PRO Saint Lucia National Youth Council
- Vishal H. Joseph, CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Guyana
- Andrea Gisselle Burbano Fuertes, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean

1500 – 1515	*Coffee Break*

1515 – 1730 Session 2 E	**Recommendations for Increased Youth Engagement in Development Frameworks – A Proposal for Action**

The Forum will discuss and agree on priority actions to advance the regional youth development agenda and formulate a proposal to create a regional mechanism to facilitate youth participation, engagement and collaboration.

Moderators: Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat and Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts, Research Fellow, SALISES, University of the West Indies

- Asha-Gaye Cowell, President 2017-2018, UWI STAT Vice Chancellor's Ambassador Corps, Mona Chapter
- Cleviston Hunte, Director of Youth Affairs, Barbados
- Kevin Andall, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Development, Sport, Culture and the Arts, Grenada

1800 – 1930 SIDE EVENT	**Game-networking** - Teocah Dove, Social Development and Communications for Development Consultant

Thursday, 26 July

0900 – 1030 3 A	**An Intergenerational Dialogue: What role for older persons in the changing structure of the family, community and workplace in the Caribbean?** Perspectives on work, life, care and intergenerational relations. **Facilitators**: Ferranto Dongor, Youth Development Specialist, Suriname and Richard Berwick, Youth Development Specialist, Jamaica - Jennifer Rouse, Director of Ageing, Trinidad and Tobago - Sean Davis, Deputy Chairperson, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica - Carole Bishop, Member, Guyana Commission for the Family - Shakira Lowe, 'I am a Girl Barbados'
1030 – 1045	*Coffee Break*
1045 – 1230 3 B	**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality** Policy initiatives to better serve the needs of Caribbean youth, women and marginalized groups **Moderator:** Jicinta Alexis, Ministry of Social Development and Housing, Grenada - Dona da Costa Martinez, Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago - Dennis Glasgow, SRH Advocate and Member of the PANCAP Steering Committee on Youth Advocacy - Alison McLean, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office, Caribbean - Akola Thompson, Social Activist, Guyana
1230 – 1330	*Lunch / Introduction of youth groups*

1330 – 1500 3 C	**Migration, Diaspora and Development** Managing skilled migration and engaging the diaspora in national development. **Moderator:** Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC

- Eraina Yaw, International Organization for Migration
- Indianna Minto-Coy, Senior Research Fellow, Mona School of Business and Management, University of the West Indies
- Michael Brotherson, Head of the Diaspora Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

1530 – 1630	*Coffee Break*

1630 – 1730	**Closure of the Meeting**

- Hon. Lalini Gopal, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Agreement on key actions for the implementation and follow-up on the Montevideo Consensus
- Consideration of the recommendations of the meeting
- Closing remarks

Annex 2
Subregional survey on youth policies and programmes

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBREGIONAL SURVEY ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE LISBON DECLARATION AND OTHER YOUTH RELATED FRAMEWORKS

The **Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes** was adopted in 1998, committing nations and the international community to implement numerous measures related to national youth policy, participation, development, peace, education, employment, health and drug abuse. Complementary to global initiatives on youth development, the Caribbean subregion adopted in 2012 the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (recently reviewed for the period 2017-2022), which advances the 2010 Declaration of Paramaribo on the future of Youth in the Caribbean. Furthermore, Member States of the Caribbean are currently implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the planning, implementation, and follow-up and review stages of this global Agenda, the crucial role of youth in the Caribbean cannot be overemphasized.

Twenty years after the adoption of Lisbon Declaration, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is conducting a Study on its implementation. In order to collect data to inform this study, ECLAC has developed this survey on youth policies and programmes in your country. The survey contains questions on the measures taken to promote national youth policy formulation, implementation and follow-up processes.

As part of the review process, there will be a preparatory meeting for Caribbean member states to be held in June 2018. Recommendations from this meeting will inform the Caribbean position paper to be presented at the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Lima, Peru in July 2018.

The Caribbean preparatory meeting will assess the status of implementation of the Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes (1998) and the most recent regional agreement, the Montevideo consensus on population and development (2013). It will provide an opportunity for multi-stakeholder dialogue; networking; exchange of experiences and best practices; and will identify future priorities and policy responses.

It would be appreciated if you could kindly complete the attached questionnaire by **Monday 16 April 2018** and return it by email, together with relevant attachments, to Ms. Candice Gonzales (candice.gonzales@eclac.org), with copy to Ms. Catarina Camarinhas (catarina.camarinhas@un.org), Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your collaboration.

PART I. NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP)

1. **Please provide information about your Government's national coordinating unit/department/focal point for youth[50] policies and programmes.**

Member / Associate Member State	Choose an item.
Name of the coordinating unit/ department/focal point	Click or tap here to enter text.
Description – include the agreed mission or mandate, governance (whether a stand-alone agency or part of which wider structure), main objectives or functions and activities	Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact information, including mailing address, telephone, email and website	Click or tap here to enter text.

2. **Does your country have a National Youth Policy (NYP)?**

☐Yes   ☐No

If yes, provide name; the year of adoption, provisions for implementation and information on updates or revisions, if applicable. Click or tap here to enter text.

If "no", please elaborate on any effort towards the preparation and adoption of such a national policy. Does your country have any other document that contains a national strategy or programme of action for youth? Click or tap here to enter text.

Please attach a copy of any relevant documents (or links).

3. **What is the legal definition of "youth" in your country and was it included in the NYP?**
Click or tap here to enter text.

4. **Has there been any specific survey or research on youth in your country?**

☐ Yes   ☐ No

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[50] The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.

If "yes", please provide information:

Focus and coverage: Click or tap here to enter text. Year of survey/research: Click or tap here to enter text. Institutions involved: Click or tap here to enter text. Was it used for the preparation of the NYP? Click or tap here to enter text.

Please attach a copy of any relevant documents (or links).

5.   **Were consultations organized to get the views of young people:**

   a.   **on all phases of the NYP?** ☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ To some extent

   b.   **in all provinces/regions of the country?** ☐ Yes ☐ No   ☐ To some extent

If "yes", please describe:

Mechanisms put in place for youth participation: Click or tap here to enter text. Assessment of the participatory process: Click or tap here to enter text.

6.   **What are the key priority issues addressed in the NYP?**

Please list the key priority issues: Click or tap here to enter text.

7. What are the most important achievements in your country in addressing issues related to youth that may be directly or indirectly linked to Youth policy? Click or tap here to enter text.

8.   **What are the most relevant issues regarding youth that are anticipated to receive further public policy priority over the next five to ten years?**

List up to five issues.
Click or tap here to enter text.

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION

9.   Was a national youth coordinating mechanism put in place (with relevant partners and stakeholders) to support the implementation of youth policies and programmes?

☐Yes ☐No

If "yes", please provide information and describe the impact of such mechanism.

Contact information (mailing address, telephone, email and website): Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of the focal point at the National Youth coordination mechanism: Click or tap here to enter text.
Description (governance, main functions and activities): Click or tap here to enter text.
Impact of the mechanism for the implementation process: Click or tap here to enter text.

10. Was adequate youth work and youth-leadership training undertaken in the implementation of the NYP regarding capacity-building for:

a.   representatives of the Government and/or Ministry responsible for Youth?
☐Yes   ☐No

b. for the National Youth NGO coordinating platform?
☐Yes ☐No

If "yes" to either of the above, please describe the type of training and impact it brought to the implementation process. Click or tap here to enter text.

11. Is there a real partnership between youth NGOs and the Government at all levels (national and sub-national) in all phases of implementation of the NYP?

☐ Yes ☐ No   ☐ To some extent

If "yes", please provide examples of how this partnership is working. Click or tap here to enter text.

12. Was a National Youth Action Plan formulated and adopted in the implementation of the NYP in your country?

☐ Yes, drafted   ☐ Yes, drafted and adopted   ☐ No

If "yes", please describe the main features and impact of such an Action Plan. Click or tap here to enter text.

Please attach a copy of any relevant documents (or links).

13. What has been the progress achieved and main obstacles encountered regarding the impact of the NYP? (Please indicate all applicable, multiple choices possible)

☐ NYP implementation Not started   ☐ Ongoing ☐ Implementation Completed
☐ In review
☐ Other situation, please explain: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe what has been the impact of the NYP on improving:

Society: Click or tap here to enter text.

The situation of young people, in general: Click or tap here to enter text.

The situation of sub-groups of youth, in particular (young women and young men, urban youth, rural youth, students, young workers, youth with disabilities, refugee and migrant youth, juvenile delinquents, youth with HIV/AIDS): Click or tap here to enter text.

Main challenges: Click or tap here to enter text.

PART III. THEMATIC AREAS

14. **Please describe the measures implemented by your Ministry and/or Government regarding the following thematic areas:**

Thematic Area	What are the specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country?	Please describe the measures implemented and provide an example of a programme or other initiative established in your country to address this objective.
a. Youth empowerment and participation in all spheres of society and decision-making processes (e.g. support to marginalized, vulnerable young women and young men, especially those who are separated from their families, and children living and/or working in the streets; building of communication channels with youth; measures to encourage youth voluntarism).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
b. Peace and security (e.g. any measures aiming at preventing the participation and involvement of youth in all acts of violence, particularly acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, xenophobia and racism, foreign occupation, and trafficking in arms and drugs; measures to integrate into the system of education and training aspects related to peace, social progress, fighting inequalities and recognizing the importance of	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

dialogue and cooperation, etc).		
c. Youth employment and entrepreneurship (e.g. measures to help young people to enter the labour market or start their own business, for example, provision of training or resources; laws against sex-based discrimination in the labour market; measures to protect including migrant workers, against other forms of exploitation, for example sex tourism, prostitution, with due regard to the particular situation of young women).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
d. Information and communication technologies (e.g. measures to promote equal access to and use of new information technologies).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
e. Personal Development (e.g. new partnerships to enable young women and young men to learn, create and express themselves through cultural, physical and sports activities).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
f. Intergenerational relations (e.g. measures to reinforce and design new partnerships to improve the relationship between different generations; creation of mentoring programmes, etc.).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
g. Poverty and hunger (e.g. policy to combat poverty and any actions on the alleviation of	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

poverty; specific programmes and mechanisms within an integrated perspective of families, etc).		
h. <u>Education</u> in all its aspects, namely formal and non-formal education as well as functional literacy and training and life-long learning (Explain guarantees taken regarding the equal access and continuity of basic good quality education, especially in rural areas and among the urban poor. Do time-bound goals exist for the expansion of equal access for young women and young men to secondary and higher education and for the improvement of the quality of education?).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
i. <u>Health</u> development for young women and young men (e.g. measures to combat treatable diseases, preventing and responding to non-treatable diseases, programmes to reduce the consumption of tobacco, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and the abuse of alcohol; special health needs; safe water supply, sanitation, and waste disposal; establishment of a database on youth reproductive health; prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; measures to ensure full protection	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; measures regarding health relief under natural disasters and other emergencies, etc.).		
j. HIV/AIDS (e.g. measures to ensure access to free and confidential voluntary counselling and testing; providing accessible treatment and counselling with special care to children infected and affected by AIDS, including orphans; programmes to end stigmatisation and discrimination, etc.).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
k. Drug and substance abuse (e.g. strategies aiming at preventing abuse, reducing the demand for drugs, combating trafficking and promoting support for treatment for and rehabilitation of drug abusers focusing on their social reintegration; efforts to fight illicit production, supply and trafficking; awareness of youth, etc.).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
l. Environment (e.g. measures to encourage awareness and commitment to sustainable development principles and practices, especially in regard to environmental protection; environmental education; the	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

elevation of environmental issues amongst young people).		
m. **Urbanisation and housing** (e.g. measures to enhance the role of youth organisations in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and local development plans; measures to ensure safe, healthy and secure living and environmental and working conditions, including shelter; etc).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
n. Youth justice (e.g. measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth from juvenile detention; engaging youth in crime prevention activities; emphasizing leadership training; promoting crime prevention with focus on life skills education and positive self-development).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
o. Girls and Young women (e.g. measures to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women; development of educational materials and practices that are gender balanced and promote an educational setting that eliminates all barriers impeding the schooling of girls and young women, including married and/or pregnant girls and young women; removal of discriminatory laws and practices	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

against girls and young women in food allocation and nutrition, as well as in access to health services, etc.).		
p. Others (please indicate any other thematic areas that may be relevant to your Ministry and/or country).	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

PART IV. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEWING

15. Has the NYP and/or Action Plan been evaluated?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes", the NYP is being evaluated (check all that apply):
   ☐ on a regular basis ☐ on an ad hoc or irregular basis
    ☐ with measurable performance indicators
    ☐ with few or no measureable performance indicators

If "yes", please describe how the NYP and Action Plan have been re-directed after such evaluations:
 Click or tap here to enter text.
Please attach a copy of any relevant documents related to the evaluation (or links).

16. Has there been sufficient attention to the full participation of young people in this evaluation and re-direction process?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes", please specify the type of participation in both informal and formal settings of young women and young men: Click or tap here to enter text.

17. What are the main lessons learned regarding the formulation, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the NYP and Action Plan in your country? What advice would you give to enhance NYP formulation or implementation? Click or tap here to enter text.
Please attach a copy of any relevant documents related to lessons learned (or links).

18. Has there been a sharing of your country's experiences?
☐ Yes, with Other Caribbean countries ☐ Yes, with Latin American countries
☐ Yes, Outside the region ☐ No   ☐ Not applicable

If "yes", please describe:

> Name/date of initiative/conference: Click or tap here to enter text.
>
> Degree of Participation of Youth NGOs: Click or tap here to enter text.
>
> Participation of other countries: Click or tap here to enter text.

This survey was completed by:
(Please indicate details of the focal point and the name of all other Ministries/agencies involved in the completion of the questionnaire).
Name: Click or tap here to enter text. Title/designation: Click or tap here to enter text.
Ministry/Agency: Click or tap here to enter text. Country: Click or tap here to enter text.
Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Annex 3

Recommendations from the Caribbean Youth Dialogues in preparation for the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development:

The issues, concerns and proposed recommendations below were discussed at the Final Meeting of the Caribbean Youth Dialogues in preparation for the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development, and reflect the contribution of youth participants to the Caribbean Forum.

<div align="center">11 July 2018</div>

We, the participants of the Caribbean Youth Dialogues,

Conscious of the diversity of countries across the Caribbean, including, developing States, territories, Small Island Developing States, middle-income countries, highly indebted developing countries, least developed countries, and the implications that this pose for the development, implementation and review of youth policies and related frameworks,

Aware of the efforts made by Caribbean Governments towards the improvement of the well-being of young persons in the subregion, despite their limited resources and vulnerabilities, through the adoption of specific youth policies and programmes and the establishment of institutional frameworks for the participation of young people in the public spheres,

Cognizant of the persistent challenges faced by young persons in the Caribbean, by virtue of their age, sex, race, disability, health status, geographical location or country of origin, and their continued limited and meaningful engagement and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives, having adverse consequences for communities and societies,

Mindful of the new challenges that the subregion and young people have to overcome in order to build resilient and inclusive societies for all ages, mainly related to the ageing of the population, the impact of climate change and disasters, the high incidence of crime and violence, including gender-based violence, and the limited integration of information and community technologies that widen gaps among countries and generations,

Recalling the commitment of Caribbean Governments to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2015); the Mahogany Declaration (2017); the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies (2014); the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (1998); and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1995), the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and their review processes at the global level; as well as the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2017-2021); the CARICOM Integrated Strategic Framework for the Reduction of adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean (2015); the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016); the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013); and the recently adopted Action Agenda of the Commonwealth meeting of Caribbean Regional Directors of Youth, (2018), at the regional levels, and the need to foster synergies in the implementation of the different frameworks,

Recalling also the obligations assumed by Caribbean countries upon ratification of the Convention on the Rights to the Child (1989) and its optional protocols, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and its optional protocols; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000) and two of its protocols (the Protocol to Prevent, Supress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and its optional protocol; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006); the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (1994); the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, (2013); the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (1999); and other relevant treaties and agreements aimed at promoting and ensuring the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for youth,

Considering the main findings and discussions on the review of the national youth policies and related frameworks held during the Caribbean Youth Dialogues from 9 May to 11 July 2018, suggest the following proposed recommendations to be considered at the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development:

Improving knowledge sharing, partnership, cooperation and coordination
1. Support the maintenance and utilisation of a comprehensive youth-friendly Web platform that includes the existing portals for youth in the Caribbean to foster collaboration, coordination and synergies among youth leaders, youth practitioners, governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, international and regional organisations, and academic institutions. The Caribbean Regional Youth Alliance Network Portal[51]which is a regional portal to enhance youth groups and volunteer organisations created by the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and the ECLAC Youth Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean[52] (JUVELAC), which provides a repository of policy and programme database classified by topic and countries, could be the starting points. The content of this Web platform can include the following contents: all Caribbean national youth policies and related international, regional and subregional frameworks, including efforts made by Caribbean countries and youth-led organisations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the subregion; a Caribbean youth-friendly SDG virtual map; youth data; the contact of all youth led-organisations/ networks and youth government departments in the Caribbean; as well as updates on trainings, meetings, conferences on youth-related issues in the Caribbean. and be available in English, French and Spanish.
2. Encourage the establishment of a digitalised registry of all youth organisations in each country in order to facilitate the sharing of information, participation and inclusion of youth in consultation processes, as well as the gathering of up-to-date information for the creation of a Caribbean Youth Web platform.

Awareness raising on youth and youth involvement in sustainable development frameworks
3. Conduct a desk review of good practices in the subregion in the promotion of young persons in sustainable development, including as a cross-cutting issue in the implementation, follow-

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[51] http://www.caribbeanregionalyouthalliance.org
[52] https://dds.cepal.org/juvelac/

up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Promote awareness-raising campaigns in order to change attitudes towards youth, including the concept of positive youth development, as well as to foster intergenerational dialogues and interactions, social inclusion and cohesion, with particular focus on youth at risk in urban, rural and remote areas. The role that young people play in sustainable development and their contribution to resilient and inclusive societies should be promoted, including through the creation of youth-friendly government web pages and social media platforms, the media and the private sector, in order to eradicate all forms of discrimination, abuse, violence and prejudice against this age group.

5. Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, including in schools and university curricula, as well as through the creation of youth-friendly communication that will simplify the content of the SDGs and make them more accessible to young persons. This could be done through the identification of Caribbean SDG mascots; the sharing and dissemination of local projects and initiatives aimed at implementing each SDG, which could be based on the existing application called 'SDG in action'; the design of infographics, recording of videos, stories, and creation of a SDG virtual map for the subregion.

Including Cross-cutting issues in youth and sustainable development frameworks

6. Promote inclusiveness and participatory approach in all phases of the development and implementation of youth policies and programmes, which will facilitate the buy-in and leave no-one behind, while emphasizing the importance of adopting a gender perspective and including, but not limited to, the following sub-groups of youth: those at risk, the unattached young persons, teenage mothers, youth belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, young indigenous, young migrants regardless of their migratory status, young refugees, young asylum-seekers, those without access to identity documentation, those with disabilities, LGBTI young persons, youth in conflict with the law, those deprived of their liberty, those in institutionalised care, those living in orphanages, young persons living with HIV/AIDS, those living on the street, the urban poor, and those living in remote and rural areas.

7. Promote evidence-based approach in order to have access to up-to-date, systemic and regular disaggregated data that will inform the design, implementation and review of youth policies, programmes, and initiatives, including the creation of a central repository on youth data with standardized questionnaires and methodologies in the Caribbean governments should, as much as possible, seek to include youth within their research teams and statistics units, in particular young female researchers and statisticians, who continue to be underrepresented in research and statistics fields.

8. Promote specialised research to guide policy development, in particular on areas that require more attention, such as intergenerational relations; suicide among young persons; the role of youth during the relief, recovery and reconstruction process after hurricanes and other disaster-related situations; the role being played by new social media platforms on girls and young females in migratory processes, including victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation; as well as the situation of specific groups of young persons, who by virtue of their age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, and migratory status, could be at risk.

9. Promote specialised training for youth on monitoring and evaluation frameworks, as well as data collection and dissemination.

10. Promote public transparency and accountability, by disseminating the draft policy for consultation in order to receive inputs from different stakeholders, including youth. Additional efforts should be made to disseminate national youth policies, international and

regional agreements at the national and local levels. National policies should also be made available to youth in accessible and age-friendly formats, for instance with youth-friendly government web pages, in urban, rural and remote areas alike. In the adoption of the policy, it is also recommended that youth should not only be included in the consultative processes, but their perspectives should be incorporated into the outcome.

Mainstreaming Youth in development policies and related frameworks

11. Promote youth mainstreaming in any national and subnational development framework, including policies, programmes, poverty eradication strategies, budgets, among others. In this process, it is recommended to include youth-related indicators in the implementation of current policies and in the development of national policies. Key performance indicators of mainstreaming youth can include. capacity building training programming for public officers; live streaming consultations facilitated by Governments with the support of youth organizations in order to reach those who could not participate in person to ensure for a wider participation; the creation of youth mainstreaming frameworks models by CARICOM and Commonwealth, which will include young persons in its design.

12. Identify persistent challenges in Caribbean governments that are impeding progress towards developing, updating and adopting draft youth policies in each country.

Strengthening youth institutional frameworks and networks

13. Promote the strengthening and establishment of sustainable national youth councils, by identifying solutions to the challenges that prevent performance: making national youth council's acts of parliament, and making the National Youth Councils an umbrella organisation of all youth organisations in the country. The act should speak to the facilitation of improved coordination and identification of synergies among different youth organisations and networks at the national and subregional level, to act efficiently and avoid working in silos.

14. Strengthen youth departments and youth workers, by increasing human, technical, administrative and financial resources, as well as the professionalisation of the work on youth development, based on the Commonwealth High Education Youth Work Consortium, Youth Work Degree Project.

15. Improve coordination and identify synergies among the different youth organisations and networks at the national and subregional level, to have an increased impact at the government and community levels and avoid competing for the same limited government recourses in particular between the Caribbean Regional Youth Council, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, UWI STAT, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, SDG Youth Ambassadors in Suriname, youth-led businesses, Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs of the Caribbean and Canada, University Guild, Commonwealth Students Association and other Commonwealth youth networks, youth-led grassroots organisations and faith-based organisations.

Establishing implementation and follow-up mechanisms of youth policies and programmes

16. Improve the transparency of budget allocations for the institutions in charge of youth-related issues to better assess the resources available to them and their capacity to function adequately in order to effectively promote the well-being of young persons.

17. Develop a funding strategy for youth development in the subregion, considering the specificities and needs of each country.

18. Establish a national youth entity/agency that is regulated by the government ministry responsible for youth development, managed by a Board consisting of youth representatives

from the National Youth Council, the government and the private sector. The mandate of the entity shall be to facilitate the centralization of funding for youth development via public-private partnership. This is in addition to guaranteed Government subventions to support the youth departments of governments which would drive the implementation of national youth policies with youth organisations.

19. Emphasise the importance of establishing indicators in the implementation plan of national youth policies, and identification of departments in charge of monitoring the implementation. This plan of action should be implemented upon the launching of the policy such that there are minimal or no lapse in timeframes outlined in policy and actual commencement of implementation of measures which the policy promotes. Similarly, the evaluation mechanism should be featured during the formulation, and related benchmarks/pointers be so identified such that the evaluation mechanism can be established in the beginning.

20. Promote the inclusion of a monitoring and evaluation system with indicators and the collection of disaggregated data by age, sex, migratory status, disability, location and any other relevant variable, in order to have a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of existing policies on youth, with the identification of both progress and challenges.

Reforming Education and lifelong learning systems

21. Promote non-traditional education and training programmes, including personal development skills, such as public speaking, entrepreneurial training in the school curriculum, vocational training and career guidance by well-trained and coach experts to assess student's competencies; and more technical vocational schools.

22. Promote interdisciplinary projects and assessments that highlight the interconnectedness of disciplines and help to link subject areas to real-life contexts.

23. Promote local, national and Caribbean culture in the school and university curricula, in order to preserve common heritages and Caribbean traditions.

24. Promote the reintegration of teenage mothers and fathers in the school system, with extended programmes and services targeting them.

25. Promote knowledge and evidence-based approach in policy-making in the education sector, by using mixed methods approach for data collection and collect experiences from the different stakeholder groups on the source of the challenges in relation to education, creative thinking, innovation and overall school performance. Research and reports reviewing the current situation of the education system in each country should be accessible, for example through a repository of knowledge on education.

26. Promote training for educators, that should be tailored based on evidence collected through rigorous review of the implementation of existing education policies.

27. Promote low teacher to student ratios to increase one on one care and effective classroom management.

28. Expand youth innovation centres or hubs, which are youth-friendly spaces to harness talent and further development of young people, including those who may have become unattached.

29. Promote the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by teachers, educators and students in classrooms, by equipping them with the necessary tools (laptops, tablets, among others) and trainings, and connecting or improving access to Internet in schools, as well as using online education tools, including websites, applications, and the digitalization of educational curriculum, and digitized non-traditional courses, such as native languages, through the use of YouTube, Instagram TV, and Facebook Live, which will generate platforms for networking among youth and youth practitioners.

Transforming Youth Employment, including through Market-Driven Skills and Entrepreneurship

30. Increase youth employment opportunities and entrepreneurship trainings by developing youth employment strategies/policies that would match the skills gaps needed in the private sector, with particular focus on the green, blue and creative industries and be included in high school and university curriculum where possible.

31. Promote young females in non-traditional education, through career counselling and orientation towards the future of jobs in green, orange and blue economies.

32. Develop or expand existing training programmes, such as on-the-job training, that provides professional experience in public and private companies, as well as junior achievement model in secondary schools, which provide specific training for students to start-up businesses, by foster public-private partnerships

33. Create a repository of good practices concerning successful youth employment strategies on green, blue and creative industries, engaging the private sector and academia.

Promoting meaningful Youth Participation, Mobilization, and Empowerment

34. Provide leadership training and/or capacity-building activities to newly elected or appointed youth representatives in national youth councils or related mechanisms.

35. Promote champions of youth-led initiatives at the local and national level, through awards and other forms of incentives that will foster youth participation in national and community activities.

36. Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, with a youth perspective, through multiple trainings and then campaigns through youth organisations to help youth organisations to make the linkages between their projects and the SDGs Promote or increase the appointment or election of young persons in key government boards and committees, including at local and national levels, with particular focus on key areas such as gender affairs, crime and violence, environment and ICT related issues.

37. Promote the participation of young persons in subregional, regional and international forums, including in the preparation of reporting mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, the Voluntary Nationals Review of Caribbean countries, which is the basis for the review by the High Level Political Forum, as well as the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of programmes made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs, as well as other platforms, such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, among others.

Promoting Gender equality, including girls and young women's empowerment and autonomy

38. Promote gender mainstreaming at all levels of the Government, including Youth Departments, National Machineries for the advancement of women, the Central Statistics Offices in all countries, and actively bridge gender data gaps, which make monitoring the efficiency of current youth policies and programmes towards young females and males difficult to assess.

39. Adopt or effectively implement measures against persistent discriminatory practices against girls and young females who continue to be disproportionally responsible for unpaid domestic and care work, in order to change the traditional sexual division of labour and unequal power relations that negatively impact girls and young females in their career development.

40. Provide sensitization programmes in schools' curricula as well as and leadership training in local and rural communities that focus on human rights, and gender equality with the aim of ensuring that the rights of young persons regardless of their gender are respected.

41. Adopt comprehensive legislation and review policies and programmes or effectively implement them in order to end all forms of gender-based violence with a special focus on young women and girls, and new masculinities to encourage boys and young men to understand the boundaries and respect women of all ages, through the revision of current policies and programmes and amendment of legislation.

42. Promote the establishment or effective implementation of national reintegration policies for teenage mothers in order to ensure their empowerment through education.

43. Promote or expand comprehensive sexuality education that addresses the issues of gender-based violence to target both in and out-of-school youth.

44. Create or expand rehabilitation spaces and hotlines, as well as the creation and use of applications, especially for young persons, to report cases of abuse and violence, with adequate trained staff and development and implementation of confidential protocols.

Adopting a holistic approach to youth health care

45. Promote youth access to health and health information, including in electronic format, in a holistic manner, encompassing mental health and wellbeing, specifically addressing problems in nutrition and obesity among youth persons.

46. Create or expand safe spaces and environments that encourage young persons to freely express their problems and concerns. This space should be external to the classroom and should be done in a confidential space, with trained and qualified school counsellors and psychologists. These spaces should be safe places that allow students to discuss sexual health and sexuality issues, as well as other issues affecting them.

47. Adopt or effectively implement comprehensive up-to-date sexual education with a focus on HIV/AIDs and other STIs, and reproductive health and family life planning, with the objective of reducing teenage pregnancy, that addresses the specific needs of girls, boys and adolescents. Adequate trained staff should be introduced in both primary and secondary schools to teach the necessary content and best practices. Methods used and content should be revised in order to reflect up-to-date tools, including ICT, and reflecting local and Caribbean culture and practices.

48. Review restrictive laws and policies that function to regulate young people's sexual identity and behaviours, which have a disproportionately negative impact on young people who do not conform to dominant expectations and gender stereotypes. Adopt protocols for young patients, including LGBTI young people, to eradicate all forms of discrimination based on their gender identity and sexual orientation.

49. Promote or expand psycho-social support for students who were subject to crime, violence, and abuse, as well as those impacted by disaster-related situations in the subregion.

50. Sensitize the population and civil servants on the importance of mental health in order to eradicate all forms of discrimination and stigma associated with young persons who benefit from counselling and mental health care services.

Addressing multidimensional poverty, violence and crime

51. Promote comprehensive social policies that address the specific needs of poor young persons, and those living on the street, that will prevent them from coming in contact with the law and reoffending, through education, employment opportunities, housing, the provision of targeted services and skill-building and income generating programmes.

52. Create content and the ICT based applications that connect youth and promote citizen security, safe cities and alert others when violence occurs, following existing applications and platforms, such as U-Report which can be integrated into the juvenile justice system with the aim of reducing recidivism.

53. Support the work of youth networks aimed at crime and violence prevention through funding opportunities and partnerships with Ministries within the various countries under which the responsibility lies for similar programmes

54. Promote and encourage the collaboration of young persons with the juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to the provision of training in restorative justice techniques for young persons and the implementation of peer resolution programmes which work in tandem with the juvenile justice system.

Fostering intergenerational relations and dialogues

55. Promote or expand the involvement of young persons to volunteer in teaching older persons to use computers and Internet, and facilitate their access to online communities and online platforms, as well as the use of electronic means like a podcast.

56. Promote or expand the involvement of young persons in the care of older persons, especially those in institutionalised care and in need of home-care services, and further develop and include gerontology, geriatrics, and palliative care in curricula at all levels, and in nursing and caregivers training programmes, while encouraging young males to consider careers in the caring professions. Similarly, encourage parents to allow grandparents to take care of younger children, by raising awareness on the benefits of intergenerational interactions.

57. Promote mentorship programmes in the areas of career orientation, mentorship, leadership and culture to ensure succession planning, successful businesses and the passing down of cultural values.

58. Develop awareness-raising campaigns that bring a positive image of older persons and young persons in order to foster intergenerational solidarity and their contribution to the sustainable development of their countries, through the allocation of local funding for intergenerational family days, the involvement of faith-based organisations and school educational systems, as well as the promotion of public forums on the importance of intergenerational relations, with break-out sessions in which young and older persons could exchange ideas and build bridges.

Building climate resilient young generations

59. Promote the inclusion and promotion of youth in the creation, implementation, and decision-making processes aimed at combating climate change; risk assessments, preparedness, prevention, response, reconstruction processes after disaster-related situations to foster their resilience.

60. Promote youth-friendly communication for emergency and disaster-related situations, including the creation of at-risk registers, emergency toolkits, and safe spaces in emergency shelters, with particular attention to young persons with disabilities, and teenage mothers.

61. Encourage the involvement of youth in the promotion of alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly practices, through training programmes, and awareness-raising campaigns engaging them to shape change on environmental sustainability.

Improving access to information and communication technologies

62. Expand computer literacy training and free-wifi in public spaces in order to foster youth online interaction and learning.

63. Promote or expand internet access in schools, in particular through access to energy to underserved communities and in remote areas, and the creation of government incentives to encourage the private sector to connect those areas. This internet access in schools should be suitably content restricted to ensure educational content is the primary use.

64. Adopt or review policies relevant to ICTs in education systems in order to reflect the latest advancement in this sector that will allow young people to effectively benefit from ICT in schools and universities in the Caribbean.

Annex 4 - Matrix of Youth Policy Constructs of Member and Associate Member Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)[10] in keeping with commitments of the Lisbon Declaration 1998[11]

WPAY 2000 and beyond[1]		Anguilla 2012	Antigua & Barbuda 2007	Bahamas 2014-2021	Barbados 2011	Belize 2012-2022	BVI 2014-2019	Cayman Islands 2011	Dominica 2017-2022
Age[2]	15-24	13-30	00-35	15-35	15-29	15-29	15-29	10-25	15-35
	Education[3]	✓	+Training	Education, Technology & Capacity Building	✓	Lifelong Learning	+ Training	✓	✓
	Employment[5-]	Employment	Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods	Employment Social Enterprise & Young Professionals	Reduce Unemployment	Socio-economic opportunity	Employment and Entrepreneurship	Training, employment and career-advancing opportunities	Youth as Partners in Economic and Sustainable Development
	Globalisation[4]	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
	Poverty and Hunger[5]	✗	✗	✓	Decent, affordable housing for youth	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Health[5]	Health	Health	Health, Sustainable Livelihoods & The Environment	Lifestyle diseases	Health and wellbeing	Health & Wellness	Healthy behaviours and lifestyle	Youth health and wellbeing
	HIV AIDS	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
P R I O R I T Y A R E A S	Youth in Armed Conflict[6]	Crime, Violence, and Drugs	Crime Violence and Rehabilitation	Youth in Conflict with the Law, Youth Justice & Safety	Prevent the spread of gangs	Care, Safety and Protection	Crime, Violence & Drugs	✓	Youth as Agents of social change and architects of safe and peaceful communities
	Participation in Decision-Making	Community& Social Responsibility	Participation and Empowerment	Inclusion in the Decision-Making Process & Youth Empowerment	Participation in the political process.	Participation	✓	Legitimate and active partners in decision-making processes	Youth civic engagement and participation in democratic processes
	Youth and Drug Abuse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	Juvenile Delinquency	✗	Care and Protection	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Girls and Young Women[7]	✗	Gender Equality and Gender Relations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Youth Social Inclusion and Diversity[8]
	Information & Comm. Technology[9]	✗	✗	ICT	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Youth & The Environment[19]	✗	✗	✓	Youth Protecting the Environment	✗	✗	Social, economic and environmental sustainability	Youth in action on climate change, environmental sustainability, and disaster mitigation
	Youth and Leisure Time	Recreation, Physical Education, Sports and Culture	✗	✓	✗	✓	Sports and Recreation	✗	Youth Participation in Sport and Recreation
	Inter-generational Issues	Community and Social Responsibility	Strengthening Social Environments	✓	Strengthen the Family	✓	✗	✗	✓

WPAY 2000 and beyond		Anguilla 2012	Antigua & Barbuda 2007	Bahamas 2014-2021	Barbados 2011	Belize 2012-2022	BVI 2014-2019	Cayman Islands 2011	Dominica 2017-2022
Age	15-24	13-30	00-35	15-35	15-29	15-29	15-29	10-25	15-35
ADDITIONAL PRIORITY AREAS NOT IN WPAY[12]				Identification & Self-Awareness	Restore Core Values		Identity, Culture and Social Cohesion	Socio-cultural identity for all youth of the Cayman Islands	Investing in youth social capital and strengthening their resilience
				Restructuring the Ministry Responsible for Youth Affairs	-	-	-	Provision of quality services for young people by youth serving agencies	Supporting Youth Professionalising youth Work
				-	-	-	-	-	Institutional strengthening of the Youth Dev. Division (YDD) and the National Youth Council (NYC)

WPAY 2000 and beyond		Grenada 2015-2020	Guyana 2015	Jamaica 2017 - 2030	Montserrat. Revised 2013	St Kitts & Nevis 2017-2022	Saint Lucia 2016-2021	Trinidad & Tobago 2012 - 2017	Turks & Caicos 2012
Age	**15-24**	**16-24**	**14-35**	**15-29**	**10-30**	**12- 29**	**15-29**	**12 – 29**	**10-35**
PRIORITY AREAS	Education	✓	Education and Market-Driven Skills Development	+ Training	+ Training	+ Lifelong Learning	+ Lifelong Learning	Participate for personal and wider/ national development[13]	✓
	Employment	Enabling Environment for Economic Empowerment	Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Employment and Entrepreneurship	Economic Participation	Economic Participation	Economic participation	Specific Action for Youth Empowerment[14]	Sustainable Employment
	Globalisation	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Poverty and Hunger	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
	Health	Youth resilience and wellbeing[15]	Youth Safety, Health and Wellbeing	Health & Well-Being	Health	Health and Well-being	Health and Wellbeing	Promote Healthy Lifestyles[16]	Healthy behaviours and life styles
	HIV AIDS	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Reduce spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS[10]	✗
	Youth in Armed Conflict	✓	✓		Drugs, Violence and Crime	Safety, Security and Protection	Safety, Security and Peaceful Co-existence	National and Personal Security[17]	✓
	Youth and Drug Abuse		✓	✗	✓	✓		Reduce alcohol and substance Abuse [10]	✗
	Juvenile Delinquency	✓	✓	Social Inclusion and Re-integration	✗	✓	✓	National and Personal Security [14]	✗
	Girls and Young Women	✓	✓	✓	✗	Human Rights and Gender Equality	Gender equality integrated in all policy goals	Access and resources for widest participation Gender Relations[18]	✓
	Information & Comm. Technology	✗	✗	✗	✗	ICTs and Mass Media (cross cutting)	ICT and Mass Media	ICTs[20]	✗
	Youth & The Environment	✗	✗	✗	✗	Youth and Sustainable Development	✗	✗	✗
	Youth and Leisure Time	✓	✓	✗	Sports and Recreation	Sports and leisure for wellbeing	Sports and recreation	✗	✗
	Inter-generational Issues	✗	✗	✗	✗	Social Cohesion, Belonging and Patriotism (cross-cutting)	✗	✗	✗

WPAY 2000 and beyond		Grenada 2015-2020	Guyana 2015	Jamaica 2017 - 2030	Montserrat. Revised 2013	St Kitts & Nevis 2017-2022	Saint Lucia 2016-2021	Trinidad & Tobago 2012 - 2017	Turks & Caicos 2012
Age	15-24	16-24	14-35	15-29	10-30	12- 29	15-29	12 – 29	10-35
ADDITIONAL PRIORITY AREAS NOT IN WPAY		Enhanced institutional arrangements for youth development and a professional-ised youth work sector in Grenada	Youth Identity and Empowerment	Institutional and Youth Sector Arrangements.	Youth and Culture	Youth Development Work and Youth Mainstreaming		Citizenship and Pride in national identity and the spirit of volunteerism- Goal 5	-
		-	-	-	Youth and Religion	Youth Excellence (cross-cutting)	-	Effective collaboration among youth development stakeholders (Government, non-government, private sector and youth) to ensure all youth-related programmes are integrated and synchronised	-

Annex 5 - Summary Status of Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of National Youth Policies of CDCC Members & Associates[19]

CDCC	Main Coordinating Body	Youth Coordination Mechanism[20] or Inter-agency Body	Youth-led agencies[21]	National Youth Action Plan	Youth Mainstreaming[22]	Professionalizing Youth Work	Special NGO	Youth Fund[23]
Anguilla	Department of Youth and Culture (DYC), Ministry of Social Development	Research and Planning Unit	National Youth Council (IS) (somewhat active) National Youth Parliament (P) (not known) National Youth Ambassador Corps	National Youth Development Strategy (not known)	No	No	No	No
Antigua and Barbuda	Youth Department, Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development	National Youth Development Steering Committee recommended	CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) (IS) and (P)	No	No	No	No	No
Bahamas	Department of Youth, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	Recommended are: National Youth Commission (recommended statutory body with oversight for all youth matters)	Bahamas National Youth Council (IS) National Youth Service (P)	No	Inter-ministerial Committee (recommended) National Institute of Youth Development (recommended to support evidence-based policy and programming)	Youth Practitioners Association of persons trained and certified in conduct of work recommended	No	1% of annual budget recommended for youth policy, research and development as National Youth Endowment Trust Fund
Barbados	Division of Youth, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth	National Policy Implementation Committee established Oct. 2012	Barbados National Youth Parliament Barbados National Youth Service (proposed programme) CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) (IS) and (P)	No	National Youth Commission	National Youth Commission	No	No
Belize	Department of Youth Services	National Youth Commission (recommended)	Belize National Youth Council (IS) (P) CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) (IS) and (P)	Yes, drafted and adopted. DYS also operationalises youth work in line with its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan	No	No	No	No
Bermuda	Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation	No	The Bermuda Youth Council for youth ages 16 – 25 years old will set the standard of empowerment through participation and engagement.	No	No	No	No	The Children and Youth sponsorship program will provide financial sponsorship for short-term programs in arts, public speaking, culinary arts, entrepreneurship, & STEM.
BVI	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	National Youth Commission to be created by Act. Of Parliament for policy oversight	Virgin Islands Youth Parliament established 2015 (P) National Youth Council (IS) (P)[24]	None. Policy recommendation	National Youth Commission to manage the mainstreaming agenda	Code of ethics for Youth Workers recommended	No	National Youth Commission to mobilize resources

CDCC	Main Coordinating Body	Youth Coordination Mechanism or Inter-agency Body	Youth-led agencies	National Youth Action Plan	Youth Mainstreaming	Professionalizing Youth Work	Special NGO	Youth Fund
Cayman Islands	Youth Services Unit	National Youth Commission	Cayman Islands Youth Assembly (P)	No	National Youth Commission	National Youth Commission	No	No
Dominica	Youth Development Division, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Constituency Empowerment.	Cabinet appointed Inter-ministerial Committee on Youth Development	National Youth Council of Dominica (IS)

CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) (IS) and (P) | Draft | Cabinet appointed Inter-ministerial Committee on Youth Development | Strengthened Youth Development Division | No | No |
| **Grenada** | Ministry of Youth, Sports and Ecclesiastical Affairs | National Youth Mainstreaming Technical Committee (NYMTC) to be created to oversee youth policy programmes and projects | National Youth Parliament (P)

National Youth Ambassadors Programme (P) | Drafted and adopted | National Youth Mainstreaming Technical Committee (NYMTC) to be created to oversee youth policy programmes and projects | Professional Youth Workers Organization (recommended) | National Youth Mainstreaming Technical Committee (NYMTC) to be created to oversee youth policy programmes and projects | Resource mobilization Strategy recommended targeting international development agencies, private sector and the Grenadian diaspora. (Grenada NYP 2015) |
| **Guyana** | Department of Youth, Sports and Culture, Ministry of Education | Not known | Guyana National Youth Council established 2013

Youth Parliament
Youth Ambassadors Programme
Junio Toshao/ Village Captain Programme (recommended under NYP for experiential learning) | Preparation of 5-year National Youth Empowerment Action Plan (NYEAP) ongoing (DPI/GINA June 2017) | No | No | No | No |
| **Jamaica** | National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture | National Youth Development Act (recommended)

Inter-ministerial Committee chaired by Minister recommended | National Youth Council of Jamaica (already established) CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) (IS) and (P) | Implementation Plan recommended in Policy | Youth and Adolescent Division of Ministry - recommended | Youth and Adolescent Division of Ministry - recommended | No | No |
| **Montserrat** | Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports | Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports | Re-establish a National Youth Council (IS) (p
Re-establish the National Youth Parliament (P) | Draft National Strategic Plan: for Adolescents 10-18 in school; and out of school youth, ages 19-30. | No | No | No | No |
| **Saint Kitts and Nevis** | Departments of Youth and FCY | Federal Commission on Youth (FCY) high-level body to ensure effective implementation of the youth policy established as a legal entity recommended | St Kitts and Nevis National Youth Parliamentary association (in place) Federal Youth Council (FYC) (IS) recommended CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) IS and (P) | Federal Action Plan for Youth recommended | Formal Inter-Agency Initiative proposed to manage cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary stakeholder engagement | Yes- Code of Ethics for the conduct of all Youth Work | No | A Federal Youth Investment Fund -extra budgetary funds for youth development under management of the FCY recommended |

CDCC	Main Coordinating Body	Youth Coordination Mechanism or Inter-agency Body	Youth-led agencies	National Youth Action Plan	Youth Mainstreaming	Professionalizing Youth Work	Special NGO	Youth Fund
Saint Lucia	Department of Youth and Sports Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports and Local Government	Department of Youth, Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports and Local Government	National Youth Council (IS) (active) National Youth Parliament (P) managed by NYC CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (in place) IS and (P)	Recommended	Restructured Youth Department to manage mainstreaming recommended (separated from Sports)	Restructured Youth Department and Code of Ethics for Youth Work recommended	No	No
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Youth Affairs Division, Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth	Youth Division	No	No	No	No	No	No
Suriname	Department Youth Affairs, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs	Inter-ministerial responsibility among Ministries of: Sport & Youth Affairs, Housing and Social Affairs, Justice and Police, Education, Science and Justice	National Youth Institute (NJI) (located within the Department of Youth Affairs) •The National Youth Parliament •CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Program (CYAP). •The UN SDGs Youth Ambassador Program (UN SDG YAP). Youth advisory council	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Trinidad and Tobago	Department of Youth, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs	Recommended National Youth Commission to be established as independent Statutory Body.	National Youth Council Trinidad Youth Council and Tobago Youth Council are already established.	Not known	Not known	Not known		Youth Development Financing Strategy proposed for sustainable funding for youth programmes

Annex 6 - Summary **Responses of CDCC Members and Associates[25] to the Subregional Survey on Youth Policies and Programmes for the Review of the Lisbon Declaration and other Youth Related Frameworks**

1.Country Information	Barbados Division of Youth Affairs Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth	Belize Department of Youth Services	British Virgin Islands Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	Cayman Islands Youth Services Unit	Dominica Youth Development Division Ministry of Youth, Sports and Constituency Empowerment	Grenada Ministry of Youth, Sport, Culture and Arts	Saint Lucia Dept. of Youth Development and Sports Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports, Culture and Local Government	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Youth Affairs Division Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth	Sint Maarten Government of Sint Maarten/ Department of Youth, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport (MECYS)
2.National Youth Policy	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
3.Legal definition of youth	15-29	14-29	15-29	10-25	15-35 for the purposes of the youth policy	16-24	15-29	15-30	0 - 24 years.
4.Country based youth research	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
5.Youth consultations for NYP	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
a)On all NYP phases	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	To some extent	Not known
b)In all regions of country	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	To some extent	To some extent	Not known
7. Most important achievements linked to NYP	❖ Majority of NYP provisions completed successfully/on track to completion ❖ Increased activity in youth development sector; improvement in condition of young people ❖ Establishment of National Youth Parliament	❖ The restructuring of the Department of Youth Services ❖ Development of a National Youth Council ❖More Youth led organizations developed ❖ More young people employed in the sector to further develop the youth agenda ❖ Paradigm shift from youth as	❖ Development of the MEC Apprenticeship Programme partnering with the Virgin Islands private sector to employ young persons ❖ Virgin Islands Youth Parliament ❖Launch of the Youth VI.com, a website for and about young people in the Virgin Islands	❖ Paradigm shift resulting in leaders thinking of youth as part of the solution and not the problem ❖ Youth being consulted in planning and developing programmes for their benefit ❖ Research conducted on youth and issues affecting them	❖ A vibrant Youth Department and active National Youth Council ❖ High level of political participation among the youth – youth involvement in local government leadership and statutory boards ❖ Youth involvement in the small business sector	❖ Implementation of a national skills training and apprenticeship programme ❖ Youth enterprise development programmes ❖ Youth rehabilitation programmes ❖ National youth ambassadors and youth parliament programmes National parenting programme	Increase resources for the youth organizations	❖ Advancement in education at all levels ❖ Training /preparing youth for the world of work Youth Empowerment Service (YES) Programme	Draft Youth Policy. UNICEF completed a 2013 Youth Survey in the following areas: education labour, recreation, participation, family life, youth crime and national identity compiled as Situation Analysis on the Children and Adolescents. Priority concerns for policy:

	❖ Increase in public/private sector youth programming ❖ Increased participation of vulnerable youth in second chance opportunities ❖ Creation of inter-ministerial committee on youth Enhanced empirical framework for data on youth	liabilities to a more positive youth development approach Establishment of youth drop-in centres in the southside urban areas	Recognized the need and importance of support Special Needs Education via summer camp for Vanguard and scholarships until graduation	Evidence based programming	Academic achievements				undocumented youth; youth empowerment and strengthening of the family unit, safe and nurturing environment, youth participation, access to health care and healthy lifestyles, rehabilitation to victims and perpetrators of violence and ensuring that all youth have access to quality education and are able to by gainfully employed.
9. National youth coordinating mechanism put in place	✔	✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘
10. Adequate youth work and youth leadership training in support of NYP implementation re: capacity building for:	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	❖ No response	✘
a) Government representatives and/or Ministry responsible for youth	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	❖ No response	✘
b) National Youth NGO coordinating platform	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	❖ No response	✘
11. Partnership between youth NGOs and Government at all levels in	✔	❖To some extent	❖To some extent	❖ To some extent	✔	❖ To some extent	To some extent	✔	✘

all phases of implementation									
12. NYP Action Plan formulated and adopted in implementation of NYP	✗	✓ ❖Drafted and adopted	✗	✓ ❖ Drafted	✓ ❖ Drafted	✓ ❖ Drafted and adopted	✓ Drafted	✗	✗
15. NYP and/or Action Plan evaluated	✓ ❖With measurable performance indicators	✓ ❖On an ad hoc or irregular basis	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
16. Sufficient attention to full participation of young people in evaluation and re-direction	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
17. Lessons learned through NYP development, implementation and evaluation	Factors needed for success: ▪ Cabinet level champion ▪ Evidence based disaggregated data and agreed indicators ▪ National action plan ▪ Youth inclusion ▪ Investment of Ministry's capacity and programme resources ▪ Professionalized youth work sector ▪ Collaboration / collective action in cross-sectoral project design and action ❖National Youth Policy Implementation Committee	▪ Need to operationalize the paradigm shift to positive youth development and to significantly enhance the effectiveness and impact of the national youth development ❖Urgent need for capacity building of youth development workers	❖No response	▪ Difficult to formulate / adopt / implement / evaluate the NYP ❖ NYP framework should put greater focus on the evaluation stage so as to continue to improve conditions for youth of our islands	▪ Challenges getting cabinet to participate in consultation ▪ Unnecessary delay in getting cabinet's policy approval ▪ Lack of political will / commitment ▪ Ensure proper youth survey is conducted ▪ Obtain a high level of youth participation in process ▪ Obtain services of a youth development expert to provide technical direction ❖ Engage all relevant and strategic stakeholders	▪ Formulation of policy must be inclusive of all stakeholders, primarily youth ▪ Important to secure buy-in from stakeholders for youth policy ▪ Need to have approval from cabinet or parliament ▪ Political changes can affect implementation of policy ▪ Policy needs to be support by the necessary funding to be adequately implemented ❖ Ministry programmes must fit the framework of policy	▪ Political parties need to engage and weigh in on the policy – a change in political directorate as soon as the draft policy was completed delayed the approval process for one year Implementation and evaluation of the policy will be completed within the next 2 years	▪ Priority must be given to the process ▪ There is need for adequate financing, focus and time ▪ Persons selected for the process should be dedicated ❖ A timeframe for formulation, adoption and implementation should be set and adhered to	Not stated

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| 18. Country's experience shared with others | ✔ ❖With other Caribbean and LAC | ✗ | ❖No response | ✔ ❖ With other Caribbean countries | ✔ ❖ With other Caribbean countries | ✗ | ✔ With other Caribbean countries | ✗ | ✗ |

Thematic Area A: Youth Empowerment and participation in all spheres of society and decision-making processes

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
(Barbados flag)	✔ Need: improve the condition of young people ✔ Need: address historical vulnerabilities captured in the deficit discourse on youth development ✔ Need: mainstreaming of all young people, with emphasis on those vulnerable populations including the disabled	✔ Creation of the Barbados National Youth Parliament (BNYP) addressed the overall goals of enhancing participation of young people in the political process. The BYNP emerged as a dynamic platform for young participants where they learned about governance and provided an environment from which the next generation of political leaders can emerge. ✔ National Community Service Day as part of National Youth Week to highlight young volunteerism ✔ Implementation of National Youth Survey used consistently by Division of Youth Affairs to measure views and experiences of young persons ✔ School Leaver Tracer Survey used to collect youth specific data to measure systemic changes affecting the condition of youth as well as to guide national strategies and program interventions, especially for youth living in difficult circumstances and/or with special needs ✔ The CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP) ✔ The Barbados Youth Development Council (BYDC), whose capacity has been built by the Division of Youth Affairs, has been given a seat on a number of boards to reflect the views of young people. The BYDC also represents young people at local, regional and international meetings with support from the Ministry.
(Belize flag)	✔ Challenge: sustainability of youth support services negatively impacted by political culture	✔ Development of a national governance mechanism that promotes and supports youth participation ✔ Coordinate the implementation of the National Youth Development Policy as the legal framework to guide youth development ✔ Provide capacity development to you and youth organizations to support direct community-based initiatives ✔ Create an enabling environment to encourage youth participation in community and nation building ✔ Development of a Youth Volunteer Corps ✔ Leadership training ✔ National Youth Council (NYC) – governance body that has significant impact on the effectiveness of the National Youth Policy; strives to bring legal and institutional reform that is in agreement with the rights-based approach to the development of youth ✔ Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative – each municipal government has a Child Advisory Board comprised of children and youth from the community to provide a space for youth involvement in municipal governance
(British Virgin Islands flag)		✔ Community service requirement for graduation from the high schools
(Cayman Islands flag)	✔ Challenge: Youth apathy as a result of relative 'immunity' of the Cayman Islands from certain social issues, such as vagrancy, homelessness ✔ Challenge: Youth workers often have to explain the importance and benefit of participating in youth programming geared towards these objectives	✔ Cayman Islands Youth Assembly – programme hosted by Youth Services Unit to have youth host/plan youth dialogues and national youth forums ✔ Cayman Islands Youth Parliament – division of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament ✔ Youth and Sports Groups – many receive partial government funding and promote empowerment/participation ✔ Family Resource Centre – regular programme offerings ✔ CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme- to promote youth engagement and assist the Cayman Islands Youth Assembly ✔ Schools (private/public) participate in local debate tournaments/Model United Nations
(Dominica flag)	✔ Need: youth social inclusion, diversity and social cohesion – including gender equity, active youth participation and rights-based development ✔ Need: equitable access to social and economic opportunities, active participation irrespective of social class, gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, religious affiliation or geographic location or residence and inter-generational partnerships	Strategic objectives: ✔ to develop and implement gender sensitive youth programmes ✔ to implement programmes to foster tolerance and respect for diversity ✔ to mainstream programmes and services for young persons living with disabilities ✔ to provide quality services and programmes for young people living in institutions ✔ to use sport and culture to promote respect and understanding Proposed interventions: ✔ support peace building programmes; provide opportunities for structured dialogues between young people and policy makers for e.g. proper inclusion of a formal youth parliament ✔ regular review and follow up of the National Youth Policy is proposed ✔ make available resources to upgrade facilities for young persons

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
		✓ including youth development centres (offer decentralized programs that cater for vulnerable groups) ✓ create the space and opportunity to learn and share experiences and best practices, including with persons from vulnerable groups ✓ allocation of resources for investment in persons dealing with youth/youth empowerment (training of youth officers, UWI BSc. In Youth Development Work and standard incentive packages) ✓ promote and facilitate youth exchanges (internal/external/regional/international) and to ensure inclusion of diverse groups ✓ Implement programmes to protect vulnerable groups ✓ Give due recognition to these groups/the conditions that affect them ✓ Advocacy – campaigns/opportunities to be vocal ✓ Promote inclusion in decision and policy making ✓ Provide training for people to deal with diversity (specialized educators & caregivers, public education, academic & community education) ✓ Provide support for community capacity building and creation of more avenues for options that tap into persons specialized abilities/gifts/talents or need for growth ✓ Build synergies between youth programmes and other initiatives targeting the elimination of discrimination ✓ Support groups and social activities geared towards building social consciousness, including camps and counselling groups ✓ Encourage and facilitate media/social networking & communication which promote healthy communication ✓ Promote continuous awareness raising initiatives, specifically at the school level ✓ Promote more youth friendly awareness campaigns in learning environments and through social media ✓ Provide more opportunities for young people to raise awareness through cultural and artistic programmes ✓ Promote active cultural participation ✓ Formalize and create more opportunities in learning environments for lessons in civics in schools; to learn about Dominican culture, identity, history, promote tolerance for each other, pride in diversity and appreciation of the elderly ✓ Develop and facilitate volunteers/volunteer programs geared towards increase membership in youth organizations and sustainability of leadership structures.
[Grenada flag]	✓ Challenge: attracting young men to some of the ministry's programmes as they are generally "hustling" and find it more lucrative than being involved in the formal sector	✓ Special programme for men which will address some of these concerns ✓ Imani Programme which is an employment and training programme ✓ Establishment of the National Youth Parliament and Ambassadors programmes
[Saint Lucia flag]	✓ Challenge: consistency of collaborative work with organizations delivering programmes to marginalized and vulnerable youth; NGOs still want to work in compartments/silos ✓ Challenge: lack of capacity building from NGOs delivering programmes e.g. grant writing, methods of evaluation and monitoring ✓ Challenge: one off programmes to these categories of youth	✓ Strong partnership with the National Youth Council by yearly subvention and planning programmes together ✓ District Youth and Sports Council are supported by Youth and Sports Officers to assist with capacity building, training and access to resources
[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flag]	✓ Challenge: according to research, children living on the streets do have homes; these homes are headed by unemployed single parents	The Ministry of National Mobilization, through the Gender Affairs Division and the Child Care Unit provides the following support: ✓ reunite children with families ✓ counselling, mediation, parenting workshops ✓ financial assistance ✓ partners with other government agencies in providing parents with skills geared towards employment ✓ partners with the Ministry of Education returning children to school ✓ placing children in foster care or at the Liberty Training Centre

Thematic Area B: Peace and Security		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
[Barbados flag]	✓ Challenge: gang activity and gun violence fuelled by increasing illegal drug activity ✓ Need: public and private agencies collaboration to address this challenge ✓ Challenge: young men failing to engage themselves in higher academic pursuits	✓ Public/private agencies providing education and prevention programmes that diverted young people away from gangs and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) ✓ Engaging young men in the Division of Youth Affairs (DOYA)' psycho-educational, cultural and sporting programmes ✓ DOYA's mentorship and job attachment programme 'Endless Possibilities', which has placed over 300 young people in job placement over the 5-year period

		✓ DOYA introduced a crime prevention strategy as mandated by the NYA. Key elements include: exposing young people to a range of social development programmes aimed at strengthening protective factors to reduce the incidences of crime; strengthening the importance of interagency cooperation and multi professional approaches to address youth crime and violence; empowering young people by providing viable skills, opportunities for self- development and personal well-being. Three examples are: Block Draughts Tournament; Silver Hill Road Tennis Competition: Cit-Unity Project.
	✓ Challenge: crime and violence ✓ Challenge: impact of the narcotics industry ✓ Challenge: human trafficking and related crimes ✓ Challenge: cyber-bullying	✓ Engage youth in positive reinforcement activities with the view of replacing the negative influence that contribute to increase violence and crime among youth ✓ Provide at-risk youth with alternative ways of resolving conflict through training ✓ Train at-risk youth to act as promotes/peacekeepers throughout local communities in Belize City and rural areas ✓ Intervention with street-based disputes ✓ Support to schools in violence prevention ✓ Develop social spaces of participation within the community geared to display youth culture ✓ Strengthen existing programs and develop new and relevant ones to meet the needs of at-risk youth ✓ Programs to build social capital and youth resilience ✓ Creation of safe spaces for youth to express their opinions ✓ Outreach programs for specialized categories of young people, including unattached youth ✓ Youth Apprenticeship program targeting at risk youth through the MOE and youth receive specialized vocational training and are linked with employment opportunities ✓ Juvenile Justice system youth diversion program through MHDSTPA to capture youth who are low risk offenders that interact with justice system and to prevent escalation in offending behaviour
		✓ Continuous implementation of healthy relationships session across the education system aims to prevent violence, anti-social and discrimination amongst youths – activities usually take place in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
	✓ Challenge: shipments of arms and drugs	✓ Crime reduction Strategy 2012 from Cabinet Office – explains the role of each non-governmental entity in the strategy (i.e. prevention, intervention, rehabilitation) and the percentage of the national budget allocated to each ✓ National Security Council established by the Governor's Office in 2011 – to strengthen protective service and border control, also to address corruption ✓ Peace Day celebration by the Family Resource Centre – to promote peace and inclusion ✓ National Anti-Drug Council – using multi-agency approach to demand reduction of drug use (i.e. agencies include: police, probation, courts system, youth service and youth organizations)
	✓ Challenge: increasing incidents of anti-social, violent and virulent behaviour, physical, sexual and substance abuse ✓ Need: provide young people with the skills, competencies and opportunities to effectively perform their roles as peace-builders and agents of positive social change	Strategic objectives: ✓ Enhance the capacity of young people and their networks to facilitate social change ✓ Enhance the capacity of young people and their networks to promote the concept of peace and peace-building ✓ Embrace the concept of conflict resolution, peace-building and reconciliation as integral components of youth development ✓ Promote the concept of respect and mutual understanding an inclusive part of Dominica's sustainable development strategy ✓ Introduce the concept of peace-building into the formal and informal learning environments ✓ To facilitate the establishment of appropriate role models, strong family and community support and positive value systems for young men and women Proposed Interventions ✓ Train Community and national youth leaders, students, youth development practitioners and other community animators in the principles and values of peace-building ✓ Adopt and adapt the United Nations guidelines and strategies on peace-building ✓ Introduce peace-building within the curriculum of formal and informal learning environments ✓ Use sport, artistic expressions and folklore to inform peace-building interventions ✓ Develop and implement positive parenting programmes ✓ Introduce peace-building as a component of positive parenting programmes ✓ Revisit the system of juvenile justice to incorporate the concept of restorative justice and community-based interventions ✓ Provide training for police officers, community leaders, teachers and other relevant personnel in positive youth development ✓ Create opportunities and avenues for youth development workers to improve their knowledge, skills and competencies in positive youth development ✓ Actively support and facilitate positive relationships between Police Officers and young people in communities ✓ Establish a "Champion of Peace" programme where young people in the community and school settings will be trained, certified and recognized as 'Champions of Peace'.

	✓ Challenge: small incidence of youth crime ✓ Challenge: youth programme implementation in some areas due to lack of funding	✓ 'Project Reach' was implemented at the prison ✓ Community based "Project Fly" intervention implemented
	✓ Challenge: heavy reliance on police work ✓ Challenge: insufficient collaboration with various agencies, both governmental and non-governmental to tackle the issues	✓ Violence Opposition Initiative for Community Empowerment (VOICE) – a series of self-development workshop for young people who are deemed vulnerable ✓ Member of taskforce for Caribbean Security Project funded by USAID and implemented by UNDP
	✓ Challenge: unemployment ✓ Challenge: relatively easy access to cannabis	✓ National Commission on Crime Prevention Unit in the Ministry of National Security is mandated to engage youth in various activities. Over the past ten years they have successfully conducted the Pan Against Crime campaign – youth are taught to play the steel pan and are mentored and taught social skills and encouraged to build their self-esteem ✓ SVG Coast Guard conducts an annual summer programme ✓ All districts host Police Youth Clubs, 'delinquent' youth are engaged in sporting and other disciplines

Thematic Area C: Youth employment and entrepreneurship		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
	✓ Challenge: rapid technological advances resulting in deskilling or the population and a decline in traditional employment opportunities ✓ Challenge: impact of rapid industrialization and global financial crisis i.e. economic decline, increase in unemployment	✓ 9 of 11 objectives to reduce unemployment were met through strategies of the Ministry and private sector agencies ✓ Ministry's policy fostered environment for entrepreneurship and employment creation ✓ Division of Youth Affair's Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme provided training and specialized assistance to young people which resulted in the following outcomes over the five-year period: 1. Assisted forty-one (41) businesses to generate in excess of thirteen million dollars (Bds. $13,736,822) in income for the period January 2010 to December 2016; 2. Started fifty-eight (58) new businesses 3. Created eighty-one (81) new full-time jobs 4. Expanded four hundred and eleven (411) existing businesses 5. Retained four hundred and sixty-six (466) full-time jobs 6. Provided business counselling and mentoring services for eight hundred and eighty-one (881) new client 7. Provided business consulting services for four hundred and eighty-four (484) existing clients 8. Referred thirty-five (35) businesses to access Bds. $616,087.06 in financing from various financial institutions 9. Assisted three hundred and twenty-eight (328) businesses with specialised technical assistance totalling $636,943.16 10. Provided specialised Accounting Services Consultancies for one hundred and thirty- seven (137) businesses 11. Provided specialised Marketing Services Consultancies for one hundred and sixty-nine (169) businesses 12. Offered two thousand and fifty-one (2051) hours of training during the Entrepreneurial Development Training 2010 – 2016 to trained seven hundred and twenty-two (722) young entrepreneurs 13. Trained three hundred and fifty-seven (357) young persons aged 13 – 17 during Camp Enterprise 2011 – 2017 14. Offered Entrepreneurship Training and education in summer camps using the 'Start Out' Curriculum during NSCP to train approximately nine hundred and thirty-five (935) young people aged 13 – 15 15. Highlighted the entrepreneurial successes of six hundred and thirty-six (636) young entrepreneurs through YES Living the Dream television series, YES Business Directory, YES! Magazines and exposure at various trade shows;
	✓ Challenge: lack of preparation for globalization and Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) factors ✓ Challenge: poverty, inequality and in equity ✓ Challenge: access to educational opportunities	✓ Strengthen existing job training skills programmes and develop new relevant ones to meet the needs of the job market ✓ Develop the entrepreneurial skills within youth ✓ Enable the establishment of small businesses through the development of Young Entrepreneur Enhancement Training ✓ Foster exposure of youth who have acquired job skills or entrepreneurial skills ✓ Encourage the establishment of a young entrepreneurs 'incubator ✓ Provide access to micro credit through existing credit facilities ✓ Provide access to employment opportunities ✓ Referral and Information System ✓ Provide avenues and resources to showcase and market goods and services produced by young people to the wider community and also for them to receive technical and financial support to enhance, promote and actualize their ideas ✓ Establishment of local economic desk in municipal governments that help to support youth in developing business plans ✓ BTEC that provides training to youth in professionalized vocation fields

		✓ Development of the Youth Employment Services to assist young people in finding employment ✓ Department of Youth Affairs and Sports working towards development of a Youth Entrepreneurship Programme with the aim of becoming BVI Business Trust
	✓ Challenge: overemployment ✓ Need: formal technical/vocational curriculum, staff complement and certification ✓ Need: concerted effort to reduce employer's dependency on the 26,000 work permit holders that are part of the workforce ✓ Need: exposure of youth to entrepreneurship and creation of opportunities for small business development	✓ National Workforce Development Agency – hosts the "Ready to Work" programme that tools up citizens for a variety of entry level jobs ✓ Passport2Success programme – is run in partnership with the Wellness Centre and tools up a variety of cohort ranging from high school graduate to single moms in their 20s for interest specific jobs ✓ Department of Commerce & Investment's "Small Business Initiative" – attaches local business students at the University College of the Cayman Islands with present business owners to spur entrepreneurial spirt through coaching and information sharing ✓ Junior Achievement – international youth entrepreneurship programme (sponsored by private/public sector) gives students their first experience with entrepreneurship principles. ✓ Cayman Islands Development Bank's "Small Business Loan" – providing capital for small business ideas ✓ Cayman Islands Small Business Association – an association of businesses with less than 10 persons ✓ Summer Employment programmes – hosted by Government & private sector.
	✓ Need: youth economic empowerment ✓ Need: developments in the education sector	Strategic objectives: ✓ Create opportunities for the economic empowerment of young people ✓ Facilitate young people's role as strategic partners in development ✓ To provide a framework for achieving a youth population that is equipped to meet the developmental, scientific and technological priorities of Dominica ✓ Support initiatives to increase the participation of young people in Dominica's economy, the OECS Economic Union and within CSME ✓ Create opportunities for young people to acquire the requisite skills, competences and experience to access existing and emerging employment opportunities ✓ Facilitate access to education opportunities at tertiary levels for young people, including those who are already employed and those with special needs ✓ Provide career guidance and counselling programmes to young people. Proposed Intervention ✓ Develop and implement 'School-to-work Transition' programmes to facilitate school graduates acquisition of the requisite social competencies and experience to participate efficiently in the labour market ✓ Increase in value, numbers, and variety youth owned enterprises in all the sectors of the economy with the aim of increasing employment and reducing poverty ✓ Enhance the entrepreneurial culture, business managerial capacities, technical skills and talents among young people, thereby contributing to sustainable human development ✓ Encourage increased savings and investment among youth through financial literacy programmes and participation in cooperative enterprises ✓ Accentuate the profile of youth owned enterprises and young entrepreneurs ✓ Eliminate and/or reduce policies, systems and practices that hinder young men and women from starting and growing their own businesses ✓ Increase access to market, finance and non-financial support to youth owned enterprises ✓ Coordinate and facilitate the effective mainstreaming of youth into all macroeconomic policies, strategies, programmes as evident in the Growth and Social Protection Strategy (2014-2018) ✓ Develop and implement holistic Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policies and programmes to enhance decent work opportunities for young people in Dominica and within the OECS Economic Union and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) area ✓ Expand and strengthen existing apprenticeship and internship programmes through enhanced collaboration with employers and young people ✓ Collaborate with the ILO and other relevant partners in establishing National Youth Employment Policies ✓ Integrate National Youth Employment policies into macro-economic policies and national development strategies to ensure that these development strategies are employment centred ✓ Adopt an integrated approach to youth employment to facilitate the effective coordination of the several employment and social protection programmes ✓ Ensure youth employment programs are sustainable, of a high quality and responsiveness to the needs of young people ✓ Strategic partnerships are essential to enhancing the relevance, quality, impact and sustainability of youth employment programmes. Consequently, it is imperative that young people and other relevant partners are strategically engaged in the design and implementation of youth employment programmes is imperative

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
		✓ Youth employment programs should benefit from integrated management frameworks through enhanced partnerships among, especially Ministries/departments of economic planning, education, youth and labour ✓ The periodic review and assessment of the operations, performance and impact of youth employment programmes are critical to facilitate sustainability. Consequently, appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be made integral components of the youth employment policy framework ✓ The relevance and impact of employment relief programmes can be accentuated integrating them into national poverty reduction and/or social protection strategies ✓ Appropriate arrangements should be made to facilitate assessment of and research into youth employment as this will greatly enhance the youth employment policy environment ✓ Leverage the support of the ILO, UNDP, CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Development Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, ECLAC and World Bank to develop a national youth employment data base ✓ Enhance youth participation in the governance of especially, secondary and tertiary institutions ✓ Refocus HRD, vocational training and micro-enterprise skills development to become relevant to current and emerging economic growth priorities ✓ Adopt a more strategic and holistic approach to integrating Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into the learning environment ✓ Implementing a national skills development programme consistent with international best practice and compatible with the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) ✓ Recognize skills and competencies necessary to accomplish food security goals and actualize opportunities from emerging industries such as animation, entertainment and sport should be emphasized.
	✓ Need: close the current skills gap existing in the labour market ✓ Challenge: limited opportunities for skills training and employment	✓ New Imani Programme, improved version of the programme launched in 2002, aimed at the holistic development of the nation's youth through career orientation, exposure to work environments, involvement in community development initiatives, skills training and a programme for self-development. Emphasis would be placed on academic achievements and certification ✓ Imani Programme Goal: To create opportunities for the economic and social development of the Grenadian Youth Participants. All young persons between the ages of 18-35 are eligible to enter the programme. ✓ Imani Program Objectives: The programme seeks to - Implement a self-development programme to assist the trainees to develop positive values and attitude; Provide an opportunity for participants to acquire employable skills; Provide an opportunity for participants to be adequately prepared for the job market through On-the-Job-Training; Promote an entrepreneurial spirit among young people and provide them with training, financing and mentorship support; To provide opportunities for young people to develop and acquire entrepreneurial skills; To encourage and promote patriotism among young people, through community service; To improve the academic levels of the participants
	✓ Challenge: lack of information flow with the microfinance agency of government ✓ Challenge: lack of connection between Department of Youth Development and Sports and Department of Labour with regards to youth employment	✓ Referrals to microfinancing services
	✓ Challenge: Inadequate financing	✓ Provision of training and assistance to youth e.g. Invest SVG, Centre of Enterprise Development (CED) Assistance in areas of project management, business plan writing, grant funding etc. ✓ Under the EU 11th EDF Finance for Small Business and Assistance from Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) and Direct Assistance Grant Scheme (DAGS), these entities, in collaboration, provide assistance to small business owners (Regional Private Sector Development Project) for training, funding for business enhancement etc.

Thematic Area D: Information and communication technologies

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Challenge: exposure to high levels of foreign culture through technology, which has led to the adoption of foreign value systems and culture at the expense of things local ✓ Need: programmes to ensure that the impact of cultural penetration was a dominant ideology was tempered	✓ School programs to ensure equal access to information, communication and technology; infused in school curriculum ✓ Community Technology Programme – centre-based programmes which provide computer training and internet for free to young people in communities ✓ Efforts to mitigate cultural penetration through initiatives such as a values curriculum as well as a conscientization programme offered through state agencies like the Commission of Pan African Affairs and National Cultural Foundation which reinforces values through cultural training and expression

	Specific challenges and needs	Describe the measures implemented
		✓ Promotion and reinforcement of indigenous culture and identity through the Ministry of Education which included books, film and music which were created by Barbadian/Caribbean people in the curriculum ✓ Engagement of private camps, CSOs etc. in delivering cultural impact programmes using a variety of cultural media
(Belize flag)	✓ Challenge: access to education opportunities	✓ Computer Resource Centre tailored to provide both in school and unattached young persons with a youth friendly environment of learning and enjoyment ✓ Provision of life skill training and development of marketable skill through IT training ✓ Centre is open for extended hours to provide youth with access to internet, especially those who do not have it at home ✓ Trendy recording studio ✓ Facilitation of on-line high school certified by the Ministry of Education ✓ Provision of free internet access in all secondary school for students
(British Virgin Islands flag)		✓ Everyone who is interested has access to information and communication technologies
(Cayman Islands flag)	✓ Challenge: no technical vocational schools in islands to purse ICT fields of study	✓ ICT studies are mandatory across high schools in the Cayman Islands ✓ Public libraries provide internet/computer access to youth ✓ Organization promote local STEM competitions and STEM information-sharing (i.e. the SeaPerch Challenge, the University College of the Cayman Islands' Annual STEM Conference and the Rotary Science Fair) ✓ School initiatives and STEM classes
(Dominica flag)	Incorporated into Thematic Area C	Incorporated into Thematic Area C
(Grenada flag)		✓ There is no direct programme that address this are, but many of the young persons in the Imani programme receive training in information technology both as direct skills and apprenticeship
(Saint Lucia flag)	✓ Challenge: ICT centres have been established within key communities, but they do not have specific programming for youth ✓ Challenge: many of the ICT centres are unoccupied by youth on a daily basis	✓ No major programmes
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flag)	✓ Challenge: poor maintenance of equipment	✓ Agencies such as the National Centre of Technological Innovation Inc (NTCI) and Information Technology Service Division provide training and other services to youth in information technology at various levels ✓ Public facilities, such as schools, Community Resource/Technical Vocational Centres and clinics are equipped with free Wi-Fi ✓ Ministry of Education has a one laptop per child initiative where children in primary, secondary and college levels are provided with laptops

Thematic Area E: Personal Development

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
(Barbados flag)	✓ Major focus on mainstreaming of all young people with emphasis on those vulnerable population, including the disabled ✓ Division of Youth Affairs and private entities engaged in providing programs	✓ Number of programs offering mentorship, including the YES programme, Sister to Sister, Men to Men, Aspire. ✓ Use of sports as a tool for personal development

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	that allowed young men and women to self-actualize	
(Belize)	✓ Challenge: sustainability of youth support services negatively impacted by political culture	✓ Fully equipped state of the art recording studio with a trained studio technician ✓ An art studio with an expert art teacher who provides classes from the primary level up to SBA ✓ Full support for Youth Sports Coalition Program ✓ Programs and initiatives using sports as a development tool
(British Virgin Islands)		
(Cayman Islands)	✓ Not many obstacles to personal development, besides minor transportation issues ✓ Personal development might be further improved by more inter-school activities	✓ National Sports Policy of 2010 – sought to promote national pride ✓ National Cultural Policy of 2016 – sought to preserve culture and embrace diversity through a multi-agency approach (i.e. Cayman National Cultural Foundation, Cayman Islands National Gallery, etc) ✓ Life Skills Presentations – hosted in schools and also by the Youth Services Unit or the Family Resource Centre ✓ Youth Groups / YMCA programmes / Sporting Groups that offer personal development opportunities through their programming.
(Dominica)	Incorporated into Thematic Area H	Incorporated into Thematic Area H
(Grenada)		✓ The New Imani Programme Life Skills Programme ✓ Component 1 – Self Development Objectives: To strengthen the personal competencies of the trainees, such as communication, self-confidence, decision-making, and goal-setting; To teach young people about critical health issues that can affect them; To develop skills for successful employment, such as financial and information literacy, effective work habits and teamwork; To teach youth about first aid and disaster management; To build youth capacity for planning and implementing projects/events; To engage youth in spiritual development activities; To promote/encourage young people to use ICT more productively ✓ Focus: The trainees will attend self-development classes within their constituencies. The course content will be divided into five (5) units: 1. Personal Skills; 2. Health and Well-Being; 3. Managing Conflicts and Problem Solving; 4. Professional Work Habits; 5. My Community and Me
(Saint Lucia)	✓ Challenge: not enough funding for cultural activities ✓ Challenge: no sports policy, but there is a draft physical education policy	✓ Partnership with Cultural Development Foundation to provided access, opportunities and training ✓ School sports programme and coaching programme
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	✓ Need: further advancement and continuity	✓ Various sporting organizations and the Division of Sports and Culture provide ongoing training and developmental programmes for youth ✓ Cultural showcase, where school musical bands competed, and persons were identified to be part of the National Orchestra. ✓ Community and school drama and music festivals ✓ Government provides technical and financial assistance to various grouping through the Division of Sports and Culture.

Thematic Area F: Intergenerational Relations		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
(Barbados)	✓ Challenge: crucial institution of family has been negatively impacted by rapid social and technological changes which has led to a breakdown in the traditional family structure	✓ Programmes implemented by public/private stakeholders with varying level of success at the micro and mezzo levels

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Challenge: breakdown of the extended family, which has been replaced by the adaptation to a variety of family forms and living arrangements that challenged traditional norms and undermined intergenerational relationships	
	✓ Challenge: issues regarding the quality of parenting ✓ Challenge: inadequate social support systems	✓ Program supporting inter-generational partnerships ✓ Positive parenting programmes - mentorship program in collaboration with the police ✓ Creation of a comprehensive parenting manual and strengthening parenting programs to better help parents form positive relationship with children and minimize child abuse practices
		✓ Big Brothers/Big Sisters Youth Mentorship Programme offers children between the ages of 6 and 16 the opportunity to foster strong and lasting relationships with older persons who in turn provide positive guidance and companionship
	✓ Challenge: ensuring that adults are competently screened before interacting with children and youth ✓ Challenge: having enough persons take up mentoring roles	✓ Mentoring programmes – the Chamber of Commerce "Mentoring Cayman" programme, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Girl's Brigade, Scouts ✓ Service Clubs: Key Club, Leos Club, Earlyact Club etc. ✓ Local Celebrations - "Child Month", "Older Person's Month", "Heritage Days" ✓ Literacy programmes – encourage adults to read with children (i.e. Kiwanis club and Literacy is for Life programme) ✓ Organizations that preserve local heritage and culture (governmental / non-governmental)
	Incorporated into Thematic Area A	Incorporated into Thematic Area A
		✓ In implementing community programmes there are opportunities for fostering intergenerational relationships
	✓ Challenge: failure of a major mentorship program in the Ministry of Education has created deep fears on restarting the program in the youth department	✓ Proposal for mentorship program waiting for approval and implementation
	✓ Challenge: different views/outlook on life, dress code, mind sets	✓ Several Secondary Schools have a mentoring programme where past students from the schools, as well as the Parent Teachers Association, pair adults with students who provide advice and guidance. Most often the students in the programmes are those likely to drop out of school or are troubled

Thematic Area G: Poverty and hunger

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Major focus on mainstreaming of all young people with emphasis on those vulnerable population, including the disabled	✓ Universal policy for free school means for all children in primary schools ✓ Universal policy for free education at the primary and secondary levels ✓ Universal access to free health care ✓ Access to welfare services and programmes aimed at ending intergenerational poverty

	✓ Division of Youth Affairs and private entities engaged in providing programs that allowed young men and women to self-actualize	
(Belize flag)	✓ Challenge: Poverty, inequality and inequity	✓ The National 4-H and Youth Development Centre is committed to equipping Belizean youth with marketable skills that will support and sustain their efforts to become productive citizens. The program located in Belmopan City has a national focus on opportunities for males and females between the ages of 14-19 years who are out of school. The primary function of the National 4H Youth Development Centre is to provide agriculture and tourism training to young persons who have completed or dropped out of Primary School and were/are not able to continue into the Secondary school system. The program runs for ten months annually. ✓ BOOST program - conditional cash transfer program to help families within the poverty line to have income to provide food in homes and retain children in schools. ✓ YOUTH RISE Project being executed in the Belize, Stann Creek and Cayo districts that targets youth through public sector and NGOs to scale up services to the population to build their resiliency.
(British Virgin Islands flag)		✓ Social protection instruments include Public Assistance Programme and Assistance Grants Programme. ✓ Legislations include Public Assistance Act, 2013 and Child Maintenance and Access Bill, 2017
(Cayman Islands flag)	✓ Need: identification of what a 'liveable wage' is for individuals and families	✓ Not for profit programmes - Feed Our Future targets school-aged children and also does food drives, Kiwanis Club hosts the Give A Kid Breakfast programme, Meals On Wheels community food programme is hosted to provide meals to the elderly / disabled ✓ Food banks – The Good Samaritan Food Bank to collect canned foods, also other food banks established by local churches ✓ Government Welfare Initiatives – Needs Assessment Unit offers welfare benefits to needy families, Department of Children & Family Service offers free school lunch vouchers to children in need, the Government also offers "Early Childhood Assistance Programme" which pays monthly school fees for children in need ✓ Government Upskilling Initiatives to alleviate poverty – National Workforce Development Agency hosts the "Ready to Work" programme that tools up citizens for a variety of entry level jobs, Passport2Success programme is run in partnership with the Wellness Centre and tools up a variety of cohorts ranging from high school graduates to single moms in their 20s for interest-specific jobs, Wow Spa is a training institution for beauticians; Public Works Department internship (to train students). All of these initiatives aim to alleviate poverty and promote vocational training.
(Dominica flag)	Incorporated into Thematic Area C	Incorporated into Thematic Area C
(Grenada flag)		✓ See information on Imani Programme and Small Business
(Saint Lucia flag)	✓ Focus is on employment; the notion is that if young people work then they can feed themselves ✓ No specific policy to combat poverty ✓ Social protection policy not in full adoption	✓ Educational assistance for young people to complete school ✓ Referrals to Social Protection Agencies to help young people
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flag)	✓ Challenge: inadequate funding for programmes ✓ Challenge: some level of dependency on the system	✓ Zero Hunger Initiative – provides food and other basic amenities to poor families ✓ Social Services/Protection Unit within the Ministry of National Mobilisation also conducts several programmes – Public Assistance for the elderly, disabled children whose parents are deceased or imprisoned etc.

Thematic Area H: Education		
Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Need: education reform to make the curricula more relevant to modern day reality	✓ Schools encouraged to align subject offerings to the needs of their students ✓ Some secondary schools have increased their subject offerings in keeping with the variety of new subject examinations introduced by the CXC ✓ Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation is placing greater emphasis on developing and show-casing the creative talents of students ✓ New portfolios for Education Officers in the areas of music and theatre arts
	✓ Need: access to educational opportunities ✓ Need: assimilate vocational trades and trainings as well as communication skills, social skills and practical life skills	✓ Enhanced opportunities for economic empowerment for rural youth – two National TVETS established, plus basic life skills classes in all high school ✓ Government high school subsidy in southern districts to support and encourage high school enrolment for the rural students especially, they represent majority of youth. ✓ Automatic scholarship for tertiary level education through Government for CSEC passes. ✓ Secondary Finance Reform through MOE that restructure financing at secondary level to make it more equitable for schools and direct impact on the increase of student enrolment ✓ The Computer Assisted Learning Service (CALS) is an ongoing program targeting out of school youth
		✓ Access to education for all – education is free up to secondary school, and for BVIslanders and Belongers, tertiary education is also provided free of cost ✓ Alternative education programmes for anyone who has not completed secondary school and wish to do so ✓ Ability to learn a trade and develop technical skills are also available at the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies, and a Technical Vocational Programme offers the same for out of school young people
	✓ Need: country must establish a comprehensive technical/vocational curriculum, staff complement and certification ✓ Need: technical/vocational institution available to students	✓ Public education – accessible to all young people in the Cayman Islands at primary, secondary and tertiary levels
	✓ Need: to develop youth social capital	Strategic objectives: ✓ To provide opportunities for youth civic engagement ✓ To facilitate the practice of "Koudmain" and volunteerism ✓ To facilitate inter-generational partnerships ✓ Create opportunities for active youth participation in local government and community associations ✓ Engender an ethos of youth culture, self-actualization and expression ✓ Enhance youth knowledge of and participation in Dominican folklore and cultural traditions Proposed Interventions: ✓ Revitalize the cultural awareness movement ✓ Accentuate the relevance of traditional knowledge and popular theatre in youth development ✓ Invest in the strengthening and strategic marketing of the national volunteer programme ✓ Actively support revitalization of the Scouts movement and other relevant uniformed groups ✓ Develop and implement participatory training methods of leadership development ✓ Enhancing the capacity of young people to engage meaningfully in various context ✓ Provide opportunities and safe spaces for young people to engage, dialogue and interact meaningfully with national and community leaders including senior government officials ✓ Encourage faith –based organizations to promote spiritual and moral values, ethics, integrity and respect ✓ Encourage Faith-based organizations to promote the spiritual values of compassion, mercy and humility ✓ Research and document the diversity of youth creative expressions ✓ Create opportunities to promote and mainstream youth artistic expressions ✓ Promote positive parenting ✓ Implement leadership development training programmes for parents ✓ Develop and actively support a national mentorship programme ✓ Actively support community and national inter-generational conversations

		✓ Organize inter-generational learning and knowledge transfer spaces and opportunities ✓ Optimize the value of existing youth development centres and establish new ones wherever necessary ✓ Make available community-based counselling services and psycho-social support for children and young people.
	✓ Challenge: retention of participants in the adult literacy programme	✓ Literacy and numeracy are part of our training programmes, including the prison programme. ✓ Implementation of a special literacy programme with the support of the Caribbean Examination Council
	✓ Challenge: Department of Education executes duties with little involvement from the Department of Youth ✓ Challenge: little consultation with the Department of Youth to move lifelong learning within the youth realm ✓ Need: intentionally target school drop outs	✓ Consultation with the Department of Education on functional literacy and lifelong learning ✓ Collaboration with the National Skills Development Centre
	✓ Challenge: anti-social activities which may be seen as more attractive or lucrative ✓ Challenge: inadequate financing and continuation of programmes ✓ Need: special attention be placed on remedial work for slow learners who tend to exit the system prematurely	✓ Renewed focus on Technical Vocational Education Training for persons in and out of the formal education system e.g. the ANEW – At-risk youth training for CVQ certification and job placement which focuses on entrepreneurship ✓ Adult and continuing education programmes – persons who drop out of school are allowed to attend evening classes in academic as well as other technical programmes. All these programmes are free to the participants ✓ Universal access to secondary education: no child left behind policy – all children up to age 16-18 have access to free secondary education ✓ More students advancing to tertiary education ✓ No disparity in education – both genders are awarded equal access ✓ At the adult and continuing education level, females make use of the opportunity more than males

Thematic Area J: Health		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
	✓ Need: health and well-being in all forms critical to the empowerment of young people and the sustainability of the society	✓ Extensive psycho-educational campaign embarked on by public/private sector agencies addressed and led to the reduction of stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS ✓ Concern in relation to treatable disease being addressed not only through the Ministry of Health, but also through sports programmes implemented by the Division of Youth Affairs and National Sports Council ✓ Legislation in place to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace to reduce exploitation of vulnerable workers ✓ Psycho-educational programmes which deal with domestic violence ✓ Safe water supply ✓ Number of agencies providing relief during disasters
	✓ Challenge: inadequate social support systems	✓ Adoption of the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents. Ministry of Health/UNICEF partnering to develop an adolescent health strategy ✓ Inform and educate youth of all socio-economic status, especially un-attached youth, to lower their risk of HIV and other STIs while creating an opportunity for them to actively participate in youth development ✓ Encourage youth to be informed and build confidence in their sexual and reproductive health practice and sexual choices ✓ Youth friendly health service providers ✓ Youth Health and wellness Promotion events ✓ Clubs participating in sports programs ✓ Pyscho-social support systems and services ✓ Professional Counselling and referral services ✓ Gender sensitive youth services ✓ Youth friendly SRH programs and services

		✓ School health programme requires mandatory screening of children at school transition points, entry to preschool, primary and high school ✓ Policies for the reduction of tobacco use are enforced ✓ Healthy school program looking at food and nutrition with the reduction of salt and sugary foods in school and increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables ✓ Working towards an adolescent pregnancy reduction strategy and a reproductive health strategy ✓ Child abuse awareness campaigns and "Wear Blue, Drive Blue" initiative to promote awareness of child abuse ✓ Changes to the protection of children and young persons legislation to ensure better protection and mandatory reporting of abuse in all forms.
	✓ Challenges: prevalence of inexpensive fast food venues pose difficulties with childhood obesity ✓ Need: drug prevention ✓ Growing movement spearheaded by local youth-service organizations to prevent child sexual abuse	✓ Public healthcare system – the Cayman Islands has a national healthcare system which includes a national immunization programme, alcohol/drug treatment, local health clinics ✓ Community Wellness Initiatives that include not-for-profits like the National Drug Council programmes and also Cayman Heart Fund's youth weight loss programme ✓ School Programmes – mandatory physical education in schools and farm-to-table initiatives increasing awareness of health eating ✓ Infrastructure – each district also has community parks and sporting facilities ✓ Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – there is a growing movement to prevent child sexual abuse spearheaded by the Red Cross "Darkness to Light" training for youth-serving organizations and inter-agency collaboration (MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) ✓ Sexual Health & STI Prevention – Red Cross condom distribution programme and local churches promoting abstinence ✓ Mental Health Initiatives – Mental Health Commission should be established soon along with other not-for-profit local initiatives include the Alex Panton Foundation.
	✓ Challenge: prevalence of risky behaviours and unhealthy lifestyles and its adverse impact on social and economic well-being of the Dominican society ✓ Need: use of sports development for health promotion	Strategic Objectives: ✓ Reduce incidences of non-communicable diseases among young people ✓ To promote healthy and holistic lifestyles ✓ To promote youth participation in sport and recreation activities ✓ To promote youth friendly health services ✓ To accentuate sport as a tool to promote health and well-being Proposed Interventions: ✓ Implement measures to reduce alcohol and substance abuse, especially among young people ✓ Undertake programmes to educate young people on the benefits of healthy diets ✓ Undertake programmes and initiatives to enhance young peoples' awareness of safe and responsible sexual practices ✓ Increase the accessibility of effective mental health services ✓ Organize collaborative sporting programmes to promote healthy lifestyles ✓ Undertake initiatives to improve facilities, enhance the organization and management of school and community-based sporting programmes ✓ Provide greater incentives and support for young athletes ✓ Actively support and facilitate the participation of athletes in regional and international competitions.
	✓ Challenge: focus on health activities within the youth division as the Ministry of Health has taken the lead on these projects	✓ Administration of health fairs by Youth Officers in two rural communities ✓ Small community projects focusing on Zika and Sexual Reproductive Health
	✓ Challenge: currently in the domain of the Department of Health with insufficient collaboration with the Department of Youth to roll out programmes that seek to address youth health issues	✓ No programmes
	✓ Challenge: disregard for information and failure to comply	✓ Awareness campaigns conducted throughout the year on various issues but are intensified at strategic times i.e. HIV/AIDS campaigns during carnival season, noncommunicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension etc.) programmes increase during holiday seasons. These programmes are delivered through focus groups, radio programmes, distribution of pamphlets etc. ✓ Special units, such as Planned Parenthood and HIV Unit are staffed with experienced and competent personnel who traverse the country to educate the public on various issues ✓ Ongoing education on dietary practices and health and fitness ✓ Division of Sports also conducts several exercise sessions for free in various communities, at homes and other facilities for the elderly

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ The Ministry of Health, through District Clinics, created various focus groups and sessions geared towards healthier living ✓ The Sanitation Department has scheduled garbage collection in every district throughout the country ✓ Potable water in every community ✓ Gender Affairs Division conducts weekly awareness programmes on gender issues, rights and responsibilities and procedures in reporting incidents etc.	

Thematic Area K: HIV/AIDS

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
Barbados	✓ Need: focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic a critical area of concern for the Government as was reflected in the NYP	✓ Creation of HIV/AIDS Commission ✓ District of Youth Affairs delivered HIV and AIDS projects intended to sensitize young people to the dangers of HIV/AIDS ✓ Through the HIV & AIDS Education Committee workshops were facilitated, which reached over twenty-two thousand participants during the five-year period. While HIV/AIDS was the critical focus, the projects included other life-style components to ensure holistic delivery and full youth participation. The other efforts to meet the objective of ending stigmatization included: community concerts, testing, psycho-educational programme; sports training programmes; cultural arts programmes.
Belize	✓ Challenge: inadequate social support systems ✓ Challenge: psycho-social issues	✓ Actively engage youth in participating meaningfully in the process and decisions affecting their sexual health and sexuality ✓ Increased number of trained Peer Educators ✓ World AIDS Day Campaigns ✓ Multi-lingual campaign material. ✓ DYS app developed. ✓ MOH through the Global Fund to fight Malaria, HIV and Tuberculosis provides funding to Hand in Hand Ministries that provides treatment and care for children infected with HIV, as well as other CSO through social contracting with the Ministry.
British Virgin Islands		✓ Free and confidential voluntary counselling and testing is offered in the territory to persons of all ages and genders ✓ Accessible treatment covered under the National Health Insurance Programme reducing financial barrier to care
Cayman Islands	The population of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Cayman Islands is relatively low	✓ Sexual Health & STI Prevention – Red Cross condom distribution programme and local churches promoting abstinence ✓ Early Information Campaigns by Not-For-Profits – Red Cross peer educator training and the Cayman AIDS Foundation that educate students and adults ✓ Good Perinatal / Prenatal Care – blood-testing through the public healthcare system screens for HIV/AIDS and other STIs that may be present.
Dominica	Incorporated into Thematic Area J	Incorporated into Thematic Area J
Grenada	✓ Challenge: No major projects implemented ✓ Need: financial support as well as support from the business community	✓ Youth representation on the National HIV/AIDS Committee ✓ Division works along with the National Infection Disease Control to support World AIDS Day
Saint Lucia	✓ Challenge: programmes are in the domain of the Department of Health with the Department of Youth playing a tokenistic role	✓ Youth representatives on the Regional Mechanism Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		✓ Free access to testing and treatment at all state-owned clinic and hospitals ✓ Ongoing education and counselling for victims and families

Thematic Area L: Drug and substance abuse		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
(flag of Barbados)	✓ Need: treating this issue both as a legal and health issue	✓ National Anti-Drug Plan which sets out an action plan to counteract supply and demand for drugs ✓ Introduction of a Drug Treatment Court ✓ In addition to the Psychiatric Hospital, there are a number of drug treatment providers and residential treatment facilities for male and female substance users ✓ Social reintegration is the main goal promoted through the health approach
(flag of Belize)	✓ Challenge: impact of the narcotics industry	✓ Through the Ministry of Health, the National Drug Abuse Control Council provides drug education and referral for treatment services ✓ Established drug week in most high school for awareness and education on drugs and substance abuse
(flag of British Virgin Islands)	✓ Challenge: impact of marijuana use is downplayed by youth as attitudes have changes and its use is not generally seen as negative; the same is true for alcohol ✓ Challenge: Difficulties with preventing use of harder/designer drugs ✓ Challenge: youth who have access to sufficient resources have greater access to these harder/designer drugs	✓ National Anti-Drug Strategy of 2009 established by the National Drug Council – using a multi-agency approach to demand reduction of drug use (i.e. agencies include: Police, Probation, Courts System, Youth Services and Youth organizations) ✓ National Drug Council programming – offer youth programmes (i.e. Youth to Youth) that discourage drug use and share information in school
(flag of Cayman Islands)	The population of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Cayman Islands is relatively low	✓ Sexual Health & STI Prevention – Red Cross condom distribution programme and local churches promoting abstinence ✓ Early Information Campaigns by Not-For-Profits – Red Cross peer educator training and the Cayman AIDS Foundation that educate students and adults ✓ Good Perinatal / Prenatal Care – blood-testing through the public healthcare system screens for HIV/AIDS and other STIs that may be present.
(flag of Dominica)	Incorporated into Thematic Area J	Incorporated into Thematic Area J
(flag of Grenada)	✓ Challenge: lack of synergy between the Youth Division and the National Drug Control Secretariat	✓ Young people participate in activities of the National Drug Control Secretariat
(flag of Saint Lucia)	✓ Challenge: Organizations, such as the Substance Abuse Secretariat, work on their own with little to no engagement	✓ Partnership with St. Lucia Junior Pride, an NGO which focuses on prevention by providing resources where necessary
(flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	✓ Challenge: unsecure boarders, old patrol vessels, low wages not attracting qualified/trained professionals	✓ Utilization of sports to combat crime – Sports Anti-Crime Programme ✓ Severe penalties on offences ✓ Increased policing ✓ Enhanced facilities for treatment and rehabilitation

		✓ Rehabilitation in the prison system includes academics, skills training (carpentry, garment construction, craft, auto-mechanic, culinary art etc.) ✓ Establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Unity with responsibilities for educating the public on the issues relating to trafficking in persons etc.

Thematic Area M: Environment

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
(Barbados flag)	✓ Challenge: significant gap between awareness and availability of requisite skills and expertise in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the green economy ✓ Challenge: limited public/private financing in this area, which reduced the reach of sustainable environmental programmes ✓ Challenge: number of young people are not cognizant of the value of the environment and took its benefits for granted ✓ Need: continuous education and involvement of more stakeholders at the community level in delivering sensitization campaigns and promotion of healthy practices to sustain the environment	✓ Objectives met with varying levels of success ✓ Youth involvement in a number of initiatives to preserve and protect the environment through public/private sector partners such as Barbados Renewable Energy Association, Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) ✓ YES, in collaboration with the FCT implemented a number of training opportunities that would allow entrepreneurs to create innovations that would lead to green careers ✓ Promotion of green careers through the Garden Project in the primary and secondary schools which provided information on careers in the green sector
(Belize flag)	✓ Challenge: lack of awareness campaigns	✓ World Youth Conference to raise awareness towards SGDs and youth involvement ✓ Youth led and developed proposal to UNDP for a project on SDG education nationally ✓ Legislative action to prohibit offshore drilling in Belize and the ban of single use plastics ✓ Outreach activities in communities to support to youth groups and youth focused initiatives involved in environmental awareness and action ✓ Support youth participation in conferences and capacity building initiatives on environmental sustainability ✓ Forge partnerships with Departments and NGO's working on matters related to the environment ✓ Support youth-led environmental awareness programs.
(British Virgin Islands flag)		
(Cayman Islands flag)	✓ Challenge: lack of enforcement of conservation/environmental laws and purchase of protected lands ✓ Challenge: increased development frustrates the local community ✓ Challenge: keeping public beaches clean all year long	✓ National Conservation Law – establishment of a National Conservation Council ✓ Lobbyists – special interest groups lobbying on various environmental issues from beach access rights, protected lands, port development, over-development, landfill overuse, etc. ✓ Recycling programmes; in schools, at local businesses and through the Department of Environment ✓ Earth Day Celebrations – hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and other community stakeholders ✓ Plastic-Free Initiatives – supermarkets institute more environmentally friendly plastic bags and promote cloth bags, not-for-profit organizations, like Plastic Free Cayman, encourage local hotels and culinary businesses to offer paper straws.
(Dominica flag)	✓ Challenge: vulnerability to the effects of climate change and unsustainable environmental practices ✓ Need: enhancing sustainable environmental practices and strengthening the country's resilience to climate change and natural disasters are critical national development priorities	Strategic Objectives: ✓ Increase awareness on the SDG Nos: 6, 7,11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 ✓ Increase awareness on climate change and international efforts to address it ✓ Facilitate efforts of civil society to respond to environmental and climate change issues ✓ Promote the active participation of young people in disaster mitigation Proposed Interventions: ✓ Develop and improve youth-led community and school-based environmental initiatives ✓ Provide capacity building for youth leaders on implementation of the SDG's and other pertinent development goals ✓ Provide opportunities for young people to serve as apprentices and young researchers within appropriate institutions ✓ Provide opportunities for training in meteorology and related sciences

		✓ Provide support for youth entrepreneurial activities promoting sustainable environmental practices ✓ Support sustainable agricultural and forestry projects
	✓ Need: to secure funding to support environmental projects	✓ The Imani Programme has engaged the TA Marry Show Community College to implement an environmental sustainability programme to provide formal certification to young people ✓ The engagement of young people in the climate smart agriculture programme
	✓ Challenge: Department of Sustainable Department receives all the funding for the environment, there is not much collaboration with the Department of Youth	✓ Partnership with Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN) to spearhead major events and representation of young people at regional and international meetings ✓ Supporting community-based youth organization doing work on the environment
	✓ Challenge: recent disasters/hurricanes and unpredictable weather conditions – extensive damages, delayed repairs and poor infrastructure ✓ Challenge: deforestation for housing purposes and/or illegal activities	✓ Ongoing educational programmes at various levels, radio programmes, community awareness programmes implemented by the Forestry Division, Environmental Unit etc. ✓ Replanting of trees ✓ Clean up campaigns ✓ Ban on Styrofoam products renewed focus/call to reduce waste and recycle products ✓ Emphasis on how adverse practices not only affect the environment but also human, marine life etc.

Thematic Area N: Urbanisation and housing

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Challenge: difficulty for young people to access affordable housing solutions	✓ Urban and Rural Development Corporations provide housing and ancillary services, including the installation of sanitary facilities to young people as well as others in accordance with relevant legislation ✓ The Urban and Rural Development Corporations have established websites and provide counselling and social assessment to help persons identify the housing solutions that match needs and finances; it is not clear as to how many young persons accessed or benefitted from these services ✓ Education provided from private sector agencies such as banks, credit unions and mortgage companies on housing solutions ✓ Housing assistance provided to young mothers, people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses that did not have decent housing and the means to help themselves
	✓ Challenge: poverty, inequality and inequity	✓ A schedule of community outreach activities supporting to youth-led and youth environmental projects ✓ MoU's with partners and potential partners to support youth environmental initiatives ✓ A cadre of trained youth leaders and community activists ✓ Youth-led Coastal Management Initiatives
	✓ Challenge: youth apathy ✓ Challenge: greater focus on sustainable development and the environmental issues of over-development in the Cayman Islands	✓ National Housing Scheme – government provided housing for middle and low-income families ✓ Stamp duty waiver – for first time Caymanian home buyers ✓ Government Guarantee Mortgage Coverage – if a participant qualifies for the programme the Government will stand as their guarantor should the defer on their mortgage ✓ Builder's Law – ensuring that persons in the building and construction industry are qualified to practice ✓ Planning & Development Law – setting building standards and codes that ensure infrastructural safety, hurricane safety and proper zoning ✓ National Conservation Law – establishment of a National Conservation Council

		✓ Lobbyists – special interest groups lobbying on various environmental issues from beach access rights, protected lands, port development, over-development, landfill overuse, etc. ✓ Student Educational initiatives – summer internships with private or governmental organisations (i.e. Public Works internship & CASE programme).
	Incorporated into Thematic Areas A, B and M	Incorporated into Thematic Areas A, B and M
	✓ Challenge: have not dealt with this issue as a youth department	✓ No programmes
	✓ Challenge: problem of squatting and poorly constructed housing	✓ Provision of quality, affordable low-income housing ✓ Subsidized offers on state owned lands for housing ✓ Enactment of strict building codes ✓ Stakeholder consultation at the community and ministerial levels ✓ Assistance with building materials for the indigent ✓ Life to live – a government initiative where houses in poor communities are retrofitted, and in many instances, provided with proper bathroom and kitchen facilities etc.

Thematic Area O: Youth justice

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
	✓ Challenge: Recidivism rates amongst juveniles ✓ Need: system reform to provide more sentencing options to avoid incarceration of young offenders	✓ Government currently involved in a reform justice project and has redrafted the Juvenile Justice Bill ✓ Nature Fun Ranch intervention for young offenders ✓ Division of Youth Affairs introduced a crime prevention strategy which focuses on reducing risk factors and strengthening competencies of young people to prevent young people from entering Criminal Justice System ✓ National Summer Camp Programme which aims to reduce to amount of unsupervised free time of juveniles ✓ Barbados Youth Service - a one-year programme exposing young people to a range of social development programmes, to viable skills and opportunities for self-development and personal well-being
	✓ Challenge: immigration, human trafficking and related crimes	✓ Community-based youth social support systems ✓ Youth Advocacy promoted ✓ Through Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation the Community Action for Public Safety project which was a holistic approach to juvenile justice system and supporting juvenile offenders through cognitive behavioural therapy, reintegration and linkages with programs for skill development, education re-enrolment of employment ✓ Youth Diversion program to prevent the engagement into the justice system of low risk offenders.
	✓ Challenge: a 2014 review of Rehabilitation and Custody Arrangement for Children in Conflict with the Law in the Virgin Islands identified various gaps in the Juvenile Justice System	✓ In 2017 the Ministry of Health and Social Development contracted a consultant to develop a policy and legislative framework for Child Justice in the Virgin Islands. Due to sever impact of Hurricane Irma the project was halted.

	✓ Need: National Youth Commission should play a more active role in youth advocacy initiatives ✓ Need: rehabilitation initiatives should seek to ensure there is a more forgiving mindset towards young/first-time offenders to promote re-integration into society	✓ Justice system – now pushes probation and community service orders instead of remand (for young or first-time offenders) to promote rehabilitation ✓ "Crime Reduction Strategy 2012" from Cabinet Office – to explain the role of each non-governmental / governmental entity in the strategy (i.e. prevention, intervention, rehabilitation) and the percentage of the national budget allotted to each ✓ National Security Council established by the Governor's Office in 2011 – to strengthen protective services and border control, also to address corruption ✓ "National Anti-Drug Strategy" of 2009 established by the National Drug Council – using a multi-agency approach to demand reduction of drug use (i.e. agencies include: Police, Probation, Courts System, Youth Services and Youth organisations) ✓ Not-for-profit organisations hosting youth programming – offered through the National Drug Council and the Family Resource Centre help to groom youth into advocates for their community ✓ National Youth Commission – established to be an advocate agency for youth (and youth representation across public policies).
	✓ Need: enable the active participation of young people in development, peace building and democratic processes	Strategic objectives: ✓ Facilitate the active participation of young people in democratic processes ✓ Facilitate youth leadership and active participation in governance and development ✓ Create opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and competencies ✓ Create an enabling environment for young people to better understand democratic systems of governance ✓ Facilitate young people's contribution to the renewal and strengthening of democratic institutions and principles ✓ Support young people's active participation in struggle against extremism and fundamentalism ✓ Provide opportunities for young people to act as youth ambassadors Proposed Interventions: The following policy recommendations are proposed to promote youth civic engagement and participation in democratic processes; Government should: ✓ Facilitate young people's increased access to the decision-making process and policy implementation at the community level ✓ Promote civic education in schools for young people to learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, the role and functions of the respective arms of government, parliamentary procedures among other relevant subjects ✓ Re-assess the organizational structures of pertinent institutions to facilitate young people's participation in the core function of these institutions so that youth may play a role in their core functions ✓ Explore the establishment of a national youth parliament and local youth village councils as mechanisms to include youth in decision-making processes ✓ Include youth representatives in national delegations to OECS, CARICOM, Commonwealth and United Nations General Assembly meetings ✓ Promote the accessibility of elected officials to youth ✓ Facilitate the input of youth in macro-economic and development strategy, including the Growth and Social Protection Strategy (Perhaps an annual youth economic conference) The National Youth Council of Dominica should: ✓ Conduct surveys on youth voter participation rates ✓ Organize youth voter's awareness campaigns to increase young voter participation ✓ Collaborate with the YDD and other relevant partners to develop a national youth leadership programme ✓ Organize periodic community conversations with young people, putting them in touch with key stakeholders ✓ Provide leadership skills and competencies to community groups and district councils ✓ Facilitate establishment of a national youth ambassadors programme. This will allow for the grooming of young leaders to facilitate smooth transitions

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
		✓ Provide training in public speaking for youth leaders ✓ Provide training in advocacy and social marketing ✓ Provide training in stakeholder engagement, diplomacy and resource mobilization for youth leaders. DAIC and other Private Sector Agencies should: ✓ Develop programmes to enhance young people's awareness on the role of the private sector in development ✓ Develop youth leadership in business initiatives to nurture an emerging cadre of candidates for leadership within the private sector ✓ Support and facilitate young people's participation as national representatives locally and abroad Political Parties should: ✓ Revamp their youth auxiliary bodies to reflect a more positive youth development perspective ✓ Institute policies and systems to accentuate the role and influence of young members in decision making processes ✓ Include young people and provide tangible support for their participation in initiatives to re-organize and or re-position those political parties ✓ Facilitate young people to play more strategic roles in party policy, strategy and programmes.
(Grenada flag)		✓ Cabinet has given the approval for the establishment of a National Offenders Board which will provide an opportunity for young offenders to have their records expunged ✓ Youth are a major stakeholder on the board
(Saint Lucia flag)	✓ Challenge: finding the right mechanism to address this issue in the most impactful way	✓ Juvenile Justice Reform Project as part of the OECS approach in dealing with juvenile justice ✓ Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) which includes community after school and court diversion programmes ✓ Beckwith International Leadership Development (BILD) – programme geared from 14 years old to training young people as young sport leaders and volunteer their skills
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flag)	✓ Challenge: slow implementation of legislation	✓ Undergoing process of enacting its Child Justice Bill/Act 2018. This Act highlights the procedures in dealing with persons under the age of 18 and in conflict with the law. This Act includes provisions for alternative sentencing, continuing access to educational opportunities, skills training, counselling etc. ✓ Financial and other assistance offered to nonstate operated homes
Thematic Area P: Girls or Young Women		
Country	**Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country**	**Describe the measures implemented**
(Barbados flag)	✓ Need: critical focus on girls and young women due to the historical gender imbalance as well as Barbados traditionally being a matrifocal society	✓ Constitution guarantees the rights of both sexes ✓ Social policy legislation that guarantees equal access to health, education, employment equal pay etc. ✓ Student leadership is encouraged at all levels; primary and secondary schools are expected to establish Student Councils to provide opportunities for students to participate in decision-making ✓ No policy that impedes young girls who become pregnant from continuing their education
(Belize flag)	✓ Challenge: gender-based violence, psycho-social issues, unemployment	✓ Young women's group developed and supported ✓ Projects implemented through CSO to address gender-based violence, and increase education on human rights and sexual and reproductive rights

Country	Specific challenges and needs	Describe the measures implemented
(British Virgin Islands flag)		✓ Continuous implementation of the National Gender Policy speaks to the continued sensitization around the elimination of all discrimination against women and girls through observances such as International Women's Day, Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Sixteen Days of Activism to include the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls ✓ Domestic Violence Protocol promotes zero tolerance to any act of domestic violence
(Cayman Islands flag)	✓ Challenge: pay inequity remains a challenge for women	✓ Gender Equality Campaign – by the Ministry of Gender Affairs in collaboration with the Family Resources Centre to promote equal pay, prevent sexual harassment etc. ✓ Celebrations – "Honouring Women's Month" to celebrate the accomplishments of local women ✓ Portfolio of Gender Affairs – government department to discourage gender discrimination
(Dominica flag)	Incorporated into Thematic Area A	Incorporated into Thematic Area A
(Grenada flag)		
(Saint Lucia flag)	✓ Challenge: education sector has reached the milestone of equal access to boy and girls in education. However, there are still laws on the books which send mixed signals for age of consent, statutory rape.	✓ Supporting NGOs like Girls of a Feather to provide support for young women, especially in reproductive rights ✓ Family planning plays an integral role in providing health services to young women
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flag)		✓ There are equal opportunities for both males and females ✓ Research has shown that females outperform males in all aspects of the education system ✓ There are no disparities in wages in relation to male or female

Thematic Area Q: Other

Country	Specific challenges and needs related to this thematic area in your country	Describe the measures implemented
(Belize flag)	✓ Challenge: xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia.	
(Dominica flag)	The Youth Development Division, National Youth Council and other relevant partners have positively impacted Dominica's youth development landscape. They have done a commendable job thus far in serving the young people of Dominica and generally, advancing the youth development agenda, locally and regionally. However, in the context of an ever-evolving and more complex youth development landscape, young people, staff of the Youth Division, youth leaders and youth development practitioners generally agree there is an urgent need for institutional strengthening and re-positioning of the YDD, NYC and other principal youth development agencies in Dominica. Additionally, it is felt that Dominica's youth development landscape will benefit significantly from a culture of professionalization. Indeed, the professionalization of youth work in Dominica will also positively impact the regional and global youth development landscapes.	Strategic objectives: ✓ Facilitate the institutional strengthening of the YDD, NYC and other relevant partners ✓ Create opportunities for capacity building ✓ Enhance strategic partnerships ✓ Create enabling environment for the professionalization of youth work ✓ Improve the relevance and quality of youth programmes and interventions ✓ Facilitate more evidence-based youth programmes and initiatives ✓ Facilitate more robust monitoring and evaluation ✓ Facilitate more effective social marketing ✓ Enhance accountability and dissemination of information Proposed Interventions ✓ Implement a more relevant organizational structure ✓ Provide more tangible opportunities for staff mobility

		✓ Expand the range of services provided by the YDD to include counselling and mentoring support ✓ Support eligible employees of the Youth Development Division to pursue the Diploma and BSc in Youth Development Work ✓ Provide professional development opportunities in areas such as project management, positive youth development, results-based management and social marketing ✓ Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy ✓ Undertake a stakeholder mapping analysis ✓ Implement a programme of mass mobilization at the community and among students ✓ Revitalize the district youth councils through community conversations, leadership and development workshops ✓ Develop a register of youth development practitioners ✓ Initiate the process of forming a national youth workers' association ✓ Collaborate with UWI Open Campus, the Dominica State College to provide professional development training for staff and youth leaders ✓ Rebrand the annual youth awards to include a category for excellency in youth development work, and perhaps a lifetime award for persons who have made exceptional contributions ✓ Implement appropriate recommendations of the CCYD report on enhancing the youth development sector ✓ Use the Commonwealth Competency standards as a tool for benchmarking staff competence ✓ Develop a youth mainstreaming strategy ✓ Use the Cabinet appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth Development to activate the youth mainstreaming strategy ✓ Develop a programme of certification and accreditation in youth development for persons working with young people ✓ Host an annual youth development conference to discuss the local youth development landscape, share ideas and perspectives and explore new and emerging youth development issues ✓ Conduct an economic analysis of investing in youth development ✓ Create or access opportunities to publish informed opinions and research on critical aspects of youth development.

NOTES TO ANNEXES

1   There are 15 priority areas of the WPAY that have been grouped into three clusters that reflect the challenges youth encounter across borders and cultures: Youth in the Global Economy, Youth and Their Well-Being, and Youth in Civil Society.

2   Age indicates the legal definition of "youth' in the relevant policy.

3   Education, Employment, and Health are the core WPAY themes found in all Caribbean NYPs either as a stand-alone goals. Participation is a stand-alone goal in 82% of the NYPs reviewed with the exception of BVI and Jamaica, where it is integrated into another thematic area.

4   Globalisation is the sense of the WPAY priority area refers to "impact on youth employment opportunities and on migration patterns "and the "deep changes in youth culture and consumerism, and in new manifestations of global youth citizenship and activism". Most NYPs sampled generally referenced the impacts of globalization on youth culture, and way of life. Provisions on identity and culture, social cohesion and belonging are represented expressly in The Bahamas, BVI, Guyana, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago) to ensure belonging and connectedness for youth, and there is an additional section on Youth and Immigration in The Bahamas.) In some cases, provisions on youth participation e.g. in Barbados, Dominica, St Kitts, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago) embrace a larger perspective of preparation and readiness for responsible (global) citizenship.

5   Poverty and Hunger provisions are not expressly stated in the majority of Caribbean youth policies but are not expressly integrated in terms of access and rights to services. According to WPAY, youth "experience poverty not only through financial limitations, but also through limitations in access to public services and non-fulfilment of, and a lack of protection of fundamental human rights". "Poverty is inextricably linked to a lack of access to or control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections (WPAY Guide). Some specific provisions exist e.g. in Barbados (affordable housing); The Bahamas (poverty and housing) and St Kitts and Nevis (financial inclusion and access to acquire land and housing)

6   Youth in Armed Conflict (WPAY) is included for the Caribbean context with the rubric of Youth Crime and Violence /Justice /Protection/Safety and Security as a dedicated policy goal in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. Youth Violence prevention is included as sub-themes or objectives in all other NYPs under review.

7   Girls and Women – Most NYPs situate youth development in a context of gender equality, gender diversity or gender mainstreaming. The two countries with a stand-alone policy goal for gender are Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts and Nevis. Saint Lucia's gender equality provisions are integrated as a cross-cutting issue. BVI seeks to ensure "sport and recreational planning and programmes are gender-aware and diversity sensitive and Dominica focuses on preventing GBV, and on gender mainstreaming as a policy objective.

8   This priority area contains the objective: Develop and implement gender sensitive youth programmes. The Policy also recommends action to empower young people on preventing GBV

9   Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Youth and the Environment are important indicators of human development. Only 3 NYPS (The Bahamas, St Lucia and St Kitts) contain discrete provisions on young people as "digital natives' and using and innovating ICTs to improve their lives and communities. NYPs of Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis contain a separate policy goal on Youth and The Environment.

10   Annex 4 records the youth **priority areas** established in the National Youth Policies of members and associates of the CDCC in response to the guiding framework of the WPAY 2000 and beyond. The national youth policy *theme* or *goal* developed in the NYP of for each CDCC member and associate is listed to align with the WPAY priority area. A tick (√) means the **priority area** is included in the National Youth Policy as a strategic objective or cross-cutting theme and not necessarily a stand-alone thematic area or policy goal. Where the priority area is not represented in any form, an (X) is shown

11   In the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, 1998, governments committed to the establishment of national Youth Policies and to ensuring that policy formulation, implementation and follow-up processes received commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources. The Matrix indicates the actual policy goals or thematic areas for each country. They are listed as far as practicable to align contextually with the Lisbon Declaration and WPAY thematic areas

12   Seven of the NYPs sampled (47%) contain a separate goal relating to creating an enabling environment for youth development work, through youth mainstreaming or the professionalisation of youth work. These same principles were detailed in the implementation arrangements most NYPs referenced, inclusive of recommendations for the establishment or strengthening of discrete youth-led agencies (e.g. National Youth Councils, Student Councils etc.) or youth serving agencies e.g. National Youth Commission.

13   Trinidad and Tobago NYP Policy Goal 1 seeks to "enable young men and women to initiate, lead and participate in actions" for personal and wider national development, with the objective to assist young people in attaining skills to participate effectively in national development and society as a whole. includes for all educational and training initiatives and activities to promote personal and career development

[14] NYP Goal 4- Specific Action for Youth Empowerment in Accordance with the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago includes the objective to provide opportunities for youth employment and initiatives.

[15] The policy goal is stated as: Supportive families, communities and social networks for youth resilience and wellbeing.

[16] Included under NYP Goal 4- Specific Action for Youth Empowerment in Accordance with the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago Youth empowerment

[17] Trinidad and Tobago Youth Policy has no explicit goal or objective on Crime and Violence. The Policy makes the link to the Government's Medium-Term Policy Framework and aligns the youth policy development context, among other things to Pillar - which promotes action on human security and the maintenance of law and order, also addressing social conditions that contribute to criminal activity, and reform of the prison and justice systems.

[18] Trinidad and Tobago's pillars of the country's Medium-Term Policy Framework relevant for youth integrated into the NYP.

[19] The information in Annex 5 was sourced from National Youth Policies and country reporting on the United Nations Subregional Survey on Youth Policies and Programmes for the review of the Lisbon Declaration and other Youth Related Frameworks.

[20] For this purpose, National Youth Coordinating Mechanism refers to the specific institutional arrangements that countries have established or proposed for establishment under their NYP to support policy implementation and reporting on impacts. The mechanisms are differentiated as programmes (P) or Implementation Supports (IS)

[21] Some youth-led agencies e.g. National Youth Councils already function in sampled countries and are integrated as policy implementation support (IS). In other cases, NYPs recommend the strengthening or establishment of youth-led structures that promote greater youth participation and access to development and decision-making (P)

[22] Governments committed to mainstreaming of national youth policy and international development, plans and programmes in the Lisbon Declaration, 1998;

[23] Lisbon Declaration 1998 pays attention to the availability and appropriate of funds for youth policy implementation and (a) "invites" UN and other international agencies and regional financial institutions to "give greater support to national youth policies and programmes" and (b) urges interested Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to "make increased financial contributions to the United Nations Youth Fund".

[24] Support for establishment of an NYC recommended under the Policy to ensure "greater youth participation in decision-making" and for "policy implementation and monitoring processes"

[25] Countries completing the survey as at June 2018: Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Sint Maarten

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73. Review of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the small island developing States of the Caribbean: A proposal for consideration by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/TS.2017/160), 2018.
72. A study on the creative industry as a pillar of sustained growth and diversification, Hendrickson, Michael, and Sonjah Stanley Niaah (LC/CAR/TS.2017/20), 2018.
71. Mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean, McKenzie, Sidonia and Abdullahi Abdulkadri (LC/TS.2017/158), 2018
70. Caribbean development report: A perusal of public debt in the Caribbean and its impact on economic growth, McLean, Sheldon and Don Charles (LC/CAR/TS.2017/18), 2018.
69. A global value chain analysis of offshore medical universities in the Caribbean, McLean, Sheldon and Don Charles (LC/CAR/TS.2017/17), 2018.
68. Planning for the 2020 round of population censuses in the Caribbean, John-Aloye, Samantha and Abdullahi Abdulkadri (LC/TS.2017/155), 2018.
67. Economic impact of de-risking on the Caribbean: Case studies of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis, McLean, Sheldon-Metzgen, Ydahlia-Singh, and Nyasha Ranjit-Skerrette (LC/CAR/TS.2017/15), 2018.

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