



Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean

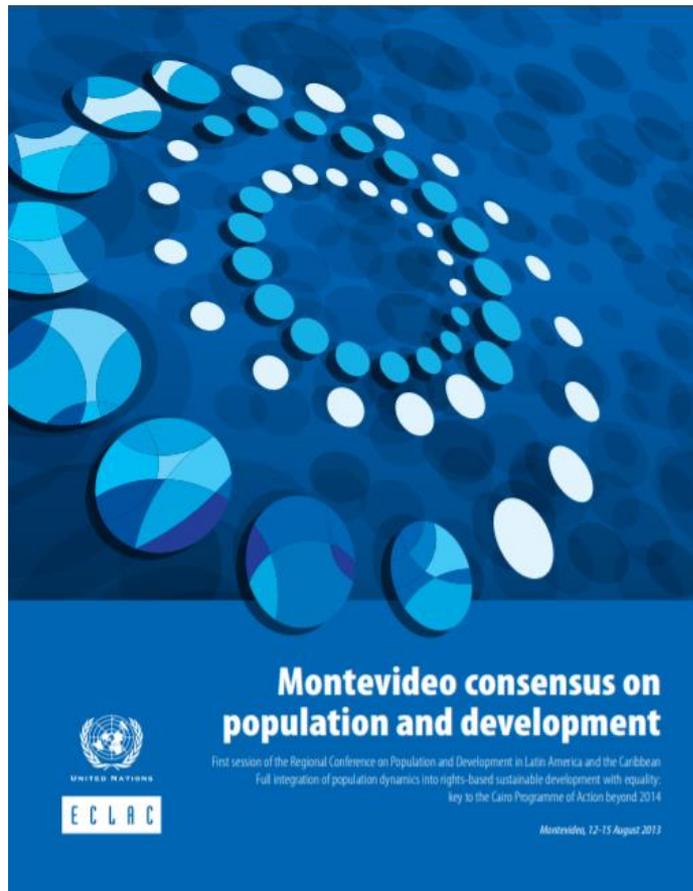
A review of the period
2013 – 2018



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The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development



100+ priority actions;
nine thematic sections;
reinforcing the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and its follow-up



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Thematic sections

- A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights
- B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth
- C. Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges
- D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services
- E. Gender equality
- F. International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants
- G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability
- H. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights



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A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights

- Key population dynamics affecting the Caribbean
 - Morbidity and mortality associated with NCDs and HIV
 - Adolescent pregnancy
 - Falling fertility (below replacement)
 - Population ageing
 - International migration
- Recognized in national sustainable development plans.
- Developing sectoral plans, laws, regulations and programmes –and then implementing, administering and monitoring them– is more difficult
- Capacity constraints of small governments
- Poor economic performance (real per capita GDP for the Caribbean was around 4 per cent lower in 2017 than it had been in 2008)



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B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth

- Some issues have a disproportionate impact on young people: poverty; violence (physical, sexual, corporal punishment), unemployment, unintended pregnancies, HIV
- Around one third of Caribbean children are being brought up in poverty
- Research shows that experiences during childhood and youth have a long term impact on health, wellbeing and productivity
- Addressing these issues will be critical to putting the Caribbean on the path to sustainable growth and development



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C. Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

- In all Caribbean countries, old age dependency ratios will approximately double over the next 30 years, with important implications for public policy and households.
- National policies on ageing developed; introduction of non-contributory pensions, health and social care programmes like free health care, home care
- Limited resources and capacity; implementation has been slow and significant gaps still exist between policy and practice.
- Governments need to make long term plans for increased public expenditure on pensions and health care services, driven by population ageing.



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D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services

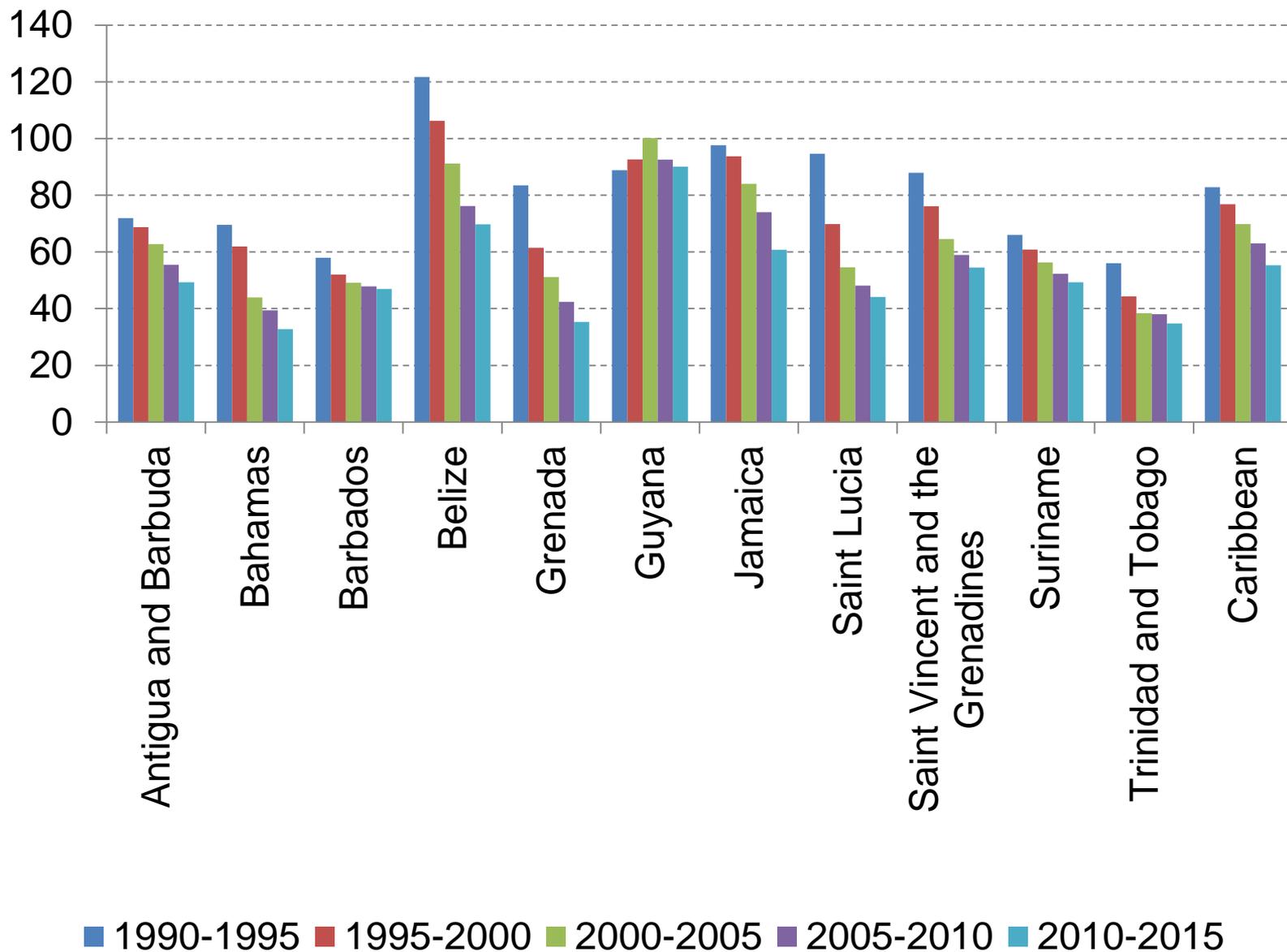
- Steady improvements in most indicators: adolescent fertility, contraceptive use, maternal mortality (mixed), AIDS-related deaths, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Large disparities in the rate of unintended pregnancies between different socioeconomic, educational, ethnic, age and racial groups
- Institutional weaknesses as well as cultural and legal barriers which obstruct the provision of good-quality sexual and reproductive health services
- Unsafe abortion should be eliminated and laws relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy should be reconsidered in order to protect the lives and health of women and adolescent girls



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Fertility rates for women aged 15-19 are down by a third in 20 years (births per 1,000 women)



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D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services

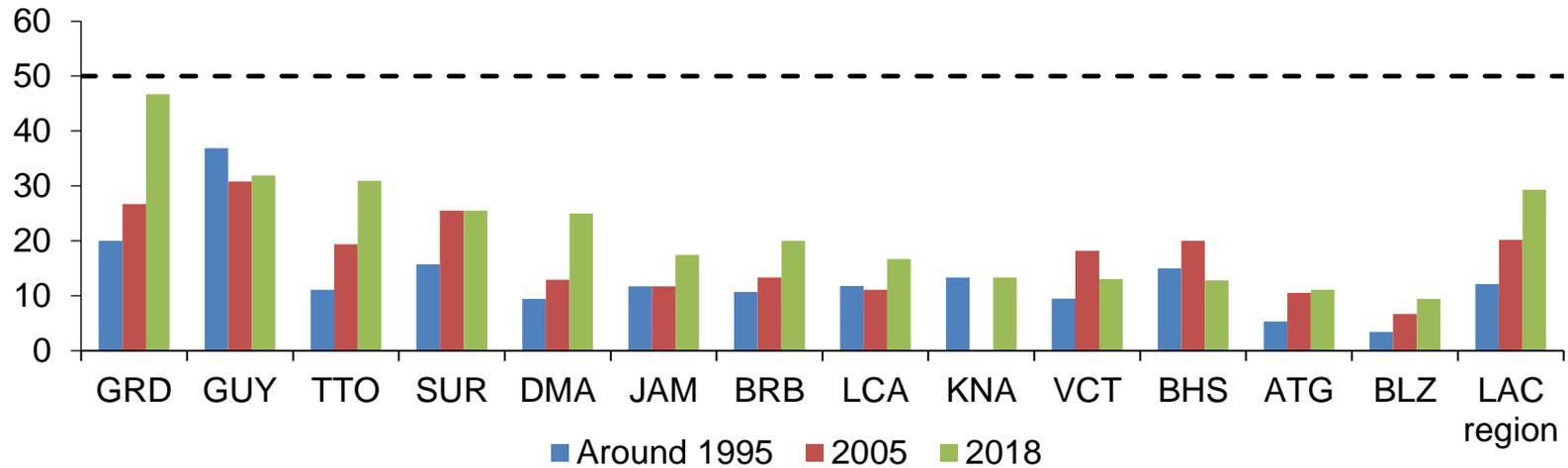
- 90–90–90 targets: 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status; 90% of those diagnosed will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; 90% of those receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression
- Depends on people being able to seek HIV testing and treatment without fear of being stigmatized
- Discrimination and discriminatory laws restrict the free exercise of sexual rights, particularly the right to take decisions about sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Progress on comprehensive sexuality education, and initiatives to encourage pregnant girls and young mothers to remain in school – but more needs to be done



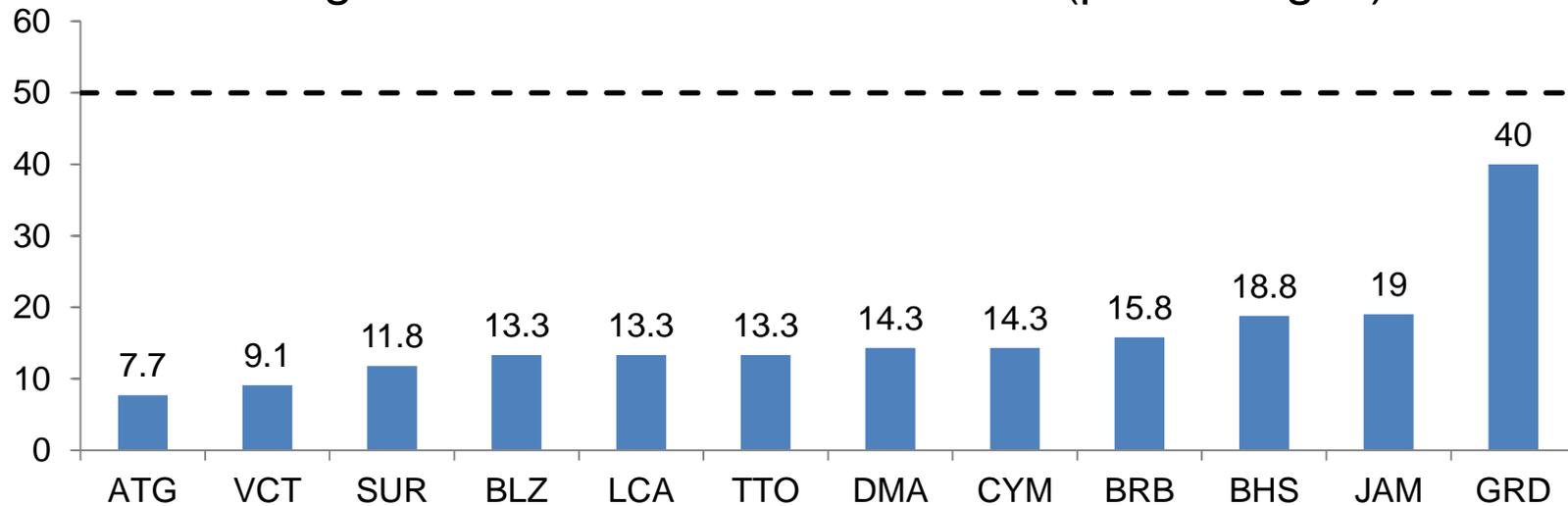
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Women elected to national legislative body, around 1995, 2005 and 2018 (percentages)



Number of women in ministerial cabinet positions during the most recent term of office (percentages)



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E. Gender equality

- The labour market is still characterized by gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices, often reinforced by a lack of recognition for the value of domestic and care work
- Policies for childcare and parental leave could encourage more men to share domestic work but only three countries in the Caribbean —the Bahamas, Dominica and the Cayman Islands— have policies on parental leave for both parents.
- Another trend in the region is the constant high levels of unemployment among women, in particular young women.



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E. Gender equality

- National prevalence surveys of gender based violence published recently in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, indicating prevalence rates of between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4
- Normative and institutional frameworks being strengthened, since the current ones are mainly focused on domestic violence without addressing all other forms of gender-based violence
- Child marriage ended in Trinidad and Tobago
- Legal gaps still persist in terms of the definition of discrimination against women.
- Countries must continue to address deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes.



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F. International Migration and Protection of the Human Rights of all Migrants

- Frameworks and fora for international cooperation
 - Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action in 2014;
 - Caribbean Migration Consultations;
 - United Nations Global Compact for Migration to be formally adopted later this year.
- Legislation to address trafficking in place in most countries (although further work is required regionally and nationally to address the issue).
- Legislation on refugee protection and asylum is absent in many countries leading to a lack of protection for migrants.
- Inadequate protection for the rights of migrants more generally e.g. access to basic services in education and health regardless of migration status.



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F. International Migration and Protection of the Human Rights of All Migrants

- Skilled migration presents an ongoing challenge undermining progress in education, health and many other sectors.
- Skilled immigration?
- Diaspora engagement
 - Trade
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Skills exchange
 - Financing for development
 - Disaster Response
 - Remittances
 - Return migration



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G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability

- Recognized challenges in the statistical definition of ‘urban’
- Diverse growth patterns: more polycentric urban forms are expected in the Caribbean: “city-regions,” “urban corridors”
- Land governance priorities: tenure security, public land management, housing policy, transportation, waste management, water safety and security
- There is weakness and institutional fragmentation both in policies and regulations, and in the provision of services.
- Climate change impacts and extreme weather events like Irma, Jose and Maria in 2017 threaten biodiversity, coastal protection, water and energy security, and food security and can lead to displacement and migration.
- Some countries have begun to consider the issue of internal migration and population location in the context of natural disaster prevention and mitigating the effects of climate change.



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G. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights

- There are around 160,000 indigenous people in the Caribbean which represents 2 per cent of the total population. Half of them live in Guyana. There are also sizable populations (> 1%) in Belize, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

	Year	Indigence rate (%)		Poverty rate (%)	
		Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Indigenous	Non-indigenous
Belize (Maya)	2002	55	6	77	29
Belize (Maya)	2009	51	12	68	38
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	2007	(7)	3	(48)	30
Dominica	2003	(49)	14	(70)	38
Dominica	2008/09	(50)	28

Source: ECLAC on the basis of country poverty assessments. Note: () Figures that are based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases.



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G. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights

- Target poverty alleviation, education, health and employment programmes towards indigenous peoples in order to eliminate social inequalities
- In Guyana and Dominica, there are Ministries responsible for indigenous affairs which work with the representative institutions of indigenous peoples.
- In Belize and Suriname, indigenous peoples have had some success through recourse to either the Caribbean Court of Justice or the Inter-American Court of Human Rights...but these court decisions are just small steps in a long struggle for recognition of indigenous peoples' rights.



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Conclusions

- Areas where there is clear progress:
 - progress towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (increasing contraceptive use)
 - Decline in teenage pregnancies (still a problem among girls living in poverty)
 - Declines in AIDS-related deaths (roughly halved in ten years)
 - Declines in maternal mortality (the picture varies by country)
 - Under-five mortality and infant mortality falling
 - Development of policies and programmes for older persons (but under resourced)
 - Advancement of women in politics (but parity a long way off)
 - Similarly in the workplace....
 - More subregional and international cooperation in dealing with international migration
 - Development of diaspora policies (needs to be pursued)
 - Stronger institutional and public policy response on behalf of indigenous peoples in Guyana and Dominica in particular although deep social inequalities persist



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Conclusions

- Areas where there has been relatively little progress:
 - Youth unemployment (at a similar level in 2016 as it was in 2002)
 - Crime and violence continue to be a threat to all population groups but young people especially
 - Prejudice, discrimination and violence against LGBT persons and persons living with HIV remain widespread
 - Reform of abortion laws
 - Use of corporal punishment continues
 - Legal protections are needed for refugees and asylum-seekers
 - Mechanisms for the protection of human rights: national human rights institutions in accordance with Paris Principles are not in place; public prosecutor or ombudsman institutions have limited mandates and are under resourced; and justice systems are slow and often ineffective for the pursuit of rights claims; avenues to pursue claims internationally are also extremely limited e.g. many countries do not recognize the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



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Looking forward...

- There is a developing tool kit to support implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.
- A detailed operational guide and, soon, a set of indicators for monitoring, which are conveniently integrated with those for the SDGs
- Many synergies with other development frameworks and agendas e.g. gender, youth, migration
- Evident national commitment...around six countries will present voluntary national reports to the Regional Population Conference in Peru in two weeks, each providing a thorough national assessment which will guide further implementation in those countries
- Those member States that haven't presented reports this time are encouraged to do so in future
- The agenda set out in the Montevideo Consensus remains central to the future sustainable development of the Caribbean



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