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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
11 July 2013
Georgetown, Guyana

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**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING
COMMITTEE OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

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A. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) adopted by acclamation the conclusions and recommendations below, which are based on the statement made by Saint Kitts and Nevis as Rapporteur of the meeting, appended *ad verbatim* as annex IV of this report.
2. The Monitoring Committee considered the Road Map on Population, Migration and Development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean, which will inform preparations for the regional meeting on population and development. National action plans and the creation of a regional initiative were promoted as important to the subregion for addressing gender imbalances, data needs and reinforcement of decent work, and working with youth. The Committee adopted the recommendations of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development.
3. The Monitoring Committee also considered the outcome of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Committee concluded that the implementation framework should be strengthened in the areas of financial resources, financing for development, multilateral environmental agreements, statistics and data gathering, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and the institutional frameworks within the United Nations system.
4. Within the context of medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 agenda in the Caribbean, the Monitoring Committee took note of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) as a forum to promote policies for growth in the Caribbean subregion. The Committee considered the desirability of a geographic strategy focused on identifying and leveraging areas of competitive and comparative advantage. The Committee agreed that South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation should be promoted, particularly in seeking new markets. The Monitoring Committee also endorsed the recommendation that the impact of migration be underscored within the context of population dynamics in the Caribbean.
5. The Committee took note of other development challenges facing the Caribbean subregion. In that regard, the Committee called for the HIV agenda to remain prominent in the development landscape. The Monitoring Committee also agreed that it would be useful to move towards a knowledge-based economy that promotes an agenda that includes climate change and the use of solar energy, youth and ageing, and the use of the resources of the Caribbean Sea.
6. Taking into consideration the role of economic growth for development and social support, the Monitoring Committee agreed that more fiscal space can be created with financial assistance from the international donor community. The Committee also agreed that within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), some countries still needed special treatment in order to improve their economic performance.
7. The Monitoring Committee was informed of the progress made on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennium programme of work and of the substantial and useful work being carried out by both the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the wider Commission, in support of the development of the subregion.
8. The Monitoring Committee took note that in accordance with the established practice of rotation by country in English alphabetical order, Haiti is the next in line for the Chairmanship of the CDCC. However, given that Haiti had yet to confirm its intention to assume the position, the secretariat would continue its consultations with a view to finalizing the date and venue for the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC.

9. The Monitoring Committee concluded that the region continues to face many challenges, and that collaboration on finding solutions was essential. The meeting reiterated that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) remained an integral partner in this search for solutions.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

10. The sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC took place in Georgetown, Guyana on 11 July 2013.

2. Attendance

11. Representatives of thirteen member States of the CDCC attended the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

12. Representatives of four associate member countries were present at the meeting: Aruba, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, and Montserrat.

13. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs) Youth Ambassadors Program, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

14. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations attended the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

15. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the European Union (EU), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

16. Sint Maarten attended in the capacity of Observer.

17. The full list of participants can be found in annex I.

3. Officers

18. In accordance with the elections at the twenty-fourth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the officers of the Monitoring Committee were as follows:

Chairperson:	Guyana
Vice-Chairpersons:	Antigua and Barbuda Jamaica Trinidad and Tobago
Rapporteur:	Saint Kitts and Nevis

4. Documentation

19. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the meeting is attached as annex II.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of the meeting

20. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean opened the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, and invited the Deputy Regional Director of UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean to deliver a statement.

21. The Deputy Regional Director extended greetings on behalf of UNFPA, and drew the attention of the meeting to World Population Day, which focused on adolescent pregnancy. He also shared with the meeting the perspective of UNFPA on some of the issues that emanated from the Caribbean Forum on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) that was held the previous day.

22. He advanced that the Latin America and Caribbean region offers opportunities that can be used to further the population and development agenda. The regulatory and policy framework was viewed as being favourable to the principles of the ICPD, thus providing the region with the opportunity to use the momentum gained to mitigate unresolved issues. In that regard, the primary challenge to be overcome related to the implementation gap that is related to the responsibilities of governments, communities and individuals to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and other basic social services for excluded groups. Further, he noted that inequality was negatively affecting the benefits and threatened progress in the priority areas. He contended that the process of health system reform should ensure an effective system of response to the needs of people who are most at risk of exclusion and poverty.

23. According to the World Population Day message, priority should be given to strengthening youth policies to overcome the legal barriers to accessing sexual health services. To that end, adolescent pregnancy prevention had become the focal point for many social and multicultural drives. He acknowledged that adolescent pregnancy was a complex social issue that included a fairly high incidence of pregnancy among girls under 14 years of age, as well as cases of second and third pregnancies among adolescent mothers. He opined that once policies are strengthened, it is expected that there will be a greater accumulation of interventions, best practices and lessons learnt for public investment in youth.

24. He also asserted that the current population dynamics highlighted the need to maintain the rights based approach. In that regard, the current shift in the age structure requires that the region pay particular attention to the ageing process, taking into consideration that the social protection systems in most cases depend on formal participation in the labour market. Moreover, ageing presents complex challenges which demand that the rights of the elderly be promoted and protected.

25. Finally, the Deputy Regional Director advanced that the region should examine the manner in which partnership development is promoted, particularly to leverage benefits from cooperation with the South. South-South cooperation is an important component of development and cooperation in the region, and it is likely that the arrangement continue to be a distinctive feature in the coming years. Linking the population and development and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda in the region, will provide an important opportunity to leverage new mechanisms that foster the exchange of good practices and lessons learnt within the Caribbean and abroad.

26. In her opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, welcomed the participants to the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and reiterated the importance of the CDCC to the subregion. In that regard, she highlighted two specific characteristics that differentiated it from other fora. First, the CDCC provides a political space wherein associate members of the Caribbean are represented with voice and full participation. Second, it provided the opportunity to discuss the development challenges ahead of the region, taking into consideration the specificity that is characteristic of the subregion. The Executive Secretary therefore underscored the importance of the meeting as a forum to promote and enhance linkages between the Caribbean and the wider Latin American and Caribbean region.

27. The Executive Secretary acknowledged that the Caribbean subregion had suffered from the recent global financial crisis, which had resulted in enormous problems, including high indebtedness. Notwithstanding, she noted the subregion had weathered the crisis quite well. One of the main reasons for that success was the fact that a number of countries in the subregion benefited from the recent commodity boom. Economies that were based on goods, she noted, had been more successful in mitigating the challenges than those based on services. In spite of that, ECLAC noted with special concern the elevated unemployment rates, particularly among women and the youth in the region.

28. She also expressed concern over the challenges that crime, violence, the drug trade and issues related to climate change posed to the subregion. The Executive Secretary advanced that it was imperative that the subregion collectively think of ways to resolve those challenges, and to build resilience so as to become less susceptible to the economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities that were characteristic of SIDS. In that regard, she signaled a role for ECLAC in communicating those challenges to the international community, taking into consideration the manner in which those circumstances compromised international development initiatives and aspirations.

29. The Executive Secretary concluded by drawing the attention of the meeting to the need for the post-2015 agenda to reflect the realities and circumstances of SIDS. In particular, she welcomed the opportunity that was provided by the forum of the CDCC for ECLAC to receive feedback on the new and emerging priorities of member States and associate members. With this feedback, she pledged to work with regional partner organizations, including CARICOM and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), to provide the necessary assistance.

30. The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security welcomed the member States to Guyana and extended a special welcome to the associate members. The Minister noted the impact of the global economic downturn on the member States of the Caribbean, exacerbated by the effects of natural disasters and climate change. She further underscored the challenge presented by the limited fiscal space within which countries worked to meet the needs of the social sectors, causing negative impacts on the subregion's human capital and social protection systems. In this regard, the Minister highlighted migration, crime and violence, particularly among the youth, high unemployment, mainstreaming of gender equality and the empowerment of women, access to health care, provision of social protection, among others as some of the key issues which had to be addressed in the provision of programmes by regional governments in order to attain sustainable livelihoods for citizens, especially those in rural communities.

31. Moreover, the Minister noted that, many countries had still to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed targets. She encouraged the meeting to review the programme of work of ECLAC, bearing in mind the pressing challenges that member States continued to face. Such a review would ensure the relevance of the future programme of work to the needs of the subregion, within the context of the defined role of ECLAC in the Caribbean in forging stronger linkages between the subregion and Latin America.

32. The Minister also acknowledged World Population Day, as designated by the United Nations for highlighting population issues. She asserted that policy makers had the opportunity to review the role of the global community in impacting the lives of the people of the region. This was considered to be especially pertinent, given the focus on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, which was seen as one of the priority social issues in the Caribbean. She challenged ECLAC to find creative ways to address the issues facing the region and hoped that the dialogue during the meeting would provide the space for focused attention on how to achieve sustainable development for the region within the context of the need to shape the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Adoption of the agenda

33. The meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting (document Moncom/16/1).

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Adoption of the agenda;
3. Consideration of the road map on population, migration and development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean;
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States;
5. Medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean;
6. Report of progress in implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean;
7. Strategic engagement with associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
8. Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;
9. Other matters;
10. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

Ministerial Dialogue

34. A ministerial dialogue held in plenary session addressed three important ongoing processes: (i) the twenty-year review of the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development; (ii) the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; and (iii) the review of MDGs and consideration of a post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, the meeting considered and discussed the Road Map on Population, Migration and Development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean, the outcomes of the Caribbean Preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and a presentation by the Executive Secretary on the medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean.

3. Consideration of the Road Map on Population, Migration and Development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean

35. The Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago presented the road map on population, migration and development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean that had emanated from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development, convened from 9 to 10 July 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana. The road map represented the Caribbean input into the regional meeting on population and development. In his presentation, the Minister emphasized ageing and disability as priority areas, and observed that many countries had made little progress in meeting commitments under relevant international conventions. Notwithstanding, the Minister advanced the promotion of regional and national initiatives that addressed the critical issues of gender imbalances, reinforcement of decent work, and working with youth as important to the subregion. The meeting adopted the recommendations of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development.

4. Consideration of the outcomes of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

36. The Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica presented the outcomes of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on SIDS that had been convened from 2 to 4 July 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica. In his presentation, the Minister drew attention to the progress that had been made in pursuit of the implementation of the thematic areas of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States. In that regard, Caribbean SIDS had progressed in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment. This was in keeping with the multidimensional and integrated approach to sustainable development that remained at the core of the response strategy employed by member States.

37. The Minister, however, noted that a number of critical gaps and constraints still existed in terms of the implementation of the BPoA and the Mauritius Strategy. These included the lack of political will of most developed countries to fulfill their commitments to support the translation of the BPoA and the Mauritius Strategy into effective actions, policies and measures at the national, regional and international levels; climate change; the need for improved social integration policies as a response to reducing inequalities; crime and violence; and unemployment, particularly among women and youth.

38. The Minister highlighted several recommendations of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for strengthening implementation. These included a framework of predictable financial resources for sustainable development; financing for development through the United Nations System of multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation; multilateral environmental agreements that envelop balanced integration of social, environmental and economic pillars, seeking assistance from the international community for strengthening the statistical and data gathering capacity to improve monitoring and evaluation systems; and sustainable agriculture and rural development to reduce poverty and promote food and nutrition security.

5. Medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean

39. The Executive Secretary presented the medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean. She noted that the economic and social performance of the region continued to be strongly defined by the fallout of the 2010 economic crisis. In particular, the subregion was challenged with increasing heterogeneous production patterns, segmentation of the labour market,

limited social protection, and asymmetrical vulnerability to climate change. Further, notwithstanding growth of 3% in gross domestic product, for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012, and falling unemployment levels for the region, the Caribbean in particular, recorded significant increases in its unemployment levels. Moreover, the Caribbean tax burden was higher than Latin American countries. The Executive Secretary therefore advocated a sustainable development agenda in the Caribbean with equality at the center.

40. In that regard, she asserted that while economic growth was necessary for development, it did not adequately respond to the current challenges and risks facing the Caribbean. Social protection was viewed as necessary, together with open economies that required deliberate industrial policies to increase productivity, value-added jobs, and universal social protection. Further, she suggested that economic and social policies be based on a strategy to address persistent inequalities. To this end, she posited that the collective application of these approaches provides the context for a new development agenda in the Caribbean.

41. The Executive Secretary underscored the importance of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 as a comprehensive framework to advance sustainable development. In particular, the post-2015 agenda moved beyond the MDGs by stressing the need to integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of development into a coherent strategy. She noted however that although it identified five transformative shifts in support of sustainable development, the Agenda did not specifically address the circumstances of SIDS. In that regard, the Executive Secretary called for a global partnership to recognize the special needs of middle-income SIDS, to ameliorate the key challenges faced by the Caribbean, including structural vulnerability, graduation from soft developing financing, increasing threat from climate change and natural disasters, mounting debt burden with low investment levels, and growing inequalities and unemployment.

42. The Executive Secretary also articulated that key pillars on which the development vision of the Caribbean should be built. These were dynamic structural transformation, regional integration, a fully functional CSME, social protection, and a global partnership for prosperity. To that end, integration with convergence remained critical to building resilience.

43. Within that context, the Executive Secretary advocated the need for a forum to foster development thinking in the Caribbean. She welcomed the High-level Caribbean Development Roundtable as a framework that would bring together experts from the public and private sectors and civil society to foster critical thinking to address development challenges and opportunities in the Caribbean. Further, by providing practical recommendations that could be considered for implementation by policymakers, the CDR would promote creativity and innovation, leading to diversification in the productive sectors, ultimately increasing the sustainability of the economies of the subregion. To that end, the CDR should focus on how the region might best use macroeconomic policies to advance structural transformation and social protection in the Caribbean.

Plenary discussion at Ministerial Level

44. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago noted that the economy of Trinidad and Tobago contracted by 4.6 per cent in 2009 but by 2012 growth increased by 1.2 per cent. He explained that the macroeconomic policies pursued over this period were aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability and sustaining growth

45. He further recognized that the policies to be pursued should focus on specific sectors with a view of encouraging firms to work together as clusters. Such an approach creates the opportunities for firms

and sectors to also integrate at the regional level especially in such areas as food and agricultural production, and culture and the creative industries.

46. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago suggested the need for a new approach to development thinking that would examine innovative approaches and methods to sustaining development. He called on academics, policy and decision makers to move away from inherited solutions and experiences of other countries and build on the unique cultural perspective of the Caribbean.

47. The representative of Guyana reported that Guyana was engaged in a structural adjustment programme, designed to build capacity in various sectors identified as growth poles. As a result the economy had experienced average growth of 4.4 per cent over the preceding four years. There were new and emerging sectors in the economy, with a new focus on the environment. To that end, the Low Carbon Development Strategy remained central to its development agenda in promoting green jobs and fostering alternative sources of livelihoods.

48. He challenged member States to find innovative ways to carve out niche opportunities, recognizing that there must be buy-in at all levels of society to the new development thrust. Within this context the representative advocated South-South and SIDS-SIDS Cooperation to leverage comparative advantages, and to exploit opportunities for synergies. Finally, he noted that the region should not become complacent with respect to the gains that had been achieved in the HIV/AIDS agenda, and called for continued external funding.

49. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago pointed to the difficulty of moving towards knowledge-based economies by Caribbean countries. He noted that while several countries of the subregion had successfully migrated from a banana-based economy to a service economy, the move to a knowledge economy required a significant expansion of tertiary education. There was need to create research industries, such as in the area of green field industries, as a response to the challenge of climate change. Solar energy was also posited as offering a viable option for expanded research. To that end, the representative recognized the importance of continued involvement in international cooperation and collaboration, while strategically locating those research industries throughout the subregion.

50. The representative of Jamaica suggested that as a result of the social and economic impacts of migration on the subregion, population dynamics should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, it was noted that the loss of skills and talent resulting from migration in the subregion was shifting to non-traditional areas such as sports, arts and culture.

6. Report of progress on the implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean

51. The Director of the subregional headquarters presented an account of the progress made in the implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean. In support of its mandate, the subregional headquarters convened expert group meetings on climate change, development thinking, econometric modelling, renewable energy, and statistics. Those expert meetings provided the opportunity for sharing and validating the results of research conducted by the subregional headquarters, as well as sought stakeholder support in policy making and in fostering new thinking on development challenges facing the subregion. Further, in the area of capacity building, the Director reported that ECLAC had sustained its effort in providing assistance for building national capacity in the development of methodologies and indices.

52. Overall, the Director reported that the engagement of the subregional headquarters in those broad range of activities were especially designed to reflect a coherent and holistic approach to improving its

processes and visibility, within the context of addressing the priorities of the member States. Moreover, the subregional headquarters had embarked on a comprehensive engagement strategy to solidify ECLAC and the leadership role of CDCC in the Caribbean. To that end, the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit had been created to further promote the work of CDCC and foster a more effective and dynamic intergovernmental body.

53. In fulfillment of its mandate, during the remaining period of the 2012-2013 biennium, the subregional headquarters will convene nine expert group meetings in the areas of population and housing censuses, unpaid work and gender, trade, finance and cooperation agreements and the information society and knowledge economy. Further, thirteen studies will be completed on topics including information society and knowledge economy, renewable energy technologies, policy findings of statistical surveys, unpaid work and gender, and trade, finance and development cooperation agreements. The subregional headquarters will also conduct capacity-building interventions in trade negotiation, development of gender indicators and information and communication technologies and disaster risk management.

7. Strategic engagement with associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

54. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed the associate member countries in attendance, and presented an account of the strategic engagement it had with the associate members of ECLAC. She advised the meeting of the associate member countries that had joined since the twenty-fourth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and reiterated the unique role that this body affords associate members. Specifically, she noted that the CDCC plays a pivotal role in ensuring the active participation of associate member countries in the range of activities conducted by the Commission in the subregion. In particular, she highlighted the fact that the CDCC provides a forum for contact with the rest of the Caribbean where their ongoing development concerns and challenges can be heard and addressed. She informed the meeting that associate members participate in the range of activities of the ECLAC work programme, thus enhancing their integration among the community in the subregion. She indicated that the level of engagement with all associate members will be further enhanced in the future.

8. Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

55. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean noted that, in accordance with the principle of rotation among the member States in the English alphabetical order, Haiti is in line to be the next Chair of the CDCC. She reported that communication had been made with the Government of Haiti but a response had yet to be received. ECLAC will continue its consultation on the matter of the date and venue of the twenty-fifth CDCC and notify member States in due course.

9. Other matters

56. The Director of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean informed the Monitoring Committee of the upcoming Caribbean subregional meeting being held preparatory to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on 9 August 2013, and the upcoming twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 15 to 18 October 2013. She encouraged wide participation in these two important meetings.

57. The representative of Cuba took note of the urgency of improving the living standards of the people of the Caribbean, while preserving the sovereignty of each member State. He called on the CDCC to adopt its own programme that takes into account the developments arising from the Cuba-CARICOM

agreement, PETROCARIBE, and ALBA, among others. Within that context, the representative of Cuba informed the meeting that Latin America and the Caribbean had achieved a major development milestone with the recent formation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in which ECLAC has an important role to play¹. He also drew attention to the fact that at a recent National Coordinators Meeting, held in Havana, it was agreed that there were possibilities for further collaboration between CELAC and CDCC, in respect of the Caribbean, which might be pursued. To that end, a profile of projects would be prepared for consideration and approval by the working group of CELAC. The statement of the representative of Cuba can be found at annex III.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

58. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Rapporteur of the meeting, presented an account of the proceedings. The statement can be found *ad verbatim* at annex IV.

59. The statement was adopted by acclamation.

60. Closing remarks were given by the Executive Secretary and the representative of the Caribbean Community. They both expressed their gratitude to the Chair, the Rapporteur and all the member States of CDCC for the constructive discussion. Sincere appreciation was also expressed to the Government of Guyana for the warm hospitality extended and the excellent support provided for the meeting. The Chair closed the meeting.

¹ ECLAC currently serves as the secretariat of CELAC.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Delegation member:

- Sheila Roseau, Executive Director, Directorate of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Education, Gender Sports and Youth Affairs

BAHAMASDelegation member:

- Christine Campbell, First Assistant Secretary and Officer-in-Charge, Bureau of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development

BARBADOSDelegation member:

- Patricia Warner, Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education

BELIZEDelegation member:

- Jewel Crawford, Acting Director and Planner, Department of Youth Services, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

CUBADelegation member:

- Ramiro de León Torras, Specialist, Directorate for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment

DOMINICADelegation members:

- Prayma Carrette, Chief Statistician, Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance
- Brenda Magloire-Seaman, Trade Officer, Ministry of Employment Trade Industry and Diaspora Affairs, EPA Unit

GRENADADelegation member:

- Samuel St. Bernard, Planning Officer, Ministry of Social Development and Housing

GUYANARepresentative:

- The Honourable Jennifer Webster, Minister of Labour Human Services and Social Security

Delegation members:

- The Honourable Bheri Ramsarran, Minister of Health
- Sonya Roopnauth, Director, Office of Budget, Ministry of Finance

JAMAICA

Representative:

- The Honourable Arnaldo Brown, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Delegation members:

- Joyce Chambers, Manager, Adolescent Health, Ministry of Health
- Toni-Shae Freckleton, Manager, Population and Health Unit, Planning Institute of Jamaica

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Delegation members:

- Janelle Lewis, Administrative Officer, Ministry of Health, Community, Social Development, Culture and Gender Affairs
- Osslyn Ward, Social Development Planner, Ministry of Sustainable Development

SAINT LUCIA

Delegation member:

- Skeeta Gibbs, Economist, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Social Security

SURINAME

Delegation member:

- Elaine Woode, Head of the International Development Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representative:

- The Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development

B. Associate members

ARUBA

Delegation member:

- Marisa Coffie de Kort, Policy Adviser, Economic Development and Development Cooperation, Department of Economic Affairs, Trade and Industry

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Delegation member:

- Kenneth Ebanks, Senior Strategic Adviser, Ministry Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure

CURAÇAO

Delegation member:

- Ann Philipps, Senior Policy Adviser, Directorate of Foreign Relations

MONTSERRAT

Delegation member:

- Claude Hogan, Director of Regional Affairs and External Trade, Office of the Premier

C. Other countries

SINT MAARTEN

Delegation member:

- Virginia Oostburg echte van Asin, Head of Collective Prevention Services, Ministry of Public Health, Social, Development and Labour

D. United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Chisa Mikami, Deputy Resident Representative, Guyana
- George Wachira, Policy Advisor, Guyana

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Esteban Caballero, Deputy Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama
- Denise Blackstock, Programme Associate, Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SROC), Jamaica
- Noemi Espinoza, Civil Society Partnerships Specialist, Headquarters, New York
- Patrice La Fleur, Officer-in-Charge, SROC, Jamaica
- Prunella Mungroo, Youth Adviser, UNFPA Trinidad and Tobago Youth Advisory Committee
- Jewel Quallo-Rosberg, Gender Specialist, SROC, Jamaica

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Michael Gillis, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Guyana

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Gabrielle Henderson, Programme Specialist, UN-Women Multi Country Office-Caribbean, Barbados

United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- Michel de Groulard, Regional Programme Adviser, Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs) Youth Ambassadors Programme

- Jillian Kromosoeto, UN MDG Youth Ambassador, Suriname

E. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Representative, FAO Guyana

F. Other intergovernmental organizations

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Kariyma Baltimore, Advisor, Trade Development and External Economic Relations

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Relations
- Marlon Bristol, Regional Technical Assistant, Intra-ACP Migration Project
- Ronald Joseph, Project Officer
- Anthonette July, Senior Clerk

European Union (EU)

- Kathleen Dummett, Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Guyana

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Wilmot Garnett, IICA Representative, Guyana

Organization of American States (OAS)

- Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary for Integral Development
- Dennis Moses, Representative, Guyana

G. Civil society organizations

- Marcus Day, Co-Chair, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
- Sandra Hooper, Chairperson, Diocesan Family Life Commission, Anglican Diocese of Guyana
- Shireene McMillan, Commonwealth Youth Ambassador, Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

H. Non-governmental organizationsBarbados Council for the Disabled

- Christopher Gilkes, Peer Educator

Barbados Family Planning Association

- George Griffith, Executive Director

Belize Family Life Association

- Joan Burke, Executive Director

Belize Youth Empowerment for Change

- Stephen Diaz, Director

Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation

- Adler Bynoe, Chief Executive Officer, Antigua and Barbuda

Family Planning Association

- Dona da Costa Martinez, Executive Director

HelpAge International, Jamaica

- Jeffrey James, Regional Director for the Caribbean

United States, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)

- Doris Mpoumou, Regional and International Advocacy Officer

I. Special guests

- Tania Chambers, Legal and Policy Consultant, United Nations Population Fund, Jamaica
- Rosina Wiltshire, CARICOM Gender Justice Advocate

J. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary
- Dirk Jaspers, Director, CELADE-Population Division

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director
- Charmaine Gomes, Sustainable Development Officer
- Sheila Stuart, Social Affairs Officer
- Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer
- Dale Alexander, Computer Information Systems Assistant
- Candice Gonzales, Research Assistant, Social Development Unit
- Aurélie Quiatol, Meetings Services Assistant
- Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser, Public Information Assistant
- Ana Fernández, Staff Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit

Annex II**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

MonCom/16/1	Provisional agenda
MonCom/16/2	Annotated provisional agenda
MonCom/16/3	Provisional programme
MonCom/16/4	Road Map on Population, Migration and Development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean
MonCom/16/5	The outcome of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
MonCom/16/6	Report of the Caribbean Forum: Shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century
MonCom/16/7	Caribbean Development Report
MonCom/16/8	Presentation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean
MonCom/16/9	Participation of associate member countries in the programme of work of ECLAC (2008-2013)
MonCom/16/10	Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Annex III**Statement by the delegation of Cuba regarding the assessment of the role of ECLAC in the Caribbean, during the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**

Madam Chair, the Honourable Jennifer Webster, Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana,

Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to pass on our congratulations to the people and Government of Guyana for the organization of work and for the attention that they have given to this sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Thirty-eight years have passed since the Committee was created, and I can say that while progress has been made, greater awareness-raising efforts are required if it is to fulfill the role for which it was created.

At the twenty-third session of CDCC, held in Grenada, we embarked upon the current process concerning the role played by the Committee in the Caribbean. We wish to inform ECLAC of our appreciation of its work as subregional headquarters for the Caribbean; however, further progress is needed in its other role as secretariat of CDCC.

In the secretariat's presentation on the 2012-2013 programme of work and the evaluation of its work, no mention was made of compliance with resolution 75(XXIII) Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, which included the initial steps that the member States suggested that the secretariat take in order to carry out its activities, namely:

- Requesting project proposals from member States on the priority areas identified in the subregion, such as national statistics development, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, tourism, trade, environment and development, among others.
- Analysing the possibilities of obtaining financial resources outside the region, as well as within and outside the United Nations system, in order to undertake specific activities in countries.
- Identifying relationships that the Commission/Committee secretariat could establish among the Caribbean Community, the Association of Caribbean States, the Latin American Economic System, the Latin American Energy Organization and the Central American Integration System secretariats, to foster dialogue and develop specific actions for future functional cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America.
- Revitalizing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as the coordinating and advisory framework of the Caribbean for development and cooperation issues of events within the United Nations system and other forums.
- Conducting analyses of the integration processes carried out in Latin America and their impact on the Caribbean.

We have an approved programme for the biennium 2012-2013 that meets the requirements of the subregional headquarters of ECLAC. It is now worth asking:

Is it possible that the biennial programme for 2012-2013 could be more responsive to the current realities of the Caribbean?

Will the financial resources exist to address these realities through projects that are directly beneficial to the countries?

If CDCC was created and its Statutes updated in order to respond to current realities, why not develop a suitable programme for CDCC that is more closely linked to cooperation?

ECLAC traditionally functions both as the secretariat for the subregional headquarters, in this case that of the Caribbean, and as secretariat of CDCC. This involves the active participation of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as the countries it serves as the subregional headquarters.

We propose that CDCC have a programme, within the programme of ECLAC, in which priority areas for the Caribbean are taken into account.

Latin America and the Caribbean is currently engaged in an integration process that reached a milestone with the creation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), a process in which ECLAC was involved. It must be remembered that the Meeting of National Coordinators of CELAC, held recently in Havana, agreed to boost CDCC efforts for cooperation in the Caribbean, with the support of ECLAC, and to draw up a portfolio of projects with a view to their examination and approval by the CELAC Working Group on International Cooperation.

Madam Chair,

We consider it essential to keep in mind the full validity of the following aspects:

- Resolution 358 of ECLAC and 29(XII) of CDCC, which affirm the validity of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of CDCC.
- The importance of the Committee and its secretariat in providing its members with effective support in developing strategies to address global and regional challenges, and in coordinating their positions in regional and international forums regarding specific areas of interest for the Caribbean, which could be done together with the Latin American Economic System; and
- The importance of the Committee as the subregional organization for cooperation in complement to countries' development goals, in coordination with CELAC and with the support of the ECLAC secretariat in its capacity as secretariat of CDCC, and recognizing its necessity as a mechanism whose core ideas are set forth in its Constituent Declaration.

These aspects are vital for the Caribbean, which is made up chiefly of islands that are highly vulnerable and that have not been spared the current international economic crisis, which has been imposed on us and is the result of structural imbalances and an irrational international economic system based on the blind laws of the market, selfishness, consumerism and the wastefulness of a few at the cost of our peoples' suffering. The unity of our region is imperative.

Latin America and the Caribbean is absorbed in the process of designing a joint strategy that will allow it to catch up while improving the living standards of its population. Hence the necessity of proposing a Latin American and Caribbean alliance that prioritizes human development, redistributes wealth, promotes respect for and the recovery of ecosystems, and simultaneously preserves the identity and sovereignty of each nation. Only thus united will we be able to succeed in achieving the sustainable development to which our peoples aspire. Thank you.

Annex IV**STATEMENT OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS AS RAPPORTEUR OF THE MEETING
(AD VERBATIM)**

- 1. Opening of the meeting.** The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean declared the meeting open. Mr. Caballero, Deputy Regional Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Latin America and the Caribbean, addressed the challenges of population development needs. He focused on overcoming the implementation gaps of policies related to sexual and reproductive health, rights and services and recommended the inclusion of women in the relevant decision-making fora. Finally, he encouraged the importance of South-South cooperation in the population and development agenda.

Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean thanked member states for their co-operation to ECLAC. She committed the support of ECLAC to the Caribbean especially in the area of disabilities and wanted consideration of the special circumstances of Caribbean SIDS in the upcoming General Assembly. She brought attention to linking the Caribbean with the rest of Latin America and the rest of the world and how that will function within CELAC. She pledged her continued support within the context of the limited resources of the organization to the Caribbean subregion.

The Honourable Jennifer Webster, Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Guyana welcomed participants to the meeting. She recognized the associate member States that were present and especially the recently-admitted associate member States. She mentioned the importance for post-2015 and focused on the celebration of World Population Day. She encouraged ECLAC to find creative ways to address the issues facing the subregion to promote sustainable development.

The Director declared the formal part of the meeting closed and handed over to Guyana.

- 2. Adoption of the Agenda.** The agenda was adopted without change.
- 3. Consideration of the road map on population, migration and development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean.**

The Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago presented the road map on population, migration and development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean. This road map will inform preparations for the Regional meeting on population and development. He presented a summary position followed by the roadmap for population, migration and development beyond 2014. He focused on ageing and disability and mentioned that many of the signatories to relevant conventions have recorded little progress in meeting their commitments. He declared the promotion of national action plans, creation of a regional initiative, addressing gender imbalances, data needs and reinforcement of decent work, and working with youth as important to the subregion.

The meeting adopted the recommendations of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development with the following amendments:

- a) Change the phrase “sexuality education” to “sexual education” throughout the text;
- b) Paragraph 29. Change the word “fight” to “eliminate”;
- c) Paragraph 31. Add at the end of the paragraph add the phrase “within the law”;
- d) Add a paragraph on “support the capacity development of young people to promote the youth development agenda.” This will become paragraph 35;
- e) Section on employment. Change the term “employment” to “economic security”;
- f) The section on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights was reviewed.

4. Consideration of the outcomes of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The Honourable Brown, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica presented the outcomes of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The minister focused on progress made in achievement of the thematic areas of the BPoA and the Mauritius Strategy, highlighted the gaps in implementation and put forward the areas of priority for Caribbean SIDS.

5. Medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 agenda in the Caribbean.

Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean presented the Medium-term challenges and the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean. In her presentation, Ms. Bárcena proposed the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which is convened by ECLAC biennially, as a forum to promote growth in the Caribbean subregion. She mentioned the value of such a forum in the promotion of critical thinking that realizes creativity and innovation leading to diversification in the productive sectors, thereby increasing the sustainability of economies.

The ministerial dialogue focused on the three presentations. There was consensus that research is an important factor in stimulating growth. It was underscored that macroeconomic strategies are important as they provide economic stability but limit us to slow incremental growth and make no structural changes in the economies as they are subject to the international economic order. We therefore need micro strategies that are specific to the Caribbean. These could be sector-specific based on cluster formation and could start in one country but could spread geographically e.g in the food sector, creative sector. The subregion needs a geographical strategy focused on selecting an area as a growth pole and the cluster structures could be linked to this growth pole and the devolution of power in local government. This way the power of the indigenous population will be tapped. This could be oriented to the outside to create potential that is export oriented. So a new strategy for development is needed. The manner in which the problem is addressed is important and in this regard we need a formula to develop an implementation mechanism. We need an innovation mind shift. We can use our current experts but we need to promote transformational thinking to turn the economies around. How can we use our comparative advantages to support each other? The meeting agreed that South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation are to be encouraged and the means of promoting this needs to be pursued especially in searching out markets for products. We need to accept that political will is necessary to promote this model.

The meeting asked that the HIV agenda not be lost in the development agenda and should be put forth for discussion. This is also applicable to the MDGs agenda.

The meeting also agreed that it will be useful to move to a knowledge economy focused on research; but this will be challenging. This may be done through the creation of research industries such as Greenfield industries e. g. in climate change and solar energy. Youth and ageing need to be addressed as well. Greening of Caribbean economies and a research agenda around the use of the resources of the Caribbean Sea should be promoted.

The meeting recommended that the post-2015 agenda should include migration even integrated under population dynamics. Also, the use of the diaspora in regional development could be enhanced.

The meeting agreed that the high tax burden of the subregion needs to be reduced in order to create space for economic growth. This may require support in terms of financial assistance. Economic growth is required for development and social support; but we need to examine the balance between growth and sustainable use of resources. The meeting also agreed that within the CSME, some countries still need special treatment in order to improve performance. Engagement of the private sector may be important.

The meeting also noted that the brain drain may be shifting to areas such as sport and culture.

6. Progress in implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean.

Ms. Diane Quarless, Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented an account of progress in implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the organization in the Caribbean.

The meeting recognized that there is need to analyze the type of support within and outside of the UN to implement projects. It is necessary to make the links in the Caribbean among institutions e.g. CARICOM, CELAC. Also to analyze the integration processes in LAC and how they are relevant to the Caribbean. It is important to recognize that the programme of work of CDCC should be linked to cooperation and the meeting recommended a paragraph as to how the ECLAC office will work within the context of the CDCC and the secretariat will report on this at the next CDCC meeting.

The meeting mentioned that ECLAC office collaborates with organizations on all aspects of development in order to better serve the countries.

7. Strategic engagement with associate member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ms. Diane Quarless, Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented an account of strategic engagement with associate member States of ECLAC. She welcomed the associate member States to ECLAC at the meeting, and indicated that the level of engagement with these States will be lifted.

8. Date and Venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

The meeting indicated that using the modality of proceeding in English alphabetical order, Haiti is next in line to chair the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC. Communication has been made with

the Government of Haiti but no response has yet been obtained. ECLAC will again engage the Government and notify member States accordingly.

9. Other matters

The secretariat informed the meeting of the Conference on women that will be held in August 2013.

Conclusions and recommendations – Report by the Rapporteur