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CARIBBEAN**

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



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**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL MEETING
TO ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
10 YEARS AFTER ITS ADOPTION**

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1. Following Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) resolution 590(XXIX), based on a recommendation of its Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) met in Port of Spain on 11 and 12 November 2003 to assess the progress of the subregion in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. At the opening ceremony on 11 November, statements were made by the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Marisela Padron, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Acting Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

3. The Bureau was elected as follows: Mr. Desmond Hunte of Trinidad and Tobago as Chairperson of the meeting. Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Cuba as Vice-Chairs and St. Kitts and Nevis as Rapporteur. The meeting agenda was adopted. The secretariat introduced the background document "Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2004): Achievements and Constraints". A Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe of Trinidad and Tobago, was created to prepare a draft Declaration.

4. The CDCC members and associate members attending the meeting made statements. The observer delegation of Canada also made a statement. The observer delegation of the Family Planning Association (FPA) of Trinidad and Tobago made a statement on behalf of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attending the meeting.

5. In their statements, the CDCC members and associate members as well as the observer delegations confirmed their commitment to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action, as reflected in subsequent follow-up agreements at the global, regional and subregional levels.

6. Following delegation statements, a panel discussed epidemiological and socio-cultural aspects of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean, including discrimination against infected people. Members of the panel included Ms. Carol-Ann Senah (Director of Health Promotion and Communication of the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago) and Ms. Nieves Andino (UNFPA Regional Advisor). Ms. Hetty Sarjeant (UNFPA Representative for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean) served as moderator.

7. On 12 November there was a panel discussion on the issue on population and poverty in the Caribbean. Members of the panel included Mr. Juan Carlos Alfonso (Director of the Centre for Studies on Population and Development of Cuba) and Ms. Asha Kambon (Social Affairs Officer at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean). Ms. Kambon served as moderator.

8. The meeting adopted the Declaration, which is attached to this report as Annex 2. The meeting also agreed to transmit the Declaration, the background document and the present report as contributions to the forthcoming open-ended meeting of Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development in Santiago, Chile, to be held on 23 and 24 February 2004, and to the Sessional Meeting of the same ECLAC Committee in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to be held on 11 and 12 May 2004. The meeting further requested ECLAC and UNFPA to make arrangements for the documents to be presented at the above-mentioned meetings by the Bureau of this meeting.

9. It was agreed that the Declaration and the background document would constitute an important contribution of the Caribbean subregion to the 10-year review process of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Annex 1

**Declaration of the Caribbean subregional meeting to assess the implementation
of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on
Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption**

We, the representatives of 20 countries and territories of the Caribbean subregion, gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 11th and 12th November 2003, in the framework of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling the Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development: Follow-up to ICPD, adopted in Nassau, The Bahamas, May 1995,

Recalling also the Latin America and Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development, adopted by ECLAC member States in 1996,

Recalling further the Declaration of Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (UNFPA Caribbean Youth Summit held in Barbados, 1998),

Bearing in mind ECLAC resolution 590(XXIX) entitled: "Population and Development: Priority activities for 2002-2004" adopted in Brasilia, Brazil, in May 2002,

Taking into account that 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994,

Having considered the report entitled "Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints",

1. Reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to the principles and actions contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the document "Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", in particular, with respect to ensuring reproductive rights and reproductive health, gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women;

2. Reaffirm our commitment to the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and recognise that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

3. Recognise the rights of adolescents and youth to access youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information, education and services and call upon all countries to fully involve them in the design, implementation and evaluation of these programmes;

4. Pledge to further formulate and implement laws and mechanisms to protect children from the dangers they face, especially labour exploitation, sexual abuse and exploitation;

5. Recognise the new and ongoing challenges we face in the areas of population and development including issues related to reproductive rights, sexual and reproductive health, gender, youth and adolescents, ageing and persons with disabilities and acknowledge in particular the importance of continuing to address the following issues:

- (a) Protection and promotion of reproductive rights;
- (b) The provision of sexual and reproductive health information, education and services throughout the life cycle;
- (c) Attention to the challenges that adolescents face in the context of persistent high rates of poverty and unemployment;
- (d) Promotion of men's responsibilities in regard to their own reproductive health and in support of their partners;
- (e) Promotion of the need for evidence-based information on the underperformance of boys in the education system;
- (f) A comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing the consequences of gender-based violence;
- (g) Attention to the increasing ageing of the population; and
- (h) Attention to reducing maternal morbidity and mortality;

6. Express our deep concern that the spread of HIV/AIDS has made the Caribbean the second hardest hit region in the world, threatening population growth, as well as the economic and social structures of countries throughout the region, and reaffirm our commitment to the fight against the epidemic recognising the need to address HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in the context of reproductive health programmes;

7. Acknowledge the efforts of Caribbean countries and territories to achieve sustained economic growth and social development and to reduce poverty, and their continued commitment to advance policies and programmes on population and development;

8. Recognise that in the Caribbean, population, economy and society have been negatively impacted by structural adjustment programmes, heavy debt servicing obligations, inequitable external trading regulations and practices, and unilateral measures not in accordance with the international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

9. **Call upon the international community to foster a supportive economic environment by promoting an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory international trading system, particularly for the Caribbean;**

10. Call upon all countries and territories of the Caribbean subregion, to accelerate their efforts and enhance collaboration to achieve the social and economic well-being of the people of the subregion;

11. **Commit to continue the national legislative reform process and to strive for effective implementation in order to ensure the full realisation of the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Caribbean Plan of Action;**

12. Call upon all countries to strengthen their capacity – through the establishment of national and subregional training programmes and by taking advantage of appropriate modern technology – to improve data collection, processing and analysis; and to ensure timely –sex disaggregated– information dissemination procedures for evidence-based decision-making at all levels;

13. Recognise and commit to address the challenges caused by intraregional and international movements of people on population and development, particularly in relation to the smuggling of and trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the brain-drain; returning migrants; deportations; border security in the light of 11 September 2001; and the free movements of persons under the provisions of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy;

14. Acknowledge the important contribution made by international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the donor community in the provision of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Caribbean subregion, and urge them to continue and intensify such financial and technical support;

15. Recognise the important and complementary role non-governmental organizations play in *inter-alia* policy development, implementation and delivery of services and in promoting reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health, and call upon all countries to support mechanisms to build and sustain partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in a manner that does not compromise their autonomy;

16. **Express our concern that the flow of resources to countries and territories in the Caribbean is not commensurate with the level of needs in the subregion, as reflected in the report “Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints”;**

17. Commit to strengthen our efforts in formulating and implementing comprehensive population and development policies and programmes, using existing resources and mobilising additional domestic resources to support the implementation of programmes, despite the economic constraints faced by countries and territories throughout the Caribbean subregion;

18. Express our appreciation to ECLAC, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, and UNFPA for their support in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and in the preparation of the report entitled: “Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994 – 2004): Achievements and Constraints”;

19. Call upon the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA, to continue its role of coordination of population and development activities in the Caribbean subregion and to assist with monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action;

20. Encourage UNFPA, ECLAC, PAHO/WHO and other United Nations agencies to continue supporting the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, in particular the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;

21. Express our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting this Caribbean subregional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption;

22. Adopt the present Declaration in commemoration of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, and as a contribution of the Caribbean subregion to the regional and international 10-year review process of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development.

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