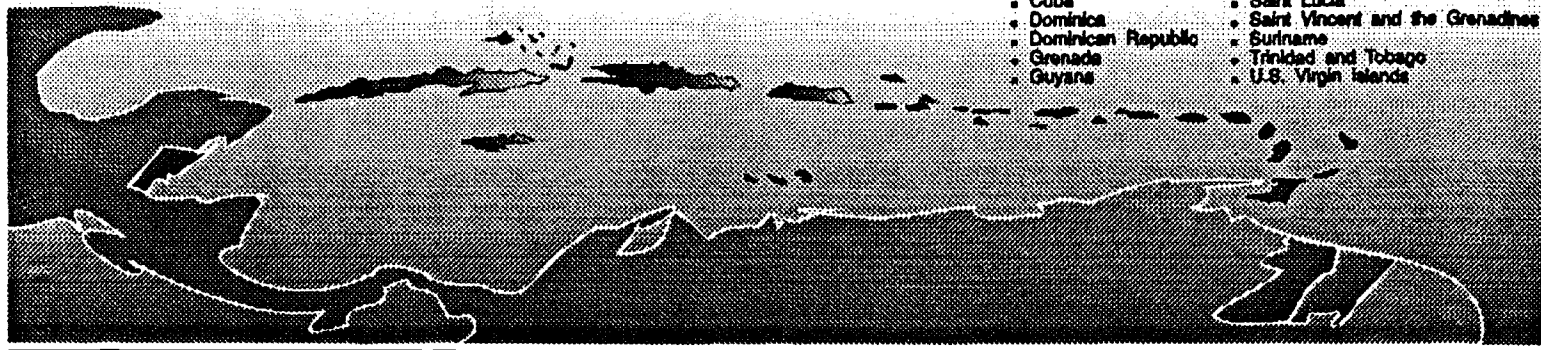


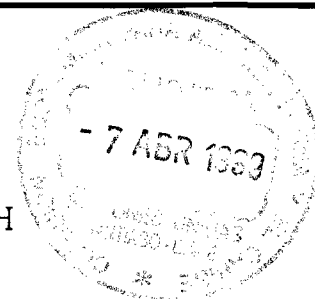


UN ECLAC/CDCC

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



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REPORT OF
THE SUBREGIONAL MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
ICPD+5 REVIEW



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SUBREGIONAL MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ICPD+5 REVIEW

Background

The Subregional Meeting on Population and Development (ICPD+5) Review was held from 17-19 November 1998, at the Normandie Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago. This subregional meeting was convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

This meeting was in response to a mandate from the Second Meeting of the Sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, held during the twenty-seventh session of ECLAC (Oranjestad, Aruba, 11-16 May 1998). Caribbean governments participating at that meeting mandated the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to convene a meeting of member governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on population and development.

Participation

Sixteen CDCC member and associate member countries were present, namely: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. Representatives from the Cayman Islands attended in the capacity of observers. There was also participation from several organizations, such as, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), CARICOM, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the UNFPA. Also present at the meeting were representatives from 11 NGOs. There were three UNFPA youth representatives in attendance. The list of participants of the meeting is attached as Annex 1.

Opening ceremony

Summary of presentation made by Ms. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

The Director noted the role of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) process as follows:

(a) To provide technical assistance to governments in the subregion on population and development issues;

(b) To implement a number of research projects and conduct studies in keeping with the Caribbean Plan of Action produced by the Bahamas meeting in November 1995; and

(c) To act as a clearing-house for the dissemination of information on national and subregional population and development activities through publishing of a quarterly newsletter on population and post-ICPD activities.

She expressed ECLAC/CDCC's position regarding this meeting which should provide a forum and opportunity for the subregion to arrive at a consensus on priority issues for future government action in the implementation of the ICPD+5 Programme of Action (POA). Ms. Ishmael also expressed the following expectations for the meeting:

(a) That deliberations would have a significant impact on facing the challenges that lay ahead in realizing the POA on Population and Development to the year 2014;

(b) The informing of CARICOM Ministers with responsibility for social development and population issues, so that governments might be able to clarify their next five-year thrust; identify needed resources and mount a successful campaign to attract the best available support from the private sector, donor agencies and other financial and technical institutions to achieve common goals.

In this regard, she highlighted certain critical issues to charting success in the implementation of the ICPD POA:

(a) The appointment of national focal points for the implementation of the ICPD POA;

(b) The review of the role of the population councils and units and their positioning in the structures of government;

(c) The need for capacity-building to enable sound data collection and analyses in the subregion with the aim of assisting governments in integrating population matters into the national planning processes;

(d) The additional research necessary to inform policy on migration and, particularly, intraregional migration;

(e) The efforts aimed at building capacity for gender planning and mainstreaming;

(f) Policies and action to reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and to control the spread of HIV/AIDS;

(g) The development of policies on adolescent reproductive health rights, including that of adolescent mothers' right to return to school;

(h) The creation and support of mechanisms for networking and collaboration between and among government and NGOs to strengthen partnerships with civil society; and

(i) The need for advocacy better targeted to a wider public, policy makers and members of civil society.

Summary of the presentation made by Ms. Liliana Frieiro-Berglung, Deputy Director, Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Division, UNFPA New York

Ms. Frieiro-Berglung stated that one of the main expectations of the meeting was that all recommendations made would not only help expedite the implementation of the ICPD POA and shape the LAC position, but feed into the deliberations of the ICPD+5 International Forum (February 1999), the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD) Meeting (March 1999) and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (June 1999). She listed the key issues for the subregion in progressing towards the Cairo goals, as follows:

(a) The need to strengthen the explicit support to the ICPD POA goals regarding economic and social policy and specific poverty strategy;

(b) The need to prioritize and strongly manifest national commitment and support in the inclusion of reproductive health education and services, including sex education, within public social spending and in the negotiations of the health sector reform programmes;

(c) The need to demonstrate the importance of the commitment of national resources and its rewards by establishing appropriate and cost-effective management information systems; and

(d) The need for qualified human resources to take or strengthen action.

Summary of the presentation made by Mr. Osmond Gordon, Programme Manager, Statistics, CARICOM Secretariat

Mr. Gordon stated that the ICPD POA provided an opportunity for greater and more in-depth focus on issues which were of concern to the subregion, namely, teenage

pregnancy; women's health; capacity-building in national statistical offices to support policies and planning; and sexually transmitted diseases. The POA has also helped to provide a focus on the linkages between issues relating to population and development, poverty and sustainable development and, as a result, stimulated integrated approaches to programme planning and monitoring.

The Caribbean Subregional POA (The Bahamas Consensus), endorsed by the CARICOM Heads of Government, emphasized the following issues which constitute important components of the ICPD POA:

- ▶ Adolescent fertility;
- ▶ Reproductive health and rights;
- ▶ Family life education;
- ▶ Population and sustainable development.

Mr. Gordon informed the meeting that the CARICOM Secretariat had been working and collaborating with (and pledged its continued support to) other regional agencies, NGOs and national governments in an attempt to advance implementation of the Caribbean POA. This support had come through its various programmes, for example, Phase II of the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiatives (CCHI). The secretariat had also focused on ensuring that the elements of the Caribbean POA were included among the priorities of the Caribbean Community Regional Programmes, and on providing technical inputs into the planning, development and implementation of programmes and mobilization of resources.

Summary of the presentation made by the Honourable Manohar Ramsaran, Minister of Social and Community Development

The Minister opened by taking note of the objectives of the meeting:

- (a) To invite participation from both governments and NGOs to discuss the draft Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the ICPD POA;
- (b) To identify selected findings of the Caribbean review for inclusion into CELADE's regional ICPD review document;

(c) To build a Caribbean position and achieve a consensus on priority issues preparatory to the ICPD+5 International Forum (February 1999), the United Nations Commission on Population and Development Meeting (March 1999) and the Special Session of the General Assembly (June 1999);

(d) To have subregional consensus on priority issues and also to review the progress made in the previous four years with respect to the POA.

The Minister stressed that his government advocated collaboration and cooperation in nation building, sustainable development and regional development. He was of the opinion that in order to progress as a subregion towards common goals and objectives, the small island States should stay away from "separatist attitudes". There was a need for a common stance on the issues recognized as important ingredients in subregional development, and worthy of integration into overall planning frameworks.

Mr. Ramsaran believed that there had indeed been progress in the subregion with respect to implementation of the ICPD goals and objectives. One example of this progress was the development and adoption of National Population Policies by seven countries since 1994. Prior to 1994, such policies were almost non-existent in the subregion. The National Population Policy accepted by the Trinidad and Tobago Government in 1996 attempted to link sectoral policies for holistic development planning; establish explicit demographic goals; highlight the implications of demographic projections and accentuate the importance of integrating demographic issues into the planning process. Its overall objective was "to provide an improved quality of life for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and a just, moral, more socially and economically equitable society".

With respect to the emphasized areas of focus of the meeting, namely, integration of population and development concerns into national planning processes; gender equality and the empowerment of women; reproductive health care and reproductive rights; and partnerships with civil society, the Minister informed the meeting that those areas had also been recognized as key areas for attention by the present Government of Trinidad and Tobago. As such, several mechanisms, policies, structures, projects and programmes had been implemented to ensure support and continuity of progress in the social sector. Mr. Ramsaran reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the implementation of the goals of the ICPD and to working on a regional basis in collaboration with international and regional agencies, such as ECLAC, UNFPA and the CARICOM Secretariat towards that end.

Agenda item 2:
Approval of agenda

The agenda, as adopted, was as follows:

1. Opening ceremony
2. Approval of agenda
3. Presentation of the working draft subregional report and discussion
4. Working groups
5. Reports from working groups
6. Arrival at consensus on critical areas of concerns and priority issues for government action and for inclusion into the CELADE report
7. Upcoming activities in the review and appraisal process
8. Any other business

Agenda item 3:

Presentation of the working draft subregional report and discussion

Summary of the presentation made by Ms. Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

Ms. Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer, of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, briefed participants on the findings of the team of technical experts, acquired through field inquiries and review of national reports, recorded in the document "Working Draft Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD+5)".

Review of activities at the subregional level

The meeting was informed that among events which support the ICPD Programme of Action, the recently concluded Caribbean Youth Summit, held 5-7 October, initiated and sponsored by the UNFPA Caribbean Office, was particularly successful. "Making Choices and Taking Action," was the theme of the Summit which yielded a Regional Action Plan (RAP) in which the participants, representative of 20 countries, indicated that

multisectoral collaboration was the key to success, and should be at the heart of post-Summit activities. Other projects in support of the ICPD Programme of Action were: the Newsletter, Caribbean Action on Population and Development: ICPD Follow-up news (CAPD); a computerized data bank established at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), with the support of UNFPA; the multi-agency initiative led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Health and Family Life Education project; and the September 1995 meeting on Migration, held in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Institutionalism of mechanisms to incorporate population variables in the development process

Ms. Kambon noted that in the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago mechanisms to incorporate population into the development process were established and, for easy reference, they were set out in tabular form in Table 1, page 8 of the document. She stated, however, that within the context of small island States, restrictive financial and human resources could quickly erode the progress achieved thus far.

Population policies

It was found that the majority of Caribbean governments appeared to be very conscious of the need to put population policy guidelines in place and had done so as indicated in Table 1. Barbados was specifically singled out for recognition in that, although not having an expressly written population policy, population issues had been well articulated as demonstrated through existing programmes.

Population, sustained economic growth and poverty

The meeting was referred to Table 1 where data showed that a number of governments had put structures in place to monitor the effects of socio-demographic trends and development strategies, either in the form of Population Councils as in Trinidad and Tobago, or the National Council for Social Development, as in the Bahamas. Table 4 was also referred to where a listing of countries, which had undertaken studies since 1994 to aid in social policy design and formulation, could be found.

Population and environment

The Social Affairs Officer of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, brought participants' attention to the seasonal natural disasters from which the Caribbean suffered. Quoting information collected from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), she noted that during the period 1992 to 1995,

at least three hurricanes and 20 storms had occurred in the Caribbean and were listed in Table 5 of the report. The suggestion of the national reports which stated "when economic reviews are being undertaken by major financial institutions and donor agencies, the social and demographic impact on the population needs to be taken more rigorously into account," was endorsed. The plight of the nation of Montserrat, still reeling from the eruption of the Langs Soufriere Volcano, was specially noted.

Gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women

Participants were informed that, as indicated in Table 6, Caribbean countries, through the establishment of bureaux of women's affairs and the appointment of ministers with responsibility for women's affairs, had demonstrated the political and social will to achieve gender equity. The increased participation of women in the political process, a goal of the ICPD Caribbean Plan of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, was seen to have borne fruit as much leadership training had taken place and NGOs had organized Women's Parliament Forums which provided training in parliamentary procedure to women interested in political participation. However, the number of women representatives in the highest positions of decision-making was still low in proportion to their education levels and demographic status.

The ECLAC/CDCC Social Affairs Officer indicated that while most Caribbean countries had a Family Life Education Programme integrated into the school curriculum which explored the ideas of sexuality and social roles, through certain inadequacies, however, critical issues of family life such as adolescent sexuality, domestic violence and negative stereotyping which reinforced a subordinate role for women were not being addressed.

Male responsibility and participation

The meeting heard that in many Caribbean countries new measures to encourage men to take greater responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and their social roles in the family had been undertaken. Many of these measures were effected through information and education programmes, the enactment of child support laws, National Family Planning Programmes and National AIDS programmes.

Reproductive health

Ms. Kambon indicated that more progress had been made in the area of reproductive health than in the area of reproductive rights and that while emphasis still remained heavily on the provision of family planning services, the wider concept of reproductive health, in general, was being recognized. The meeting was told that most countries had considered universal access to reproductive health care an achievable goal and that they were well on their way to integrating family planning, pre-and-post

natal care, breast feeding and (Sexually Transmitted Diseases STDs) treatment into primary health care settings. Countries, such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, displayed progress in these areas as shown in Table 8 of the draft document.

The economic impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

Participants were informed that the direct costs of the epidemic to health care plus costs due to the loss of income would rise sharply and could be in excess of US\$500 by 2006 (based on 1989 data). In addition, various initiatives to deal with HIV/AIDS had been undertaken by Caribbean countries both at the subregional and national levels and by international agencies such as the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) and the UNFPA.

Strengthening the partnership with civil society

Ms. Kambon stated that the formation of partnerships and the ability to find ways and means to sustain them was a crucial element in making the concepts and proposed actions of the ICPD both operational and development oriented. She further stated that the findings of the team of experts indicated that new governments, a noticeable post-Cairo development in the Caribbean, and technocrats often did not feel committed to the ICPD Programme of Action because of difficult economic changes which led to poverty issues taking first priority. However, countries such as the Bahamas, the Netherlands Antilles, Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago had been pioneers, having formed partnerships with NGOs, involving them in a formal policy body which dealt with population and development issues.

Conclusion

In Ms. Kambon's closing remarks, the meeting was reminded that there were 15 years ahead for the completion of the goals and actions shaped by governments and NGOs during the International Conference in CAIRO in 1994. Therefore, the ICPD+5 evaluation should have provided not only a review of what had taken place, but should have acted as a guide as to how governments could proceed within the next five-year period.

She then reviewed the key areas for future action, which had emerged from the appraisal exercise. These included:

(a) The need to strengthen human and physical capacity in order to facilitate the integration of population matters into the development process and, in that regard, it was recommended that governments appoint a focal point to follow up the implementation of the ICPD-POA;

(b) Policies and programmes which were still needed to address the issues of international and intraregional migration;

(c) Gender planning skills and policies which were an essential ingredient to achieving the goals of gender mainstreaming and gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Action to be taken to reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and the incidence of HIV infection and a comprehensive policy on adolescent reproductive health and rights;

(e) More work in the area of advocacy and the creation of mechanisms for supporting networks and collaboration with civil society.

Ms. Kambon concluded that the appraisal process indicated that no single group alone could implement the Programme of Action in any country. There was need for governments and civil society, with the technical and financial support and collaboration of regional agencies and international organizations, to work together to achieve the stated goals of the ICPD-POA.

Discussion

Participants congratulated the team of technical experts on the production of the Working Draft Document. In general, the ensuing discussion reflected support for the document and promises of assistance in the provision of more up-to-date data for inclusion in the final report for the CELADE meeting. The ACS, which encompassed many of the CDCC countries, was one such organization which offered assistance in the area of data collection, particularly information on natural disasters, AIDS and policy issues in the Caribbean.

Other issues discussed were as follows:

(a) Clarification on the correct term to be used in keeping with ICPD re sexual reproductive health or reproductive health;

(b) The inclusion of the elderly and the need to pay more attention to structural adjustment policies when looking at the macroeconomic framework with respect to partnership with civil society, the prospects of new types of partnerships in view of the diminishing role of government; and

(c) The need to carefully examine data on heads of households, its definition, its true reflection of the situation in the Caribbean and what it meant.

Ms. Kambon assured participants that in the finalization of the document, other information recommended for inclusion as well as updated statistics would be addressed. To ensure consistency of the information, participants suggested that working groups set a time line, which would be reflected, in the final document.

Agenda items 4 and 5:

Working groups and Reports from the working groups

Three working groups met in session and addressed the following issues:

- (a) Integration of population and development concerns into the national planning process;
- (b) Gender equality and the empowerment of women; and
- (c) Reproductive health care and reproductive rights.

Each group included the topic of "Partnership with Civil Society" as a cross-cutting issue in their discussions.

Agenda item 6:

Arrival at consensus on critical areas of concern and priority issues for government action and for inclusion in the CELADE report

The following issues were ranked as key areas of concern for the subregion:

- (a) Investment in the social sector: Capacity-building, emphasis on training personnel.
- (b) Data collection, analysis and presentation: With respect to data collection focuses on measuring and monitoring of progress. More qualitative data was needed to help develop a programme for behaviour change and to help understand the behaviour of people.
- (c) Research: It was agreed that it was essential to make a distinction among research, statistics and information as they related to planning and decision-making. Need for a more thorough and focused analysis of data.
- (d) Migration: Include an emphasis on spatial distribution, that is, not only international but internal migration. There was a suggestion to develop policies for international migration. It was thought that there was too much focus on emigration and that the impact of immigration was also problematic for the subregion, especially the smaller territories. The meeting recommended that particular emphasis be placed on

the impact within the next decade of the movement of people within and throughout the subregion.

(e) Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) HIV/AIDS Adolescent fertility: Advocate HFLE as an important medium for change within the subregion. It was suggested that stronger focus be placed on education as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty.

(f) Mechanism for coordination/focal point as a mechanism of providing for continuity in the implementation of the ICPD POA.

(g) Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women: Keep gender as a focus but mainstream this issue. This will provide an opportunity for all issues raised in the past to be brought to the forefront and addressed.

Agenda item 7: ICPD+5 Review and Appraisal Process

The meeting was informed that its output (the report) would be tabled at CARICOM's Council for Social and Human Development (COSHOD) meeting which would take place in the last week of November 1998. The report would also be used in the development of the CELADE Regional ICPD Report, which would present the Latin American and Caribbean perspective on the global review. This report, which would contribute to discussions at the Hague International Forum in February 1999, would be finalized at the CELADE Meeting in December 1998.

Prior to The Hague International Forum, an NGOs Forum and Youth Forum were scheduled to take place on 6-7 February 1999. Participants were informed that funding might be provided for those forums and the issue of funding would be discussed at the CELADE meeting in December. They were further advised that funding could also be addressed through the respective UNDP/UNFPA country offices and Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Registration deadline for the NGOs Forum was 30 November 1998.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat informed that the secretariat through the assistance of UNFPA, would support five participants to the CELADE meeting comprising the group of technical experts which assisted in the national inquiry, formulate the national reports and prepare the Draft Subregional Review and Appraisal Report. Support would also be given to Ms. Nelcia Robinson, Coordinator, and Caribbean Association of Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), who was nominated as the NGO representative to the CELADE meeting by participants.

The meeting was informed of UNFPA's website located at www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpd.htm where further information on activities leading to the culmination of the ICPD+5 Review and Appraisal Process could be solicited.

However, information was forwarded on the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 30 June - 2 July 1999, which would provide a forum for world leaders to review and appraise implementation of the Programme of Action, which emerged from the 1994 Cairo Conference.

Prior to the Special Session of the General Assembly, the United Nations CPD was scheduled to meet from 22-30 March 1999, and would serve as a preparatory meeting. At the CPD, United Nations member States and representatives of civil society would consider a draft report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The draft report, which would contain key future actions in the areas of population and development, would be forwarded to the Special Session for endorsement at the highest political level.

Agenda item 8:
Any other business

The meeting agreed upon a deadline for information on country data to be sent to the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for inclusion in the document "Caribbean Subregional review and appraisal report on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD+5)". The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat informed that the document would be completed by 27 November 1998 and that countries should submit their inclusions by 26 November 1998.

The participants commended the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on its work in preparation for the meeting and stated that they looked forward to the effective participation of the Caribbean subregion in the post-ICPD process.

Annex 1

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Barbados Family Planning Association

Mr George Griffith, Executive Director, Bay Street, St Michael, Barbados. Telephone: 246-426-2027; Facsimile: 246-427-6611

Caribbean Association of Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)

Ms Nelcia Robinson, Coordinator, 8 Bates Private Road, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Telephone: 663-8670; Facsimile: 663-6482; E-mail: cafrainfo@wow.net

Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Ms Hetty Sarjeant, Executive Director, 79 Oxford Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Telephone: 625-6533; Facsimile: 625-2256; E-mail: fpattrep@wow.net

Dr Jacqueline Sharpe, Vice President, 7 O'Connor Street, Woodbrook, Trinidad and Tobago. Telephone: 627-6972; E-mail: jacques@wow.net

Grenada Save the Children Development Agency (GRENSAVE)

Ms Brenda Hood, Executive Director, St John's Street, St George's, Grenada. Telephone: 440-2448; Facsimile: 440-5120; E-mail: prrt@caribsurf.com

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

Mr Frederick Cox, Executive Director, 70 Quamina Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana. Telephone: 592-2-53286; Facsimile: 592-2-52144; E-mail: grpa@sndp.org.gy

Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women

Ms Venus Mark, Trinidad & Tobago Midwives Association, c/o Amicus Maternity Centre,
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Telephone: 637-5608; Facsimile: 637-7391

St Lucia Planned Parenthood Association

Ms Audrey George, Executive Director, 83, Chaussee Road, Castries, Saint Lucia.
Telephone: 758-452-4335; Facsimile: 758-453-7284

St Vincent Planned Parenthood Association

Ms Audrey Dennie, Supervisor, Information & Education/Family Life Educator, Grenville
Street, St Vincent and the Grenadines. Telephone: 456-1793

Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Sherill Morris, Deputy Director, 42 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica. Telephone:
876-929-7608/0977 or 906-1606; Facsimile: 876-926-5768

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