



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

Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development
9-10 July 2013
Georgetown, Guyana

LIMITED
LC/CAR/L.428
28 November 2013
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN FORUM ON POPULATION, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

1. The Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development was organised jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Government of Guyana. It was held at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Georgetown on 9 and 10 July 2013. Support was also provided by the European Union through the Intra-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific States) Migration Facility project.

2. In preparation for the Forum, there was a meeting of civil society organizations (CSOs) held on 8 July 2013, which was organised by UNFPA and held in Georgetown, Guyana. The Forum was followed by the Sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) which took place on 11 July 2013 at the Guyana International Conference Centre.

2. Attendance¹

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of 15 member States of ECLAC: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Also represented were the Cayman Islands, an Associate member country of ECLAC, and Sint Maarten.

4. The following United Nations organizations were represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). There was also a representative from the UN MDG Youth Ambassadors Program.

5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: European Union, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Representatives of the following regional institutions attended: Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). A number of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations were also represented.

3. Documentation

6. ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean prepared a background document for the meeting - Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2013): Evaluating progress and renewing commitment.

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of meeting

7. The meeting was opened by the Officer-in-Charge of UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean. She welcomed participants and described the purpose of the forum. Firstly, it would examine international migration in preparation for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held on 3 and 4 October 2013; and secondly, the forum would review the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean as part of the global International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 review.

¹ The full list of participants appears as annex II to this report.

It would evaluate progress in each of these areas, identify emerging issues, and make recommendations for future action. The Officer-in-Charge thanked the organizations that had collaborated to organise this Caribbean forum and invited representatives of each organization to make opening statements.

8. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean thanked the Government of Guyana, the current Chair of the CDCC, and the other organizations that had collaborated with ECLAC to organise the meeting. She explained how the two issues being addressed in this meeting were complimentary. The CARICOM Intra-ACP Migration project which is supported by the European Union seeks to identify strategies at national and regional level to manage and mitigate the impact of migration. International migration is also addressed in chapter X of the ICPD Programme of Action, and as an issue of particular importance to the Caribbean, merits the special focus being given to it in this forum.

9. The Director described the Cairo Programme of Action as a far reaching platform for action dealing with population, development, health and human rights issues including poverty and inequality, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (including for adolescents), the rights of older persons, the rights of persons with disabilities, and important population dynamics such as international migration. She outlined the objectives of the meeting: to assess how far we have come in implementing the programme, to identify challenges, barriers, emerging issues and future priorities, and most importantly to begin to shape strategies to advance our efforts towards full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.

10. The background document prepared for the meeting analyses the progress of Caribbean countries and territories towards implementation of the Cairo Agreement. It describes important progress in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights including falls in the number of new HIV infections. In respect of adolescents, progress has been more uneven and reducing adolescent pregnancies remains a priority for public policymaking. Population growth is now at a much more sustainable level and population ageing is now the most pressing demographic challenge. This trend will increasingly challenge Caribbean countries to provide broader social protection at a time when high levels of sovereign debt constrain their ability to strengthen social safety nets. International migration is another demographic trend which seriously impacts the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS). While remittances make an important contribution to economic development, they do not compensate for the loss of skills through emigration. For example, the ten countries with the highest rates of emigration among nurses are all Caribbean.

11. The Director expressed the hope that a rich dialogue among the political leaders, senior decision makers, experts and representatives of civil society organizations brought together for this meeting would lead to the development of a road map for national and subregional action. The Road Map will prepare the Caribbean for the important discussions within the framework of the ICPD beyond 2014 process. It will also ensure a clear differentiated position for the Caribbean at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Montevideo in August 2013 as well as in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

12. The Officer-in-Charge of the Directorate of Human and Social Development of the CARICOM Secretariat thanked all of the collaborating partners and welcomed representatives of government, experts and representatives of civil society organizations. She described how the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, the ICPD beyond 2014 process, as well as the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa are all related processes which together will inform the development of the post-2015 development agenda. In preparation for the Conference in Samoa, a Caribbean regional meeting had taken place in Jamaica the previous week and an interregional preparatory meeting would take place in Barbados in late August.

All these processes present important opportunities to articulate Caribbean priorities so that they are reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

13. The Officer-in-Charge spoke about the importance of planning for sustainable development in a comprehensive way encompassing the economic, social and environmental aspects of development, and recognising the links between these aspects. Sustainable development viewed in this way demands a holistic approach with policy coherence, increased cross-sectoral collaboration, and the inclusion of non-state actors in decision-making and intergovernmental processes.

14. The Officer-in-Charge wished to highlight progress in two specific areas. The first of these was the progress made in controlling the HIV epidemic through the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS. The Caribbean is progressing towards targets set out in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, such as the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) by 2015, with the Caribbean likely to be the first developing region to meet this target. Efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination are ongoing but in this area there is still a long way to go. Although there have been strides made in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, much remains to be done. At the recent thirty-fourth meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government it was agreed to convene a high-level meeting later in the year to take forward subregional action in regard to persons with disabilities.

15. She described how the global business environment was increasingly competitive which placed SIDS in a particularly vulnerable position, as was clear during the economic and financial turmoil of recent years. She argued that south-south Cooperation was increasingly important and that the Caribbean must plan ahead and use the strengths of its people. With the evaluation of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, and the upcoming reviews of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Millennium Development Goals, this forum is a perfect opportunity to assess the situation of the Caribbean. This year also saw the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas which established CARICOM. The Officer-in-Charge invited participants to consider the words of the Prime Minister of Barbados who said on the occasion of the 40th anniversary that “CARICOM is positioned between hope and history, and while history could be reversed, it was the duty of the current torch bearers to give flesh to the hope and to work closely together to consolidate our independence. Progress was not going to happen by accident but by conscious decision”.

16. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Guyana discussed the interrelatedness of international migration and development. He stated that increased productivity, creativity, and choices for citizens are all integral aspects of development and migration can be both an expression and a route to achieving these things. The Intra-ACP Migration Facility is a project initiated by the ACP States, implemented within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, with funding of approximately US\$33 million provided by the European Development Fund. It was launched in 2009 and has an implementation period of four years.

17. The aim of the Intra-ACP Migration Facility is to highlight the link between migration and development by encouraging governments to integrate migration management into national development planning and policies in areas such as health, education, employment, trade and the environment. In this way the Intra-ACP-Migration Facility aims to make a positive contribution to the sustainable development of ACP member States and to improve the quality of life of their citizens. Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago are acting as pilot countries in the Caribbean.

18. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Guyana described how the integration of migration into development planning is a crucial first step to maximise the benefits of migration. Between 2004 and 2012, the European Commission has spared no effort to make migration a priority in foreign cooperation and has provided nearly 1 billion Euros to fund over 400 projects related to migration. Migration is increasingly recognised as a powerful vehicle for boosting development in both countries of origin and destination, and migration must be recognised as an enabling factor for

development in the post-2015 development agenda. Interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation and migration also require intense consideration.

19. He described how, within the European Union, respect for the rights of migrants including refugees is a key component of its policies and a series of directives have sought to ensure equal treatment for migrants in education, employment, and training. Migrants also have access to social security. The European Union launched an Immigration Portal in 2011 which provides information to migrants, and prospective migrants on their rights.

20. The European Union promotes similar standards in its external migration policy by promoting: access to education, health, the right to work, the right to free movement, the eradication of statelessness, the arbitrary detention of migrants, access to justice, and equal treatment with nationals. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Guyana concluded by saying that empowering migrants to realise their rights was a winning strategy both for effective migration governance and for sustainable development.

21. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA expressed the hope that his remarks would make a positive contribution to the outcome document, the Road Map.

22. He observed that the Cairo Programme of Action had established a paradigm shift by making recommendations for solving the urgent needs of people through a human rights-based approach. Recent decades have seen important improvements in access to basic social services although significant gaps exist between countries, and several key objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action are not likely to be achieved before the target date of 2014. Rates of maternal mortality have declined but not sufficiently to meet the targets established by Millennium Development Goal (MDG) five. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and other basic social services are far from being a reality in several countries in the region, especially for the most excluded groups such as persons living in poverty, the indigenous, rural populations, adolescents and young adults. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons also face medical, social, cultural, economic and legal barriers to access.

23. The demographic bonus is a situation which calls for decision makers and planners to think about interventions which can enhance the capacity of young persons with programmes aimed at improving access to decent work, education, and health services. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, between 25 and 32 per cent of 12-24 year old people in the Latin America and Caribbean region exhibit one or more of the following at risk behaviours: school drop-out, adolescent pregnancy, unemployment, drug use, and conflict with law. Unplanned pregnancy is of particular importance, and with the Latin American and Caribbean region having the second highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the world; comprehensive sexuality education must be improved. Not only is the region the most socially unequal, but it is also the most insecure with a homicide rate twice the global average affecting both men and women.

24. While there has been increased availability and use of contraception, there are still major barriers to universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. These include: geographic barriers, the quality of services, timely referral, legal barriers such as restrictions on emergency contraception and legislation regarding abortion, and restrictions on SRH service provision to adolescents.

25. Discrimination and subordination of women are closely related to their sexual and reproductive rights. The Deputy Regional Director described sexual violence as a major symptomatic expression of that subordination, and stated that a woman's capacity to control her sexual and reproductive life was a necessary but not sufficient condition to break the bonds of that subordination. Access to rights based sexual and reproductive health services that empower women, including cultural and age-friendly services with the expertise to identify cases of violence and abuse are part of a process of achieving gender equality.

26. Prevention, care, and protection services for women who are victims of violence are not universally available. In addition there is insufficient capacity for coordination of these services with citizen security agencies, prosecution, and justice agencies as well as a lack of coordination between security and justice agencies and the health sector. Such gaps increase the risks of women becoming victims of violence especially in the case of natural disasters or civil conflict.

27. With a growing incidence of disasters in the region, demographic analysis can play a crucial role in the construction of scenarios that reflect social demands and provide empirical evidence to enhance planning for improved living conditions and reduce exposure to disasters.

28. Lastly, with the reduction of gaps and inequalities likely to be an important aim of population policies post-2014, data disaggregated by age, gender and ethnicity among other characteristics, will remain a priority and the Deputy Regional Director confirmed that the development and use of such statistics would continue to be supported by UNFPA.

29. The Chairperson, the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana welcomed participants to the Republic of Guyana and to the meeting for which, she affirmed, she was honoured to act as host. With the 2015 target date for the achievement of the MDGs in mind, the Honourable Minister reported on the progress made towards the implementation of several aspects of the Cairo Programme of Action: equal access to education, programmes to provide social protection to older persons, legislation on gender-based violence, family planning services and prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS including the free antiretroviral drug treatment, and MTCT programmes in Guyana.

30. The Honourable Minister also enumerated some of the challenges facing the Caribbean in its implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. For older persons, social safety nets, health and social care services need to be improved and for persons with disabilities, infrastructure needs to be developed. In respect of gender, under-resourcing of gender equality programmes is an ongoing problem. However, in the area of women's representation in parliament, Guyana in particular has shown rapid progress with women currently making up 32 per cent of parliamentarians compared with 18.5 per cent twenty years ago (leaving Guyana ranked twenty-fifth out of 189 countries). Regarding HIV/AIDS, prevention programmes do not always reach vulnerable groups and stigma and discrimination are widespread. Meanwhile, most Caribbean countries still have the opportunity to exploit the demographic dividend by investing in youth in order to prepare for aged societies.

31. Some issues have risen in prominence since 1994 such as the problems of sovereign debt, the epidemic of non-communicable diseases, underachievement of boys in education, the role of men as parents and gun and drug related violence. In Guyana, it has been recognised that in order to address gender and sexual violence, greater attention must be paid to the social phenomena of male absenteeism and the underperformance of boys and young men in education. Many other issues remain highly relevant to Caribbean countries such as job creation, social justice, youth unemployment, economic development, the empowerment of women and social issues which have a negative impact on the lives of our women and children.

32. The Honourable Minister also addressed the impact of migration, which would be given special attention in this meeting and particularly the role of the diaspora as a resource to aid national development. Through mobilising skills, knowledge, innovation, ideas and technology, diasporas are making an important contribution to development and in many countries there are ministries and units responsible for diaspora relations. Remittances also make an important contribution to national economies. Technology, investment and venture capital from the diaspora have become one of the main impetuses to growth, and modern high-tech industries created through venture capital have resulted in the transfer of jobs, skills, and technology.

33. The Honourable Minister concluded by calling for the Caribbean to work together for the common good of its people and expressed the hope that the forum would formulate cohesive policies and plans to chart the way forward beyond 2014.

34. The agenda and preliminary programme of the meeting were accepted. The Honourable Minister then outlined how the outcome document from the meeting would be drafted. Participants would be organised into four groups, each dealing with a specific topic. Those topics will be:

- (a) Population dynamics, youth, ageing, poverty and inequality;
- (b) Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women;
- (c) Achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
- (d) International migration.

35. Each group would draft a section of the outcome document with these sections being brought together to form the Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014.

2. Report by ECLAC on the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2013)

36. The Population Affairs Officer of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented an evaluation of the state of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. He described trends in growth, poverty, and inequality: the negative impact of the global economic crisis on the Caribbean, declines in the most extreme poverty but the persistence of poverty measured against national poverty lines, and high levels of inequality. It was proposed that in order to reduce poverty, it was necessary that social, labour market and economic policies all targeted reductions in inequality. Other recommendations included the strengthening of investment in human capital and labour market information systems.

37. The positive and negative impacts of international migration were discussed and policies to maximise the benefits of international migration such as the engagement of the diaspora in national development, managed immigration, CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and protection of the rights of migrants. The Population Affairs Officer described how Caribbean populations are ageing, and the need for Caribbean governments to ensure that older persons are able to enjoy economic security, independence, access to health and care services, and protection from discrimination and abuse.

38. He stated that the results of the ICPD Global Survey had shown that in many countries the implementation of those aspects of the Cairo Programme of Action which relate to persons with disabilities were either deficient or behind schedule. There has however been growing political commitment in recent years with eight Caribbean countries now having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In respect of gender equality, there have been significant advances in respect of female labour market participation although progress towards equal female representation in national parliaments had been slow and gender based violence remained a pervasive problem.

39. In the area of sexual and reproductive health, the Population Affairs Officer reported that there has been much progress in expanding the provision of family planning services which has contributed to falling fertility rates. There has also been significant progress in reducing the rate of new HIV infections, down 42 per cent between 2001 and 2011. However, continued expansion and improvement of services is required in order to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive rights and services especially for adolescents and youth, women living in poverty and in rural areas, men, persons with disabilities, and LGBT persons. Further reductions in maternal mortality should also be targeted.

40. The Population Affairs Officer concluded his presentation stating that this review had shown that population concerns and the ICPD Programme of Action remain of critical importance to the future sustainable development of the Caribbean. As such, the completion of the Cairo Programme of Action should form a central part of the post-2015 development agenda.

3. Report on the meeting of civil society organizations

41. Following the presentation by ECLAC of the background document for the forum, the Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, presented a statement which had been agreed at a meeting of civil society organizations that took place the day before the forum. This was in follow-up to a meeting of CSOs which took place in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in 2012. In attendance were CSOs representing women, men, youth, persons living with HIV, LGBT persons, sex workers, men who have sex with men, indigenous groups, persons living with disabilities, and faith based groups. On behalf of these organizations, she welcomed the opportunity to review the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to contribute to strengthening links between the ICPD agenda, the MDGs and the development of a post-2015 development agenda. The civil society meeting had focused primarily on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV); young people's sexual and reproductive rights; and international migration.

42. The Executive Director noted achievements in the area of HIV, provision of free SRH services, and reductions in both maternal morbidity and mortality. She also noted the need to target further reductions in maternal morbidity and mortality and the inadequacy of SRH services for certain groups such as older persons, LGBT persons, indigenous persons, adolescents and young people, and persons with disabilities. Too often sex and sexuality remain taboo subjects. There has been progress in the development of youth-friendly SRH services although provision needs to be scaled up and teenage pregnancies are still too common. Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Programmes are inadequate, child marriages too frequent, and boys are treated as criminals for engaging in underage sex. She recognised the progress in the follow up of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention of Belém do Pará, ICPD, the Beijing Platform for Action, and how this has contributed to the establishment of policies and legal frameworks to address GBV. Nevertheless, the high rate of gender based and sexual violence remains unacceptable.

43. She spoke about the marginalisation of men and the attendant problems of crime and violence, and some of the negative aspects of migration such as the loss of skills. She also described how undocumented migrants including sex workers, domestic workers, and refugees do not have equal rights to education, health, housing or SRH services.

44. In their meeting, CSOs had identified a number of priority areas where important implementation gaps still exist. There should be universal access to comprehensive, integrated and high quality SRH services including for men, adolescents, the young, persons with disabilities, LGBT persons, sex workers, and indigenous populations with full respect for their rights and diversity. Legal anomalies between the age of consent to sex, and the age at which SRH services can be accessed must be addressed. There should be agreement on the definition of sexual rights, repeal of laws that restrict access to safe abortion services, and introduction of legislation whereby women can have access to safe abortions. Laws which criminalise adolescent sexuality, sodomy, cross dressing, and LGBT relationships should be repealed and there should be protection of marginalised populations such as LGBT persons, and persons living with HIV. Structures should be created for the greater involvement of civil society groups in monitoring the implementation of international agreements. Priorities in relation to gender included establishing the CARICOM Women's Desk, strengthening institutions, creation of better resourced units to address GBV, action to ensure men and boys recognise and act on their obligation to end violence, promotion of women's leadership in decision-making, and ending child marriage. Other priorities included policies to end human trafficking and addressing the employment needs of youth.

4. Panel 1: Mainstreaming migration into national and regional development planning

45. The first thematic panel session of the forum was chaired by the Officer-in-Charge of the Directorate of Human and Social Development of the CARICOM Secretariat who made reference to the training workshop that was held the previous day, and which was directly linked to the topic of the panel. The training workshop addressed the mainstreaming of migration into national policy and planning, and was organised by the CARICOM Secretariat with support from the European Union. The CARICOM Secretariat is the focal point for implementation of the Caribbean component of the Intra-ACP Migration Facility with Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago being the pilot countries. The workshop was attended by government officials in planning and migration, CSME focal points, and regional civil society organizations. She expressed the hope that the issues, challenges and approaches to mainstreaming migration which were raised in the workshop would enrich this first session of the forum.

46. The first panellist, the Manager of the Population and Health Unit in the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), described how migration policy in Jamaica is being developed within the context of wider national development planning in order to maximise the benefits of migration. These efforts include the development of a National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development; acting as one of four pilot countries seeking to mainstream migration into national development planning in line with the Global Migration Group Handbook, and building capacity in the areas of data analysis and collection.

47. As part of the development of the National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development, there has been extensive consultation across eight thematic areas: labour mobility and development; return, integration and reintegration of migrants; diaspora and development; remittances and development; human rights and social protection; governance and policy coherence; family migration and development; data, research, and information systems. The Manager of the PIOJ described how an interagency group, the National Working Group on International Migration and Development will oversee the development of the Policy and Plan of Action as well as facilitating greater institutional and policy coherence in migration and development initiatives. Stakeholders include a wide range of government departments and agencies, civil society organizations and academia, the private sector and international development partners.

48. The future phases of the project were outlined and these will include an implementation plan; a capacity assessment and development strategy; and a monitoring and evaluation framework. The Manager of the PIOJ concluded by emphasising that strong political will and commitment will be necessary in order to fully implement the policy and that there would be an ongoing need for engagement and consultation with a wide range of partners.

49. The second panellist was the Director of the Caribbean Drug and Alcohol Research Institute, who addressed the forum on the needs of vulnerable groups and vulnerable migrants. He defined vulnerable groups to include the economically disadvantaged; documented and undocumented migrants; racial and ethnic minorities; children from low-income households; the elderly; the homeless; unemployed youth; persons living with HIV; and those with other chronic health conditions including severe mental illness. Legislative prohibitions also make some groups vulnerable such as men who have sex with men, people working in the sex industry, and people who use drugs including young cannabis users. The vulnerability of these individuals can be further compounded by social factors including poor housing, poverty and inadequate education.

50. He distinguished between three domains of health for vulnerable populations: physical, psychological and social. The physical domain refers to health conditions such as chronic non-communicable diseases, HIV, respiratory diseases and hepatitis. The psychological domain refers, for example to chronic mental conditions, excessive alcohol or drug use, while the social realm refers to the health effects of family abuse, gender-based violence, homelessness, and migration status among other factors.

51. Persons living with more than one of these conditions or issues suffer from their cumulative effects. For example, the medical needs of vulnerable populations are more likely to be unmet leading to a worsening of their health. Existing health service delivery and financing arrangements are not meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Factors that contribute to reduced or inhibited access to healthcare include low income, criminalised behaviours, low level of education, rural location and immigration status.

52. The Director of the Caribbean Drug and Alcohol Research Institute stated that migrants are prone to harassment, discrimination, exclusion, violence and exploitation, hampering their own human development and that of their families and communities. People who engage in behaviours or activities that are criminalised (including those having irregular immigration status) are less likely to present for health care. In the case of infectious diseases, this then has a negative effect on overall public health.

53. The state as the enactor of legislation and policies has the power to reduce or increase vulnerability through laws that address the protection of basic human rights. Laws that increase vulnerability include those which restrict minors from accessing sexual and reproductive health services without parental consent, the buggery laws that seek to legislate private adult consensual sex, prostitution laws that criminalise a financial transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller, and drug prevention programmes that do not include harm reduction programmes for people who use drugs.

54. He argued that states should take measures to promote and protect the human rights of all persons but especially migrants, both documented and undocumented, and child migrants. Such measures would include access to SRH services, protection from gender-based violence, diseases and other threats to life, and access to essential public services that are not required to report on the immigration status of service users.

55. The next speaker was a Consultant from Kairi Consultants Ltd. who presented the results of an assessment of south-south migration in three Caribbean countries: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. This included the study of migration for economic reasons, student migration, parental migration and irregular migration. The study was based on a survey of policymakers, focus group sessions and an analysis of published statistics on migration.

56. Intra-Caribbean migration is generally from lower income countries to higher income countries. While the CSME has facilitated increased skilled migration across the region, full freedom of movement for workers within the CSME has yet to be realised. It is thought that stocks of irregular migrants have been increasing in the Caribbean. The main countries of origin are: West African countries (Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal), South East Asia (India and Sri Lanka) and Latin America (Venezuela, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic). Xenophobia, discrimination and prejudice are still facts of life for some migrants in some countries.

57. The Consultant reported that based on the focus group meetings, Guyanese and Haitian immigrants faced the highest levels of discrimination from nationals in the three destination countries which were studied. Perceptions of migrants' origin, education level and income level influenced how they were treated. Policymakers identified a number of barriers to south-south migration as well as barriers to the management of such migration. The barriers to migration included the cost of transportation, onerous immigration procedures and lack of proper immigration legislation. Challenges in the management of migration concerned the availability of data and lack of information systems.

58. The study made a number of recommendations which included improving data availability, information systems and research capacity; collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs); improving the financial services available for the transfer of remittances; addressing the absence of legally binding supranational agreements between CARICOM and other non-CARICOM

members of the region; reforming immigration policy based on priority economic sectors and labour needs; providing migrants with support services in housing, health and social services; strengthening national border patrols to curtail the infiltration of irregular migrants; addressing human trafficking; and developing a refugee policy.

59. The final speaker on panel one was a Migration Expert from the Diaspora Policy Institute and Partnership with Africa Foundation, Berlin, who spoke about the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. He spoke about changes in perceptions of migration in the research and policy fields including more positive views concerning migration since the early 2000s.

60. He spoke about some of the important themes of the 2013 High-level Dialogue. These included the evolution of migration and development as a policy area and paradigm, progress on policy development and implementation, integration of migration and development into national, regional and supranational development strategies, and policies to engage the financial, intellectual, social and other capital of the diaspora.

61. The Migration Expert also described how the first High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006 gave rise to the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a recent initiative of United Nations Member States to address the migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways. These include providing a forum for policymakers to discuss relevant policies and the practical challenges and opportunities of the migration-development nexus; to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes at national, bilateral and international level; to exchange good practices and experiences; to identify information, policy and institutional gaps; to establish partnerships and cooperation; and to structure the international priorities and agenda on migration and development.

62. In the ensuing discussion, the high rates of emigration for tertiary educated persons for a number of Caribbean countries were questioned. The Honourable Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago emphasised the importance of getting the statistics correct. A Professor of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus clarified that the emigration rates for tertiary educated persons include not just those who emigrate after receiving their higher education in the Caribbean, but also people who emigrated as children and received their higher education abroad. A Consultant at the Bureau of Statistics of Guyana suggested that the problem was not so much that data on migration was not collected, but rather that the data that existed was not shared.

63. There was some discussion of the problem of homelessness among involuntary returnees to the Caribbean. In her response, the Manager of the PIOJ described a project that is part of a joint programme with the IOM and the British High Commission in Jamaica which is seeking to reintegrate involuntary return migrants.

5. Panel 2: International migration and development

64. This panel session began with a short video presentation made by the Chair of the Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for the period January 2013 to June 2014. She described how the GFMD enables governments and CSOs to share experiences and lessons in respect of migration policies and programmes. Within the GFMD, government teams come together to discuss issues such as labour migration, diasporas and remittances, strategies for addressing irregular migration while enabling regular migration, the rights of migrants, policy coherence and mainstreaming, data, and research.

65. During the Swedish chairmanship of the GFMD there will be a particular focus on working with the private sector and reaching out to migrant and diaspora groups. The Global Forum Round Tables will address the following topics: migration in the post-2015 development agenda; the

dynamics of labour migration, skills matching and the contribution of the diaspora; and empowerment of migrants, the protection and transfer of social and economic assets.

66. The Swedish chairmanship will culminate in a Global Forum meeting to be held in Stockholm in mid-May 2014. The Chair of the GMFD issued an invitation to engage with the Global Forum, for example through the nomination of academics or think tank to be involved in the expert networks. She called for the mobilisation of support among governments to ensure that migration is fully integrated into the post-2015 development agenda and encouraged all stakeholders to nurture the constructive approach to migration which has evolved over the years in the GFMD.

67. Panel 2 was chaired by the Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica. He began by introducing the idea of brain circulation, as opposed to brain drain and suggested that an understanding of both of these concepts should inform migration policy.

68. The first panellist was the Chief Executive Officer of A-Z Information Jamaica Limited, who reviewed the movement of persons during the last decade under the CSME. He described the place of free movement of persons within the CSME and the categories of workers who are currently eligible for free movement. He also described the growth in the number of skills certificates issued: 13,844 had been issued by 2013 compared to 8,516 up to 2010. Holders of skills certificates are more likely to be university graduates, slightly more are females compared to males, and many are persons under 35 years old. A larger number of workers still move with work permits, rather than skills certificates, and these are used more by men and lower skilled workers. Among Caribbean countries, there is a lack of standardisation in respect of processes, fees and even the appearance of skills certificates.

69. The positive impacts of this skilled migration include the more efficient allocation of skilled labour although some countries suffer a depletion of their human resources base. The Chief Executive Officer closed by summarising the conclusions of the study carried out for CARICOM in 2010 which made a number of recommendations including harmonization of legislation across member States as it relates to free movement, harmonization of processes, standardization of Skilled National Certificates, augmentation of the human resource capacity of the CSME Unit within each member State and provision of public information.

70. The second speaker on panel 2 was a Professor of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She provided an overview of migration in the subregion: the high level of skilled migration, low levels of voluntary return and high levels of remittances. She discussed some of the costs and benefits of skilled migration for Caribbean countries. Migration is an expression of individual freedom which enhances human capital development and contributes to trade, investment and poverty alleviation. The costs include net losses of human capital which impact upon economic development and the maintenance of essential services in some countries. She also discussed options for including migration in development planning such as more managed migration of skilled workers, encouraging return migration, the engagement of the diaspora, the role of remittances, managed immigration and the creation of an enabling environment for migrants.

71. The final speaker on panel 3 was a Migration and Development Expert of the Intra-ACP Migration Facility who discussed access to social protection from a south-south perspective. She spoke about the Intra-ACP Migration Facility; the objective of which is to encourage mainstreaming of migration into national and regional development strategies in order to enhance their positive impact on development. The project involves working with a number of pilot countries among which are Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago. The Expert questioned the extent to which immigrants were a burden on social protection systems given their age, education level and their propensity to work. She identified four key elements of social protection for migrants: access to formal social protection on an equal basis, portability of benefits, labour market conditions and access to informal networks.

72. The Expert identified five priorities in respect of south-south migration: improved access for migrants to basic social rights such as freedom from exploitation and safe workplace conditions, development of a migration policy framework which is demand and supply driven and provides opportunities for time limited circular migration, portability of legally available benefits for migrants, access to safe and affordable remittance channels and the financial sector, and expansion of research on labour market conditions in receiving countries.

73. Following the presentations there was a discussion of the deleterious effects of dependence on remittances which were described as inducing a sense of waiting to emigrate and a feeling of not having a stake in the society.

74. This panel was closed with final words from the Migration Expert from the Diaspora Policy Institute and Partnership with Africa Foundation. He suggested that based on his experience in Trinidad and Tobago, and comparing that with what he had seen in other countries, he felt that the value of developing links with the diaspora is yet to be fully recognised or exploited. He also emphasised that the development of policy in this area must be carried out with the very close involvement of CSOs since these organizations are critical in the implementation of diaspora policies.

6. Panel 3: Population dynamics, poverty and inequality

75. This panel was chaired by the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago, who introduced the panellists, the first of whom was a Specialist in Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation of the International Labour Organization's Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean. He addressed the forum on the subject of "Poverty and inequality: The promotion of growth strategies, job creation and decent work."

76. The Specialist in Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation described how following the financial crisis, growth in the region fell to -1.6 per cent per year during the period 2008 to 2011 from an average of 2.2 per cent from 2001 to 2007. Growth in GDP per capita contributed to a decline in extreme poverty (or indigence) particularly in Trinidad and Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean so that now, only Belize, Guyana and Suriname have a significant proportion of people living in extreme poverty. Progress in reducing poverty as measured by national poverty lines has been less evident in large part due to persistently high levels of inequality.

77. The determinants of poverty and inequality in the Caribbean include unemployment, underemployment, informal sector employment, low skills and low productivity, urban/rural differentials, chronic non-communicable diseases, food vulnerability, high adolescent fertility and weak social protection systems. The groups that are particularly vulnerable to poverty are youth, women, children, indigenous persons, migrant workers, domestic workers and persons with disabilities.

78. The ICPD Programme of Action recognizes that sustained economic growth within the context of sustainable development is essential to eradicate poverty. In this regard, there has been a focus on sustainable development policies including the promotion of economic development and job creation in sectors including agriculture, education, creative services and tourism. The green economy including the creation of green jobs is also an important avenue for development.

79. The Specialist in Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation identified some of the key areas for action in the Caribbean including promotion of National Action Plans on Employment, the development of a regional platform of policies on youth employment, strengthening of the social partners and the social dialogue mechanism (organizations representing employers and employees), strengthening of Labour Market Information Systems, and special attention to equal opportunities and gender policies that address imbalances and gaps through anti-discrimination programmes.

80. The CARICOM Gender Justice Advocate then addressed the forum on the promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women and poverty reduction. She stated that while the Caribbean has made significant advances in gender equality and there have been achievements in respect of legislative frameworks governing sexual abuse and domestic violence, a number of challenges remain. The Caribbean has one of the highest rates of rape in the world and estimates indicate that 30 to 50 per cent of all murders in some Caribbean countries are the result of domestic violence. There are continuing high levels of teenage pregnancy, and both violence and pregnancy fuel a cycle of poverty and inequality.

81. To understand the culture of domestic violence, CARICOM commissioned a study on gender-based violence, attitudes towards masculinity, and the links between Caribbean masculinity and violence. The results from this study indicate that 12 per cent of all respondents (including some girls) believed that there were some instances in which a woman should be beaten, 48 per cent of respondents indicated that it was important for a female intimate partner to be disciplined, 49 per cent of respondents indicated that being sexually active was an important characteristic of masculinity and boys are led to believe that they have no control over their sexual urges.

82. A multi-pronged approach is required to address these issues and the CARICOM Gender Justice Advocate identified several priorities. There is a need to work with youth and men to promote sexual responsibility and gender equality, and to build on regional and global good practices. There must be a strengthening of the regional framework for implementation of international agreements. It is also imperative to staff the Women's Desk at the CARICOM Secretariat to support the advancement of work in the area of gender equality in the Caribbean.

83. The third speaker on this panel was the Director a.i. of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Guyana who defined the three aims of her presentation as being: to emphasise the nexus between population dynamics and the reduction of poverty, to highlight some achievements of Guyana in respect of the Cairo Programme of Action and to make recommendations to bridge perceived gaps in the process of policymaking.

84. She emphasised five key linkages between population dynamics and poverty reduction in the context of Guyana. While population growth may not be a grave concern for the Caribbean, it could be argued that some Caribbean economies would benefit from having a greater critical mass of people. Population ageing is less advanced in Guyana than in some other Caribbean countries and therefore the needs of a growing working age population must also be taken into account. There are links between fertility, maternal mortality and morbidity, teenage pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, and poverty. The distribution of population is important in countries such as Guyana where urban/rural differences are stark. Finally, international migration, particularly emigration, has a huge impact on Guyana.

85. The Director a.i. of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences highlighted some key achievements of poverty reduction initiatives in Guyana which included the creation of a Women's Entrepreneurs Network, a microcredit scheme for single parents, a National Policy on Women and a National Action Plan for Women, the provision of school uniform vouchers, and the development of small and medium enterprises. For older persons a geriatric facility and free health services are provided at all government facilities including provision of free eye care, hearing aids and psychosocial support to the elderly. There was a 14 per cent increase in the old age pension in 2012, food assistance, housing assistance, a reduction in land rates and taxes, a reduction in water rates, and subsidised electricity. In order to address teenage pregnancy, an Adolescent Health Strategy was developed as well as a National Sexually Transmissible Infection Strategy, and a new policy on HIV "HiVision 2020". The organization Women Across Differences, a national network of women and women's organizations, works with adolescent and teen mothers to reduce unplanned pregnancies through empowerment programmes that focus on personal development, literacy and vocational, life and income earning skills.

86. In closing her presentation, the Director a.i. of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences made several recommendations including the need for a population policy to promote social development. There is a need for a more participatory process of decision-making for genuine sustainable development. Sustainability issues need to be integrated with development in upstream decision-making, using strategic environmental assessments to ensure that a harmonious balance between environmental protection, social equity and economic growth is maintained. Policy regarding the provision of education to school drop outs (for example those due to teenage pregnancy) needs to be enforced. There must be viable and attractive opportunities in rural areas. Regional imbalances need to be further reduced through regional investment policies.

87. The Head of the Diaspora Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana informed the meeting about the Guyana Diaspora Project, which will seek to match the skills gaps in the local economy with Guyanese in the diaspora who may be willing to return either temporarily or permanently. Members of the diaspora can register online. A Consultant from the Guyana Bureau of Statistics spoke about the need to improve the availability of data on international migration.

88. A Professor in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, called for greater balance in the discourse on gender and greater focus on men both as perpetrators of violence and victims. He cited the fact that although conviction rates for rape in cases where the victim is female are low, conviction rates in cases where the victim is male are even lower. In part, this is due to the fact that many men are unwilling to admit that they have been raped. He went on to speak about how programmes which sought to tackle the behaviour of violent men were just as necessary as programmes addressing the needs of victims. The final speaker from the floor reinforced the need to look at the model of masculinity and suggested that we are “training young people to be male and female, not men and women”, in other words, to fulfil stereotypical gender roles rather than fully realising what they can be as men and women. She stated that the high levels of violence in the Caribbean impact upon the health, productivity, and welfare of people.

89. The Honourable Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago closed this session by talking about the complex nature of the development challenge faced by the Caribbean due to its geography and the movements of people, goods and services within the hemisphere. He expressed the hope that through working together, both within the subregion and with global partners, the Caribbean could rise to meet this development challenge.

7. Panel 4: Population ageing, the rights of older persons and the rights of persons with disabilities

90. This panel was chaired by the Director of Social Services and Community Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis who introduced the panellists, the first of whom was the Regional Director of HelpAge International who presented on the topic of Economic Security and Social Protection for Older Persons. He described how most Caribbean populations are ageing rapidly and even those countries where ageing is less advanced, such as Belize and Guyana, will soon start to see more rapid increases in the number of older persons. He also made the point that population ageing is a universal concern for all ages.

91. For older persons, there are social insurance programmes although coverage varies across the region. There are a significant proportion of the older population who do not receive a contributory pension and those in the informal sector are largely excluded. Consequently, many older persons do not have a reliable source of income. There are three categories of non-contributory pension/public assistance. There are means-tested social pensions, such as in Belize, where people must meet certain criteria in order to receive the pension. There are pension-tested grants, such as in Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, which older persons receive when they have no access to any other pension. In addition there are universal social pensions, such as those in Guyana

and Suriname, which all older persons receive whether or not they have access to another pension. The family remains a key source of income security for older people in the Caribbean.

92. Many older people still work to support themselves but are denied access to microcredit and loans; and public assistance programmes often focus on the indigent poor. Inadequate incomes create anxiety and stress as people are unable to meet medical expenses, buy nutritious food or repair their homes.

93. Population ageing has also been a key driver in the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases which have placed greater demands on health care services. The fact that there are more older people, means that there are more people suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, cancers, Alzheimer's disease, heart diseases, hearing and vision loss.

94. The Regional Director of HelpAge International concluded by emphasising the importance of a rights-based approach to development, ensuring the enjoyment of rights throughout the life course. Secure and dignified lives in old age will depend on improved social protection systems and universal and equitable health care.

95. The second panellist was the Director of the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of the People and Social Development in Trinidad and Tobago. She described how 13.4 per cent of Trinidad and Tobago's population is over 60 with this proportion projected to increase to 17.7 per cent in 2025 and 30.1 per cent in 2050.

96. The Director of the Division of Ageing described how the Ministry is seeking to promote independent living for older persons through a range of health and social support services including Senior Centres and the elderly and differently abled mobile shuttle (ELDAMO). There are targeted conditional cash transfer programmes, direct deposit for pension payments, social welfare grants, retirement planning seminars, reverse mortgage arrangements, homecare services, the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme, microenterprise grants and loans, model assisted living facilities, and adult day-care services.

97. There are numerous initiatives to promote social participation such as an annual Public Open Forum for Older Persons, an Annual Senior Citizens Parliament, commemoration of International Day of Older Persons, senior's social events, the Masters Track and Field, retirees associations, intergenerational conversations, and mentoring programmes. There are also a number of initiatives designed to address stigma and discrimination which include legislation to regulate homes for older persons, development of omnibus legislation for the elderly and the commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

98. The Director of the Division of Ageing made the following recommendations: (i) intergenerational volunteerism should be promoted, (ii) ageing should be promoted positively to counter ageism, (iii) gerontology and geriatric care should be offered as degree programs in the subregion, (iv) there should be a coordinated approach to dealing with cases of elder abuse, and (v) the "young old" should be included among trained caregivers.

99. The final panellist of the day was a representative of the National Commission on Disability in Guyana who discussed progress towards the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities. She described the passing of the Guyana Persons with Disability Act (2010) which addresses: education, employment, health, sports, recreation, independent living, accessibility and political rights.

100. The National Commission on Disability in Guyana has been working with various government ministries to facilitate compliance with the Disability Act, support advocacy and policy negotiations, sensitize the public regarding the Disability Act, strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities and develop a database for persons with disabilities. Advances have been made in relation

to rehabilitation and specialized services for persons with disabilities and of particular note is the University of Guyana degree programme in rehabilitation that will see a first batch of students graduate in 2014.

101. The representative shared with the audience various experiences, including personal testimonies, in which persons with disabilities experienced difficulties accessing transportation and buildings. She stated that the main challenges facing persons with disabilities included accessibility (public transportation, public and private buildings, roads and side-walks), availability of information in formats that could be understood by persons with disabilities (for example persons with impaired hearing and vision), availability of services providing information and care to persons with disabilities (currently the National Commission on Disability is not located in all regions of Guyana and health services are not fully specialized in order to provide high quality health care to persons with disabilities).

102. In summing up, the representative of the National Commission on Disability recommended that governments should implement a Disability Act to address the needs of persons with disabilities, that governments must establish an accessible transportation system, that the International Convention Centre be made accessible for persons with disabilities and that persons with disabilities register with the National Commission on Disability.

103. Following the presentations, the Manager of the Planning Institute of Jamaica commented that population ageing also had implications for younger people who needed to prepare for retirement while supporting the present generation of older persons. She also raised the link between population ageing and disability with an increase in the proportion of older persons leading to an increase in the number of persons suffering from disabilities. The Director of the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of the People and Social Development in Trinidad and Tobago described how in Trinidad and Tobago retirement planning seminars attempt to prepare young people for retirement, and how initiatives such as the ELDAMO shuttle serve both older persons and persons with disabilities. The Director of the Caribbean Drug and Alcohol Research Institute criticised the social security system in Saint Lucia, which he stated entices people to take a lump sum when they retire instead of a regular pension. The Officer-in-Charge of the Bureau of Women's Affairs in the Bahamas confirmed that persons with disabilities in the Bahamas face similar challenges and difficulties as those described by the representative of the National Commission on Disability, and that the needs of women with disabilities in particular needed to be addressed with some urgency.

104. The Chairperson, the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana thanked the presenters and assured the forum that the Government of Guyana will work to ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied access to any building.

8. Panel 5: Access to reproductive health services and rights

105. This panel was chaired by the Deputy Director, Programme Development of the Ministry of Health in Suriname. The first speaker was the Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago who spoke about the need to change the context in which we discuss sexuality to one that is open, respectful of individual rights and freedoms, and free from discrimination. She discussed the importance of sexual and reproductive rights to the achievement of gender equality, the elimination of new HIV infection, and poverty reduction.

106. The Family Planning Association advocates a life cycle approach aimed at changing the life circumstances of persons living in poverty: planned births, healthy babies, responsible sexual behaviour in adolescence and adulthood, and good parenting. The Executive Director emphasised the importance of an appropriate legal and policy framework, human and financial resources, a wide network of service delivery outlets, and strong partnerships.

107. In the Caribbean there needs to be a wider understanding of sexual rights and greater commitment to the implementation of international agreements in respect of sexual and reproductive rights and health. However, examples of good practice include community care and support to HIV positive parents to ensure adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Haiti, youth-friendly services in Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, and the scale up of voluntary counselling and testing services for persons living with HIV in Trinidad and Tobago.

108. She closed by observing that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to health, are strongly underpinned by the progress that can be made on sexual and reproductive health. Ill-health from causes related to sexuality and reproduction remains a major cause of preventable death, disability and suffering among women. Poor sexual and reproductive health also contributes significantly to poverty, inhibiting affected individuals' full participation in socioeconomic development.

109. The next panellist was a legal and policy Consultant from Jamaica, who spoke on the topic of legal and social barriers which impede access to SRH services. She started by talking about health as a human right, which in the case of Guyana and Jamaica is enshrined in the constitution. In most other countries health rights are articulated at the policy level. Such rights are universal in theory although stigma and discrimination, for example on grounds of disability, mental health, and age among other factors, may mean that the right to health is not realised.

110. Access to SRH services by adolescents is hindered by legal barriers which reflect concerns that greater knowledge about contraceptives will encourage children to have sex. Jamaica is currently experiencing tensions between the health sector's intention of preventing risky sexual encounters between minors and the child protection sector's intention of prohibiting any such sexual encounters. There is currently no distinction between consensual sex between minors and sexual predation/exploitation by adults. In the case of sex between minors, both the boy and the girl involved are deemed to be culpable of engaging in a criminal act, and anyone providing them with contraception would be culpable of aiding and abetting a criminal act. This has implications for parents and for various professions and service providers in their dealings with adolescents which may prevent them from intervening in cases of sex between minors. It also hinders authorities trying to deal with sexual predation/exploitation by adults.

111. Jamaica's Law Reform Act allows a child at the age of 16 to consent to medical, surgical and auxiliary procedures but does not necessarily cover SRH services delivered outside of primary health care facilities. There are also outdated laws such as those relating to buggery which apply the same label to coerced and consensual sex between men thereby criminalising gay sex while failing to provide protection against male rape.

112. There have been some recent advances in respect of laws dealing with sexual violence in Jamaica, for example the Child Pornography Act, Trafficking in Persons Act, Cyber Crimes Act and laws restricting commercial profit from child sexual exploitation; for example employment of a child in a nightclub or using a child to do any immoral act.

113. The legal and policy Consultant ended her presentation by looking at movements within Caribbean jurisprudence to change SRH laws to better serve the needs of local populations. She stated that within the structures of Caribbean democratic and law-making processes, laws are unlikely to advance too far beyond the values, norms, and prejudices of our people. Legal changes therefore cannot be divorced from the concurrent requirement for social and behaviour change advocacy. Among the first target points for advocacy are those who are tasked with enforcing and applying laws and those who can significantly impact their implementation and contextual interpretation.

114. The third panellist in this session was the Director of Gender Affairs in Antigua and Barbuda, who spoke on the subject of women's empowerment, gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence. Gender equality continues to permeate Caribbean societies and women face

disadvantage and discrimination at all stages of their lives. She reported that in Antigua and Barbuda, women continue to be under-represented in parliament (2 out of 19 seats in the lower house and 5 out of 17 seats in the upper house are held by women). Previously, there had been even fewer women in parliament. Concerted efforts to improve the situation are being led by the Caribbean Institute of Women in Leadership.

115. Gender-based violence is a manifestation of unequal power in gender relations which is reinforced by gender stereotypes in popular culture including songs. Gender inequality and violation of women's rights can leave women with less control over their bodies, in a state of economic dependency and unable to negotiate safe sex. Sexual violence leaves women vulnerable to HIV and evidence suggests that, contrary to what is commonly imagined, marriage is also a risk factor for HIV infection.

116. She described how CARICOM has developed model legislation for dealing with domestic violence, sexual harassment, and sexual offences. This has formed the basis for legislation in a number of countries although implementation of legislation on sexual harassment in particular is lagging behind. Despite legislation being in place, there are many obstacles which can prevent perpetrators being brought to justice and women can still face unsympathetic attitudes on the part of police, doctors, and judges.

117. The Director of Gender Affairs concluded by citing efforts in Antigua and Barbuda to improve the response to cases of sexual violence across multiple agencies, and improving the services provided to victims of sexual assault. A special unit has been established in the police force and there are plans for a Sexual Assault Referral Centre, a one-stop shop where victims can receive medical care, counselling, and can assist the police in investigating their complaint, for example by undergoing medical examination. Nurses are being trained as sexual assault nurse examiners.

118. Following the presentations, the Director of the Caribbean Drug and Alcohol Research Institute commented that to educate someone, for example about sex and contraception, is not the same thing as giving them permission to do it. He also stated that prisoners had the same right to medical services as other members of the population.

119. The Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica responded to the legal and policy Consultant's comments on the Sexual Offences Act of Jamaica and stated that the new Act was an improvement over the Offences against the Person Act which had been inadequate. The Honourable Minister also argued that the buggery law is not anti-homosexual, as had been suggested, since it speaks not about man but more generally about mankind, and therefore does not relate specifically to gay sex. The legal and policy Consultant responded by recognising that the Offences against the Person Act did represent progress over the previous act, but stated that it was still deficient in a number of areas. She identified the fact that sex between men was treated the same whether or not consent was involved was particularly problematic.

120. The Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana informed the forum that the sexual offences laws of Guyana had recently been revised following extensive consultation, and that experience could prove a useful point of reference for other countries. A member of the Caribbean Coalition on Population and Development emphasised the importance of extending sexual and reproductive rights and health to persons in same sex relationships. The Director of the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of the People and Social Development in Trinidad and Tobago argued that we need to widen the definition of the family to include non-traditional structures, such as grandmothers caring for granddaughters, and also touched on issues such as fertility differentials across social classes, and the sexual practices of older and disabled persons

121. The representative from Grenada commented that judges were excessively lenient in their punishment of sexual offences, perhaps because they did not fully appreciate the level of pain and suffering that these offences cause to victims.

122. The Head of Social Development Unit of the OECS Secretariat spoke about his work on a Juvenile Justice Reform Project and the wide variations in the age of criminal responsibility across different countries as well as the constraints on social policy imposed by the fiscal situation in OECS countries.

123. The next speaker spoke about the criminalisation of children who are victims of child abuse and neglect, and the fact that Guyana needed new laws to deal with these problems. Guyana has an offense called wandering and children or adolescents can be picked up off the street and sent to a correctional facility for juveniles. In a relatively recent study, the majority of young people in these facilities were there for the offence of wandering. There is a need to enact new laws to deal with these issues because young people are being denied justice. More details were provided about the new sexual offences law in Guyana. This law includes a section about consensual sexual acts between teenagers which allows for a defence to be made in the case of teenagers of similar ages. Additionally, the definition of rape has been widened so that it is now gender neutral and covers a wider range of non-consensual sexual acts. The value of workplace programs on SRH and GBV prevention were also endorsed, particularly for men who are less likely to visit health centres of their own accord.

124. The representative of the Bahamas confirmed that the Sexual Offenses Act (2007) in the Bahamas had also widened the definition of rape in a similar way. In the Bahamas, there is a referral system that operates between clinics and social services in cases of teenage pregnancies, and between clinics, social services and the police in cases of abuse.

125. A Professor in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, offered a different perspective on the gender issues that had been discussed. He described research in which men had been asked how they regard the broadening of the definition of rape and only 15 per cent had thought it should be broadened which he suggested was an indication that much needed to be done to change men's attitudes. He also went on to say that in the Caribbean, rather than gender cooperation, there is a gender war. He cited statistics which showed that only a small minority of families make decisions together as well as statistics which showed that 60-75 per cent of unoccupied urban youth were male. He also went on to suggest that women's dominance of higher education in the Caribbean was partly due to their greater access to financial resources because while men were expected to support their wives or girlfriends, those women were able to spend their money on themselves: "my money is our money and your money is your money".

126. The Director of Belize Youth Empowerment for Change spoke about the fact that for many people who experience discrimination in their home countries, for example LGBT persons, migrate to countries such as the United States and Canada in which there is greater tolerance and laws that protect minorities. He stated that many LGBT migrants were highly educated and that this was an additional aspect of the brain drain that is often forgotten.

9. Panel 6: Adolescents and youth

127. The final panel session was moderated by the Director a.i. of the Department of Youth Services in Belize. She started by talking about some of the links between education, employment and sexual and reproductive health and the need to break the cycle of adolescent pregnancy, intergenerational transmission of poverty, and aspects of culture that normalize aggressive masculinities and sexual violence. She emphasised the importance of a life cycle approach and the provision of a continuum of services to support young people from early childhood through the transition to adulthood.

128. The first speaker was the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana. He examined the relationship between sexual and reproductive health, and education and employment amongst Caribbean youth. Many youth are engaged in risky behaviours including substance abuse, early sexual initiation, multiple partnering and crime. He outlined the potentially beneficial impacts of investing in both education and SRH services for this group. In focusing on the transition from

adolescence to adulthood, the Honourable Minister highlighted five priority areas: education, health, family formation, empowerment and employment.

129. The Honourable Minister identified a number of reasons for investing in the education of young people, particularly higher education which yields an increase in potential productivity and employability. Persons with only a primary education are usually more vulnerable to adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI), crime, violence and substance abuse. Supporting the education of girls encourages them to: stay in school longer; postpone marriage; delay family formation; care for their sexual and reproductive health; and encourages them to become more economically independent.

130. The Honourable Minister made a number of recommendations relating to sexual and reproductive health including universal access to services for the youth population, removal of legal barriers, improved SRH education in schools with more youth-friendly spaces where SRH information is provided and the maintenance of programs on HIV/STI (despite funding cuts). In the area of education and training there needs to be a better match between the education system and the skills demanded by employers; a national skill strategy including the expansion of skills training opportunities for disadvantaged youth linked to social protection for the poorest youth; microfinancing available to encourage entrepreneurship and more apprenticeships. In addition there should be second chance education programs, training for disadvantaged young women and technology should be harnessed to create new job opportunities.

131. Following the presentation by the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana, a women and gender Specialist from Guyana addressed the issue of adolescent pregnancy. She described the high rates of adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean region and stated that this was an indicator that the goals of the Cairo Programme of Action relating to adolescent girls had yet to be achieved. She talked about the vulnerability of girls during their adolescence and described some of the factors that lead to adolescent pregnancy such as sexual experimentation, seeking love and attention, peer pressure, low self-esteem, rape, incest, lack of knowledge and difficulties in accessing family planning services. She also spoke about the fact that when health workers are faced with adolescent sexual behaviour, if they are not guided by clear policies and protocols, they will tend to fall back on their own beliefs and prejudices.

132. The women and gender Specialist recommended that there should be an investment in comprehensive programmes that involve NGOs, the private sector and government so that young people can access education and training. This should include mentoring, educating males (particularly in respect of SRH), gender equality and responsibilities. The media should also be utilised to send positive messages to youth and politicians. The needs of adolescent mothers must also be addressed.

133. The next speaker on this panel was the President of the Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN) from Dominica. In his opening remarks, he explained the role of CariMAN, stated its vision, and read its mission statement which echoed some key elements of the ICPD Programme of Action. He described some of the risks faced by young women particularly in relation to sexual violence, and talked about the work of CariMAN with young boys and men in preventing gender-based violence. He cited a 2008 survey that showed that between 52 and 73 per cent of adolescents in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago had reported abuse. He noted that boys are also sexually abused although often they do not speak about it and may become withdrawn or violent.

134. He described some of the common causes of sexual violence; the reasons for not reporting sexual violence and some of the consequences of sexual violence. The President of CariMAN concluded by making a number of recommendations aimed at preventing gender-based violence, encouraging governments to develop non-violence programmes, create child-friendly schools, provide parenting skills programmes, implement anti-bullying policies, improve Health and Family Life programmes, and engage stakeholders in discussions on LGBT issues.

135. The final speaker on this panel was a Senior Education Officer (HFLE specialist and trainer) from the Ministry of Education from Barbados. She described the work that had been done in Barbados to invest in adolescents and youth and to ensure safe passage ways into adult life. The Health and Family Life Education programme in Barbados has served as the curriculum response to this issue for in-school adolescents and youth. There is an entire module on SRH addressing issues from ages 5 to 16 and beyond. Out-of-school adolescents and youth are also beneficiaries of life skills training.

136. The Senior Education Officer reported that Barbados is currently ranked seventh in the world in respect of education. She spoke of a multi-faceted approach which utilises the Ministries of Education, Family, Youth and Sport, Health and the Bureau of Gender Affairs to collaborate and deliver programmes for adolescents, youth, parents and families. A new programme has recently been introduced: “Skills for the Future”, which seeks to prepare adolescents and youth for their future and that of the country. She identified the main challenges in Barbados as being: providing access to specific health services for adolescents and youth, especially those under 14 years; educating adolescents and youth about risks they face; challenges in providing out-of-school youth with the knowledge, skills and competencies to empower them to be meaningful contributors to society and to family life; and utilising the technology to reach adolescents and youth in areas of need.

137. She made a number of recommendations on the way forward. Young people need to be provided with the mentorship and guidance necessary to become the champions and advocates of their rights. There should be monitoring and evaluation of the measures that are put in place in order to assure their relevance and effectiveness to this age cohort. An integrated approach must be adopted by all stakeholders to address issues of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health, unemployment, and violence.

138. The Senior Education Officer called for the implementation of comprehensive and collaborative programs to address the needs of young people. Furthermore, she recommended that the school leaving age be raised to 18 and she called for young people to be equipped with skills for the future. She stated that a myriad of programs have been undertaken in Barbados and called for the implementation of policies and frameworks throughout the subregion to fully implement the Cairo Programme of Action.

139. In the discussion following the presentations, the point was made in response to the President of CariMAN that gay men are often profiled as sexual predators and that it was important to make a clear distinction between these two categories of men. A member of the UNFPA Youth Advisory Group addressed the meeting on behalf of teenage single mothers. She stressed the importance of reintegration into the school system, psychosocial support and preventative measures to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy. An intern at UNFPA in Guyana made a call for more youth activism and for greater youth involvement in policymaking. She also called for investment in the development of programmes for young people including programmes which actively engage young people such as peer counselling.

140. The representative of the Government of Bahamas questioned how the Education Act in Guyana addressed the issue of pregnancy and teenage mothers. She also spoke about the Providing Access to Continued Education Program that seeks to reduce repeated pregnancies and improve the quality of life for teenage mothers and their babies. The Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Guyana confirmed that Guyana has a policy of compulsory education including for teenage mothers. He described the decline in the rate of teenage pregnancy in Guyana but also expressed the wish to learn from the experience in the Bahamas.

141. A Youth Advisor of UNFPA Trinidad and Tobago Youth Advisory Committee spoke about the need to address sexist and misogynistic attitudes in popular culture such as music and commercials. She also pointed out that by no means all Caribbean countries have youth councils or similar bodies and there was a need to expand opportunities for youth to participate in decision-

making processes. In addition she questioned why there was not greater focus on teenage fathers in addition to teenage mothers. In response the President of CariMAN stated that in Dominica this issue was starting to be addressed.

142. There was then a discussion of how youth are perceived by older generations. The Director of the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of the People and Social Development in Trinidad and Tobago spoke about her experience as an educator and questioned whether Caribbean youth are sufficiently creative, curious, and independent minded. In response it was argued that older generations have a tendency to look with a disapproving eye upon the behaviour of young people and older generations needed to be less judgemental.

143. The final speaker from the floor in this panel session, the Chairperson of the Diocesan Family Life Commission, drew attention to the work of that organization with youth as well as men and boys.

10. Discussion and agreement of the Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014

144. On the afternoon of the second day, work commenced on drafting a road map for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean. The work was organised into four groups, with group leaders as follows:

- (a) Population dynamics, youth, ageing, poverty and inequality (Director a.i. of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana)
- (b) Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women (CARICOM Gender Justice Advocate)
- (c) Achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago)
- (d) Migration (A Professor of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus)

145. What became the Road Map for Population, Development and Migration beyond 2014 was developed based on the inputs and the discussions within these groups. The Road Map consists of a series of recommendations grouped under these four headings.

146. The Caribbean Forum was followed on 11 July 2013 by the sixteenth meeting of Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, where the Road Map was presented for endorsement by the Honourable Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago. Following some further refinement of some of the recommendations, the committee duly provided that endorsement, and this final version of the Road Map is attached as annex I.

147. The Manager of the Planning Institute of Jamaica stated that her government still held some reservations about the language used in some of the recommendations but would express those reservations through the following written statement: "The Government of Jamaica wishes to lodge its reservation to the new concepts presented in 'The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014' with particular reference to paragraphs 43-69 and 73-81 of Section 3: Achieving Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights which are contrary to agreed language in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999.

Jamaica reaffirms the principles, objectives and actions as contained in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999."

11. Closing statements

148. The closing session of the forum was chaired by the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana. The first statement was made by the Programme Manager, Culture and Community Relations of CARICOM who thanked all the presenters and the leaders of the four drafting groups. She also thanked the Migration Expert from the Diaspora Policy Institute and Partnership with Africa Foundation for running Monday's training session on mainstreaming migration, the Migration and Development Expert and the Regional Technical Assistant for the Intra-ACP Migration Project, as well as the European Union for their support. She commented on the collaborative working that had made the meeting possible, the willingness of participants to grapple with the issues and she looked forward to ongoing partnership moving forward towards the High-level Dialogue and the global meetings on ICPD beyond 2014.

149. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA also commented on the rich and open dialogue between policymakers, researchers and advocates. He expressed his satisfaction at the range of issues addressed: defending the rights-based approach; women, adolescents and youth as subjects of rights; intolerance of gender-based violence; men's role in sexual and reproductive health and preventing gender-based violence; commitment to the issue of comprehensive sex education; and migration within the Caribbean which presented a model for south-south Cooperation. He also expressed the hope that the Caribbean will go to Montevideo with a bold message about progress in all these areas.

150. The next speaker was the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who attended the final session of the forum. She paid warm tribute to Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana, the Government of Guyana for hosting this series of meetings, the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Guyana and the Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica. She thanked the Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA and this organization for the special partnership and shared commitment to addressing these issues of great importance to the region. The Executive Secretary confirmed the keenness of ECLAC to work with CARICOM and all the institutions of the Caribbean. She thanked the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of ECLAC as well as colleagues from other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations. She also commended the presenters on the quality and depth of their presentations and on the willingness of governments to work together with civil society organizations and academics to seek to build consensus on what are profound challenges. She suggested that the level of involvement of civil society organizations in population forums is unique. The input of meetings such as this is particularly valuable as the Caribbean perspective sometimes is not adequately reflected at the regional level and these meetings help to ensure that the Caribbean will be properly represented in Montevideo and in the global meetings to come next year.

151. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC drew attention to the achievements of Caribbean governments set out in the background document for the meeting and suggested that the fact that the Cairo Programme of Action has not been fully implemented was to some extent because it was ahead of its time. She spoke about the importance of universality in social security coverage and emphasised that no-one should be left behind. Groups such as migrants, youth, persons with disabilities and others needed strong social protection and public goods to be able to realise their full potential. Where these groups were discriminated against, sometimes by the state through antiquated legislation, such discrimination needed to be addressed. The Executive Secretary concluded by saying that the region as a whole had a lot to learn from the Caribbean, and she hoped that representatives of the subregion will play an important role in the regional population conference in Montevideo, the High-level Dialogue on Migration and the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda.

152. The forum was brought to a close by the Chairperson, the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana who also thanked ECLAC, CARICOM, UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana as well as all the moderators, panellists and other participants

for the richness of their deliberations. She assured the forum that the outcome document from the meeting, the Road Map, would reflect these deliberations and explained that it would be presented to the CDCC meeting which will take place the following day. She expressed the hope that the agreements reached in this meeting would contribute to improving the lives of the people of the subregion, and that there would be a commitment to continue working together for the better of everyone thereby ensuring that words become actions.

Annex I

THE ROAD MAP FOR POPULATION, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BEYOND 2014

Recommendations from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development

The purpose of these recommendations is to provide inputs from the Caribbean to the First Regional Conference on Population and Development and the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Preamble

Recalling the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999; the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome; as well as resolution 60/265 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006,

Recalling also the commitments of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995, and the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010,

Taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the outcome document of the Conference entitled *The future we want*,

Taking into account also resolution 65/234 by virtue of which the General Assembly decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and in which it also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session,

Bearing in mind resolution 63/225 in which the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013 and resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in March 2006,

The participants of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development make the following recommendations:

1. Population Dynamics, Youth, Ageing, Poverty and Inequality

Poverty Eradication

1. Promote measures to reduce poverty and inequality;
2. Implement measures to ensure sustainable development programmes;
3. Establish national social protection floors and pension reform including contributory and non-contributory systems;
4. Encourage the creation of economic sectors that bring about job opportunities;
5. Promote social and economic policies, plans and programmes to maximize the demographic dividend to positively influence development.

Older Persons

6. Promote and protect the rights of older persons and eliminate all forms discrimination, violence and abuse;
7. Incorporate ageing into national and regional development plans and promote inter-generational equity and solidarity;
8. Ensure economic security of older persons and access to social protection;
9. Promote equitable access to comprehensive health and social care services with special attention to mental health, age friendly health care and delivery systems;
10. Ensure participation of older persons in decision-making and policy dialogue which affect them directly;
11. Create or improve a supportive and enabling environment and condition for older persons regarding living arrangements, transportation and disaster preparedness;
12. Promote healthy and active ageing through lifelong learning.

Persons with Disabilities

13. Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse;
14. Mainstream disability issues in national and regional development plans;
15. Ensure that persons with disabilities have equitable access to comprehensive health and social care services, including access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services;
16. Provide persons with disabilities with easy access to buildings and public spaces, as well as appropriate and affordable transportation;
17. Provide persons with disabilities with decent and appropriate work, as well as social protection;
18. Ensure participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making and policy dialogue which affect them directly;
19. Create a supportive and enabling environment and condition for persons with disability;
20. Provide appropriate curricula and teaching methodologies to meet the needs of children with special needs;
21. Improve population data collection, management, analysis and dissemination to inform and influence policy and programme formulation at the national and sub-regional level.

Adolescents and Youth

22. Support and promote the rights of adolescents and youth to economic security by fostering youth employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities;
23. Ensure universal access to free, quality, comprehensive education, including formal, informal, and vocational training, and promote innovation and creativity at all levels;
24. Ensure that adolescents and youth obtain universal access to affordable, quality health care and youth-friendly services, including comprehensive sexual education and reproductive health services;
25. Ensure that all adolescents enter adulthood with the highest attainable standard of health;
26. Ensure that health and family life education meets age appropriate comprehensive sexual education standards and is implemented in and out of schools;
27. Promote health and family life education programmes that are in alignment with the life cycle approach, and linked to sexual and reproductive health services;
28. Guarantee equality before the law, the protection from abuse and violence and non-discrimination for all adolescents and youth;
29. Promote national campaigns to eliminate violence against girls and boys;
30. Promote young people's leadership and ensure their meaningful participation in policy and decision making processes;
31. Establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms that ensure adolescents and youth's access to the information they need to exercise their human rights and fulfil their potential;
32. Ensure that the rights, needs and aspirations of adolescents and youth are fully prioritized in national and regional situation analysis, development plans, policies and programmes;

33. Provide universal access of adolescents and youth to comprehensive integrated quality SRH services;
34. Support capacity building of young people to promote youth development agenda.

2. Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

Policy development

35. Implement policies that will enhance the ability of gender mechanisms to implement national policies on gender equality, mainstreaming gender in all national policies and programmes;
36. Involve all stakeholders of the private sector and civil society in gender policy revisions;
37. Request governments and political parties to consider using the quota system to increase women's representation in political process drawing on good practices globally;
38. Promote the increase of women's participation and leadership at all levels of decision making, both in the public and private sector.

Economic Security

39. Promote the inclusion of women in the formal employment sector and equal pay for equal work, as part of the decent work agenda;
40. Ensure that all women in the informal sector know their rights to social protection;
41. Develop initiatives for women in rural areas to gain skills and to have access to micro credit;
42. Establish enterprise education for women as a key component for employment opportunities.

Gender Based Violence

43. Strengthen legislation for the protection of women, girls and boys from abuse and sexual violence, and assure its implementation;
44. Outlaw child marriage;
45. Sensitize the population with regards to gender stereotypes that reinforce aggressive masculine behaviour and subordinate femininity.

3. Achieving Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

46. Design and implement public education campaigns on human rights laws and policies on sexual and reproductive health and rights to foster understanding of human sexuality as a positive aspect of life;
47. Create an enabling environment of acceptance, respect, non-discrimination and non-violence; ensure gender equality, equity and empowerment and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; and engage men and boys, policy-makers and law enforcers, parliamentarians, educators and health providers, employers, the private sector and media for the equal enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights by all;
48. Ensure that policies in low and high fertility countries are based on the right of individuals to decide freely and responsibly, the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, taking into account the need for such policies to be based on evidence and best practices;
49. Give highest priority to the prevention of unwanted and unplanned pregnancies through improving access to information, technologies, commodities and services that increase the ability of couples and individuals to make free and informed decisions about the number and timing of children, making every effort to eliminate the need for abortion;
50. Remove barriers to access, including restrictions based on age or marital status, or prohibitions on certain contraceptive methods, such as emergency contraception;

51. Ensure that sexual and reproductive health is one of the priorities of the health sector, as an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures;
52. Address legal and policy anomalies including those related to the age of consent to sex and the age at which sexual and reproductive health services can be accessed without parental consent;
53. Enact, repeal or amend laws and policies in order to respect and protect sexual and reproductive rights and enable all individuals to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds;
54. Eliminate early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation within this generation;
55. Advocate for the amelioration of practices that violate the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls;
56. Provide safe legal termination of pregnancies and review laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions;
57. Eliminate discrimination in access to education and employment based on motherhood and pregnancy;
58. Protect the human rights of people living with HIV, and prohibit all discrimination and violence against them.

Male involvement

59. Increase access of men and boys to sexual and reproductive health and rights information, counselling and services, as a public health priority;
60. Ensure that men and boys are engaged so as to promote equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work;
61. Include support programmes that target men and boys and sensitize them to gender justice and human rights issues;
62. Take action to ensure that men and boys recognize and act on their responsibility to support women's reproductive health and how they can influence factors that constrains SRHR.

Comprehensive sexual education

63. Recognize that comprehensive sexual education is essential for young people to be able to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives;
64. Design and implement comprehensive sexual education programmes that provide accurate information about human sexuality, including growth and development, sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction, contraception; pregnancy and childbirth, HIV and AIDS, STIs; family life and inter-personal relationships; culture and sexuality, human rights empowerment; non-discrimination, equality and gender roles, sexual behaviour, sexual abuse, gender-based violence, harmful practices; as well as, opportunities to explore values, attitudes and norms concerning sexual and social relationships;
65. Promote the acquisition of skills and encourage young people to assume responsibility for their own behaviour and to respect the rights of others;
66. Provide young people with the knowledge, skills and efficacy to make informed decisions about their sexuality, taking into account scientific data and evidence, and ensure that the promotion of life skills is culturally and age-appropriate, and gender-sensitive;
67. Ensure that health and family life education meets comprehensive sexual education standards and is implemented in and out of schools;
68. Ensure that health and family life education programmes are linked to sexual and reproductive health services, and engage parents, community, traditional and religious leaders and actively involve young people at all stages;
69. Train health care providers and educators with respect to the delivery of comprehensive sexual education, including youth-friendly programmes and implementation.

Gender based violence

70. Ensure that all victims and survivors of gender-based violence have immediate access to critical services, including 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services in all cases of violence, rape and incest, within the law;
71. Ensure that all victims and survivors of gender-based violence have police protection, safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; and referrals and longer-term support;
72. Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health programmes and services including in humanitarian situations, as part of a broader, multi-sectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal and child health, family planning, and HIV-related services.

Reproductive health services

73. Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through ensuring that births are attended by skilled health personnel, including the provision of training and support to local birthing personnel, access to prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, access to emergency obstetric care, and management of complications arising from unsafe abortion, to safe guard the lives of women and girls;
74. Provide comprehensive integrated and quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services through the primary health care system, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable populations and most at risk populations;
75. Provide education for women and girls to know and claim their sexual and reproductive health and rights;
76. Expand access for all women and adolescent girls to timely, humane and compassionate treatment of unsafe abortion complications and to quality safe abortion services;
77. Establish mechanisms that foster providers' compliance with human rights, ethical and professional standards, including full disclosure of scientific information, and regulating that such information and services are made available regardless of providers' personal beliefs or conscientious objection;
78. Facilitate the full participation, collaboration and meaningful partnership with CSOs in the design and implementation of SRHR programmes;
79. Collect, disaggregate, analyze, disseminate and translate data into strategic information to inform sexual and reproductive health policy formulation at all levels;
80. Strongly recommend that the achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights be considered as a priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
81. Highlight the need for international development partners to continue support to Caribbean countries to address the challenges of achieving and maintaining sustained progress made in the areas of maternal and child health and HIV.

4. Migration

82. Create a national and regional diaspora database to ensure all countries within the Caribbean may access their own diaspora and also that of the entire region;
83. Build capacity with the support of the diaspora and include mentoring for hands on skills transfer as well as technology transfer;
84. Facilitate access of diaspora on a continuous short term basis which does not have attendant costs on family and long term disruption to migrants;
85. Encourage and support long term returning diaspora and facilitate greater interaction with diaspora;
86. Facilitate more face to face interaction with the diaspora through a diaspora forum in the Caribbean;
87. Promote cultural exchange between the diaspora and locals to maintain cultural identity;
88. Promote and facilitate voluntary re-migration programs for migrants who want to return for a period of time;
89. Build capacity with the focus on transfer of skills and competence;
90. Facilitate flows of remittances;

91. Promote diaspora direct and indirect investment at the national and regional levels;
92. Facilitate and encourage training in financial management of remittances;
93. Promote reduced transactional costs of receiving remittances;
94. Promote possibility of diaspora bond;
95. Meet skills shortages through managed immigration;
96. Encourage and facilitate third country investors to include training and hiring of nationals over time to do the jobs being done by the third country investment related immigrants;
97. Strengthen policies and support programmes for families of migrants – schools, and other facilities;
98. Harmonise the implementation of the Free Movement Regime of the CSME throughout the Community;
99. Promote circular migration to facilitate skills transfers including but not limited to health care professionals;
100. Publish Information on the rights and obligations of migrants;
101. Showcase the Caribbean more prominently in international dialogue forums- GFMD and UNHLD;
102. Build capacity to manage borders in order to reduce irregular migration and trafficking in persons and train border officials to be more sensitive to migration policies and the nexus with development;
103. Reorient border officials to help them recognize the positive aspects of migration;
104. Ensure the human rights of migrants are protected;
105. Establish a Caribbean Forum for Migration and Development;
106. Create a platform for dialogue on the positive and negative aspects of migration and development;
107. Mainstream migration into national and regional development policy and planning.

Annex II**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Delegation members:

- Janela Evanson, Labour Officer 1, Free Movement Desk Officer, Labour Department, Ministry of National Security and Labour
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- Sheila Roseau*, Executive Director, Directorate of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Education, Gender, Sports and Youth Affairs

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- Paula Marshall, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development

BARBADOSDelegation members:

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- Patricia Warner*, Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

BELIZEDelegation members:

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- Judith Alpuche, Ministry of Social Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation
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- Che Phillip, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jessmon Prince, Superintendent of Police, Immigration and Passport Department

GUYANARepresentative:

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Delegation members:

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- The Honourable Bheri Ramsaran, Minister of Health
- Nafeza Ally, Social Services Coordinator, Ministry of Health
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- Angeladebie Ramkisoen, Policy Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Maureen Wijngaarde-van Dijk*, Deputy Director, Programme Development, Bureau of Public Health
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGORepresentative:

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Delegation members:

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- Antoinette Lucas-Andrews, Director, Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security
- Lynne Mohammed, Specialist Research Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jennifer Rouse*, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of the People and Social Development
- Terry Ann Atkins-Huggins, Assistant Director (Ag.), Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

B. Associate members**CAYMAN ISLANDS**Delegation member:

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

C. Other countries**SINT MAARTEN**Delegation members:

- Joy Arnell, Head, Department of Social Development
- 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)**

- Trevor Benn, Officer-in-Charge Ag., Programme Analyst Governance and Poverty, Guyana

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Esteban Caballero, Deputy Regional Director, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO), Panama
- Mario Aguilar, Regional Advisor, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SROC), Jamaica
- Ana Angarita, Regional Programme Coordinator, LACRO, Panama
- Althea Buchanan, Communication and Advocacy Officer, SROC, Jamaica
- Ana Badilla, Gender Cluster Coordinator, LACRO, Panama
- Selina Baños, National Officer on South-South Cooperation, LACRO Panama
- Denise Blackstock, Programme Associate, SROC, Jamaica
- Kezia Campbell, Intern, Guyana
- Nichola Duncan, Programme Assistant
- Noemi Espinoza, Civil Society Partnerships Specialist, Headquarters, New York
- De-Jane Gibbons, Assistant Representative, Barbados
- Leon Godfrey Niles, Youth Advisor, UNFPA Guyana
- Erika Goldson, Assistant Representative, Belize
- Norwell Hinds, Temporary Programme Assistant, Guyana
- Minkyong Kim, Intern, Guyana
- Patrice La Fleur, Officer-in-Charge, SROC, Jamaica
- Prunella Mungröo, Youth Advisor, UNFPA Trinidad and Tobago Youth Advisory Committee
- Aurora Noguera-Ramkissoon, Assistant Representative, Trinidad and Tobago
- Bhagwandai Persaud-Giddings, Programme Officer, Guyana
- Sherine Powerful, Intern, Guyana
- Jewel Quallo-Rosberg, Gender Specialist, SROC, Jamaica
- Daren Torington, Gender Coordinator, Guyana

United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- Michel de Groulard, Regional Programme Advisor

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

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

UN MDG Youth Ambassadors Program

- Jillian Kromosoeto, UN MDG Youth Ambassador, Suriname

E. Specialized agencies**International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Kelvin Sergeant*, Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise and Job Creation, Trinidad

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Representative, Guyana

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO)

- Karen Roberts, Consultant, non-communicable diseases, Guyana
- Melanie Thomas, Project Coordinator, Guyana

F. Other intergovernmental organizations**Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

- Dinorah Balthazar, Project Officer
- Myrna Bernard, Officer-in-Charge, Directorate of Human and Social Development

- Marlon Bristol, Regional Technical Assistant, Intra-ACP Migration Project
- Herman Brown, Border Security Affairs Specialist, CARICOM IMPACS
- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Relations
- Ingrid Cox Pierre, Strategy and Resourcing Officer, PANCAP Coordination Unit
- Robert Cazal-Gamesly, Team Lander, PANCAP improving Access of Migrant and Mobile Population to HIV Services in the Caribbean
- Berta Fernandez Alfaro*, Migration and Development Expert, Intra-ACP Migration Project
- Nnke Garnette, Project Officer
- Sheranne Isaacs, Project Officer, Capacity Building and Implementation Support
- Ronald Joseph, Project Officer
- Rawl Prescott, Project Assistant

European Union (EU)

- Amb. Robert Kopecký, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Guyana
- Madl Benedict, Delegation of the European Union in Guyana
- Kathleen Dummett, Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union in Guyana
- Derek Lambe, Head of Political Section, Delegation of the European Union in Guyana

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Dillon Clarke, Research Assistant
- Leslie-Ann Edwards, Operations Specialist

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Guy Alexandre, Senior Advisor to the Office of the Chief of Mission, Haiti
- Grace Pitt, National Project Officer, Guyana

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- David Popo, Head of Social Development Unit

G. Civil society organizations

- Marcus Day*, Co-Chair, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
- Callistus Gill, Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC)
- Sandra Hooper, Chairperson, Diocesan Family Life Commission
- Chester Humphrey, Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL)
- Shireene McMillan, Commonwealth Youth Ambassador, Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)
- Franklyn Michael, Executive Director, Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
- Shantal Munro-Knight, Executive Coordinator, Barbados Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)
- Rochelle Nakhid, Programme Officer, Living Water Community, Trinidad

H. Non-governmental organizations

Barbados 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 (Antigua)

- Adler Bynoe, Chief Executive Officer

Caribbean Coalition on Population and Development

- Crystal Brizan, Member

Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago

- Dona da Costa Martinez *, Executive Director

Grenada Planned Parenthood Association

- Desmond John, President

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

- Patricia Sheerattan-Bisnauth, Executive Director

Guyana Women Across Difference

- Clonel Samuels-Boston, Coordinator
- Tiffney Tyrrell, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group Member

HelpAge International, Jamaica

- Jeffrey James *, Regional Director for the Caribbean

Help & Shelter, Guyana

- Danuta Radzik, Representative

Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation for Women's Rights

- Nadia van Dijk, Chairperson

Jamaica Family Planning Association

- St. Rachel Ustanny, Chief Executive Officer

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

- Lucella Campbell, Senior Programme Advisor, Caribbean
- Doris Mpoumou, Regional and International Advocacy Officer

Woman Incorporated, Jamaica

- Joyce Hewett, Consultant and Gender Specialist

I. Special guests

- Paulette Bynoe *, Director Ag., School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana
- Tania Chambers *, Legal and Policy Consultant, United Nations Population Fund, Jamaica
- Herbert Gayle, Professor, Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Education, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica
- Yves Robert Jean, Director, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, Haiti
- Alfred Pierre, Sociologist, University of Haiti, Faculty of Ethnology, Haiti
- Elizabeth Thomas-Hope *, Professor, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica
- Rosina Wiltshire *, CARICOM Gender Justice Advocate

J. Panellists

- Rahime Diallo, Migration Expert, Diaspora Policy Institute, Partnership with Africa Foundation
- Thomas Holmes, President, Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN), Dominica
- Janice Jackson, Education Psychologist, Women and Gender Specialist, Guyana
- Christian Theodore, Consultant, IOM/ACP Migration-Observatory, Kairi Consultants Ltd, Trinidad and Tobago
- Patricia Warner, Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Barbados
- Noel Watson, Chief Executive Officer, A-Z Information Jamaica Ltd

K. Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary
- Dirk Jaspers, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre -Population Division

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

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

*Panellist