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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Paramaribo, 14 October 2022

CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A.	DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	1-6	3
B.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	7-14	4
	Place and date of the session.....	7	4
	Attendance	8	4
	Election of officers	9	4
	Adoption of the agenda.....	10	4
	Procedural matters and organization of work	11-13	5
	Documentation.....	14	5
C.	SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	15-96	5
D.	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION	-	20
Annex 1	List of participants	-	32
Annex 2	List of documents	-	40

A. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) decided to forgo the presentation of the meeting summary by the Rapporteur at the end of the session, given the hybrid format and full programme of work of the meeting, and the limited time between the twenty-ninth session of CDCC and the thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Instead, it was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a draft report of the meeting for the consideration of the Rapporteur, which would then be circulated to the Committee members for their review. The meeting report would be considered final on 20 October 2022, to facilitate its availability at the session of the Commission.
2. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work for 2023, including subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean, and expressed appreciation for the work carried out in the subregion in 2021 in resolution 106(XXIX), entitled “Support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caribbean”.
3. The Committee took note of the preparations under way for the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC, to be held in Buenos Aires from 24–26 October 2022.
4. The Committee agreed that the twenty-first meeting of its Monitoring Committee would be held in 2023 in Port of Spain. The exact date and venue would be determined by the Chair in consultation with the secretariat of CDCC.
5. The Committee encouraged ECLAC to engage the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), particularly the finance ministers of CARICOM member States, to facilitate the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund, from both a legal and a programmatic perspective. Regional and international financial institutions were also identified as stakeholders important to the success of the Fund.
6. In addition to resolution 106(XXIX) mentioned above, the Committee adopted resolution 107(XXIX), entitled “Preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States”; resolution 108(XXIX), entitled “Safeguarding the gains made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean subregion”; resolution 109(XXIX), entitled “Towards the establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund”; resolution 110(XXIX), entitled “Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean” and resolution 111(XXIX), entitled “Support for the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean”.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the session

7. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) held its twenty-ninth session on 14 October 2022 in Paramaribo.

Attendance¹

8. The twenty-ninth session was attended by the following members of the Committee: Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Election of officers

9. Article 10 of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee stipulates that the Chair of the sessions is rotated among member countries in the English alphabetical order of their names. The chairship of the twenty-ninth session therefore passed to the Government of Suriname. Based on prior consultation ahead of the session, delegations were elected as Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur to complete the Bureau, as follows:

Chair: Suriname

Vice-Chairs: Belize, Montserrat, Trinidad and Tobago

Rapporteur: Jamaica

Adoption of the agenda

10. The session adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. The Caribbean Outlook: recovery and repositioning in the wake of COVID-19.
3. Towards the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund.
4. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean.
5. Review of implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.
6. Support for the sustainable development aspirations of associate members of ECLAC.

¹ See annex 1 for a full list of participants.

7. Matters relating to the programme of work.
8. Thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
9. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
10. Other matters.
11. Date and venue of the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.
12. Close of the session.

Procedural matters and organization of work

11. The session was chaired by Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname.

12. The Committee was reminded that the report of its meeting was an official document to be considered at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission being held later in October. In light of the hybrid format and full programme of work of the meeting, and the limited time between the twenty-ninth session of CDCC and the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC, the Committee agreed that no summary would be presented by the Rapporteur at the end of the meeting. Instead, the secretariat would consult with the Rapporteur and circulate a full draft report of the meeting to member States and associate members on 18 October 2022 for their review, questions and/or suggested amendments. The report would be considered final on 20 October 2022 and prepared for submission at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

13. The Committee adopted the preliminary programme, setting out the organization of work and procedural matters proposed by the Chair.

Documentation

14. A list of working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Committee at its twenty-ninth session is attached in annex 2 of the present report.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

15. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in her capacity as outgoing Chair of CDCC, opened the meeting by acknowledging that her country assumed the position of Chair during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. She noted that the entire tenure of the chairship was indeed marked by disaster, even as the subregion struggled to cope with the devastating impact of the pandemic. She said that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was still struggling to restore normalcy following the extreme dislocation brought by the eruption of La Soufrière volcano in the midst

of the pandemic and pointed out that the repeated exposure to such extreme recurrent exogenous shocks defined the multidimensional vulnerability that underscored the structural and institutional fragility of the country.

16. She had welcomed the opportunity in the previous two days to chair the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which she felt was a rich, substantive, inspiring dialogue on relevant issues vital to the way forward. She highlighted the formidable gathering of leaders, thinkers and regional and international representatives, who wrestled with ideas on how to increase flows of innovative and concessional financing in order to relieve the burden of debt and liquidity constraints being experienced by Caribbean countries. She felt it was important to infuse new dynamism into productivity and trade through diversification and economic restructuring, by investing in the Caribbean people and by harnessing technology. She opined that within the subregion lay the solutions to the challenges it faced; that the key was to find the right strategic approach to secure the support of the donor community and international financial institutions; and that the Caribbean needed to continue to make the case for the sustainable development of the subregion by repositioning for recovery and resilience.

17. She informed the Committee that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had presented its first voluntary national review (VNR) in 2020 and acknowledged other member States' efforts to present their VNRs on the progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She underscored the importance of the small island developing States (SIDS) agenda, since it was the development platform that best represented the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, and said the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024 was an opportunity for the Caribbean to give the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway the attention it deserved. She closed by thanking members of the Bureau and the Committee for their continued support to the subregion by championing the cause for development and strengthening the advocacy in the international community.

18. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for chairing the meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, also recognizing her country's leadership of CDCC during the previous two turbulent years. He informed the Committee that during the meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, from which he had just returned, the very challenging circumstances of both developed and developing countries had been discussed. Noting the discussions that had been held during the Roundtable on debt and liquidity challenges, he observed that those challenges were not new, but had widened and deepened recently.

19. In that context, he noted that with regard to the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine, there were questions to be posed about the quality and strength of the international system. In the case of COVID-19, international solidarity had failed, while in the case of the war in Ukraine, international law had been breached. He argued that to create a just and fair world, and to be able to punish unacceptable behaviour, reform of the United Nations system, including the Security Council, was required.

20. Examining the current circumstances, he noted the increases in inflation, supply costs, and food and fuel prices, and the resulting growing deficits. With regard to energy, he pointed out that major exemptions were being granted to some countries under the international sanctions regime, but that the Caribbean was constrained by the rules and unable to benefit from similar exemptions. He underscored the need for a more just international system, where rules were applied equally to all. He warned that not understanding the interlinkages between what was happening in Ukraine and in the subregion could threaten the rule of law and democracy in the Caribbean.

21. The Minister recalled that the countries of the subregion had raised the issue of climate change for many decades. He emphasized that promises would not produce results unless financing was attached, noting that, while billions of dollars had been promised at the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), very little had been delivered. He highlighted the fact that Caribbean countries were not among those that had contributed the most to climate change, and that those most responsible had yet to deliver on their promises. He stressed the need to change the paradigm to ensure that the subregion received its fair share of the available resources. He observed that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) had disbursed very little financing to the subregion and noted that their procedures were complicated and taxing for countries.

22. He urged delegates to raise those questions, noting that it was a moral obligation for the Caribbean. He cautioned that signing onto another set of ideals at the next session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties would lead to a loss for the subregion. The Minister also lamented that once funds were disbursed, significant amounts would likely go to consultancies and studies. He stressed that that was not what the Caribbean needed, pointing out that both the causes and effects of climate change in the subregion were known, since they were felt by its residents. He felt strongly that the subregion needed funds and projects that would provide concrete solutions to challenges faced, and gave the example of restoring mangroves in areas that experienced coastal erosion.

23. In conclusion, the Minister expressed his gratitude for the studies ECLAC conducted and hoped to also see concrete projects in the future. He stressed the need for the member States of the subregion to work with a strategic, action-oriented agenda. Only then, in his view, would the deserved attention and money be directed to the subregion.

24. In his video message, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC observed that the meeting marked the start of his tenure as the head of the regional commission. He warmly thanked the outgoing and incoming chairs of CDCC, and welcomed the participation of the associate members, who he felt played a crucial role in the work of ECLAC in the subregion.

25. He spoke of his Costa Rican roots, which made him aware of the developmental challenges of the wider Caribbean. He highlighted the vulnerability of the subregion to external shocks and its limited resources to build resilience against such shocks, even if the subregion was primarily populated by countries in the middle-income category. In that regard, the Executive Secretary spoke about the way in which COVID-19 exacerbated the subregion's challenges, with fewer resources to devote to the recovery of disasters. He underscored the importance of the multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, which was a critical instrument to demonstrate the need of many Caribbean countries for concessional finance, despite their income status.

26. The Executive Secretary indicated that the small island developing States of the Caribbean would be integral to the agenda of the Commission. Therefore, subregional organizations cooperating with ECLAC, such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CARICOM, would continue to play important roles in supporting the Commission's effort to implement development cooperation measures for the subregion. The establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund, in cooperation with subregional organizations, would be critical in raising and channelling concessional finance to build resilience in the subregion. He also stressed the importance of strengthening data and statistical capacity in the Caribbean, emphasizing that collaboration with other subregional organizations would be critical to that endeavour. He felt that statistical capacity was a crucial precondition for tackling the development challenges of the subregion. He welcomed the intended presentation of *The Caribbean Outlook*, which would serve to spark an exchange of ideas to shape a path for development post COVID-19. He stressed

his willingness to work with the Caribbean and invited all CDCC members to attend the session of the Commission in Buenos Aires.

The Caribbean Outlook: recovery and repositioning in the wake of COVID-19 (agenda item 2)

27. The Deputy Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented a summary of the third edition of *The Caribbean Outlook*, which explored issues pertinent to the recovery and repositioning of Caribbean economies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He covered four main themes: (i) economic and trade performance, issues of diversification and challenges in accessing finance in the subregion as Caribbean economies gradually reopened; (ii) the COVID-19 pandemic's impact and externalities relating to two key sectors, fisheries and tourism; (iii) key socioeconomic challenges to an inclusive recovery and identification of policy measures that would promote resilient economies with a focus on economic recovery, propelled by the emerging digitalized knowledge economy and (iv) strategies, policies and plans to advance SDGs in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

28. In his opening remarks, the Deputy Chief pointed to evidence of the significant cultural diversity of Suriname on show during the opening ceremony and encouraged meeting participants to take note and celebrate the subregion's achievements in that area.

29. He noted that the evolution of social, economic, environmental, and now even political factors had worked to create a perfect storm of challenges to the small economies of the Caribbean. Those factors included climate change and the occurrence of related extreme natural events, the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing debt accumulation on account of the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, newly emerging global inflation and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Those factors were shown to continue to evolve in the context of enduring limited fiscal space, and challenges relating to the balance of payments and terms of trade for Caribbean economies. With respect to debt challenges, he cited the case of Jamaica, which, on account of COVID-19, was forced to undertake an additional unanticipated expenditure of 4.6 billion Jamaican dollars in order to address the impact of the disease.

30. The Deputy Chief presented data to show that although the pandemic resulted in a significant contraction of Caribbean economies in 2020, there had been a significant rebound in 2021, which was projected to be even higher in 2022. Growth performance was better for goods producers relative to service producers over the same period. He highlighted the unique performance of Guyana, with historical growth metrics based on a burgeoning oil economy that had improved the overall growth of the subregion. While he emphasized that the economic rebound was expected to be significant by 2022, when examined in terms of real GDP growth, it was not expected to result in a return to pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, the global context for future growth was not encouraging given the challenges of climate change, global inflation, the prevailing conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and supply chain issues. His summary of the implications of the situation was that, ultimately, the subregion would return to low growth rates as was the norm during pre-pandemic times, unless it sought to change its approach to business by undertaking the necessary economic restructuring.

31. He suggested that a key factor in that regard was access to new sources of affordable financing, for which a number of possible sources were identified. Those included foreign direct investments, remittances, resilience funding, and contingency funds for confronting the challenges of regular and increasing occurrences of disasters in the subregion. In the latter case, he noted the efforts of ECLAC in promoting the Caribbean Resilience Fund, and pointed to the need for the subregion to strive to reduce its economic risks in order to guarantee future growth.

32. The Deputy Chief addressed the issue of building competitive export structures for the Caribbean, stating that *The Caribbean Outlook* called on the subregion to adopt more robust industrial policies, particularly in collaboration with the non-traditional private sector, so that the subregion could set all its resources—including young people—to work, and in order that the Caribbean could prepare itself to participate in the modern and rapidly evolving global economy more meaningfully. He elaborated on his premise of an industrial policy relative to the trade matrix classification of economic performance in terms of rising stars, declining and retreating economies, and economies with missed opportunities.

33. He summarized the mechanisms for economic recovery in terms of strategies for industrial restructuring, systems of innovation, industrial policy and knowledge economies. He noted that *The Caribbean Outlook* also outlined several proposals in relation to how those elements could be activated in subregional economies, including development of intersectoral linkages, public and private sector supported systems of innovation, innovation and human resource development strategies and efforts to shift the subregion towards knowledge-based economies.

34. Regarding the environmental vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS, the Deputy Chief reflected on the environmental challenges the subregion faced, specifically the effects of COVID-19 on the natural environment. The subregion faced important environmental vulnerabilities on account of fragile natural environments, fresh water scarcity, the frequency of natural disasters and climate change blooms including sargassum blooms. The reported broad-based impacts of the pandemic were identified as reduced anthropogenic effects (such as cleaner air, less noise pollution, improved water quality), increased wastes (biomedical) entering the natural environment, increased pressure on water systems due to higher water demand for sanitization, and reduced monitoring and surveillance of protected areas owing to lockdowns. By way of specific examples, he reviewed the impacts of the pandemic on two sectors (fisheries and tourism) across the subregion.

35. For fisheries, he observed an overall decline in fish harvesting on account of the inability of fisherfolk to operate owing to lockdowns and the suspension of fish processing activities, among other examples. With respect to tourism, he noted the total suspension of tourism activities because of border closures, which in turn produced an environmental bonus owing to reduced pressure of tourism activities on the subregion's natural resource base. Importantly, while referencing the metric of per capita emissions for which the Caribbean reports relatively high measures due to small populations, he emphasized the reality of the subregion being a very small greenhouse gas emitter relative to other geographic areas.

36. *The Caribbean Outlook* also presented a specific set of policy recommendations to treat with the environmental sustainability of the Caribbean, including: promote sustainable management of natural resources by strengthening institutional mechanisms, human resource capacities, data systems and use of environmentally sound technologies; promote sustainable ocean and coastal resource management, which create opportunities to diversify the economic base; utilize economic, social and environmental impact and valuation techniques for making informed decisions on the use of natural resources; and encourage public-private partnerships at all stages—planning, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

37. Addressing the social affairs chapter of *The Caribbean Outlook*, the Deputy Chief observed that, notwithstanding the declining trend in the prevalence of COVID-19, there remained other health threats to the subregion, especially in terms of non-communicable diseases. Further, he pointed to the significant low vaccination rates in the Caribbean and observed that governments apparently had not been successful in convincing the subregion's population to take vaccines.

38. He spoke about the high levels of Caribbean youth unemployment, which averaged 30%, as well as the structural employment gaps for women, and the need for better education systems to prepare the subregion's youth to provide global services.

39. He presented details addressing digitalization in Caribbean economies and linked it to the critical issue of building a knowledge-based economy, which he suggested was central to addressing the prevailing education gap in the Caribbean. Underscoring continued concerns regarding equity in access to education, he noted that, in the Caribbean, only 40% of eligible children actually wrote the Common Entrance Examination for transition to high school, and only 60% achieved more than two subject passes at high school. Referencing the specific disciplines of mathematics and English language (English A), he lamented the poor performance of Caribbean students, who generally achieved a pass rate of under 40%, and observed that that held important negative implications for the development of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) capacity and technical and vocational skills among young people in the subregion. The following recommendations were offered in response to the social issues explored in *The Caribbean Outlook*: public and private investment in information and communications technologies (ICTs); workforce upskilling policies, for example technical and vocational education and training (TVET), that targets vulnerable subpopulations, such as women; public policies providing social protections, especially for freelance workers; boosting economic productivity by closing digitization gaps; closing of the gender gap in unemployment rates as labour productivity increases; and avoiding the pitfalls of the gig economy, which harm vulnerable subpopulations.

40. The Deputy Chief concluded his presentation by proposing the following strategies, policies and plans to support the advancement of SDG implementation through 2030: integrating the SDGs in national policy and budgets; ensuring dignity through decent work and empowering marginalized groups; striving for gender equity and addressing the problems of young people; creating social protection floors; engaging the whole of government and building trust; creating a sense of inclusion among all stakeholders; cooperating through regional institutions and including the wider Latin America; and recognizing the role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

41. In the ensuing discussion, the Chair noted that the presentation provided a comprehensive review of the current situation in the subregion's economies. He also recognized the value of integrating the SDGs into national planning. He suggested the formation of a regional SDG platform, and also signalled the need for a regional dialogue on the destiny of the subregion over the next 50 years. He acknowledged the importance of digitalization, as well as the need for strategies to strengthen regional development banks.

42. He also noted that Suriname was receiving offers to participate in global carbon trading mechanisms. However, he felt that the subregion was not well prepared to participate in that area, and suggested that ECLAC establish a clearing house to support Caribbean governments in that regard, given that there was no available expertise in the subregion.

43. The representative of Saint Lucia raised the question of transportation in the context of the COVID-19 recovery, noting the seriousness of the air transportation issue, which required an immediate response. He referenced the case of Leeward Islands Air Transport Services (LIAT), which historically had been established to provide a service and not necessarily to maximize profits. He pointed to the peculiarity of the air transport business and observed that in the Caribbean, it faced significant logistical and operational challenges which were not comparable to other geographic regions. He suggested that the time had come to undertake a detailed analysis of the economics of air transport in the region, and that the challenge needed to be embraced more directly.

44. The Deputy Chief noted that the transportation issue had been solved in other locations such as Europe. Nevertheless, he indicated that there were several strategies that could be employed to examine the issue in the subregion. The issue of subsidization of air transportation was a challenging one for Caribbean governments given the fiscal stress the subregion faced.

45. The representative of the British Virgin Islands enquired as to whether the blue economy was addressed in the current edition of *The Caribbean Outlook*. The Deputy Chief noted that the issue of the blue economy had been more fully addressed in previous editions of *The Caribbean Outlook*. He indicated the willingness of ECLAC to follow up on the issue. Finally, he pointed to the opportunities that were likely to arise regarding the treatment of those issues, with the operationalization of the proposed Caribbean Resilience Fund.

46. The Chair also called attention to the following question from the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and comment from the representative of the CARICOM Competition Commission, which were both submitted online.

47. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines asked what (if any) were the emerging factors which explained why credit was more likely to be extended for consumption or operational needs than for private sector activities. The Deputy Chief explained that the difference was because tourism-based economies had suffered more than goods-based economies given that the global tourism sector was completely shut down during the pandemic.

48. The representative of the CARICOM Competition Commission signalled that issue of knowledge sharing had been consistently raised. One initiative that had not reached its full potential or was not being fully utilized was the comprehensive donor information management system (DIMS) launched and implemented by the CARICOM Secretariat. The DIMS was expected to serve as the central repository of project and donor information for both the Secretariat and the regional institutions, and would be designed to capture information on projects, international development partners and the various agreements between the Community and its development partners. He felt that a fully operational DIMS would augment the regional resource mobilization effort, planning and reporting.

Towards the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund (agenda item 3)

49. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines presented a summary of the seventh meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable. She informed the Committee that during that meeting, the subregion's challenges were laid out, opportunities were proposed, and recommendations to seize those opportunities were presented. The Roundtable had focused on five vital areas confronting the subregion: (i) its vulnerability, debt and liquidity constraints; (ii) the response to the interim report on the multidimensional vulnerability index as an effective measure of vulnerability in middle-income Caribbean SIDS; (iii) the response to the data and statistical capacity needs; (iv) the role of global partnership for repositioning, recovery and resilience; and (v) the need for economic restructuring and diversification for deeper integration of the Caribbean with Latin America and in the global economy.

50. The Minister highlighted that the meeting participants recognized the challenges in the subregion, including sluggish growth and limited fiscal space, alongside high inflation and unemployment. Further, she pointed to the high environmental vulnerability in the context of debt and liquidity constraints which made it difficult to build resilience to a range of shocks.

51. She said that the Caribbean Resilience Fund—a special purpose vehicle to address critical areas that have not attracted finance for development—was highlighted as a proactive approach to address the debt and liquidity challenge facing the subregion, noting that the meeting participants generally endorsed the Fund, pledged to support its development, and urged ECLAC to move assiduously towards its establishment, given the urgency of the economic challenges faced by the subregion. To expedite the process, ECLAC was encouraged to further engage CARICOM, particularly CARICOM finance ministers, from the legal, procedural and political perspectives. Regional and international financial institutions were also identified as important stakeholders in the success of the Fund. The meeting participants agreed to that recommendation.

52. The Minister underscored the fact that despite the Caribbean's limited contribution to global warming, it was one of the most severely affected regions. Under the auspices of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), work was ongoing to develop a robust multidimensional vulnerability index, guided by key principles including multidimensionality, universality and resilience. A key challenge was to ensure that a universal index was not so much a catch-all that it failed to account for the peculiar vulnerabilities of Caribbean and other SIDS. It was also suggested that the Caribbean had the requisite technical capacity to help the framers of the index to address some of the challenges that may arise.

53. The meeting participants challenged Caribbean governments—with support from the private sector where feasible—to prioritize investment in data production and dissemination, since that was a vital public good, while appreciating that there were instances where countries had seized opportunities to leverage financial and technical support to advance statistical capacity. The critical need to retain persons with proper statistical training over time was also raised.

54. To address the need for greater international cooperation, the meeting participants proposed the strengthening of global partnerships and multilateralism that would benefit SIDS, particularly in transportation and in the green and blue economies. The United Nations system provided an avenue for improved support in areas such as HIV-AIDS and social protection systems. She flagged the example of the World Food Programme (WFP) that provided pre-emptive support based on the forecast of a disaster as a model that could be scaled up to reduce the burden on governments in post-disaster periods. Some meeting delegates called for greater information-sharing regarding the actions of various UN agencies in other jurisdictions.

55. Participants in the Roundtable agreed that economic restructuring and diversification were challenges that needed to be tackled head on. Too often, the subregion had taken a defensive position in dealing with global competition. It was suggested that the time was right for the subregion to take a more assertive strategic global repositioning approach to its development. The Roundtable demanded the best effort of the subregion to invest more efficiently in its development, even as it leveraged global support and solidarity in areas where there was least capacity.

56. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the British Virgin Islands expressed interest in being included in the Caribbean Development Roundtable as an associate member State. The CDCC Chair and the Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean assured the delegate that all countries of the Caribbean would eventually have access to such a mechanism, since it was being developed for the Caribbean.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

57. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy of Dominica reported on the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Delegates at the Forum, which was held in Costa Rica, reviewed progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and analysed the impacts of the pandemic on SDG implementation, including the intensification of severe inequalities in the right to health, income concentration, territorial gaps and access to public goods, and the deepening of asymmetries between developed and developing countries.

58. She said that special focus was placed on three major impacts of the pandemic, which were referred to as “silent crises”. These were the loss of more than one year of classroom schooling for an entire generation of students, the increase in gender-based violence and the unequal gender distribution of care burdens, and acceleration in the destruction of ecosystems leading to biodiversity loss. She also noted that Caribbean delegates reported on their progress and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs. They discussed issues including food security, a more comprehensive response to natural hazards and disasters, the new digital inequality, the development of online learning and the implementation of sustainable development strategies to preserve rainforests and reduce carbon emissions.

59. In the ensuing discussion, the Chair highlighted two additional issues that needed greater attention, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children and the long-term consequences of the pandemic on human capital and productivity. His government, which had presented its voluntary national review in 2022 and had committed to biennial reporting, acknowledged the need to develop the quantitative aspect of future reports.

60. The State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica shared some lessons learned during the preparation of the country’s two voluntary national reviews. He highlighted the importance of Jamaica having integrated the SDGs into its Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan. A monitoring and evaluation framework that was essential to that process had been institutionalized within the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), which provided periodic reports on progress in the achievement of the SDGs. His government was strengthening the relevant legislative framework and was working with ECLAC to improve the statistics used in that process. Regional integration efforts should be supplemented by advocacy at the global level, conducted jointly by small island developing States.

61. The Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM noted the increasing number of countries presenting voluntary national reviews, which he said was an indication of the broad commitment of the countries of the subregion to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The CARICOM secretariat intended to establish a population commission to comprehensively address sociodemographic development issues, a proposal that had been considered by the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government during their thirty-third intersessional meeting. Work on the development of indicators for the Goals should be coordinated with the CARICOM Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

62. The Chair, noting that only a few years remained to achieve the SDGs, recommended that a regional platform be developed to share experiences and best practices. The Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, responding to the comments, indicated that the purpose of the ECLAC information system on national statistical capacities to produce the SDG indicators, which had been presented to the Caribbean Development Roundtable, was to support that kind of statistical capacity-building. An ECLAC study conducted in 2021 had addressed the psychosocial impacts of the pandemic on children, which did not, however, preclude further work on the issue.

Review of implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (agenda item 5)

63. The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean updated the Committee on the status of the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the preparations for the Samoa Pathway review process, ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024. In her presentation, she indicated that the international community had been working with SIDS to advance their agenda for the last 30 years. The subregion needed to begin preparations for the Conference and she reiterated the commitment of ECLAC to work with member States in that regard.

64. With respect to the review of the Samoa Pathway, she highlighted the challenges of incorporating the synergies between it and subsequent sustainable development agendas, in particular the 2030 Agenda, in the review process. Considering that the Samoa Pathway did not have a monitoring framework with indicators to allow for regular assessment of progress in its implementation, the United Nations General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General, in 2019, to develop targets and indicators for Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. In that context, a report had been presented entitled “Final report: development of a framework for monitoring the Samoa Pathway”. The framework used indicators from the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.

65. Using that framework, she delivered a presentation indicating areas in which SIDS had made progress—such as access to broadband and increasing renewable energy generation—and areas where countries had regressed, notably in the conservation of natural habitats and the reduction of violence. She encouraged countries to use the framework to prepare for the fourth International Conference on SIDS.

66. In closing, she highlighted a list of key priorities identified by SIDS in preparation for the Conference scheduled to be held in 2024, including sustainable livelihoods; innovation centres, to maintain the SIDS population in the vanguard and enable them to maximize added value in the future; the environment, including the issue of marine plastic pollution; connectivity, in the context of goods, services, people, digitalization and culture; overcoming the digital divide; appropriate data-gathering, to track implementation results; availability of data and strengthening national and regional statistical systems; and access to and support for data-driven decision-making.

67. Remarking on the presentation, the Chair observed that, while a considerable amount of work lay ahead, a clear road map had been set out for the benefit of the subregion.

Support for the sustainable development aspirations of associate members of ECLAC (agenda item 6)

68. The Premier of Montserrat highlighted several events—including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and hurricanes Irma and Maria—that demonstrated the volatility of global affairs and climate change and their impact on SIDS, and said that the Caribbean stood to experience even more transformative events. More than ever, those who wielded the influence and held the development purse should respond to the glaring disparity between the experiences of SIDS and those of other countries in accessing financial and other resources and should accept the responsibility to change the status quo for the collective development of SIDS.

69. He posed the question, “What are our sustainable development aspirations?”, noting that they were the same as those of other SIDS —economic growth, social inclusion and environmental balance— and said that his country aspired to the ideals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Goals. While the 2030 Agenda paved a clear path towards sustainable development, access to the much-needed resources for the achievement of the Goals had been far from equal, a situation in direct contradiction with the aspiration to “leave no one behind”. He lamented that, prior to 2020, SIDS had experienced slow progress towards the achievement of the Goals. He provided data on the cross- sectoral impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the Eastern Caribbean and noted that, while fiscal measures had been implemented in Montserrat through 2021 and into 2022, those mechanisms had not addressed the investments urgently needed to reposition his country for economic growth and wealth distribution.

70. While the challenges faced by SIDS in accessing official development assistance (ODA) were well documented, the implementation of solutions had been slow. He referenced a report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that stated that ECLAC associate members had received very little of the more than US\$ 5 billion in ODA directed towards SIDS in 2019. To level the playing field, support must include advocacy for their advancement and the adoption of expanded eligibility assessment tools, such as the multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States of the United Nations and the Recovery Duration Adjuster of the Caribbean Development Bank.

71. He said that the vulnerabilities of the British Overseas Territories made them prime candidates for climate financing, yet their opportunities were limited by several factors, including data deficiencies, high transaction costs and small project sizes. While lauding the Green Climate Fund for targeting 50% of its adaptation finance to SIDS adaptation efforts, he also pointed to the fact that, in many instances, climate finance was accessed through loans, which presented new obstacles for countries or territories that lacked the capability to borrow or were already heavily burdened with national debt.

72. He expressed Montserrat’s strong support for the recommendations of the recent United Nations climate finance report,² including those related to increasing grant finance, establishing a dedicated envelope for SIDS within the enhanced direct access pilot under the Green Climate Fund, directing renewed effort towards building lasting capacity and establishing a global data hub for SIDS. He underscored the importance of investment in the development of statistics, noting that the lack of quality disaggregated statistics had been a significant impediment to the development of robust policies, plans and programmes in SIDS.

73. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the British Virgin Islands called for ECLAC to increase the budget allocated to the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to regularize the technical assistance provided to associate members. He emphasized that the territory did not receive any budgetary support from the Government of the United Kingdom, and had therefore been forced to resort to applying for commercial loans following the 2017 hurricanes. The territory did not qualify for grants from international donors and lacked the fiscal capacity to borrow the amounts needed to build climate resilience and achieve sustainable development.

74. The British Virgin Islands had begun developing a National Sustainable Development Plan, supported by work done by ECLAC. After two years of public consultations, the development plan was

² United Nations, Accessing Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Small Island Developing States, 2022 [online] www.un.org/ohrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrls/files/accessing_climate_finance_challenges_sids_report.pdf.

almost complete, but technical assistance was needed to support the design of an implementation strategy and to help secure funding for the plan. In that regard, he appealed to ECLAC to consider the request of the British Virgin Islands for technical assistance and asked for cooperation in assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable development.

75. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean acknowledged the contributions of the representatives of Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands requesting greater involvement of the associate members of ECLAC in its work programme and agenda. Such a request would require the consideration of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the secretariat of ECLAC.

Matters relating to the programme of work (agenda item 7)

76. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean delivered a presentation on the implementation of the programme of work for 2021 and briefed the Committee on the activities under way in 2022 and on several areas of focus for 2023.

77. She said that the work of the office was being conducted in the context of several critical changes over the previous two years, including the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had forced a reconsideration of the mode of delivery of technical assistance and research; the transition of the United Nations Secretariat from a biennial to an annual programme cycle, which demanded accelerated delivery of more focused products and services; and efforts to further strengthen United Nations support to the subregion through the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026. Notwithstanding those changes, the work of the office was designed to support the Caribbean's implementation and achievement of the Goals.

78. She summarized the regional role of ECLAC in the development architecture of the United Nations and outlined several services provided by the subregional headquarters. Technical assistance and support were provided to countries upon request. ECLAC provided a convening platform for Caribbean countries to deliberate on pertinent issues and to develop a common strategy on the way forward, and was actively engaged in several regional and global platforms. The Commission linked the research and analysis for the subregion to high-level regional discussions on the global agenda and provided capacity-building to the countries of the subregion. Describing the subsidiary organs of ECLAC, she touched on the issues within their purview that were relevant to the Caribbean. She also spoke of the meaningful relationships shared with a number of regional organizations within the framework of the One United Nations (One UN) initiative.

79. With regard to 2021, the Chief provided examples of the research undertaken by the office, informing the Committee of two annual flagship ECLAC publications, the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean*, for which the subregional office contributed the data and analysis. Two studies had been done in the area of education in 2021, covering the impact of the transition to an online learning model, the lack of access to online education and the psychosocial impact on students of being away from the traditional school environment. She also spoke of the management of the water supply, another challenge that the office had identified and explored through a study on integrated water resource management in the Caribbean.

80. Meetings had been convened that had engaged the entire subregion, including the Economic and Social Council youth forum, which had sensitized young people to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs and to the role they should have in those global processes as future leaders. The twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee had focused on the health, social and psychosocial impacts of COVID-19. At the 2021

Caribbean Urban Forum, participants had discussed housing vulnerability and its impact on social welfare and social inclusion as well as the question of unpaid care work and the pressure placed on women during the pandemic.

81. She informed the meeting participants of technical assistance provided to Caribbean countries, including a damage and loss assessment conducted in Guyana in the wake of flooding in the country and the preparation of a comprehensive disaster management policy for Trinidad and Tobago. Capacity-building activities conducted had included training in the use of geospatial technologies to provide data in the context of disaster risk management, an example of the utility of technology solutions for the subregion.

82. For 2022, the Chief shared details of several ongoing projects being implemented by the office. She noted that the “building back better tourism-based economies” project was intended for Eastern Caribbean countries but could also include other countries. The project focused on helping tourism-dependent countries severely impacted by COVID-19 to recover and diversify both their economies and their tourism product. The “climate change and disaster indicators” project focused on building climate change-related statistical capacity to more effectively measure the environmental damage caused by climate change as well as its impact on economic and social issues.

83. She touched on other activities being undertaken by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, including time-use surveys, initiatives related to sustainable transportation and *The Caribbean Outlook*, of which the Committee had received a preview from the Deputy Chief. She noted that the drafting would be concluded and the relevant documents would be available on the ECLAC website by the end of 2022. The subregional headquarters stood ready to provide support to countries in conducting population and housing censuses and technical assistance to the Government of Jamaica through the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), on non-food manufactured products, and would continue to provide technical support to various countries in the preparation and presentation of their voluntary national reviews.

84. Looking ahead to 2023, the Chief informed participants of some priority focus areas, including ICT for development; supporting the 2020 round of censuses and employing REDATAM to facilitate census data analysis and dissemination; the subregional review of the Samoa Pathway ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States; and a project on advancing innovative financial solutions.

85. She underscored the importance of the Caribbean Resilience Fund as an ongoing part of the work of the office, signalling that ECLAC planned to draft articles of agreement for the Fund and secure approval for them from ministers of finance, advance engagement with the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank and seek support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the wider international community. She reiterated that ECLAC was committed to the success of the project and assured the representative of the British Virgin Islands that the Fund was being developed for all ECLAC members and associate members in the Caribbean.

86. In the ensuing discussion, the Representative and Country Director at the World Food Programme’s Caribbean Multi-Country Office said that his programme looked forward to strengthening its partnership with ECLAC to support member States.

Thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 8)

87. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean said that the thirty-ninth session of the Commission would be convened from 24–26 October 2022 in Buenos Aires and encouraged representatives to take advantage of that forum to represent Caribbean interests in the high-level dialogue on development matters in the hemisphere. Ministers of foreign affairs were the focal points for the session, and 11 agenda items were scheduled to be covered. The ECLAC position paper, entitled *Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability*,³ would be launched. Chapter I examined the present and future of globalization and the challenges posed for Latin America and the Caribbean, while the second chapter analysed the region's production structure and policies for sustainable development. The third chapter examined the relationship between employment and social protection. The fourth chapter examined the importance of sectoral considerations as drivers in reviving economic growth and moving towards sustainability in various subsectors, as well as the circular economy and the digital transformation, topics of increasing relevance in the context of the hemisphere's economic transformation. Chapter V, the final chapter, contained recommendations.

88. The Chief also informed representatives that a panel discussion on each of those areas would be held during the session. The ECLAC secretariat had already begun to reach out to member States regarding their participation. Member States would be given the opportunity to describe their domestic situations in each of the respective areas.

89. With respect to the activities of ECLAC, a report on the programme of work of the Commission was being produced, which incorporated the work being done by the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. The Chair, on behalf of CDCC, would join the Chairs of the other subsidiary organs of ECLAC in addressing the session, which would be an opportunity to present the priorities of the Caribbean and to provide a briefing on work being done in the subregion.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 9)

90. The Chair drew the attention of representatives to six draft resolutions before the Committee for consideration and adoption, which had been circulated to all member States and associate members of the Committee in advance of the meeting. Delegations had been afforded the opportunity to transmit to the secretariat their suggested changes, all of which had been duly incorporated. The Committee adopted the six resolutions contained in section D of the present report.

Other matters (agenda item 10)

91. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean placed on record the interest of the Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM in working with ECLAC to create a population commission. The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean had sought to learn from its experience over the previous two years when little or no information was available on what had been happening in the subregion during the pandemic-related lockdowns. A new structure would be introduced for the Bureau, comprising the outgoing chair, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the current chair, Suriname, and the future chair, Trinidad and Tobago. The countries serving as Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur —Belize, Montserrat and Jamaica, respectively— would also form part of the Bureau. The Bureau, which had previously met annually, would now meet on a quarterly basis under the expanded structure to take stock of ongoing activities and emerging issues of interest and concern for the subregion and to determine, with the support

³ LC/SES.39/3-P.

of the Commission, what action might be possible. Bureau meetings would be conducted virtually, a lesson learned from the COVID-19 experience. As an intergovernmental body, CDCC should become more actively engaged, and the countries of the subregion needed to pursue more conscious collaboration towards implementation of the decisions taken in the Caribbean.

Date and venue of the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (agenda item 11)

92. In accordance with article 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,⁴ in the years when there is no regular session of CDCC, meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall be held at the office of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, unless a member of the Committee offers to host the meeting within the period stipulated. The Committee agreed that the twenty-first meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee would be held in Port of Spain in 2023.

Close of the session (agenda item 12)

93. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean expressed her appreciation to all involved in the Caribbean Development Roundtable and CDCC, in particular those from the host country and the outgoing chair of CDCC. She also expressed appreciation to the incoming Chair of CDCC and extended her gratitude to the experts and panellists who had participated in both meetings.

94. The Chief noted that there would be opportunities for collaboration and follow-up on all the issues discussed over the previous three days. She expressed hope that the interests of the subregion would be well represented at the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC, to be held in Buenos Aires, through a strong Caribbean presence to give voice to the subregion's concerns and build support for strategies to address them. Lastly, she welcomed the election of the new Bureau and said that ECLAC was committed to supporting their work.

95. The incoming Chair thanked the outgoing Chair for her work with the Caribbean Development Roundtable and CDCC over the previous two years. He also paid tribute to the former Executive Secretary of ECLAC for her commitment to the Caribbean and welcomed the new Executive Secretary.

96. In closing, he emphasized the importance of partnerships to overcoming the subregion's development challenges, including South-South cooperation and cooperation with other regions. Specifically, he encouraged cooperation and resilience-building through forums such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Association of Caribbean States and the Central American Integration System. Ministers of foreign affairs had a key role to play in that regard and he looked forward to taking an active role as Chair of CDCC. He then declared the twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee officially closed.

⁴ LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1.

**D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION**

**106 (XXIX) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recalling also resolution 29(XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55(XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

Recalling further resolution 75(XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

Bearing in mind resolution 85(XXV) of 2014 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, in which it expressed its support for the request to ensure greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Considering resolution 105(XXVIII) of 2020 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the efforts already being made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the offices of the resident coordinators in the Caribbean, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Acknowledging the special development challenges faced by countries in the Caribbean subregion, including their small size; open, narrow and undiversified economies; fragile ecosystems; and other inherent vulnerabilities, and underscoring the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the small island developing States development agenda to national development planning processes, as integral elements of the response to those challenges,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026, which embodies strengthened coordination for the delivery of multisectoral United Nations development assistance to the Caribbean,

Taking into account the ongoing effort to strengthen the United Nations development system architecture,

1. *Takes note of the Report of the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee*, held on 5 November 2021;¹

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the secretariat for the work carried out under subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean during 2021, and particularly for the results achieved and impact derived from its implementation;

3. *Highlights* in particular the work undertaken in research on and analysis of the multidimensional impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the countries of the subregion and the continued efforts of the Commission towards the establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund to address the challenges of debt and vulnerability in the Caribbean;

4. *Endorses* the proposed programme of work for 2023, subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean, adopted by virtue of resolution 751 (PLEN.36) at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission on 3 December 2021;²

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and in sectoral and statistical reports carried out by the Commission;

6. *Underscores* the importance of the role of the Commission in providing substantive support to the small island developing States agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related development platforms, particularly through its capacity for comprehensive multidisciplinary research, statistical analysis and evidence-based policy advice;

7. *Requests* the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the overall programme of work of the Commission under subprogramme 12, and to report on progress in this regard to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its thirtieth session.

¹ LC/MCCDCC.20/4.

² See the *Report of the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC* (LC/PLEN.36/5).

107 (XXIX) PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/217 of 19 December 2014, which reaffirmed the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, urged the speedy implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), and welcomed the renewed commitment of the international community to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continuing to seek solutions to the major challenges facing them,

Noting that the Samoa Pathway sets forth the sustainable development aspirations and priority concerns of small island developing States for the period 2015–2025 and reaffirms that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, given their unique vulnerabilities,

Recognizing that the objectives and priorities detailed in the Samoa Pathway are consistent with and complementary to the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,³ the New Urban Agenda⁴ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁵

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 73/228 of 20 December 2018,⁶ which recalls paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States and support the strengthening of the effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes,

Taking note of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026,⁷ the instrument for planning and implementing United Nations system activities in the countries of the subregion towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda,

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² Resolution 69/313.

³ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁴ Resolution 71/256.

⁵ *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015* (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1).

⁶ Resolution 73/228, paragraph 24.

⁷ See [online] <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/multicountry-sustainable-development-framework-english-and-dutch-speaking-caribbean-2022>.

Noting that in paragraph 20(a) of its resolution 76/203, the General Assembly called for the convening of a fourth international conference on the small island developing States in 2024, which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Bearing in mind the Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of the Samoa Pathway, which called for the sustainable development priorities of Caribbean small island developing States to be addressed in the period 2019–2024 and requested the Commission to strengthen the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordination Mechanism to facilitate more effective implementation of the small island developing States and sustainable development agendas,⁸

1. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024;

2. *Requests* the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and in coordination with member countries, associate members, regional intergovernmental bodies, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other development partners, to prepare the comprehensive regional review of Caribbean implementation of the Samoa Pathway, as part of the preparatory process for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States;

3. *Requests* that the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordination Mechanism serve as a regional platform for the organization and convening of meetings and other events supporting the Caribbean's preparatory processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, situating the review within the wider context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Calls on* the Commission to make every effort to ensure full participation of all stakeholders at national and subregional levels in the preparation for the Caribbean review of implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

⁸ See San Pedro Declaration [online] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20630San_Pedro_Declaration_final_version.pdf.

**108 (XXIX) SAFEGUARDING THE GAINS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling resolutions 94(XXVI) of 2016 and 100(XXVII) of 2018, which called for synergy in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) in the Caribbean subregion,

Recalling also resolution 102 (XXVIII), which noted the significant negative socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the countries of the Caribbean,

Noting with concern *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*,¹ which documents the threats posed by COVID-19 to the global Goals and underscores the reversal of progress made on several SDGs because of the pandemic,

Acknowledging the 2019 political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly,² which recognized the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda,

Welcoming the active participation of the Caribbean at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development and at the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development held in San Jose, from 7 to 9 March 2022,

Noting that all but two Caribbean countries have presented at least one voluntary national review on their progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underscoring that the challenges most commonly reported in the voluntary national reviews of Caribbean countries relate to their vulnerability to shocks, the insufficiency of data, limited institutional capacity and the inadequacy of funds to implement and monitor the Goals,

1. *Resolves* to support its member States in safeguarding the gains made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in preventing further erosion of progress towards their achievement by 2030;
2. *Encourages* its member States and associate members to synergize the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs for the sustainable development of the Caribbean;
3. *Calls on* its member States and associate members to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda during this decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals by scaling up national actions to promulgate enabling policies, allocating dedicated budgets for SDG implementation, and strengthening relevant institutional and regulatory frameworks;

¹ See [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>.

² A/HLPF/2019/L.1.

4. *Also calls on* its member States and associate members to promote people-centred action in the implementation of the SDGs by engaging stakeholders, especially the private sector, civil society, women and young people, and leveraging their skills and resources in activities that contribute to the sustainable development of the subregion and promote the achievement of SDG targets;

5. *Further calls on* international development partners to provide adequate and sustained technical and financial support to Caribbean countries to address the vulnerabilities of the subregion resulting from high exposure to shocks, scarcity of data and limited institutional capacity, all of which are obstacles to implementing, monitoring and reporting on progress on the SDGs;

6. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and in collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the Caribbean Community, to further strengthen its technical support to member States and interested associate members in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

109 (XXIX) TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARIBBEAN RESILIENCE FUND

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in which a strong global commitment to address the challenge of financing sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, is established,

Bearing in mind its resolution 93 (XXVI) entitled “Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean”, which recognizes the threat to the Caribbean posed by climate change and the unsustainably high debt burden faced by Member states and welcomes the efforts of the Commission to pursue debt relief solutions,

Highlighting the call made in the Paris Agreement¹ for developed country Parties to provide financial resources to assist developing country parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention,

Welcoming the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow from 31 October to 13 November 2021, to increase their provision of climate finance, which will facilitate greater levels of investment in adaptation for countries especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Mindful of the mounting debt, balance of payments and liquidity challenges exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other shocks, which have constrained the capacity of Caribbean economies to finance their sustainable development, particularly economic and climate resilience-building,

Noting that the Commission has been pursuing an innovative financing solution, the Caribbean Resilience Fund, comprising resilience-building, liquidity enhancement and debt reduction windows, which will focus on leveraging investment for climate adaptation and mitigation projects, and liability management operations,

Taking note of the proposal by the Commission that the Caribbean Resilience Fund be placed under the umbrella of the Caribbean Development Fund and managed by a consortium of regional development agencies,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the reported progress of the Commission towards the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund and urges continued work towards its operationalization and the implementation of liability management operations among interested member States and associate members;

2. *Encourages* member States to support the proposed consortium of regional development agencies which will manage the operations of the Caribbean Resilience Fund;

¹ *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015 (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1), article 9, paragraph 1.*

3. *Authorizes* the Commission to initiate consultations with the representatives of finance ministries and all relevant regional and international institutions towards finalizing the articles of agreement that will lead to the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund;

4. *Calls on* international development partners, donor countries, international financial institutions and climate finance agencies and other relevant development partners to support the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund.

**110 (XXIX) ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹, which establishes that “environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level”, that “States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available,” and that “effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”,

Recalling also the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² signed by the governments of 24 Latin American and Caribbean States, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, declared their willingness to work towards a regional instrument promoting the full application of those rights and requested the support of the Commission as technical secretariat,

Recalling further resolutions 686(XXXV) and 706(XXXVI) “Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” and resolutions 725(XXXVII) and 744(XXXVIII) “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean”, adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions, respectively,

Taking note of the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, on 4 March 2018, in Escazú, Costa Rica,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement on 22 April 2021,

Noting that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 20 to 22 April 2022,

1. *Acknowledges* the relevance of the Escazú Agreement in promoting sustainable development in the Caribbean small island developing States, through its support for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Paris Agreement and other international development platforms;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the signature of the Escazú Agreement by 10 Caribbean countries and its ratification by 5 Caribbean countries;

¹ “Resolutions Adopted by the Conference”, *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3– 14 June 1992, vol. I, (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I)), resolution 1, annex I.*

² A/CONF.216/13, annex.

3. *Invites* all Caribbean States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Escazú Agreement, in accordance with article 21 thereof, as appropriate, as soon as possible;

4. *Expresses appreciation* to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support as secretariat in matters related to the Escazú Agreement in the Caribbean subregion.

111 (XXIX) SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and other relevant development platforms including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement in supporting the efforts of the associate members to address their economic, social and environmental challenges,

Bearing in mind the unique vulnerabilities that the associate members face, including debt and liquidity challenges, limited technical expertise, limited access to international donor funding, other resource gaps, and high exposure to climate change and extreme weather events,

Noting with concern the multidimensional impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the welfare of the populations of the associate members and the impact it has had on their efforts at resilience-building,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 75/123, which invited Member States and organizations of the United Nations system, actively to support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism¹ during the Fourth International Decade,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 76/87, which stressed that because these small island Non-Self-Governing Territories face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling further the reference made to the sustainable development challenges faced by associate members in the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-seventh session,

Recalling the first ever high-level meeting of the associate members on their challenges in implementing the 2030 agenda,

Recalling also the assistance provided by the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to associate members affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Commission to integrate the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members into the regional and global dialogue on sustainable development, including support for the high-level participation of the associate members in its meetings,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Commission towards the greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in its studies and the need, in particular, for the inclusion of data on the associate members in reports on COVID-19 response and recovery,

Acknowledging also the efforts by Costa Rica, in its capacity as Chair of the Commission, to include associate members in regional forums and platforms on the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

¹ A/56/61, annex.

Noting with appreciation the support of the Commission for the resilience-building efforts of its associate members through assistance with their national sustainable development planning processes,

1. *Requests* the Commission to pursue the full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in support of its associate members;

2. *Also requests* the Commission, where possible, to expand its collection of data on key sectors in associate member countries with a view to shaping appropriate assistance programmes to accelerate progress in their economic and social sectors;

3. Further *requests* the Commission to support associate members in their efforts to monitor and review implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway;

4. *Requests* the Commission to consider annual deployment of resources, where available, on a permanent basis, for technical assistance to support interested associate members in the design and implementation of sustainable development policies;

5. *Also requests* the Commission to consider at the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2023, the vulnerabilities of and challenges faced by the associate members in their pursuit of sustainable development, with a view to mobilizing regional and international solidarity and support;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the implementation of this resolution.

Annex 1

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LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES¹**

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¹ The information contained in this list is as supplied by the participants themselves, in the register provided for the meeting. Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión.

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Annex 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item 1 LC/CDCC.29/1 LC/CDCC.29/2	Opening of the session Provisional agenda Annotated provisional agenda Preliminary programme
Agenda item 2 LC/CDCC.29/DDR/1	The Caribbean Outlook: recovery and repositioning in the wake of COVID-19 The Caribbean Outlook. Summary
Agenda item 4 LC/FDS.5/5	Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean Summary of the Chair on the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development
Agenda item 7 LC/CDCC.29/DDR/3 LC/CDCC.29/DDR/4 LC/CDCC.29/DDR/2	Matters relating to the programme of work Implementation of the 2021 programme of work. Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean Proposed programme of work for 2022 - subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean Proposed programme of work for 2023 - subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean
Agenda item 9	Consideration and adoption of resolutions Resolutions