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Twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Port of Spain, 3 November 2023

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening session

Opening statements will be made by Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, in his capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC); Penelope Beckles, Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago; and José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (pre-recorded video message).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Monitoring Committee will have before it for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda of the meeting.

The Committee may also wish to consider the preliminary programme of the meeting, along with any other procedural matters, as necessary.

Working documents:

- Provisional agenda (LC/MCCDCC.21/1)
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/MCCDCC.21/2)

Reference document:

- Preliminary programme of the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

3. Repositioning the Caribbean in a dynamic and competitive global environment

A high-level ministerial panel will lead the first round-table discussion on strategic considerations for effectively repositioning the Caribbean in an increasingly challenging and competitive global environment in the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Monitoring Committee will be invited to exchange views on how best to address continuing issues of vulnerability, and on likely partnerships and new alliances that might be pursued to secure greater support for development and resilience-building in the subregion.

4. Strategies to advance recovery and economic transformation

A ministerial round table will lead discussion on efforts to foster recovery and economic transformation in the subregion. While the Caribbean economy expanded by 5.7% in 2022, high inflation and slowing global growth are likely to result in economic stagnation, reversing gains made over the past two years. The Monitoring Committee will be invited to consider the strategies that may be implemented to bolster the current growth trajectory by fostering economic diversification and securing greater levels of financing and investment.

5. Furthering the SIDS agenda in the Caribbean

A round table of experts and country representatives will lead the Monitoring Committee's consideration of measures to encourage effective implementation of the new programme of action of small island developing States (SIDS) to be adopted at the fourth International Conference on small island developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024. Central to the discussions will be consideration of optimal modalities to be incorporated in the proposed mechanism to monitor and support implementation of both the SIDS programme of action and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These will include the mandate, structure and functions of the mechanism, as well as measures to assure its sustainability.

Reference document:

- Kingstown (SVG) Outcome Document

6. Confronting the implementation deficit through strengthened institutional capacity

The round table of experts leading this discussion will explore the extent to which the absence of robust institutional capacity slows implementation and constrains monitoring and evaluation, undermining the overall development process. The Monitoring Committee will be invited to join a frank exchange on the challenges faced by member States that directly affect their capacity to expend resources to advance efficient and effective implementation of development projects.

7. Implementation of the 2022 programme of work for the Caribbean

Subprogramme 12 of the ECLAC programme of work focuses on subregional activities in the Caribbean. In 2022, emphasis continued to be placed on the post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and on investment in adaptation and economic transformation, in particular. Development efforts included enhanced cooperation with the wider Latin American region through a range of activities, including capacity-building, technical and institutional strengthening, support for improved evidence-based policymaking, research and analysis, and technical cooperation.

The Monitoring Committee may take note of the implementation of the programme of work for 2022 and reaffirm subregional priorities that member States would want to see addressed in 2024.

Working document:

- Implementation of the 2022 programme of work. Subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean (LC/MCCDCC.21/DDR/1)

8. Other matters

Under this agenda item, delegates may raise any other matters requiring the consideration of the Monitoring Committee.

9. Date and venue of the thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

In accordance with article 10 of the Constituent Declaration of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1), the Chair of the sessions shall follow the principle of rotation among the member countries in the English alphabetical order of their names. The rotation therefore moves to Trinidad and Tobago for the thirtieth session of the Committee in 2024.

The Monitoring Committee shall decide on the date and venue of the thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which should be held prior to the fortieth session of ECLAC in 2024.

Working document:

- Date and venue of the thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/MCCDCC.21/3)

10. Conclusions and recommendations

Closing remarks will be made by the Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the Chair of CDCC.