



Antigua and Barbuda Country Report

Montevideo Strategy

58th Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean



Achievements on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy & synergies with other international commitments

Montevideo Strategy for

Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030

- Normative framework
- Institutions
- Participation
- Capacity-building and -strengthening
- Financing
- Communication
- Technology
- Cooperation
- Information systems
- Monitoring, evaluation and accountability



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



XIII
Regional Conference
on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean

01

Normative Framework

Antiguans and Barbudans are accorded equal rights under the Constitution Order of Antigua and Barbuda (1981). Discrimination on the basis of sex is specifically prohibited within the Constitution.

A&B is party to the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para), the Beijing+25, and other global platforms where advancing gender equality is embedded, such as the SDGs.

01

Normative Framework

National framework to promote and achieve gender equality include the passage and implementation of a number of national legislations such as Sexual Offences Act 1995, The Domestic Violence Act 2015, Child Protection Legislations, the Trafficking in Persons Act, among others.

Drafting of legislation in 2018 to address sexual harassment with model legislation provided by CARICOM and the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean State and a Sexual Prevention Harassment Policy.

01

Normative Framework

Enactment of legislation to enhance the integration of persons with disabilities into society, by making revisions to legislation to remove the unintentional discrimination that persons living with disabilities face.

A legislative Review was also conducted in Antigua and Barbuda includes recommendations to strengthen the number of legislations to promote gender equality.

Development of a National Gender Equality Action Plan to mainstream gender throughout the government's development plan, policies, legislations and initiatives.

01

Normative Framework

Improved access to justice particularly for women and other vulnerable groups through the launch of a Sexual Offences Model Court.

The establishment of this specialized court, in addition to our One-Stop Centre for survivors of gender-based violence is another measure that is taken by the government of A&B to ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to justice and reparations.

Various protocols have been established between agencies to promote equality.

02

Institutional Architecture

The Directorate is responsible promoting gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment nationally. The agency is continuously being strengthened with the necessary technical, human, political, administrative and financial resources.

Several initiatives have been designed to address discriminatory gender stereotypes nationally and promote gender mainstreaming. The current development of a National Gender Policy and Action plan will include a gender management framework with focal points across the various levels and arms of government and civil society.

03

Popular and Citizen Participation

Civil society and vulnerable populations increased participation through various legislative and policy measures. Civil society organizations are regularly engaged and participate in capacity-building exercises organized by the state to support their sustainability and functions.

There are no laws or policies which specifically call for the increase and enhancement of opportunities for the equal participation of women in positions of power, leadership and decision-making.

However, there is 50% representation of women in parliament.

04

State Capacity-Building and Strengthening

The Directorate of Gender Affairs through the Ministry of Social Transformation conducts training sessions with support from various international agencies, aimed at building capacity and expanding the knowledge of critical stakeholders, such as public servants, departments and policy-makers.

Training Division also conducts a number of training exercises geared towards promoting social and gender sensitivity across the public sector at various levels.

New partnership is forged with academia to facilitate more training.

05

Financing

With the support of UNICEF, the Department of Social Policy, Research and Planning within my Ministry implemented and executed an Integrated Social Protection Systems Project which involved a series of consultations pertaining to child and gender sensitive budgeting, and social protection reform.

As a small island developing state, with high indebtedness and increased vulnerability to natural disasters, extreme weather events and climate change, A&B continues to increase its efforts to mobilize sufficient financing and sustainable resources for gender equality.

06

Communication

A&B developed a communication strategy that has outlined the key commitments and priorities for achieving gender equality nationally across sectors.

Communication plans have been developed with various strategies which include both traditional and non-traditional media targeting various groups in society such as churches, men and boys, policy-makers, youth, PWDs, civil society, etc.

Public education materials campaigns on key legislations and commitments and gender issues have been implemented and widely disseminated to foster behavioural change.

07

Technology

As a part of its gender mainstreaming initiative A&B will also ensure that the policies within the Ministry of Information and Technology are gender responsive.

The Ministry of Information Technology has implemented a number of initiatives to promote women and girls' access and participation through skills-building in technology and innovation.

Initiatives have been implemented to promote girl's participation in STEM fields.

The Electronic Crimes Act is a measure that was implemented to protect the rights of individuals in the use of ICTs.

08

Cooperation

A&B is continuously increasing resources and strategies on building its resilience to the impact of climate change, disasters and extreme weather events. In regard to the integration of gender perspectives into national disaster management, relief and recovery strategies, steps are being taken through our gender mainstreaming efforts.

The National Office of Disaster Services works along closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and other agencies, to ensure that gender & intersectional issues are integrated into all plans for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and shelter management.

09

Information systems

A&B adopted the CARICOM gender indicators and sustainable development goals targets and indicators that are applicable to ensure that disaggregated data is collected and disseminated by sex, age, race and socioeconomic status.

The continuous strengthening of our national statistical machinery is intended to ensure evidence-based policies and are designed and implemented to meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

10

Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

The national gender equality action plan for A&B is being developed at a critical time as we participate in this important process, and as we prepare to participate in our national CEDAW Constructive Dialogue this year and to hold national consultations for our Beijing+25 review.

M & E, along with accountability structures and mechanisms will be integrated within the action plan, with key recommendations and lessons from these processes. The harmonization of key international and national commitments will also ensure the development of comprehensive reports through inter-ministerial and inter-institutional coordination.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthening of statistical machineries to adequately collect disaggregated data and to measure gender inequalities which contribute to more relevant public policies and timely and coordinated reporting on national progress to achieving gender equality to across all mechanisms.

Legislative Strengthening to eliminate discriminatory laws to ensure that the legal framework is consistent with the priority measures of the Montevideo Strategy, Beijing+25 priorities, CEDAW, Belem Do Para, SDGs and all other commitments.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Greater national coordination and training to promote cultural change from harmful gender norms and stereotypes and increase the understanding of the importance of gender mainstreaming and harmonization of all national and international priorities.

A&B reiterates our commitment to the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy, the Regional Gender Agenda and all other international commitments including the sustainable development agenda.



THANKYOU!

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