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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda

**Managua, Nicaragua
19 to 21 May 2015**

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

AND THE CARIBBEAN



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

**Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
The United Nations at 70: Taking stock of the decolonization agenda**

Report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Dale Alexander
Focal Point for the Associate Members

Provision of development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Reporting Period: 2012-2015

On behalf of the Executive Secretary, Ms. Alicia Bárcena, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in Managua.

Background

The Caribbean is home to a number of small island territories for which France, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States of America respectively serve as Administering Powers. Of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories classified by the United Nations General Assembly, seven have been admitted to ECLAC as Associate Members. They are: Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands. Together with other island States, these Associate Members share similar challenges and vulnerabilities.

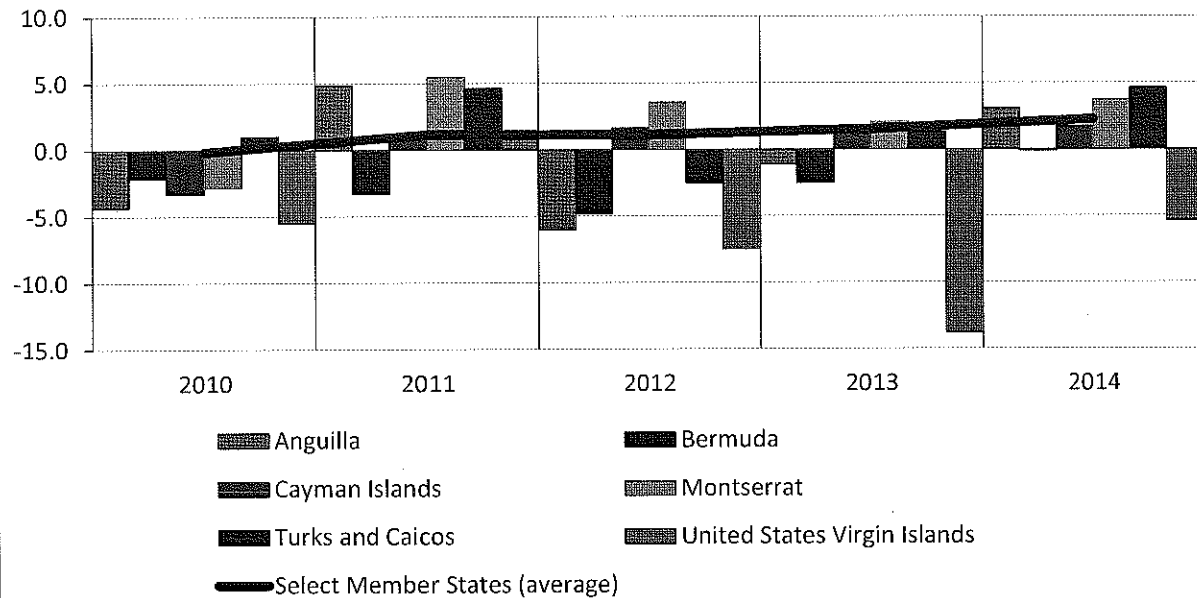
Development Challenges of Non-Self-Governing Territories

First, the Caribbean is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, including hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Collectively, these represent a significant economic and human security risk to the populations of the region.

Second, most countries of the Caribbean subregion rely on fuel imports for the vast majority of their energy needs. This has made them extremely vulnerable to fluctuating global energy prices and transportation costs. This situation is especially challenging for Non-Self-Governing Territories, which are unable to advance strategic approaches for long-term planning in the energy sector. Efficiency in demand and supply, as well as diversification of energy sources remain major development priorities.

Third, several of the Non-Self-Governing Territories suffer from structural weaknesses, which highlight the need for economic diversification and increased competitiveness as critical areas of concern. The economies are predominantly based on tourism, with some support from the agriculture sector. Typically, industrial capacity is underdeveloped and weak, and while there has been some attempt at economic diversification, this has largely remained a critical challenge for these Territories. Further, according to ECLAC data, these Territories have struggled to maintain consistent growth over the past five years.

**CDCC¹ Member States and Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories
GDP Growth: 2010-2014
(Percentages)**



Source: ECLAC on the basis of official figures ²

Finally, there is a dearth of consistent and standardized data collection for essential monitoring of performance, discovery of trends, and evidence-based decision-making to support sustainable development. The absence of robust institutional systems to support the collection and analysis of credible data has negatively impacted the investment regime and development experience of these Territories.

Supporting the Progress towards Self-Determination

Within this context, ECLAC’s mission is to deepen the understanding of the development challenges facing the region, and to stimulate and facilitate the search for solutions. This is done with an emphasis on addressing growth with equity, while recognizing the region’s vulnerability. Our mandate also includes fostering Caribbean socio-economic development and integration, and supporting the subregion in articulating its collective perspective on major global issues.

¹ The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is a permanent intergovernmental subsidiary body of ECLAC.

² Select Member States are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Since the convening of the last Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in Quito, 2013, ECLAC has continued to actively support its Associate Members within its core areas of work through the convening of intergovernmental meetings, expert group meetings and capacity-building workshops and seminars, at which their full participation was accorded. Further, under the umbrella of the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC), Associate Members have also been the beneficiaries of several advisory services and technical cooperation initiatives.

Some of the interventions which occurred during the reporting period are highlighted below.

First, in 2012, ECLAC, by resolution 662(XXXIV), admitted Bermuda as an Associate Member. That admission increased to seven, the number of Non-Self-Governing Territories that are now members of ECLAC. In addition to providing the political space for their development issues to be heard, Associate Membership within ECLAC provides the context for participating in the regional integration process, as well as for their inclusion in the wider research and analysis processes of ECLAC.

Second, responding to the challenge of institutional strengthening, ECLAC, in 2014, provided technical support to the Turks and Caicos Islands to develop population projections for a 15-year horizon, as well as targeted capacity-building in population projections and modeling. The outcome of that intervention has helped the government to understand the dynamics of the population and to better facilitate long-term planning.

Third, in Montserrat in 2013, ECLAC facilitated capacity-building in the area of information and communications technologies (ICTs) and disaster risk management. That intervention helped to strengthen the capacity of the Territory to design and implement policies aimed at making better use of ICTs as part of a comprehensive disaster risk management policy. Non-Self-Governing Territories and other Associate Members in the Caribbean are encouraged to continue to avail themselves of the advisory and technical cooperation expertise of ECLAC through the RPTC framework, by submitting their requests for technical assistance.

Finally, for the Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, ECLAC partnered with the World Bank and other development agencies in the Caribbean to implement the recent round of the International Comparison Program (ICP)³. That intervention included convening expert group meetings on Prices statistics and National Accounts statistics, providing technical assistance, and providing support to member States and Associate Members with limited financial assistance to facilitate the collection of the

³ The International Comparison Program (ICP) is a statistical initiative, which produces internationally comparable price levels, economic aggregates in real terms, and Purchasing Power Parity estimates. Coordinated by the World Bank, the ICP uses a series of statistical surveys to collect price data for a basket of goods and services.

required prices. In that round, the Caribbean demonstrated comprehensive participation. Statisticians from the Territories received training in national accounts statistics, and in the identification and collection of household consumption and other prices of items in an expanded basket of consumer items in the Caribbean. As at 31 May 2013, all Territories had submitted data to fulfill the two component requirements of the ICP.

The table below summarizes the level of engagement with these Territories during the reporting period. A comprehensive list is annexed to this report.

Intervention	2012	2013	2014	2015 ⁴
Technical Assistance	1	1	1	1
Capacity-building Initiatives	0	2	0	0
Meetings at which Non-Self-Governing Territories participated (including Intergovernmental meetings)	2	11	4	1
Studies that included data on Non-Self-Governing Territories	1	12	7	1

Looking Forward

Notwithstanding the progress that continues to be made in supporting Non-Self-Governing Territories, the member States and Associate Members of ECLAC, through CDCC resolution 85(XXV), have requested the greater inclusion of the development experiences of the Associate Members in ECLAC's flagship publications, studies, and social, economic and statistical reports. Efforts are underway, in this regard, for example, to expand the coverage of the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Preliminary Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean to include Associate Members of ECLAC.

Finally, acknowledging the critical role of ECLAC in advancing the development processes of Non-Self-Governing Territories, ECLAC has also been invited to collaborate with these Territories through the European Union sponsored *Interreg Caraïbes* programme. This cooperation programme is a mechanism for building relationships and fostering integration between the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and their Caribbean neighbours by strengthening economic and social exchanges, and by improving the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and the sharing of experiences. ECLAC, therefore, looks forward to expanding its portfolio of intervention with the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, and supporting their transition to decolonized status.

⁴ As at 31 March 2015.

Annex 1: Technical Assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories

Territory	Description of assistance
Montserrat	<p>Technical mission to conduct meetings with stakeholders involved in energy development on the island, specifically to obtain updated information on the project aimed at exploiting geothermal energy involving the installation of a geothermoelectric plant. ECLAC was asked to make recommendations with regard to the negotiations between DIFD and the Montserrat government as well as highlight the assistance it could provide to the project (29-30 March 2012)</p>
Turks and Caicos Islands	<p>To provide technical support to the Ministry of the Environment and Home Affairs, Department of Social Development and gender Affairs in the facilitation of two workshops on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (3-5 December 2013).</p>
	<p>To collect baseline data for development of National Population Projections and meet with officials of the Strategic Policy and Planning Department (6-12 October 2014).</p>
	<p>To present new population projections to the staff of the Strategic Planning and Policy Department, and to provide training so that staff of the Department are able to maintain, update and further develop the projections in the future (2-5 February 2015).</p>

Annex 2: Capacity-building initiatives to Non-Self-Governing Territories

Title of seminar/workshop	Venue and date	Territory
Subregional workshop on information and communication technologies for disaster risk management in the Caribbean. (LC/CAR/L.426)	Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago, 17-18 September 2013	Montserrat.
Training programme on innovative fiscal and regulatory incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives	Kingston, Jamaica, 26-28 November 2013	Bermuda.

Annex 3: Meetings at which Non-Self-Governing Territories participated

Meeting	Venue and date	Territory
Expert group meeting on price statistics and national accounts: ICP round 2011. (LC/CAR/L.385)	Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 26-30 March 2012.	Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Montserrat.
Expert group meeting on price statistics (ICP)	Oranjestad, Aruba, 27-31 August 2012	Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Montserrat.
Expert group meeting on price statistics: ICP Round 2011	Montego Bay, Jamaica, 13-15 March 2013.	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
Expert group meeting on national accounts	Willemstad, Curaçao, 27 May-1 June 2013	Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
Caribbean Regional Preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. (LC/CAR/L.427)	Kingston, Jamaica, 2-4 July 2013	British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, and United States Virgin Islands.
Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development. (LC/CAR/L.428)	Georgetown, Guyana, 9-10 July 2013	Cayman Islands.
Sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. (LC/CAR/L.417)	Georgetown, Guyana, 11 July 2013	Cayman Islands, and Montserrat.
Expert group meeting on unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean. (LC/CAR/L.422)	Kingston, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 8 August 2013	Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Meeting	Venue and date	Territory
Caribbean preparatory meeting for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. (LC/CAR/L.416)	Kingston, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 9 August 2013	Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
Caribbean regional strategic consultation on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. (LC/CAR/L.425)	Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 August 2013	Bermuda, and British Virgin Islands.
Expert group meeting on information and communication technologies for disaster risk management in the Caribbean. (LC/CAR/L.419)	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16 September 2013	Montserrat.
Twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin American and the Caribbean. (LC/L.3789)	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15-18 October 2013	Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
Seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (LC/L.3771)	Santiago, Chile, 5-7 November 2013	British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands.
Third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable	Kingston, Jamaica 23-24 April 2014	Bermuda.
Twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. (LC/CAR/L.440)	Kingston, Jamaica 25 April 2014	Bermuda.

Meeting	Venue and date	Territory
Caribbean technical meeting on the Beijing +20 review and appraisal. (LC/CAR/L.454)	Santiago, Chile, 14-15 November 2014	Cayman Islands.
Expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 3 December 2014	Turks and Caicos Islands.
Second expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 12 March 2015	Turks and Caicos Islands.

Annex 4: Studies that included data on Non-Self-Governing Territories

Year of Publication	Title of Study
2012	A study on the capacity of statistical offices of the Caribbean to produce environment, social, economic and gender statistics (LC/CAR/L.380)
2013	An assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change on the tourism sector in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.394)
	An assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change on the health sector in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.396)
	An assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change on the water sector in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.399)
	Development paths in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.401)
	Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2011-2012: Positive growth amidst lingering downside risks (LC/CAR/L.402)
	Review and evaluation of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (2009-2013) (LC/CAR/L.407)
	Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean Economies: 2012-2013 (LC/CAR/L.410)
	Caribbean Development Report: Macroeconomic policy for structural transformation and social protection in small states (LC/CAR/L.411)
	The use of census data for national development planning: Focus on the 2010 Population and Housing Census (LC/CAR/L.414)
	Development of a modelling framework in support of an assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.418)
	Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2013: Improved economic performance with reduced downside risks (LC/CAR/L.420)
	Towards diversification of the tourism sector: A recreational demand study of yachting and marina services in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.421)
2014	Information and communication technology for disaster risk management in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.430)
	Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy: Caribbean Regional Synthesis Report (LC/CAR/L.431)
	Situation of unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.432)
	Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.433)
	Regional integration in the Caribbean: The role of trade agreements and structural transformation. (LC/CAR/L.448)
	Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2014: Reduced downside risks and better prospects for a recovery (LC/CAR/L.450)
	Caribbean Development Report - Exploring strategies for sustainable growth and development in Caribbean small island States (LC/CAR/L.451)

Year of Publication	Title of Study
2015	An assessment of the performance of CARICOM extraregional trade agreements - An initial scoping exercise (LC/CAR/L.455/Rev.1)