

**Caribbean regional report on the  
mid-term review of SIDS  
accelerated modalities of action**

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## Contents

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<b>Abstract</b>	7
<b>Acronyms</b>	101
<b>I. Means of implementation</b>	15
<b>A. Coherence and linkages between the Caribbean SIDS sustainable development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other global and regional frameworks and coordinating mechanisms</b>	15
1. Intergovernmental bodies	15
2. United Nations bodies	17
3. Selected cases supporting environmental governance in the context of sustainable development	18
<b>B. National institutionalisation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda</b>	19
1. Regional overview	19
2. Haiti's sustainable development agenda	21
3. Data and reporting	22
<b>II. Progress review</b>	25
<b>A. Sustained and sustainable inclusive and equitable economic growth and decent work for all (SDGs 1, 5, 8)</b>	25
1. Growth performance, debt and technical cooperation	25
2. De-risking and its implications for Caribbean SIDS	27
3. Post-hurricane reconstruction	28
4. Resilience and climate change adaptation activities	29
5. Trade and competitiveness	32
6. Alternative development models	35
<b>B. Climate change (SDG 13)</b>	39
1. Regional overview	39
2. Health and climate change adaptation	43
3. Participatory governance and local adaptation measures	44
<b>C. Sustainable energy (SDG 7)</b>	45

D.	Disaster risk reduction (SDG 11).....	50
<u>E.</u>	Oceans and seas (including fisheries) (SDG 14).....	56
	1. Ocean governance and the blue economy.....	56
	2. Ecosystem management.....	57
	3. Fisheries management.....	59
	4. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries.....	61
F.	Food security and nutrition (SDGs 2 & 3).....	61
	1. Nutrition.....	61
	2. Agricultural productivity, adaptation and disaster recovery.....	62
	3. Disaster recovery in the agricultural sector.....	64
	4. Agricultural research and technology.....	64
G.	Water and sanitation (SDG 6).....	65
	1. Water management.....	65
	2. Sanitation and wastewater management.....	68
H.	Sustainable transportation (SDG 9).....	69
	1. Energy efficiency in the transportation sector.....	69
	2. Connectivity and land transport.....	70
	3. Air transportation.....	71
	4. Marine transport and freight services.....	71
<u>I.</u>	Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12).....	73
J.	Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste (SDG 6).....	75
	1. Regional overview.....	75
	2. Mercury contamination.....	76
	3. Persistent organic pollutants and pesticides.....	76
	4. Solid waste management and marine litter.....	77
	5. Nuclear safety and e-waste.....	78
K.	Health and non-communicable diseases (SDG 3).....	79
	1. Regional overview.....	79
	2. Health sector governance and universal health coverage.....	79
	3. Non-communicable diseases.....	80
	4. Communicable diseases.....	82
	5. Maternal and infant health.....	84
	6. Mental health.....	84
	7. Health facilities and technology.....	84
L.	Gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG 5).....	85
	1. Frameworks and monitoring.....	85
	2. Equality and governance.....	86
	3. Political participation.....	86
	4. Economic empowerment and autonomy.....	87
	5. Physical autonomy.....	89
	6. Data.....	90
	7. Women and disaster preparedness, response and risk reduction.....	91
M.	Social development (SDGs 1, 5 & 10).....	91
	1. Regional overview.....	92
	2. Unemployment and poverty eradication.....	92
	3. Housing, planning and post-hurricane reconstruction.....	93
	4. Children’s and youth issues.....	95
	5. Ageing populations.....	97
	6. Indigenous peoples.....	99
N.	Culture and creative arts.....	101
	1. Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage.....	102
	2. The orange economy.....	102
	3. Carnivals.....	104
O.	Sport.....	105

P.	Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities (SDG 16) .....	106
1.	Regional overview .....	107
2.	Transnational organised crime and terrorism.....	109
3.	Corruption .....	110
4.	Migration and human trafficking .....	110
5.	Cyber-crime .....	111
6.	Youth issues .....	112
Q.	Education (SDG 4).....	113
1.	Regional overview .....	113
2.	Early childhood and primary education .....	114
3.	Secondary, technical, vocational and other tertiary education.....	115
R.	Biodiversity, forests, desertification, land degradation and drought (SDG 15).....	116
1.	Biodiversity, conservation and invasive alien species .....	116
2.	Forests .....	118
3.	Desertification and land degradation .....	120
S.	Industry, technology, data & statistics (SDG 17) .....	121
1.	ICT development.....	121
2.	Extractive industries.....	124
3.	Data and statistics.....	124
T.	Communication and awareness raising (SDG 4).....	126
	Bibliography .....	129
	Annexes .....	145
	<a href="#">Annex 1</a> Joint statement of the ninth general meeting between CARICOM and its associated institutions and the UN system .....	156
	Annex 2 Green climate fund activities in the Caribbean.....	160
	Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean: issues published.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>Tables</b>		
Table A.1	CARICOM, SAMOA Pathway, SDG linkages to UN MSDP .....	146
Table A.2	OECS implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and links to the SDG goals .....	150
Table A.3	Key Statistics – Caribbean SIDS.....	153
Table A.4	National planning bodies on the SIDS agenda .....	154
Table A.5	Green climate fund Caribbean readiness and preparatory support portfolio .....	160
	as at January 2018 .....	160
<b>Diagrams</b>		
Diagram 1	Alignment of the OECS Commission’s five strategic priorities .....	16
Diagram 2	Jamaica’s Broadband network connected sites as of August 2017 .....	121
<b>Boxes</b>		
Box 1	Best Practice-Use of partnership by the Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean.....	19
Box 2	Best Practice-Consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) on the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA pathway in Saint Lucia .....	21
Box 3	Blue growth Strategies in Grenada.....	37
Box 4	Establishment of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre at UWI ...	39
Box 5	Mainstreaming Climate Risk Assessment in Grenada.....	40
Box 6	Regional Climate Studies Financed by CDB .....	43

Box 7	Climate-proofing community micro-enterprises in Brasso Seco, Trinidad and Tobago .....	45
Box 8	Jamaica’s Net Zero Building .....	47
Box 9	Mainstreaming DRM in Grenada .....	51
Box 10	DRM capacity building at the community level .....	54
Box 11	Belize’s moratorium on petroleum operations in its maritime zone .....	58
Box 12	Inter-regional collaboration in the Fisheries Sector .....	60
Box 13	Investment in Trinidad and Tobago’s agriculture sector .....	62
Box 14	Water harvesting project in Jacob’s ladder, Jamaica .....	66
Box 15	Biodiesel R&D in Jamaica .....	70
Box 16	Ensuring continuity of ferry operations in Montserrat .....	72
Box 17	Used car legislation in the Caribbean .....	75
Box 18	The Caribbean waste management conference .....	78
Box 19	Progress in reducing NCDs .....	82
Box 20	Guyana’s Warrau Language Project .....	100
Box 21	Usain Bolt - the world’s fastest human .....	105
Box 22	ITU’s Caribbean school cyber security awareness programme .....	112
Box 23	Establishment of Caribbean cyber security centre in Belize .....	112
Box 24	Trinidad and Tobago juvenile court .....	113
Box 25	Bermuda lionfish taskforce .....	118

## Abstract

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The Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modality of Action (SAMOA Pathway) was adopted in 2014 at the United Nations (UN) Third International Conference on SIDS (the SIDS Conference) as the overarching SIDS framework for guiding global, regional and national development efforts. It builds on the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for the Sustainable Development of the SIDS and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI).

Regional preparatory meetings for the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SAMOA Pathway are held pursuant to paragraphs 27 and 28 of UN General Assembly Resolution 72/217, which reaffirmed the 2016 General Assembly's decision (A/RES/71/225) to convene a one-day high-level review at the UN Headquarters in September 2019 to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The high-level review will result in “a concise action oriented and inter-governmentally agreed political declaration”. Paragraph 28 called for “regional preparatory meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all SIDS, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national and regional levels”. Regional preparatory meetings are being held in the three SIDS regions, an inter-regional preparatory meeting will be held in Samoa in November 2018 and in September 2019. This Caribbean SIDS Mid-Term Report (MTR) on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Caribbean Region was compiled by ECLAC (Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean), UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA in New York. The MTR of the SAMOA Pathway provides an important opportunity to strengthen the implementation of sustainable development priorities in Caribbean SIDS. This is also in keeping with SAMOA Pathway requirements for Monitoring and Accountability.

For the purposes of this report, Caribbean SIDS refer to Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Also included are the territories of: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands<sup>1</sup>.

The Caribbean SAMOA Pathway MTR is timely as this region pursues an integrated sustainable development agenda that addresses their respective national priorities. This report will demonstrate the large

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<sup>1</sup> Table A.3 provides selected key statistics for the Caribbean SIDS

volume of important and varied body of sustainable development activities being implemented in the Caribbean SIDS. Various partnerships and project portfolios are also demonstrated including: SIDS-SIDS, south-south, triangular and public-private sector engagements. In pursuit of a timely, sustained, integrated and coherent approach that traverses global, regional and national commitments on the SIDS agenda, the region and member countries can be encouraged to consider the following observations at this midterm review stage of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and as follows:

- Programmatic approach to implementation: To have formalised national and regional mechanisms providing modalities on the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SAMOA Pathway and other agendas on sustainable development. Countries and development partners can reduce the reporting burden by taking a strategic approach to agreeing on priorities, baselines, targets and reporting procedures. An option includes grouping reporting requests and disseminating these twice a year so as to avoid disrupting peak periods of countries' internal work. This schedule will also allow additional time for quality assurance on reporting and a better response rate. Supporting the reduction in reporting requirements, countries and organizations can also capitalize on the use of appropriate information technology platforms,
- Establishment of norms and systems for setting targets, mapping, analysis, monitoring and reporting: This approach can serve to recognise gaps, assess the effectiveness for addressing regional and national enabling mechanisms, including partnerships, thereby facilitating policy coherence and synergies across developmental agendas. To highlight that similar requirements and observations were made to the findings presented from selected SIDS in the preparation of the SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). This includes, for example, lack of focused high-level policy support, institutional mechanisms, data, financial resources, limited engagement of non-state actors as well as human and institutional capacity (Government of Belize, 2017; United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, 2016a).
- Resource mobilisation: To have country driven and owned, dedicated skilled institutionalised resources providing for time-centred, data driven, and results-based reporting. In the context of competing sustainable development priorities, including management of other related platforms/frameworks/agreements, there is the need for Caribbean SIDS action-oriented information, communication, knowledge management, capacity building and awareness raising instruments. This approach is also strategic for continuity and including when there are changes in assigned officers and focal points.

This MTR aims to document a regional overview of the key sustainable development achievements, effectiveness, challenges and gaps for Caribbean SIDS within the context of the SAMOA Pathway. The report will highlight best practices, approaches, national and regional achievements as well as new and emerging issues in implementation. The report will include linkages and synergies with other sustainable development frameworks, policies and agreements. As practically possible, the report maps these findings aligned to the SAMOA Pathway and covering the period January 2015 to August 2018.

The sources of data and other information used for this report were generated from desk studies and contributions from Member countries, intergovernmental bodies and other key partners. The findings for the elaboration of this reported were matched as best fit against selected elements of the SAMOA Pathway and corresponding with the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This mapping approach for the report was used given the absence of an agreed methodology providing for a SAMOA Pathway specific, periodic and systematic reporting mechanism. The report demonstrates a high volume of targeted and innovative activities in all arms of sustainable development.

To achieve a cohesive and sustained approach for implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (including reporting), member countries will have to consider the elements of governance, policy, legislation, budget, human resources, institutional framework, national, regional and international coordination, access and availability of data, communication/awareness rising, and multisector stakeholder engagement, etc. There is also the urgent need for analysis of the existing institutions and mechanisms, roles and mandates with the purpose of identifying areas for overlap, duplication, gaps and conflicts. Emphasis should be on enhancing existing mechanisms and institutions rather than creating new ones and to have an institutionalised system for regular communication, reporting, evaluation and review. Most countries do have a designated (focal) ministry and/or dedicated office on sustainable development. However, the sustainable development focal points are not necessarily assigned with the SIDS agenda. Often the SIDS agenda is delegated as an

environmental function. Countries will need support towards addressing and sustaining this approach for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Partnerships and projects have played a vital role in supporting the sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS. In this report, selected cases are enlisted, representing governments, regional and international agencies, bilateral partners, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs) and institutions of higher learning. To allow for the assessment of impacts, there is the further need for the documentation of these partnerships and projects to include the relation with the SAMOA Pathway. This documentation will be useful on building on existing SIDS best practices, successful initiatives, use of lessons learnt and best use of resources. There is also the urgent need for stronger, targeted SAMOA Pathway specific communication and outreach multi-stakeholder drives. Comparative to the level of resource allocations including outreach applied under the 2030 Agenda, knowledge on history, purpose and objectives of the SIDS agenda is not as contemporary.

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## Acronyms

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ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ADFD	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMEXCID	Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BGDS	Barbados Growth and Development Strategy
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Centre
BIEE	Baseline Energy Efficiency Indicator Programme
BMC	Borrowing Member Country
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CAB	Caribbean Association of Banks
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CAPI	Computer-Aided Personal Interviewing
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
CARIFTA	Caribbean Free Trade Association
CARILEC	Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation
CARMABI	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI)
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CARTAC	Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance
CBU	Caribbean Broadcasting Union
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCCFCP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
CCH	CARICOM Caribbean Cooperation in Health
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CCIMU	Caribbean Creative Industries Management Unit
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
CCORAL	Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool
CCREEE	Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
CCRIF-SPC	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company
CCST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDCC	Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee

CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CEDA	Caribbean Export Development Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CENAPRED	National Centre for the Estimation, Prevention and Reduction of Disaster Risk
CEP	Caribbean Environmental Programme
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CHTA	Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association
CIMH	Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem
COHSOD	Council for Human and Social Development (CARICOM)
CCORAT	Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool
CONCACAF	Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football
COP	Conference of Parties
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CReW	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
CREWS	Climate Risk and Early Warning System
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSME	Caribbean Single Market Economy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSRO	Caribbean Sub-Regional Office
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CVQ	Caribbean Vocational Qualification
CWWA	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council
CYEN	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
DALA	Damage and Loss Assessment
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Canada)
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DIPECHO	Disaster Programme of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTDEER	Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations (ACS)
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
EDF	European Development Fund
EE	Energy Efficiency
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EPA	CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement
Escazu Agreement	Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GOB	Government of Barbados
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy (Guyana)
HCFC	Hydrochloroflourocarbon
HDI	Human Development Index
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbon
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HLPF	High Level High Level Political Forum
IACHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICC	International Cricket Council
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMPACS	Caribbean Community Implementing Agency for Crime and Security
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IP	Intellectual Property
IPP	Intellectual Property Policy
IPEEC	International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS Project
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JIS	Jamaica Information Service
JPCU	Joint Port Control Unit
KfW	German Bank for Reconstruction and Development
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Country
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging Technology
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MINUJUSTH	United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSDF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAREI	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (Guyana)
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGC	National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago
NHI	National Health Insurance
NIE	National Implementing Entity
NIHERST	National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NSO	National Statistical Office
NTA	National Training Agency
OAS	Organisation of American States
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation
PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS
PDMU	Project Development and Management Unit
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPF	Project Preparation Facility
PV	Photo-voltaic
RAFF	Revolving Adaptation and Funding Facility
RCM	Regional Coordinating Mechanism
RE	Renewable Energy
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme
RIE	Regional Implementing Entity
RSDS	Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics
SALISES	Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFTF	Sustainable Freight Transport and Finance
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SISRI	Small Island States Resilience Initiative
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
STZC	Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TIM	International Transit of Goods
TTEITI	Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United National Environmental Programme
UN-ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNLIREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-OHCHR	United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
UN-OHRLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTT	University of Trinidad and Tobago
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIDS	Association of Indigenous Village Leaders Suriname
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VRCP	Vulnerability Resilience Country Profile
UWI	University of the West Indies
WSRN	Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados
S-Barbados	
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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## I. Means of Implementation

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### A. Coherence and linkages between the Caribbean SIDS sustainable development agenda, SDGs and other global and regional frameworks and coordinating mechanisms

*The Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) adopted in 1994, further complemented by The Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) of 2005 and MSI+5 Outcome document, recognized that although they are afflicted by economic difficulties and confronted by development imperatives similar to those of developing countries generally, small island developing States (SIDS) have their own peculiar vulnerabilities and characteristics. SIDS' unique and particular vulnerabilities are highlighted in "The Future We Want", adopted at The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 - their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters (para 178). SIDS continue to address those structural and external challenges to achieve their sustainable development.<sup>2</sup>*

Paragraphs 120-124 of the SAMOA Pathway give references for sustainable development coherence and linkages. A key aspect of implementation on the SAMOA Pathway has been ensuring that the special case for SIDS, in recognition of their unique challenges and vulnerabilities (first recognised in the Rio Declaration of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development), is consistently addressed across the various global sustainable development frameworks. These include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda. For the Caribbean subregion, one country – Haiti – is also a Least Developing Country (LDC) and therefore will also be functioning under the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for LDCs.

#### 1. Intergovernmental bodies

The Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (July 2014, Antigua and Barbuda) approved the first ever CARICOM-wide Strategic Plan entitled – “Strategic Plan for the CARICOM 2015-2019: Repositioning CARICOM”. This Plan identifies eight Strategic Priorities for the Community over the five-year period, 2015-2019, and key areas of intervention for each. The Strategic Priorities are: Building Economic Resilience; Social Resilience; Environmental Resilience; Technological Resilience; two enabling priorities, Strengthening the CARICOM

<sup>2</sup> UN Division of Economic and Social Affairs (2018) <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids>.

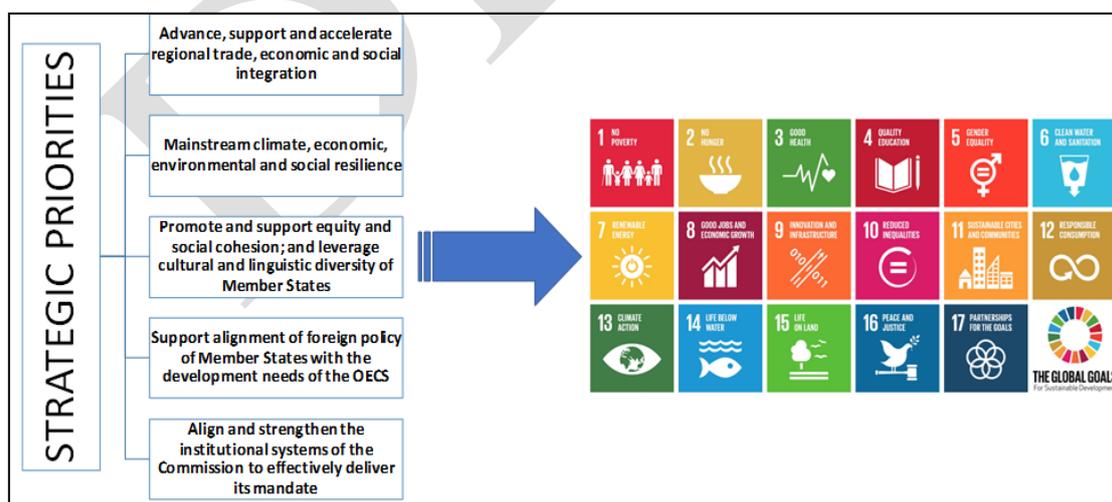
Identity and Spirit of Community, and Strengthening Community Governance; along with two cross-cutting priorities of Coordinated Foreign Policy, Research and Development, and Innovation.

Arising out of the consultations, a number of areas of intervention are identified in the Plan but given the Community's limited resources, the Heads of Government recognised the need to further prioritise. On the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the Conference agreed on 11 high-priority areas for focused implementation over the next five years. To institute a more results focused culture across the Community, and to monitor the progress made on the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, the CARICOM Secretariat developed and implemented a Gender-Sensitive CARICOM Results-based Management System for the Community. This system is a Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) funded Regional Project, which although instituted at the CARICOM Secretariat, the principles will be adopted by the other two implementing partners, i.e. Member States and Regional Institutions. This is of particular importance as it includes a Community Performance Measurement Framework with indicators owned by all implementing partners.

Adopting the results-based management approach to planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the status of implementation and impact of Community outcomes, will engender a stronger sense of accountability and transparency across the Community and increase the pace of the regional integration process and its impact on the lives of all within the Community. Full implementation will commence in 2019 with the production of the Community's first Results Focussed Report in the first quarter (CARICOM, 2018a).

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission recently received approval of its three-year Work Plan (2018–2021) aimed at working across its programmatic areas in all Member States to consolidate the single economic space for enhanced economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Its five strategic priorities are advancement, support and acceleration of regional trade, economic and social integration; mainstreaming climate, economic, environmental and social resilience; promotion and support of equity and social cohesion and leveraging cultural and linguistic diversity of Member States; alignment of foreign policy of Member States with the development needs of the OECS; and alignment and strengthening the institutional systems of the Commission to effectively deliver its mandate. Moreover, the OECS is in the process of finalising its Growth and Development Strategy which captures the following Priority Areas: Environment, Food Security and Nutrition, Social Development and Protection, and Health (OECS, 2018a).

**Diagram 1**  
**Alignment of the OECS Commission's five strategic priorities**



Source: OECS (2018a)

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) also seeks to strengthen regional cooperation in order to achieve sustained cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological advancement; develop the potential of the Caribbean Sea; promote an enhanced economic space for trade and investment; and establish the necessary institutional structures and cooperative arrangements responsive to the various cultural identities and developmental needs within the region. The ACS has mapped 14 of the 17 SDGs into its work programmes within the ACS mandate of collaboration, cooperation and concerted action in the functional

areas of Trade, Sustainable Tourism, Transport, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Caribbean Sea Commission. Gender and Youth are also being mainstreamed into all work programmes (ACS, 2018).

In order to ensure greater synergy in the achievement, the ACS Secretariat is being restructured to institute Directorates with responsibility for Trade and Sustainable Development, Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation and DRR, Environment and the Caribbean Sea; with mechanisms being put in place to strengthen collaboration and partnerships with other regional organisations including the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), other UN Agencies, CARICOM, Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration, Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, Central American Integration System (SICA), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC), Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), National Centre for the Estimation, Prevention and Reduction of Disaster Risk (CENAPRED), Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Central American Commission on Maritime Transport and Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) (ACS, 2018).

## 2. United Nations bodies

UN agencies continue to support Caribbean countries to implement and report on the SAMOA Pathway, 2030 Agenda, and other sustainable development agendas through respective UN Sustainable Development Frameworks and to allow coherent and joint support to the Governments. The Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions carried out have aligned the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs with countries' national development plans and have produced national roadmaps for accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

Similar exercises were not identified towards supporting the SAMOA Pathway implementation and in accordance to the UN System Implementation Matrix<sup>3</sup>. This UN matrix maps the responsibilities of the UN system in implementing the SAMOA Pathway against the elements of the SAMOA Pathway. This matrix captures specific mandates and recommendations addressed to the United Nations system as well as areas where the UN system expressed interest in focusing its work. For the purpose of this MTR, no reports were received demonstrating systematic alignment to this UN matrix<sup>4</sup>.

The UN's Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) in the Caribbean 2017-2021 highlights the linkages between the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and CARICOM's Strategic Plan. The MSDF, which was created in line with the 2030 Agenda, defines how the UN system will jointly achieve development results in partnership with the majority of English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories during the period 2017 to 2021. It is anchored in the SDGs and contributes to fulfilment of the SAMOA Pathway and the CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019 (United Nations Environmental Programme - UNEP, 2018a).

The MSDF has provided for the articulation of common priority areas for the Caribbean countries. This has been a positive development in bringing coherence to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) in the Caribbean and in facilitating collaboration and partnerships among most UN agencies in the sub-region<sup>5</sup>. However, while there was wide participation during the development of the MSDF, there are still challenges with the implementation of country programmes, in particular getting ministries as well as employers' and workers' organisations to be involved in the process (International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2018).

Synergies between the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs within SIDS were discussed during the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (2018), SAMOA Pathway: UN System implementation matrix, Available at; [http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/612SAMOA%20Pathway%20implementation%20matrix\\_UN%20system.pdf](http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/612SAMOA%20Pathway%20implementation%20matrix_UN%20system.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> This Caribbean SAMOA Pathway MTR - did not include an analysis on the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (Geneva 2016): Comprehensive Review of United Nations System Support For SIDS, Final Findings, Available at; [https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu\\_document\\_files/products/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU\\_REP\\_2016\\_7\\_English.pdf](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_document_files/products/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2016_7_English.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> It is to be noted that not all UN offices supporting Caribbean SIDS are physically located in this region.

Mechanism<sup>6</sup> (RCM), hosted by ECLAC's Caribbean Sub Regional Headquarters in March 2018. In April 2018, the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC<sup>7</sup>) reaffirmed its commitment to fully operationalise the RCM in the Caribbean, with a view to monitoring and supporting integration in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. It called upon Member States to designate a national entity as the focal point for the RCM. Further, the CDCC noted the importance of integrated reporting responsibilities as the Caribbean strives to maintain its international commitments. Towards this end, members requested the secretariat of ECLAC, in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the UN system and CARICOM, to provide the institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway at the national and regional levels (ECLAC, 2018a).

The ECLAC-CDCC Resolution 100 (XXVII) 2018, 'Ensuring Synergy in the Implementation of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action in the Caribbean Subregion', acknowledged the need to enhance regional coordination in support of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in the SIDS of the Caribbean by strengthening the national institutional framework for sustainable development and building partnerships (ECLAC, 2018a).

### **3. Selected cases supporting environmental governance in the context of sustainable development**

Caribbean SIDS major economies are dependent on natural and environmental resources. Environmental Governance is therefore an essential component in the sustainable use including conservation and protection of these resources. Caribbean countries are also Parties to many regional and international environment agreements and therefore are required to have mechanisms for supporting the objective and purpose of these.

ECLAC and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy of Law recently published the seminal work 'Ensuring environmental access rights in the Caribbean Analysis of selected case law'. This publication presents a brief overview of the applicable legal framework and a selection of case law from high courts of Caribbean countries, providing a synopsis of the innovative judicial treatment of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters and identifying general core elements common to most jurisdictions (ECLAC & CCJ, 2018).

The Second Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Licensing and Compliance was organised by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to bring together environmental regulators, enforcement officials, and legislative professionals across the region to share experiences and innovations in environmental and social safeguard policies and their implementation in country systems, and to identify best practices and lessons learned. Several Caribbean countries were represented as well as three regional organisations (CDB, OECS, and the University of the West Indies (UWI)) and two international organisations – the European Space Agency and UNEP. Country participants included representatives of environmental management and planning agencies and ministries, town and country planning institutions and environmental permitting and compliance agencies (IDB, 2017a).

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean ("Escazú Agreement") was adopted in March 2018 in Escazú, Costa Rica with the active participation of Caribbean countries. The Escazú Agreement is the only treaty stemming from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean. It seeks to ensure that all persons, particularly those in vulnerable situations, have access to timely and reliable information, can effectively participate in decisions that affect their lives and surroundings and can have access to justice in environmental matters, placing equality at the centre of sustainable development and aiming to leave no one behind; thus contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. According to its article 11.2, the Parties shall give particular consideration to LDC, landlocked developing countries and SIDS from Latin America and the Caribbean. Negotiations for this Treaty began in 2012. UN Environment supported the process starting in 2013, including through developing a number of resource materials and interventions. As of

<sup>6</sup> The RCM was first proposed by Caribbean states, as a coordinating mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the development agenda as outlined under the BPOA. It has been retained for the coordination of all subsequent development programmes including the MSI and the SAMOA Pathway (ECLAC, 2018a).

<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to resolution 358(XVI) of 1975, the CDCC was created as a permanent subsidiary body of the ECLAC to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. See: <https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean/committees>

October 2018, fifteen Latin American and Caribbean countries have signed the “Escazú Agreement”. These countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia. The Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.<sup>8</sup>

Notably, the OECS established an Environmental Sustainability Cluster in 2016. Under Article 24 of the Protocol of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union, Member States are to implement the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS to minimise environmental vulnerability, improve environmental management and protect the region’s natural resource base for their optimal social and economic benefits. This is done through the Cluster’s focal areas of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Ocean Governance and Fisheries, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Sustainable Energy and Land and Water Resources Management in addition to other general sustainable development issues (OECS, 2018a).

The Cartagena Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region has been signed by almost all the Caribbean SIDS. The Convention is supported by three technical agreements or Protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, and Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution. Under this Convention there are four Regional Activity Centres (based in Cuba, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, and Trinidad and Tobago) offering assistance to Member States (UNEP CEP, 2017a).

Caribbean countries are Parties to and continue to be strong supporters of many Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). However, countries have found it difficult to sustain the agreed obligations under these agreements due to such factors as: limited resources including lack of capacity to address emerging and increasingly complex scientific and technical issues. Meanwhile, environmental degradation in the Caribbean continues to have negative impacts on ecosystem health, sustainable economic growth, and human well-being. There is need for strategic and political approach given the nature of independence of environmental and sustainable development governance processes (CARICOM, 2018b). This will also require investments in data generation, statistical and information infrastructures and other required coordination mechanisms.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC Caribbean) has 14 Contracting Member Parties in the Caribbean and is required to facilitate training and technology transfers with respect to the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes in the context of the Convention. In this regard, the knowledge base and service delivery of the BCRC-Caribbean has been expanded to focus on a more holistic approach to chemicals and waste management for the Caribbean region. BCRC-Caribbean has pinpointed several issues that constrain the execution of its Caribbean agenda; including limited financial resources, low technology transfer as well as the absence of legislation, policy and data (BCRC- Caribbean, 2018).

#### Box 1

##### Best Practice – Use of Partnerships by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region (BCRC Caribbean) views partnerships (especially in the Caribbean SIDS context) as extremely effective as there is comparability among the islands due to small size, capacity (technological, institutional and human) and similarity with priority issues. Further, BCRC Caribbean views itself as a partnership in light of its network of country driven national coordinators and project working groups. However, it notes that changes in political environment (i.e. Government and Ministry personnel) can have significant impacts on regional partnerships. The public-private partnership approach is one that is now being pursued by the Centre. The private sector is keen on maintaining their Corporate Social Responsibility and the Centre is now strategizing in ways by which they can harness this CSR through providing opportunities for the private sector to participate.

Source: BCRC Caribbean (2018)

## B. National institutionalisation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda

### 1. Regional overview

The following overview clarifies the efforts of Caribbean SIDS to domesticate the sustainable development agenda and outlines some of the progress made in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national

<sup>8</sup> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (2018), available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>

level. Harmonisation with the SDGs and, to a lesser extent, the SAMOA Pathway, has been observed in several national development strategies. Several variants of a Vision 2030 Plan have been promulgated in such countries as Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, The Bahamas (Vision 2040), Belize and Guyana (Green State Development Strategy - GSDS, 2017 - 2030). As summarized in Table A., each country has a designated ministry or agency as the focal point for leading their sustainable development portfolios.

As outlined in Belize's Horizon 2030 and Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2020, the country is a supporter of, or signatory to, a number of high-level international agreements relevant to the integration of sustainable development (understood in the comprehensive way as defined by the Belize Framework for Sustainable Development) in national policy and planning. These include, but are not limited to the 2030 Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway and SICA (Government of Belize, 2017). Curaçao's National Development Plan makes mention of the SAMOA Pathway and indicates that four areas were identified for priority action: Energy and Renewable Energy; Water and wastewater management; Waste Management; and Marine Research and Protection (Government of Curaçao, 2018). The Dominican Republic has made significant efforts towards combining and aligning the SDGs with its National Development Strategy and other planning instruments, prioritizing objectives based on the country's context, as well as in the exploration of an optimal intervention architecture to accelerate progress (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

Aruba has established a National SDG Commission and an Indicator Working Group under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister. Similarly, Jamaica has developed a coordinating mechanism involving a National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee and a 2030 Agenda SDGs Core Group to streamline international agreements in the national development process. Included in Jamaica's SDGs Core Group's mandate is the integration of principles outlined in the following other development frameworks that are aligned with the SDGs: the SAMOA Pathway; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Paris Agreement; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. Jamaica's national development planning institutional structure also takes into account incorporation of the sustainable development agenda at the local level. Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency developed a Framework of Local Sustainable Development Planning which required parish councils to develop and institutionalize forums to facilitate public participation in the planning process at the parish level. Thus far, five of Jamaica's 14 parishes have developed Local Sustainable Development Plans (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Saint Lucia has completed its Vulnerability Resilience Country Profile (VRCP) which prioritized the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway. The VRCP process assisted the country in linking related SDGs to the prioritized SAMOA Pathway thematic areas which will be used to select the key pillars of a five-year Medium Term Development Strategy. A VRCP website<sup>9</sup> was launched in 2018 and highlights the prioritized thematic coming out of the process (Government of Saint Lucia, 2018).

As signatories to the MSDF, several governments have been beneficiaries of MAPS missions which have aided them in the development of a roadmaps for SDG implementation. These roadmaps have highlighted, inter alia, financing needs and data requirements as well as potential accelerators for implementation (Government of Jamaica, 2018). Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have all benefitted from MAPS Missions conducted by the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and the UNDP. It is expected that by September 2018, Curaçao will present a roadmap for SDG implementation within the framework of MAPS (Government of Curaçao, 2018). Saint Lucia and Sint Maarten are also working to develop roadmaps through future MAPS Missions. Other Caribbean countries have since requested similar assistance, demonstrating how effective joint interventions are for the region (UNEP, 2018a).

Belize was the first Caribbean country to present its VNR in 2017. This was followed by Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten (under the umbrella of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) in that same year. The Bahamas, along with the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, presented their VNRs at the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on their progress thus far. It is noteworthy to highlight that in these VNRs for the SIDS, it will be of value added to include the SAMOA Pathway implementation integration. In this regard, ECLAC continues to urge Caribbean SIDS to be active contributors in the VNR process as it directly relates

<sup>9</sup> The Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profile (VRCP) has been developed through a series of expert- and inter-agency consultations engaging the Technical Advisory Group of the EU-funded "ISLANDS" project. It was introduced and piloted in selected SIDS, since March 2013 VRCP provides guidance for monitoring progress in each of the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway and using the resulting analyses to formulate policy and implement activities at the national level to strengthen resilience (2018). Available at: <http://vrpc.govt.lc/>

to the efficacy of the HLPF and helps to monitor and evaluate challenges and progress made in each country while facilitating peer learning by nations and that this process should also include synergies with the SIDS agenda (ECLAC, 2018a).

Barbados' 2015 MDG Assessment Report undertaken by SALISES and supported by UNDP also showed strong coherence between the Barbados Growth and Development Strategy (BGDS) 2013-2020 and the SDG Targets. It should be noted that the BGDS is currently being revised and will be a central policy tool for articulating the national sustainable development priorities and thereby mainstreaming relevant SDGs and the SIDS sustainable development frameworks (Government of Barbados, 2018a).

**Box 2**  
**Best Practice - Consultations with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in Saint Lucia**

Organised by the Coalition of CSOs of Saint Lucia and the Saint Lucia National Trust (with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme), consultations were held in November 2016 to obtain the views and priorities of Saint Lucia's Civil Society in localising the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway. Based on these discussions, participants ranked the top 3 goals as Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, followed by Goal 4 – Quality Education and Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. Synergies in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway were also examined during this exercise as information on the linkages between the Pathway and SDGs was circulated to CSOs for discussion among their membership prior to the consultations.

Source: Coalition of CSOs of Saint Lucia and Saint Lucia National Trust (2016).

It must be noted that CSOs across the Caribbean SIDS are involved to varying levels in national institutional structures and mechanisms for governance and management of natural resources, including via advisory committees, co-management agreements/arrangements and implementing practical actions. However, there is a critical need to invest in strengthening and broadening networks to enhance knowledge sharing, collaboration and collective advocacy (Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), 2018).

## 2. Haiti's sustainable development agenda

Haiti is the only country in the region with a separate section covering its Sustainable Development Agenda. Haiti is categorized as both a SIDS and a LDC. Having particular sustainable development challenges and for the purpose of the SAMOA Pathway MTR, this section is dedicated on Haiti.

While the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established in June 2004, overall presence was increased in direct response to the devastating earthquake of January 2010 that resulted in some 220,000 deaths (UN Peacekeeping, n.d.). With a mandate to “restore a secure and stable environment, to promote the political process, to strengthen Haiti's Government institutions and rule-of-law-structures, as well as to promote and to protect human rights”, this mission continued until October 2017 when it was replaced by a smaller follow-up peacekeeping mission: MINUJUSTH or the UN Mission For Justice Support in Haiti (ibid.).

MINUJUSTH is governed by a framework which places particular focus on the SDGs (especially SDG -16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development) and close collaboration with the Government of Haiti and Haiti's UNCT (United Nations, 2018a). Although Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, the UN remains committed to its social and economic development through effective and coordinated international development assistance. Preparations have already begun to follow-up MINUJUSTH with a new UN presence by the end of 2019 that would focus on the Caribbean nation's long-term sustainable development. This transition strategy is being drawn up—in consultation with the Government—to build on existing UN-wide instruments, such as the UNDAF (MINUJUSTH, 2018a).

Haiti's UNCT and UNDAF provide support to the national development agenda, in line with the SDGs, Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework of Action, inter alia. Between 2017 and 2018, MAPS mission where undertaken in Haiti to further identify with the Government the priority SDGs for Haiti and the relevant accelerators (Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018a). The UNDAF 2017-2021 will assist Haiti in reaching emergent country status by 2030 by reinforcing peace, stability and Haitian institutions and population's resilience. Five priority areas of intervention have been identified: poverty reduction and the promotion of decent employment; access and use of quality basic social services; gender

equality and protection; resilience; and governance (UNCT Haiti, 2017). These areas have been aligned with the Government of Haiti's National Development Plan 2012-2030 which is largely focused on Haiti's economic, political and social sectors; future environmental strategies; land-use planning and housing; energy; culture; heritage and communication (ibid.).

To promote awareness of the 2030 Agenda, the UN Communication Group in Haiti (composed of UNCT and MINUSTAH members) conducted more than 300 advocacy and capacity building activities between June 2015 and March 2017. These activities reached more than 12,200 people within youth networks, civil society and national authorities. In addition, SDG workshops were held, benefiting more than 2,000 youth (Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018a).

The Resident Coordinator's Office supported the inter-ministerial working group on SDGs, which is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning, in developing a SDG Implementation Roadmap. However, it has yet to be finalized. These ministries have also developed an outreach campaign targeting public administration. In January 2018, a MAPS mission consisting of an inter-disciplinary team of experts from across the UN development system visited Haiti to identify opportunities to mainstream the SDGs and accelerate progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The MAPS team delivered their report in June 2018. The Resident Coordinator's Office also developed an analysis on the alignment between the President's seven development priorities and the SDG targets. According to this analysis, 28 out of 169 SDG targets were aligned with the President's priorities (ibid.).

It is expected that incorporation of the key recommendations from the MAPS mission into the SDG Implementation Roadmap will guide further efforts to mainstream these goals. Further, the Resident Coordinator's Office will undertake an exercise with the Ministry of Planning and focal points from line ministries to establish selection criteria and identify a prioritized package of SDG targets and indicators. The Office will explore data availability and support the development of a monitoring framework as well as national strategies for financing and acceleration of SDG implementation (ibid.).

### **3. Data and reporting**

The challenges faced by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are exacerbated by the increasing demands for data and other reports as related to international and regional commitments and initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway and regional integration agenda. While efforts are being made to bridge the data gaps, the lack of resources implies that access to timely data on areas such as Environmental and Social/Gender Statistics is difficult. This situation can negatively affect the purpose of evidence-based policy making necessary for sustainable development management (CARICOM, 2018a). Having a culture of just in time data sharing can be a challenge because of the fragmented physical and social geography the Caribbean SIDS. The UN MSDF encourages increased use of data and information to facilitate evidence-based decision-making. Further, it allows Caribbean SIDS to access global expertise and experience of the UN System and serves as a platform for policy and programmatic exchanges (UNEP, 2018a). Member countries have established and or are in the process of establishing national NSOs.

In the case of Jamaica, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) has benefitted from regional and international consultations addressing data collection requirements for SDG monitoring. In 2017, STATIN hosted workshops on data quality with local ministries, departments and agencies to promote standardized, high quality data production. STATIN is responsible for the provision of SDG data to the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the national focal point and home of the Coordination Secretariat for the SDGs (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

A 2015 workshop was jointly organised by the SIDS Unit of the UN-DESA, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and the CARICOM Secretariat in order engage civil society in the process of defining a core set of indicators which would be utilised to monitor the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean (CANARI, 2018). This issue was also discussed at a workshop led by ECLAC in December 2016 where the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians called for the identification of a subset of SDG indicators to allow for sustainable monitoring of the goals in the sub-region. This subset will focus on regional and national priorities as well as SIDS priorities as contained in the SAMOA Pathway Outcome document. Through this meeting, ECLAC partnered with UN-DESA and the CARICOM Secretariat in identifying capacity constraints in the Caribbean that could affect the production of data for the SDG indicators and the technical assistance that would be required to enable countries conduct their follow up and review of progress towards the SDGs (ECLAC, 2016e).

ECLAC additionally organized a symposium in Jamaica during February 2017 on mainstreaming the SDGs in national development planning. Both workshops represented components of the GIZ sponsored project: “Support for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” (ECLAC, 2017a). In May 2017, ECLAC’s sub regional headquarters for the Caribbean again convened a one-day workshop in Trinidad and Tobago to accelerate SDG implementation in the Caribbean. The workshop brought together senior government officials with responsibility for planning, sustainable development and foreign affairs, as well as representatives from other regional and international organizations (ibid.).

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## II. Progress Review

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### A. Sustained and sustainable inclusive and equitable economic growth and decent work for all (SDGs 1, 5, 8)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises “that the ability of the SIDS to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and ICT infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. The growth prospects of SIDS have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change, the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise” (paragraph 23).*

#### 1. Growth performance, debt and technical cooperation

Following on the work of ECLAC, since 2010, in the aftermath of the global recession, annual growth in the sub region has averaged only 0.8 per cent compared with 4.7per cent in other small States (ECLAC, 2018c). The economies of Caribbean SIDS grew on average by 0.7per cent in 2016 (ibid.). Regional economic development has been restrained due to a variety of causative factors and, in most instances, can be attributed to: lack of critical mass and economies of scale; relative geographic isolation; trade and external dependency; structural unemployment and falling labour productivity; limited financial resources; and classification as middle-income countries. This status greatly limits their access to bilateral and multilateral grants and other concessional funding. Other factors include unsustainable levels of subsidisation in key social sectors (e.g. education, energy and transport); high public debt; increasing debt service payments; and slow diversification of economies) (ECLAC, 2018c).

In 2016, two thirds of the CARICOM Member States had debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratios above the 60per cent threshold; generally regarded as the benchmark for debt sustainability. The main drivers of Caribbean debt have been large primary and current account deficits, resulting from low growth and insufficient fiscal restraint; high financing costs in capital markets; climate change effects; and frequent disasters that reduce both output and government revenue, and that demand high levels of expenditures on disaster preparedness and reconstruction. In 2016, debt servicing as a percentage of government revenue accounted on average for 29.5per cent of government revenue in Caribbean SIDS, and in several countries the call on revenues was much higher: Suriname (80.7per cent), Antigua and Barbuda (60per cent), Grenada (50.1per cent), the Bahamas (45.5per cent) and Jamaica (43per cent) (ECLAC, 2018c).

It should be emphasised that many Caribbean governments have been making significant efforts both to contain expenditures and to raise revenues. In order to bring down their debt-to-GDP ratios, for example, both Jamaica and Grenada achieved primary surpluses of 7 per cent of GDP in 2016, among the highest in the world (ECLAC, 2018c). Countries have had to make structural adjustments while balancing and attending to the needs of their most vulnerable populations. For example, Jamaica embarked on a reform programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2013 while Barbados is currently furthering discussions with this same institution (IMF, 2018).

The majority of Caribbean SIDS have been classified as middle-income countries, which greatly limits their access to bilateral and multilateral grants and other concessional funding. Recently, Saint Kitts and Nevis graduated from official development assistance (ODA) eligibility while Antigua and Barbuda had its graduation status revised as a result of the devastation visited upon Barbuda during the 2017 Hurricane Season (CDB, 2018a). Decreasing ODA continues to hinder the progression of the Caribbean's development agenda. Net ODA accounted for 0.41 per cent of Jamaica's gross national income in 2015. This represents approximately 20 per cent less than the figures for 2013 (Government of Jamaica, 2018). CDB has noted a declining trend in ODA to the region over the last 20 years, falling from 0.72 per cent of global ODA in 2000 to 0.52 per cent in 2016 (*ibid.*). Further, the ability of Caribbean SIDS to access concessional development finance has been stymied by "weak technical capacity for project identification, the development of high-quality proposals, and complex application processes, as well as chronic implementation deficits" (*ibid.*).

To stimulate foreign investment and develop other revenue streams, several countries continue to operate Citizenship by Investment programmes (e.g. Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia). Opportunities for the consolidation and management of these five national programmes under the umbrella of the OECS were discussed in 2017 to enable better harmonisation, candidate vetting, and programme quality improvements (OECS, 2017a). Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have increased in response to current economic trends as regional governments struggle to finance critical infrastructure such as ports, roads and power generation. Countries have also opted for concessions, Build-Operate-Transfer projects, and Design-Build-Operate projects in light of weakening revenue performance. Jamaica, Grenada, Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados have pinpointed PPPs within their national development plans.

The Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), a regional capacity building entity based in Barbados, has provided demand-driven technical assistance in core areas of economic and financial management to its 22 Member Countries. CARTAC has played a crucial role in supporting tax reform and improving domestic revenue mobilisation, particularly the successful launch of Value Added Tax (VAT) in eight countries with ongoing support to a ninth (CARTAC, n.d.). In financial sector supervision and regulation, CARTAC has assisted countries in development and implementation of risk-based supervision in the bank and non-bank sectors; and contributed to the development of country and regional financial stability reports and crisis preparedness plans. CARTAC provided critical support to improve the quality and timeliness of economic statistics, with notable success in updating Balance of Payments statistics for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. Training was also a vital component of technical assistance delivery with 1,092 officials trained during 2017. In that same year, CARTAC delivered more than 850 field person weeks of direct technical assistance and training comprising 326 expert missions and 42 workshops/training seminars (CARTAC, n.d.).

ECLAC has also been engaged in technical cooperation for economic and social development at the request of Caribbean governments. In 2016, ECLAC provided technical support to the Government of Grenada in crafting a strategy to develop specific non-tourism service sectors. Additionally, as an extension of previous cooperation arrangements with the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, ECLAC aided in the preparation of a strategy for the development of the country's yachting sector during 2017. To facilitate more efficient public finance management and better forecasting of public expenditure and revenue, ECLAC trained 87 technical experts from six Caribbean countries in the conduct of public expenditure reviews. This was carried out during the period 2016 to 2017 under the development account project "Strengthening technical capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean States" (ECLAC, 2017a).

## 2. De-risking and its implications for Caribbean SIDS

De-risking has represented an acute financial shock to the region as several countries had been negatively impacted by the cessation of correspondent banking relationships and services (ECLAC, 2018d). ECLAC has observed that active correspondent banking services have on average declined for the period 2012-2015 (ibid.). This finding was also supported by the Caribbean Association of Banks (CAB) which found that at least 21 respondent banks in 18 Caribbean countries lost at least one correspondent banking relationship as at October 2016 (CAB, 2016a). Moreover, ECLAC has found that the withdrawal of correspondent banking services has resulted in a multitude of direct and indirect impacts including: (i) increased costs of banking services; (ii) impacts on human welfare and economic development given the region's high dependence on financial flows; (iii) adverse effects on initiatives aimed at alleviation of poverty and inequality (given declining remittances); (iv) lowered consumption among households and migrant workers dependent on remittances; (v) knock-on effects in Tourism and other Economic Sectors; (vi) decreased access to credit by Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs); and (vii) creation of underground, unregulated and less transparent markets that replace the formal infrastructure that facilitates the movement of financial resources (ECLAC, 2018d).

The withdrawal of correspondent banking services unsurprisingly has had an adverse material impact on the banking sector of Antigua and Barbuda. Among banks that participated in ECLAC's survey, 67 per cent indicated an adverse impact on their operations with 16 per cent reporting significant adverse negative impacts (ibid.). Most banks indicated that wire transfer services were severely constrained. In this regard, offshore banks were the most seriously affected with one bank reporting a loss of wire services in value terms of US\$129 million and volume down by 59 per cent. Moreover, bank respondents indicated that investment services provided by corresponding banking relationships were also negatively affected (ibid.).

Belize's largest commercial bank estimated income losses associated with the inability to execute transactions for exporters, importers, and money transfer operators at about US\$1.6 million in 2015 (ibid.). As a consequence of de-risking, the assets of the international banking sector operating in Belize declined by US\$256 million from end 2014 to end 2016. In the case of the two largest international banks, assets declined by 21 per cent for the same period (ibid.).

The decrease in correspondent banking relationships was addressed during the Ninth General Meeting between CARICOM and its Associated Institutions and the UN System in July 2017 where regional representatives communicated on issues arising from disrupted international payments and capital inflows, as well as the high cost of compliance with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-driven international tax agenda (UN and CARICOM, 2017). These concerns were also voiced during the 29th Intersessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM where the "unilateral blacklisting of countries as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions" by the European Union (EU) was cited as a major external challenge (CARICOM, 2018c). Acknowledging the gravity of this issue, the body has mandated the formulation of appropriate solutions and the refinement of a regional strategy prepared by the CARICOM Technical Working Group (ibid.).

Further recommendations to counteract this development were proffered at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the CDCC and included: (i) strengthening of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) guidelines; (ii) tax and transparency; (iii) harmonisation of legislation and regulations to improve compliance with standards; (iv) consolidation of domestic banks and development of a unified compliance framework; (v) national media campaigns to address the misperceptions regarding regulatory frameworks and tax transparency in countries potentially vulnerable to de-risking; and (vi) sustained advocacy efforts with international development partners and the wider international community at senior policy and executive levels to facilitate a resolution of this issue in the interest of the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2018a).

Against this backdrop, CAB has sought to explore meaningful solutions through the establishment of a CEO Forum on De-risking; bringing together stakeholders to explore alternative payment modalities, implement a systematic regional approach to advocacy, and reduce the threat to the Caribbean's financial services sector (CAB, 2016b).

### 3. Post-hurricane reconstruction

The Caribbean's unique and particular vulnerabilities have been witnessed in the myriad of disasters that have become more frequent and more devastating over the last two decades. There is a new intensity and scope to their vulnerabilities. In comparison to larger upper middle-income countries in the same income category, SIDS were found to be 73per cent more vulnerable to exogenous shocks (OECD, 2018a). Moreover, disasters hinder development and growth with the cost of damage and reconstruction sometimes much higher than the affected State's GDP, especially in a region as vulnerable as the Caribbean (ACS, 2018). Between 2000 and 2016, Caribbean SIDS suffered at least seven disasters in which the cost of damage ranged from 33per cent to 200per cent of the affected country's GDP (IMF, 2016).

The needs that arose due to the passage of Hurricane Matthew in 2016 are still unmet for a vast number of Haiti's affected vulnerable population. As of mid-2018, 1 million out of the 2.1 million people affected by Hurricane Matthew are still in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, including 368,050 persons targeted by the revised 2017-2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018a). For example, the shelter sector has reached less than 1per cent of persons targeted with durable solutions in their area of origin. Only 575 houses have been rebuilt in Grand Anse and South Departments out of the 15,000 targeted. No houses have been rebuilt in the two other Departments identified as a priority, i.e. Nippes and North-West. In other words, 317,125 persons out of 320,000 are still in need of shelter-related assistance following the passage of Hurricane Matthew (*ibid.*).

With the devastating passage of both Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, some Caribbean SIDS face further setbacks as most of their financial resources will understandably be allocated to rebuilding efforts. Based on preliminary findings of ECLAC's Damage and Loss Assessments (DALA) in five of the countries<sup>10</sup> affected in 2017, the total estimated cost of these disasters was approximately US\$5.4 billion (ECLAC, 2018e). Antigua and Barbuda's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)<sup>11</sup> estimated damage and losses amounting to US\$155 million and recovery and reconstruction needs to US\$222.2 million (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), 2017a). In the case of the Commonwealth of Dominica and based upon an assessment of impacts to each affected sector, the PDNA<sup>12</sup> concluded that Hurricane Maria resulted in total damages of US\$931 million and losses of US\$382 million, amounting to 226per cent of 2016 GDP (Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2017). For the British Virgin Islands and Sint Maarten, the total estimated cost of the disaster was more than 200per cent of their GDP (ECLAC, 2018e).

Adverse weather conditions in the Dominican Republic caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria undermined agricultural activity and damaged several infrastructure facilities in the north of the country. This impact contributed to the decelerated space in economic activity (ECLAC, 2018f). Cuba's economy was severely impacted by Hurricane Irma, which caused damage estimated at around 13 billion pesos. In order to cope with this damage, some expenditure items were retargeted to finance subsidies to enable the people affected to buy construction materials and consumer goods, and to restrain interest rates on bank credit (*ibid.*).

To resuscitate economic growth levels and finance Puerto Rico's costly reconstruction after Hurricane Maria, the territory's PPP Authority (or P3 Authority) announced the development of 6 public-private projects representing approximately US\$1.5 billion in investment. The P3 Authority is currently evaluating investor proposals for the following: (i) upgrading of student facilities at the University of Puerto Rico; (ii) ferry services to Puerto Rico's outer islands (Culebra, Vieques and Cataño); (iii) modernisation of equipment and services provided by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority; (iv) enhancement of cruise ship docks; (v) development of a high capacity energy storage plant; and (vi) implementation of a training project for public safety (Caribbean News Now, 2018a).

In the aftermath of the 2017 Hurricane Season, the UN partnered with CARICOM to facilitate a high-level donor conference for reconstruction and resilience that mobilised more than US\$1.3 billion in pledges and \$1 billion in loans and debt relief (United Nations Caribbean, 2018a). To date, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has provided €550 million in support of post-hurricane reconstruction and recovery in Sint Maarten, of which €70 million was already used to fund an early recovery programme. Remaining funds are

<sup>10</sup> The Bahamas, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

<sup>11</sup> Following an official government request for post-disaster assistance, the EU, UNDP and the World Bank/GFDRR supported the government in undertaking a PDNA, jointly with CDEMA.

<sup>12</sup> The study was coordinated by the World Bank in conjunction with the UN, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the CDB, and the EU to assess the disaster impact to inform recovery and reconstruction needs.

administered by the World Bank, which will soon disburse another tranche of €110 million to facilitate further reconstruction activities (ECLAC, 2018g). Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda have also been the beneficiaries of international support in the wake of Hurricane Irma. China has provided reconstruction aid to both countries under its US\$5 million China Aid Post Disaster Restoration Initiative (UNDP, 2018a). Additionally, Panama has provided budgetary support to Antigua and Barbuda to the tune of US\$100,000 (Caribbean360, 2018). The United Arab Emirates has also provided support for Antigua and Barbuda as part of an initiative aimed reducing climate change and aiding people displaced by natural disasters.

The work of the OECD has focused on impacts of natural disasters and climate change on SIDS and the need to build their resilience. Noting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which recognises the unique development constraints and vulnerabilities of SIDS, OECD acknowledges need to “look beyond per capita income as a criterion for determining eligibility for concessional finance” (OECD, 2018a). Although a number of countries (including the United Kingdom and New Zealand) advocated for ODA eligibility and reclassification of countries impacted by crises and natural disasters at the Fifty-First High Level Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee in October 2017, the committee agreed that “there are currently no rules, nor precedents under the current methodology, for reinstating on the Development Assistance Committee List a country or territory that has graduated and later suffers a persistent drop in its per capita income below the World Bank high-income threshold” (OECD, 2018b).

While the grouping acknowledged the effects of disasters and the attendant reduction in per capita income, it called for the development of evidence-based proposals for reinstatement and the establishment of “a process to examine short-term financing mechanisms available to respond to catastrophic humanitarian crises in recently graduated High Income Countries, including, without prejudice, a possible role for ODA spending based on objective criteria while ensuring no diversion of resources from existing ODA recipients” (OECD, 2018b).

#### **4. Resilience and climate change adaptation activities**

Climate change and its impacts have brought increasingly significant development challenges to the countries of the Caribbean sub region over the past few decades. Regional and international stakeholders have been actively involved as partners, providing technical and financial resources to advance the implementation of resilience building and climate change adaptation initiatives in the sub region.

These initiatives and other possible funding mechanisms were discussed at the “Financing the Resilience of SIDS” Conference held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2018. Here, delegates called on financial institutions to implement fast track mechanisms for the accelerated release of funding to SIDS as well as countercyclical debt instruments to alleviate some of the challenges faced in the sub region. Additionally, participants of the conference recognised the need for debt relief and innovative financing mechanisms in the form of debt swaps for climate adaptation; the establishment of a Regional Resilience Fund; support from international development partners towards the advancement of Blue and Green Bonds; and the development of new risk insurance products (UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, 2018; Government of Antigua and Barbuda/Government of Belgium, 2018).

The Government of Barbados has pursued climate resilient strategies in the management of its coastline for a number of decades. This effort continues to date with the support of the IDB Coastal Risk Assessment and Management Program aimed at building resilience to coastal risks through improved conservation and management of the coastal zone. The objective of the US\$42.0M programme is to build capacity in integrated coastal risk management in Barbados incorporating climate change adaptation (Government of Barbados, 2018a).

There are currently six participating Caribbean SIDS (Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) in the Caribbean Regional Track of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience funded under the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Each country receives allocations for funding projects in addition to additional benefits being derived under the regional pilot being managed by UWI (Government of Jamaica, 2018). Every regional and national plan for climate resilience that has been prepared and endorsed under the Pilot includes investments to strengthen hydro-meteorological and climate services either as stand-alone projects or as components of technical assistance (CIF, 2015). CIF is also in the process of establishing a climate risk information platform which can be used not just for climate change adaptation, but also in disaster risk reduction planning (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Additionally, the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, a public-private coalition, was launched in 2017 with the aim of transforming the Caribbean into the world's first "climate-smart zone". The Caribbean Climate-Smart Coalition seeks rapid implementation of US\$8 billion climate investment plan that will transform regional energy systems, build resiliency and drive economic growth. The Accelerator, which comprises 26 countries and more than 40 private and public sector partners, seeks to implement a shared vision for transformative climate action in the Caribbean (World Bank, 2018a). Announced at President Emmanuel Macron's One Planet Summit in Paris in December 2017, it brings together public and private sector partners such as Sir Richard Branson, the World Bank/GFDRR, Airbnb, Zero Mass Water and the TIDES Foundation, along with Accelerator Ambassadors Usain Bolt and Sean Paul (World Bank, 2017a & 2018a; Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, 2018). The IDB will partner with the Accelerator to program and implement \$1 billion in funds it pledged for climate smart investments (announced at the One Planet Summit) and will also provide \$3 million as start-up funds to the Accelerator. This builds on an existing portfolio of over \$200 million to support innovative climate solutions drawing from low-cost blended finance and contingent credit facilities (World Bank, 2018a).

The CDB remains committed to leveraging its successful partnerships to secure more concessional and grant resources towards achieving lasting results for its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) climate resilience agendas. CDB continues to collaborate with these development partners and new institutions (bilateral and multilateral) as well as regional institutions working to improve environmental and social safeguards issues, DRR and climate resilience in BMCs (CDB, 2018b). The CDB catalysed climate action investments under its Climate Resilience Strategy 2012-2017 with a US\$65 million Climate Action Line of Credit and an associated US\$4 million technical assistance grant from the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed in December 2011. Climate action investments were made in ten projects with a total value of US\$180 million for road transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water, and community infrastructure. In May 2017, CDB signed a second line of credit of US\$ 110 million with the EIB, to finance climate action investments. In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the two institutions signed an additional financing package of US\$24 million to assist with reconstruction efforts in the affected BMCs. CDB has partnered with other multilateral development banks and development partners to advance its climate action agenda (CDB, 2018b).

The CDB gained accreditation to the Adaptation Fund in 2015 and Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2016. Accreditation as a Regional Implementing Entity to these climate finance streams provides BMCs access to concessional resources to finance their climate action work programmes. CDB's collaboration with the GCF offers it the opportunity to provide a range of financing instruments such as grants, concessional loans and equity, as well as risk mitigation instruments such as guarantees for financing projects to BMCs. The first projects to be submitted for financing are at an early stage of development (CDB, 2018b).

GCF has proven to be a committed development partner in addressing gaps in the region's capacity to gain access to and manage climate finance. This has been well demonstrated through the operationalisation of a Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which strengthens institutions' capacities to meet the criteria necessary for funding and approval. National Designated Authorities, Direct Access Entities and focal points benefit from technical assistance and funding (up to US\$3 million per country) to formulate national adaptation plans (NAPs) and processes. Further, the simplification and fast tracking of the accreditation and approval procedures were realised to minimise the hurdles faced by SIDS. Since 2015, 12 of the Caribbean SIDS included in this MTR have been recipients of financial disbursements totalling approximately US\$1.75 million under the GCF's Readiness and Support Programme. As at January 2018, the GCF was committed to expending another US\$8.1 million on future readiness activities within the Caribbean (see Table A.1).

The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment and the Dominican Institute of Integral Development have received accreditation from the GCF Adaptation Fund (GCF Adaptation Fund, 2018). The OECS Commission is currently in the process of seeking accreditation to the GCF and has to date received approval as a readiness delivery partner. The OECS Commission is also preparing for the EU Pillars Assessment. Efforts are being pursued with other development partners to obtain financing to undertake critical regional activities in support of Member States (OECS, 2018a). Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment, was successful in obtaining US \$20 million for the implementation of a regional project which seeks to address integrated physical adaptation and community resilience through an enhanced direct access pilot in the public, private, and civil society sectors of the three Eastern Caribbean

SIDS. These countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Dominica (Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), 2018).

For the Caribbean SIDS and as of September 2018, the following are currently listed as National Implementing Entities (NIE): Antigua Barbuda, Jamaica, Belize and The Dominican Republic (GCF, 2018). The CCCCC is accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE). With its accreditation to the GCF, the CCCCC is committed to enhancing the capacity of its Project Development and Management Unit (PDMU) and Project Preparation Facility (PPF). To date, with assistance from various donors, the Centre has been able to provide technical assistance to CARICOM Member States, and or source such assistance, for the elaboration of project proposals to unlock climate financing for these States. The enhanced Project Preparation Facility (PPF) has allowed the CCCCC to secure National Designated Authority (NDA) Readiness Strengthening grants for four CARICOM Member States via the GCF. These countries are: Guyana, Belize, Bahamas and Saint Lucia. At the same time, the Centre has also secured approximately US\$27.6 million in grant aid for Barbados and another US\$0.7 million as a Project Preparation Grant for the Government of Belize to operationalize a renewable energy project. The CCCCC in collaboration with CDB has also contracted a consultant to help articulate a project proposal to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund for St. Lucia. There are two regional initiatives on the way, namely: Mainstreaming Coral Reef Resilience and Restoration as an Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change in the Caribbean Region (MaCREAS) and Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Project: Enhancing Coastal Protection for Climate Change Resilience (CCCCC, 2018a).

Given the accomplishment of the PDMU and lessons learnt to date, the CCCCC in working with the GCF, has developed an Institutional Strengthening proposal. This proposal responds to the gaps that that precludes the CCCCC from providing even greater assistance to its Member States. The implementation of this readiness proposal is expected to put the CCCCC on a firmer foundation to provide the necessary assistance and guidance needed to substantially increase climate financial flows into the Caribbean Region (CCCCC, 2018a).

Within the region's current economic context, investments in the Blue and Green Economy have been constrained, necessitating innovative forms of financing (CDB, 2018a). Debt-for-nature/climate adaptation swaps are also increasingly being leveraged by countries for resilience financing. For example, Jamaica, Grenada, Haiti, and Antigua and Barbuda have been involved in debt swap negotiations with varying levels of success (Climate Analytics, 2018). To date, Jamaica has completed two debts for nature swaps with the Government of the United States (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

An important proposal has been put forward by ECLAC to reduce public debt in Caribbean SIDS and to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. The ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative is based on the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund which is expected to provide financing for investment in climate resilience, green growth and structural transformation in the economies of the region. This proposal was endorsed at the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the CDCC in April 2016 by virtue of Resolution 93 (XXVI) - 'Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean'. At the core of this proposed strategy is building a strong case to highlight the debt challenges faced by small vulnerable Caribbean economies, which will be presented to donors such as the GCF. More recently, ECLAC formed a task force to address this question strategically, focusing on advocacy to raise broader support (ECLAC, 2018a).

Due to the highly heterogeneous composition of regional debt portfolios, multiple strategies were identified during the development of ECLAC's initiative to write down individual countries' debts to multilateral, bilateral and private creditors. Proponents have suggested economic restructuring will be necessary to ensure the region's growth and long-term debt sustainability and promote the advancement of competitive green industries alongside this debt swap initiative. Further, debt relief would be contingent on obligations on the part of Member States to pursue sustainable fiscal consolidation programs, as well as the conduct of public expenditure reviews based on agreements between creditors and debtors (ECLAC, 2018b). To necessitate further development of this initiative, a portfolio of bankable climate projects is currently being elaborated. Strategic engagement of potential donor countries and agencies is also being pursued through coordinated advocacy efforts (ECLAC, 2017b).

## 5. Trade and competitiveness

Improved business facilitation, trade and regional competitiveness have been prioritised by many Caribbean SIDS as they operationalise the key tenets of the SAMOA Pathway. The Pathway emphasizes the need for partnerships to advance SIDS' trading levels by counteracting limitations of their small size such as negotiating capacity (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Jamaica for example is a beneficiary of a number of preferential trade agreements such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU, the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the Commonwealth-Canada Trade Agreement (CARIBCAN). Even with such agreements, the country's share of international trade remains low. In 2015 and 2016, Jamaica's exports accounted for a mere 0.006 per cent of world export figures while developing countries captured 0.042 per cent (Government of Jamaica, 2018). To improve this state of affairs, Jamaica launched its National Export Strategy II 2015-2019 in August 2015 (Government of Jamaica, 2017).

Guyana's Department of Commerce, in a bid to encourage trade facilitation, coordinated and supported the passage of the Single Window Bill and other critical legislations. The implementation of the Single Windows Automated Processing System has been supported by numerous organisations including the IDB. Once established, this system will link licensing bodies to the Custom and Trade Administration to facilitate the sharing of information and to enhance the efficiency with which trade transactions are carried out. The Department of Commerce has also collaborated with the Guyana Revenue Authority on the implementation of an Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)<sup>13</sup> World programme (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

Belize's Directorate of Foreign Trade has engaged in various activities aimed at increasing the country's engagement in trade and economic agreements. The Belize Competition Project (EU funded) was implemented with the overall objective of establishing a Competition Regime in Belize. The project began in February 2014 and closed by March 2017. Further, a National Trade Policy Framework was developed containing a set of policy commitments to be adopted by the Executive. This framework is the background for the drafting of a comprehensive National Trade Policy. Four areas of focus are identified: institutional capacity, supply capacity, market access, and trade facilitation. Currently, over BZ\$85 million is being invested in the development of export-led business, SMEs, Trade and Tax Policy Reform, and Competition (Government of Belize, 2018).

Manufacturing has lost relative weight in the economy of the Dominican Republic, despite the fact that public policies have made efforts to expand access to credit for small industries. Production in the manufacturing sector accounts for less than 14 per cent of GDP, a product of the sustained tendency to outsource the economy. An important challenge is to improve the availability of statistics on the activity carried out by small industries in a systematic and periodic manner, in order to develop instruments and indicators to design and implement truly effective industrial policies (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

The Made in the Caribbean Project was coordinated by the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) and implemented by NIHERST over 2013-2016. Through the period 53 camp counsellors and educators from primary and secondary schools in the Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago were trained in workshop sessions to lead Technopreneurship and Robotics camps for young innovators and inventors between the ages 7 and 17. Pilot camps were also conducted for 160 students in the 3 countries. Technopreneurship fosters innovative and entrepreneurial thinking and skills using science and technology (NIHERST 2018).

The Better Work Programme is collaboration between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It is a mandatory programme for all Haitian apparel producers exporting their products to the US market under the HOPE II legislation.<sup>14</sup> The apparel industry is also among the largest employers within Haiti, creating jobs for approximately 48,000 people according to data from January 2018 (ILO &

<sup>13</sup> This programme is an integrated customs management system developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to aid with the modernisation of manifests, customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit, suspense procedures, among others (UNCTAD, 2018a).

<sup>14</sup> The HOPE II law requires that Haiti, in cooperation with the ILO, establishes a Technical Assistance Improvement and Compliance Needs Assessment and Remediation Programme which (i) assesses Haitian apparel factories exporting under the HOPE II law on compliance with international core labour standards and national Haitian labour law, (ii) assists these factories on their remediation efforts and (iii) provides capacity building to the Government of Haiti on these aspects (ILO & IFC, 2018).

IFC, 2018). Since the expansion of tariff benefits under the HOPE preference programme, apparel exports from Haiti to the United States have more than doubled, growing from US\$412.4 million in 2008 to a high of US\$895.3 million in 2015. In 2016 and 2017, Haitian apparel exports to the US showed a slight decrease to US\$848.7 million and US\$865 million respectively (*ibid.*). Under third phase of the Better Work Haiti project (2018 - 2022), new investors have recently or are currently planning to start operations in the industry in Haiti. However, given the recurrence of industrial disputes at the individual factory and sectoral level, Better Work continues to work closely with the Office of the Labour Ombudsman as well as worker and employer representatives on improved mechanisms for social dialogue. To maintain its sustainability, the programme has pledged to place a stronger focus on capacity building of national constituents such as worker representatives, union organizations, employers and the Government (*ibid.*).

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) was discussed at Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM held in July 2018. Here, regional leaders reiterated the need to accelerate its implementation, adopting the Protocol on Contingent Rights (relative to free movement of skilled persons and dependents) and calling for the finalisation of other supportive measures (such as an Investment Policy and Investment Code, an Incentives Regime, an Integrated Capital Market and model Securities Legislation) by July 2019 (CARICOM, 2018d).

In keeping with the provisions on trade of the SIDS Outcome document, which provides for efforts to be taken to support the further integration of Caribbean SIDS through, *inter alia*, the Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), CARICOM has adopted a co-ordinated regional approach to implementing the TFA. A Strategy for Regional Implementation of the Agreement was also approved. The CARICOM Strategy, developed with support from the World Bank Group during 2016 and 2017, aims to leverage the TFA to support and deepen regional integration through the adoption of co-ordinated and harmonized trade facilitation reforms to implementing eighteen measures of the TFA, across Member States. Implementation of these measures will require external technical assistance and capacity building support. In this regard, priority has been given to the implementation of five broad areas, *viz*: The transparency provisions (specifically, the TFA provisions on publication; information available through internet; enquiry points; and publication aspects of TFA provisions on establishment and publication of average release times, general disciplines on fees and charges for customs processing imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation, and freedom of transit), risk management, post-clearance audit, Single Window and test procedures (CARICOM, 2018a).

Some of the activities leading to adoption of the Strategy involved stakeholders' consultations. The Commonwealth Hub & Spokes Programme supported the region in organizing inputs from public and private sector stakeholders of all CARICOM Member States in 2016 and 2017. The region is in the process of developing a Roadmap for implementation of the TFA. The Islamic Development Bank and the CDB provided support in organizing a stakeholder's dialogue session toward the development of the Roadmap in 2018. The region is also developing a Regional Single Administrative Document for CARICOM that also encompasses the Dominican Republic, in line with the objectives of regional integration of the Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (CARIFORUM) as per Chapter 4 (Customs and trade facilitation) of Part II (Trade and Trade-Related matters) of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA. The project is supported by Trade.Com (*ibid.*).

With a view to encouraging successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, CARICOM launched in 2018, a market access facilitation system – Caribbean Exporter Gateway. The customized software application allows exporters in CARICOM, access to a readily available source of information on the market access conditions for entry into the markets of other CSME members, as well as to some countries with which CARICOM has concluded bilateral trade agreements, namely, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Cuba. Information on tariffs, rules of origin, non-tariff measures including sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, import licences and other duties and charges, is available on the platform. The system was developed with funding from the Government of Spain (*ibid.*).

To foster greater integration and better ties among CARICOM nationals, Barbados recently abolished visa requirements for Haitian nationals. The Haitian President lauded the decision of the Government of Barbados to lift “all obstacles to the free movement of Haitian nationals on its territory, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 45 and 46 of the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas” (CARICOM, 2018a). Dominica has also followed suit and will be lifting visa restrictions for Haitians effective October 1, 2018. Dominica's Minister of Justice, Immigration and National Security welcomed this decision, stating that “the vision of

CARICOM depends heavily on our integrated and unified Caribbean and that vision cannot be realized by the imposition of barriers to travel among Member States” (Dominica News Online, 2018).

The OECS Member States continue to coordinate their positions for negotiations in the WTO. OECS countries who are members of the WTO have individually ratified the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and have been taking steps to implement its provisions to reduce the time and costs of doing business. Members have also adopted a regional strategy and action plan to implement the TFA. This Plan has identified priority areas and technical assistance and capacity building will be sought to implement provisions of the Agreement such as risk management. Member States continue to support the Small Economies Work Programme in WTO. Work continued on the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union particularly with respect to establishing the administrative and legal framework for the regimes for free circulation of goods and trade in services (OECS, 2018a).

Additionally, the ACS fosters cooperation and integration among ACS Member States and Associate Members to build and consolidate an enhanced economic space for trade and investment in the Caribbean. It's Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations (DTDEER) manages the International Transit of Goods (TIM), Third Mexican Convention on Hydrography and the Short-Distance Maritime Transport Projects in the sub region. Each contributes to the realisation of economic growth in trade and business in the Caribbean by investing in proper transport infrastructure. The following are the achievements of the DTDEER (ACS, 2018):

- The DTDEER's TIM<sup>15</sup> and “Improved Interconnectivity for Trade Facilitation and Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Caribbean” projects are contributing to the gradual reduction and elimination of obstacles to trade and investment in the region, particularly in the area of Trade Facilitation with financing from the Mexican Government - via AMEXCID.
- Within the framework of the Project "Improved Interconnectivity for Trade Facilitation and Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Caribbean", six study grants covering January to December 2018 were offered to officials of the institutions responsible for hydrographical issues (of which only the following two Member States submitted applications) to pursue the Specialty Course in Hydrography and Cartography at the Oceanographic Institute of the Gulf and Caribbean Sea. This project is financed by the Secretariat of the Navy of Mexico and AMEXCID.
- Promotion and development of trade relations in the Caribbean Business Forum of the Caribbean in Cuba.
- Establishment of a Working Group to study Caribbean Tariff Preferences. To date, the study has seen the participation of five Caribbean countries: Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Seminar on the Costa Rican Model of Trade Promotion offered by the Office of Trade Promotion in Trinidad and Tobago of the Costa Rican Foreign Trade Promotion Agency, in conjunction with the Embassy of Costa Rica in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Distance Learning Course on International Merchandise Trade Statistics geared towards the strengthening of the trading capacities of the Member States. This was executed with the technical assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with more than 100 participants from 19 Member States of the ACS.
- Face-to-face Training Workshop on "Regional Validation" as a follow-up to the on-line course on "International Merchandise Trade Statistics". This workshop was carried out by UNCTAD in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) from 15 to 18 May 2018, with the participation of officials responsible for trade statistical data from 11 Caribbean SIDS (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago) and one CARICOM representative (ACS, 2018).

<sup>15</sup> Participating Member States included Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Notably, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing to the budget of three major regional programmes intended to increase international exports, minimise bureaucracy, boost employment levels, support product standard development, and develop productivity sectors such as tourism and niche agricultural products. These include: (i) the COMPETE Caribbean scheme; (ii) the Caribbean Aid for Trade and Regional Integration Trust Fund; and (iii) CARTAC (DFID, 2018).

Additionally, the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) provides predictable EU market access for Caribbean SIDS while supporting the deepening of economic ties within the region. The EU and Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) are continuing relations under Phase Two of the Caribbean Trade and Private Sector Development Programme. CARIFORUM Member States stand to further benefit from support geared at improving regional competitiveness in the global marketplace. CEDA managed the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Private Sector Development Programme between 2011 and 2016. A key priority of CEDA is the deepening of trade and investment relations among CARIFORUM and the French Caribbean Outermost Regions and the EU Overseas Countries and Territories in the Caribbean. It also seeks to foster ties between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic (CEDA, 2017).

In 2016, CEDA (in collaboration with the World Bank’s Entrepreneurship Program for Innovation in the Caribbean) launched the Caribbean Investment Facilitation Project/LINKCaribbean. This project served as an early stage investment facilitation programme for entrepreneurs. Along with a number of workshops and training sessions, an expression of interest for the Investment Readiness grant facility was initiated in 2016 where six applicants were approved for grants valued at US\$25,000 (ibid.).

Strengthening labour market information continues to be a regional priority. To date, ILO has supported CARICOM in establishing a CARICOM Labour Market Information System in order to facilitate labour market analysis, as well as monitoring and reporting on policies and information sharing (ILO, 2018). In 2016-17 ILO supported Guyana in collaboration with the IDB with the definition of the new labour force survey questionnaire (which now includes, amongst others, a new module on informality). The first results of the quarterly labour force survey in Guyana were published in March 2018. The ILO worked to reinforce the regional capacity of workers’ and employers’ bodies to participate in regional development and integration processes (improved national and regional social dialogue capacity) so that CARIFORUM member states could fulfil the social chapter of the EU-CARIFORUM EPA. This work was undertaken through a three-year EU-funded project called, “Support to facilitate participation of CARIFORUM Civil Society in the Regional Development and Integration Process: Challenges to CARIFORUM Labour, Private Sector and Employers to fulfil their EPA obligations”, implemented from February 2015 to 30 April 2018 (ibid.).

## **6. Alternative development models**

The need for the Caribbean to adopt more environmentally sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic development models has become even more urgent. Several initiatives across the region have continued to explore concepts, principles and pathways to Green and Blue Economies. Alternative sustainable development models have been explored by a number of Caribbean countries. Selected examples of these are as follows:

### **a) The green economy**

Green Economy Scoping Studies have commenced or been carried out in a number of Caribbean countries (Barbados, Dominica, Haiti, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Jamaica) and have consistently promoted increased sustainability and inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication. Enhanced energy, water and waste management, community-based and eco-tourism, improved agricultural practices, the promotion of joint public-private investments and the creation of an enabling regulatory framework are key recommendations of these studies (UNEP, 2015a). In Haiti for instance, a green economy assessment, funded by the EU and supported by UNEP, identified green value chains in the south of the country. This has resulted in targeted investment by France, Norway and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to promote the development of those value chains and sustainably diversify and strengthen the economy in Southern Haiti under the leadership of the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment (Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018b).

Barbados, an early “greening” proponent articulated its Green Economy Policy in 2007. In 2016, Barbados joined the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)<sup>16</sup> while Guyana formally adopted this developmental approach in 2017 with the introduction of its Green State Development Strategy.

Announced in Samoa in 2014, the partnership between the Government of Barbados and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) aimed to build the island’s green economy through development of sustainable industries. Entitled the “Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalysing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados”, (RECIPPEE-Barbados)” this partnership has given rise to the 2018-approved GEF “Strategic platform to promote sustainable energy technology innovation, industrial development and entrepreneurship in Barbados” to the amount of US\$14.67M. This initiative is also closely aligned with Barbados’ new development priorities in the areas of youth entrepreneurship, business and export development, innovation, and education for development (UNIDO, 2014 and Government of Barbados, 2018a).

Guyana’s Department of Commerce has been working closely with the Business Strategy and Policy Unit of the Ministry of Business to acquire funding in support of the establishment of an Incentive Framework for Green Businesses. This project primarily focuses on training and education which seeks to not only equip staff and business owners with the relevant knowledge on green reforms and incentives, but to provide a monitoring and evaluation framework that will ensure the sustainability of these initiatives (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

The OECS has successfully built a partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute which yielded capacity building in the sub region regarding green growth (OECS, 2018a). In response to a decision by the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability, the OECS Commission and CANARI are collaborating on a diagnostic study of opportunities for green economy transformation in the OECS. The study (in preparation) has found that while OECS member countries may be willing to explore application of the key green economy principles, the agenda is still being very much driven by external agencies and the SIDS may not necessarily have access to the required financial and technical support that would give them the flexibility to choose their own approaches. The study notes that the traditional approach of a one-dimensional focus on development through a narrow profit or GDP only “bottom line” has not worked for the OECS and the timing is opportune for a new, climate resilient development path. The recent devastating impacts of the recent hurricanes give heightened urgency to this argument. While there is substantial interest and indications of commitment to greening the sub-region, or at the very least to a sustainable development approach, there is little evidence of real economic transformation or mainstreaming of the green economy concept. However, there are many “green shoots” of initiatives and disjointed programmes that can be better coordinated to achieve the required mainstreaming of green economy initiatives, policies and practices (CANARI, 2018).

The Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group, a multi-stakeholder group with representatives across sectors in Caribbean SIDS, was convened by CANARI. At a meeting in October 2017, members noted that there is progress in moving towards a green economy in the Caribbean at various levels and across countries, for example with numerous renewable energy initiatives, promotion of green jobs and emergence of social and green enterprises. CANARI is working with the Green Economy Coalition to produce diagnostic reports for the Caribbean using this framework. A key potential pathway for enhancing inclusiveness and sustainability of economies is via Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). They promote innovation, create employment and economic opportunities and contribute significantly to economic growth and development in the Caribbean. For example, a recent estimate found that MSEs accounted for more than 70,000 jobs and approximately 25per cent of the national output of Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>17</sup> These estimates do not include those MSEs in the informal sector. CANARI has been conducting research, action learning and capacity building on the potential of this sector to support a green economy transformation. This work has included development of an innovative tool for MSEs to use to assess their potential to enhance delivery of economic, social and environmental co-benefits. The Green Enterprise Radar is being tested with MSEs in Trinidad and Tobago and CANARI is training small business experts to roll out the tool and mentor MSEs across 10 Caribbean SIDS (CANARI, 2018).

<sup>16</sup> Launched in 2013 at Rio +20, PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate UN action to assist countries in advancing the 2030 Agenda reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); particularly SDGs 8 and SDG 17 (PAGE, 2016).

<sup>17</sup> Estimates sourced from CANARI’s Contribution to SAMOA Report.

## b) The blue economy

If effectively protected, managed and utilised, the Caribbean's coastal and marine resources can potentially provide a sizeable resource base through which the region can realise sustained and sustainable economic growth<sup>18</sup>. New and emerging Blue Economy growth industries (namely aquaculture, carbon sequestration, marine biotechnology, deep seabed mining, and ocean renewable energy) can profoundly transform the traditional ocean-based productive sectors found in the Caribbean (i.e. fishing, coastal tourism, offshore oil and gas exploration, and marine transport) while enhancing food security, promoting environmental conservation and mainstreaming integrated coastal/ocean management. The development of a Blue Economy in the Caribbean SIDS has in recent times been receiving high interest locally, regionally and internationally.

While prospects remain positive, an analysis of the CDB noted that the large informal sector driven engagements in the Blue Economy can hamper efforts to formalise activities and encourage sustainable practices. Other potential weaknesses include lower revenues from the ocean in the short-term, possibly resulting in a negative impact on fiscal accounts. As outlined in 2018 publication, "Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity", the CDB has highlighted the following critical inputs for growth of the region's Blue Economy: technical capacity building and education drives targeted at coastal communities; small seed financing and training; market access; improved port infrastructure and operations; minimum docking and environmental fees; and finance for marine energy exploration and investment (CDB, 2018a).

Barbados has demonstrated high level political attention on the Blue Economy. The Government of Barbados has established a new Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy. The Ministry will be charged with responsibility for preserving Barbados' coastlines, their marine environment, the health of reefs and the habitats of marine plants and animals. It will ensure sustainable use and development of fisheries, marine assets, resources, minerals and species for sustainable recreation and decent livelihoods for those who make a living from the sea (GOB, 2018b)<sup>19</sup>.

### Box 3 Blue Growth Strategies in Grenada

With an Exclusive Economic Zone 75 times larger than its land area (Hurley, 2017), Grenada has identified opportunities for blue growth in nine Blue Growth Marine Centres of Excellence which will focus on fisheries and aquaculture, aquaponics, boutique tourism, marine research, traditional boat building, yachting and marina services, coastal eco-tourism, ocean energy, blue biotechnology and coastal residential developments. As outlined in its Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan, the country has already gained recognition and economic benefits from blue growth activities such as the world's first underwater sculpture park located within its Molinere Beauséjour Marine Protected Area. Kick em' Jenny, an active undersea volcano, also provides further opportunities for scientific research and the exploitation of seabed minerals.

Source: Government of Grenada (2016).

UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, has developed the Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies Project. The project aims to support developing countries in realising economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources. It will assist coastal and insular developing countries, particularly SIDS, in promoting the sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors by analysing, elaborating and adopting evidence-based and policy-coherent ocean economy and trade strategies and contribute to building national capacities to implement them. The project is being implemented from the perspective of UNCTAD Oceans Economy pillars (economic, environmental, social, technology, innovation, oceans regulatory framework and governance) (UNCTAD, 2018b). This will contribute to developing enabling national policy and regulatory frameworks for the sustainable management of the oceans and support the implementation of SDG 14 (Targets 4, 6, 7b and c) and, to a certain extent, the SAMOA Pathway (Paragraph 27b, c, e, and i), considering the SAMOA Pathway paragraphs 122-124. Two Caribbean SIDS, which expressed interest, have been selected as beneficiaries: Barbados and Belize. This project is funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) with support of UN-DESA (ibid.).

<sup>18</sup> The World Bank estimates that the Caribbean's ocean economy generated 18% of the region's total 2012 GDP (CDB, 2018a).

<sup>19</sup> Government of Barbados (GOB) (2018) available at <http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/download/throne-speech-june-05-2018/>

### c) Sustainable Tourism

Tourism continues to be the major foreign currency earner in the Caribbean region. The IDB estimates that the Caribbean region receives 21.9 million tourist arrivals per annum (excluding cruise passengers) or approximately a 2per cent share of world tourist arrivals (IDB, 2015). Despite competition from new/cheaper markets and setbacks from natural disasters, CTO estimates that tourist arrivals will continue to increase. Indeed, in 2016, the region experienced a 4.2per cent increase in arrivals, better than the overall international increase of 3.9per cent (CTO, 2017). However, it must be noted that the effects of the 2017 Hurricane Season have already dampened economic projections as the duration of post-disaster recovery of the tourism sector has been estimated between two and five years in some territories (ECLAC, 2018c). Although travel regulations have since been reinstated, the opening of travel to Cuba for American citizens in 2015 was a welcome development in most quarters and facilitated discussion in the subregion on competitiveness and tourism product enhancement.

Regional development partners have been advancing the sustainable development of this sector. The CTO, for example, adopted the Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Development Programme in 2018. Since 2001, the ACS put forward a Convention establishing the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean (STZC). In 2017, the ACS initiated a project on Developing and Implementing Sustainable Tourism Indicators in the Caribbean which seeks to provide tangible and practical tools for selection and evaluation of tourism destinations to become part of the STZC. Under an associated pilot project, three of five destinations that were evaluated were situated in the countries under review and included the City of Roseau in Dominica; Bayahibe in the Dominican Republic; and the Resort Area of Ocho Rios in Jamaica. Successive evaluations also reviewed destinations in Guadeloupe, Tobago, Martinique and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (ACS, 2017a).

Diversification of the region's offerings has also been observed, with authorities promoting more specialised forms of tourism. Several Caribbean SIDS are now marketing themselves as eco-tourism destinations, prioritising environmental sustainability and low carbon footprint development above traditional mass tourism. As tourism accounts for some 46per cent of exports of goods and services in the Dominican Republic, its government is eager to support the development of tourism modalities associated with the mountain trail tourism, health, and cruises, among others (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

Marine-based tourism has significant potential for growth; particularly cruise based tourism, marine and coastal activities (sport and deep sea fishing, scuba diving, and snorkelling), as well as yachting and marina services. Yachting has developed into one of the Caribbean's premier tourism sub-sectors. An increase in the number of regattas and sailing weeks have boosted international arrivals, driving an increase in demand for berthing facilities. Associated service industries (for example catering and yacht provisioning; wet storage and anchorage; charter services; boat servicing, repairs, and chandlery; accommodation and recreational amenities; and hurricane shelter) have also developed around this sector and will no doubt benefit from future growth of the Blue Economy (ECLAC, 2014a).

The region's cruise industry has a 50per cent share of the global vessel calls and passengers, recording 29.3 million passengers in 2017 (increasing by 75per cent since 2006) (CDB, 2018a). However, inter-island competition and the inability of ports to handle larger vessels checked the Caribbean's earning potential. CDB has advised that the region utilise its collective bargaining power in setting cruise fees and levies to overcome this challenge. Governments are well aware of the importance of port infrastructure investment and have been pursuing innovative financing mechanisms (such as PPPs) to address this critical issue. The CTO and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) have also proposed the use of PPPs to advance the Regional Tourism Agenda (CARICOM, 2017a).

The Creative Industry (or Orange Economy<sup>20</sup>) has many linkages to and synergies with the tourism sectors. There is an increasing view among Caribbean governments and regional agencies that the creative industries can be an engine for economic growth and a mechanism for diversifying economies and improving global competitiveness (IDB, 2017b). The ACS has also recognised this trend and advocates the use of Carnivals as a strategy for tourism growth. Further, art and craft possess the capacity to generate economic and social benefits by contributing to the diversification of the tourism experience and promoting local artisans. Community-

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<sup>20</sup> The Orange Economy includes all the sectors whose goods and services are based on intellectual property: advertising, architecture, crafts, design, fashion, film, games and toys, music, publishing, research and development, software, TV and radio, and videogames, and visual and performing arts (IDB, 2013a).

based tourism is a participatory undertaking, embedded in the community development approach and involving ordinary citizens in the planning and implementation (Government of Jamaica, 2018). These trends take advantage of the unique characteristics of local communities and habitats, protect culture and heritage and increase the amount of tourist dollars that stay in communities (ECLAC, 2014b). Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago both put forward Community-Based Tourism Policies in 2015 and 2018 respectively.

The programmatic area of Community-Based Tourism is a flagship of the ACS as it promotes the inclusion of vulnerable groups and develops opportunities based on economical alternatives for MSMEs with special attention to the Handicraft Sector represented by the ACS Regional Network of Artisans. The ACS also partners with the Representatives of the Regional Network of Artisans in Tourism of the Caribbean as well as the Inter-American and Caribbean Network of Small Hotels to increase the competitiveness of MSMEs in the tourism industry of the Caribbean through knowledge sharing, best practices and cooperation (ACS, 2018).

With 2017 being declared the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, CTO launched its first regional activity in Saint Kitts and Nevis under its “Supporting a Climate Smart and Sustainable Caribbean Tourism Industry” Project. This was financed through the ACP/EU/CDB Natural Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in CARIFORUM Countries Programme and aims to enhance climate resiliency and strengthen disaster risk management strategies in the Caribbean tourism industry (CTO, 2017). Further, the CHTA partnered with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in 2017 to diminish the threat of Zika and other vector threats through the dissemination of additional training, tools and resources (CHTA, 2017).

#### Box 4

##### Establishment of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre at UWI

First announced during the World Tourism Organisation’s Global Conference on Sustainable Tourism in November 2017, the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre will be domiciled at the Jamaica’s UWI Campus. The Centre, which should be operational in 2019, will focus on research and analysis related to disaster preparedness, management and recovery in tourism destinations. It will also house a Sustainable Tourism Observatory that will support policymakers and businesses to develop a more competitive global tourism sector. Interregional collaboration will be ensured through partnerships with the World Travel & Tourism Council, the Pacific Asia Travel Association, as well as academic institutions based in the United States, Hong Kong, Australia and the United Kingdom.

Source: Jamaica Information Service (JIS) (2018a).

## B. Climate change (SDG 13)

*The ambitions of the SAMOA Pathway are high in the climate change agenda and more commensurate with the existential threat it poses to the Caribbean and humanity. It recognises sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change for the ‘gravest threats’ they represent to the survival and viability of SIDS including in the ‘loss of territory’ for some (paragraph 11); commits to implement and operationalise the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage (paragraph 43); advocates ‘adaptive capacity’ to deal with the ‘respective vulnerabilities and environmental and social situations’ of SIDS (paragraph 44); benchmarks the ‘GCF board decision to aim for a floor of 50per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including SIDS’ (paragraph 15); and notes the importance of ‘accessing and managing climate finance’ (paragraph 15). It focuses on the need address the ‘gap’ between emission rates and a pathway ambition of below 2°C (paragraph 36) and to pursue DRM including for ‘displaced persons’ in the context of ‘the special case and unique vulnerabilities of SIDS’ (paragraph 52).*

### 1. Regional overview

Caribbean SIDS remain at the frontline of the fight against climate change. While contributing less than 1per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the impacts of a changing climate will have a much more pronounced effect on their future development in comparison to their global counterparts. For example, by 2080, a 1 metre rise in sea level is projected to impact the GDP of Caribbean SIDS by approximately 8per cent (UN-OHRLLS, 2017). Inaction against climate change will have serious and lasting effects in the region. Estimated annual losses of US\$22 billion by 2050 and US\$46 billion by 2100 have been predicted

by the Global Development Institute and will likely be driven by impacts to infrastructure and productive sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and agriculture (ibid.).

Caribbean SIDS has pursued a number of mitigating actions against global warming. They are all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement<sup>21</sup> and have set ambitious targets for emissions reduction and mitigation action in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). As of 20 June 2018, three Caribbean SIDS have completed deposit of instruments of ratification for the Kigali Amendment<sup>22</sup> to the Montreal Protocol on the phasing down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) (CARICOM, 2018a).

Much of the funding and effort to address climate change and natural hazards in the sub region have been directed at the development of national and sectoral policies and plans as well as hard infrastructure solutions (CANARI, 2018). However, governments face persistent constraints in implementing their climate change priorities: (i) limited or unreliable climate information collected from sector agencies for decision making; (ii) inadequate technology or institutional capacity to collect, interpret or analyse information from sector agencies; (iii) high dependence on international donors as the main source of climate finance; (iv) prolonged and tedious processes of procuring climate related funds and for procuring consultancy services; and (v) a lack of a centralised system or data base for climate data (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018; Government of Belize, 2018).

In 2015, the Government of Belize established a National Climate Change Office within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration as well as adopted the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan. However, there are some persistent constraints that Belize faces in implementing its climate change priorities. The lack of quality and reliable data as well as financial and technical capacity stymies the Government's execution of projects. Further, the lack of consistency in data collection inhibits proper GHG inventories. Other gaps pertain to inadequate capacity at district and community level, insufficient use of economic instruments, lack of input data for some development sectors and inadequate capacity for modelling (Government of Belize, 2018).

The British Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund was established in March 2015 as an independent entity dedicated to raising, managing and disbursing funds to qualified applicants to build resilience to climate change impacts and to reduce carbon emissions through on-the-ground projects, capacity building, education, research/studies, introduction of innovative technologies, changes in legislation, policy/strategy development and establishment of incentive programmes. In 2017, the British Virgin Islands embarked on a project with private consultants to acquire Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) images. These have been essential in creating mapping and modelling outputs. One output of this was the Road Town Tortola Catchment Study hydrological project which models were completed for. These have influenced infrastructural designs, development plans and emergency plans for the area (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2018).

#### **Box 5 Mainstreaming Climate Risk Assessment in Grenada**

The "Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Grenada" is a pilot programme launched in collaboration with the Government of Germany to increase capacity for data driven policymaking. The partnership has resulted in several training sessions (including the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool - CCORAL - for technical officers) in a bid to integrate climate risk management into local planning processes.

Source: International Climate Initiative (2016).

Since the inception of the SAMOA Pathway, Guyana has prepared several technology needs assessment reports, frameworks and action plans for adaptation and mitigation. Despite these actions, Guyana has yet to formally adopt any climate change legislation or policy. However, funds have been acquired to establish a National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, a Five Year Strategic Plan for the

<sup>21</sup> United Nations (2018), UN Treaty Section, Available at: [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg\\_no=XXVII-7d&chapt=27&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=XXVII-7d&chapt=27&clang=en)

<sup>22</sup> United Nations (2018): The implementation of this agreement – known as the Kigali Amendment – is expected to avoid up to 0.5°C of global warming by the end of the century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer, Available at: [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg\\_no=XXVII-2-f&chapter=27&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=XXVII-2-f&chapter=27&clang=en)

Office of Climate Change, and a National Climate Change Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

Jamaica's Climate Change Policy Framework, adopted in 2015, presents an institutional mechanism and structure that facilitates national coordinated action on the impacts of climate change through the development and implementation of policies, sectoral plans, strategies and legislation. In continuation of efforts towards the mainstreaming of the climate change agenda, a Climate Change Advisory Board has been established to advise the Minister with responsibility for climate change. Most recently in April 2018, Jamaica's Climate Change Division launched a public education campaign in an effort to foster improved local attitudes towards and perceptions of climate change. In addition, a four-year initiative was recently launched with funding from Germany, which will see investment in ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves, to reduce the risks associated with disasters related to climate change (Government of Jamaica, 2018). By mid-2018, Jamaica's climate data network was expanded under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience to include over 30 real-time streamflow and rainfall gauges. Data from these stations not only improve coverage and understanding of the changing micro-climates but are used in decision support tools to guide climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture; for example, drought forecasting and early warning systems for floods. Other climate action decision support tools to come on stream in the short to medium term include a climate risk information platform (*ibid.*).

With the support of the United States' in-country programme, Saint Lucia was able to complete three Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans for Water, Agriculture and Fisheries. These documents were formally launched in April 2018. These plans allow the sectors to prioritise projects and programmes. Saint Lucia also completed its National Adaptation Plan for 2018-2028 consisting of both cross sectoral and sectoral measures to enable and stimulate climate change adaptation in all development sectors and areas and at all levels of society (Government of Saint Lucia, 2018).

In preparation for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Poland, Caribbean Heads of Government issued a Declaration on Climate Change during the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM. Intended to guide CARICOM Member States in preparation for participation at COP24, the Declaration reaffirmed the special circumstances and vulnerabilities faced by SIDS and called for "a global effort to close the mitigation ambition gap and place the world on pathways for low emissions climate resilient development". Further, leaders committed to full participation in the Talanoa Dialogue process and urged the finalisation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme. Still faced with massive reconstruction after the 2017 Hurricane Season, the Declaration on Climate Change emphasised the importance of loss and damage assessments and called for support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage as well as support to enable countries to submit loss and damage proposals to the GCF (CARICOM, 2018a).

The OECS Commission has, with support from a number of development partners (e.g. the Nature Conservancy/Government of Germany, CCRIF-SPC, and New Zealand), implemented community resilience initiatives in Member States. These include the development and strengthening of microenterprises, training of community-based organisations in conducting vulnerability assessments and risk management techniques, and the implementation of small scale hard and soft approaches for reducing impacts of natural hazards and climate change in target communities (OECS, 2018a).

As part of the implementation of the EU's Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Sustainable Land Management Project, many initiatives were achieved including: updating of the OECS Building Code, guidelines and methodology for National Physical Development Plans as well as updating of the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Developing Action Plan for Montserrat, Development of Climate Change and Environmental Management Policy and Strategy for Antigua and Barbuda, Development of Environmental Regulations for the Environmental Protection and Management Act of 2015 of Antigua and Barbuda, Technical Assistance for the Establishment of a National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Strategy and Road Map for Dominica and Saint Lucia, Development of an operational manual (and associated training) for the Climate Change Trust Fund of British Virgin Islands, and drafting/updating of National Land Policies for the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Additionally, the initiative saw the acquisition of GIS equipment and land information management tools to enhance spatial planning among participating countries (OECS, 2018a).

The GCCA+ Initiative aims to support dialogue with SIDS on the issues of climate change, natural resource management and participatory decision making. Various projects have been executed in tandem

with subregional organisations (such as CANARI) in addressing gaps, conducting vulnerability assessments and engendering community ownership of mitigation measures. The OECS and the GCCA+ has launched the iLAND Resilience Project; a partnership which seeks to combat climate change through sustainable land management. With the nine Eastern Caribbean countries<sup>23</sup> currently targeted under this €10.6 million initiative, iLAND's priority interventions were informed by a gap analysis that took into account OECS Member States' particular needs and desired outcomes; i.e. upgraded regulatory frameworks, enhanced Human and Technical Capacity, heightened public awareness, improved physical adaptation measures. Alignment with several priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs is evident, particularly when measured against iLAND's thematic areas: Drought Mitigation and Food Security, Water Security, Flood Mitigation/Management, Watershed/Forest Rehabilitation, Slope Stabilisation, Integrated Watershed and Coastal Management, and Ecosystem Restoration/ Rehabilitation (OECS, 2018b).

The emphasis of the CCCCC work has been on improving policies for greater resilience building of projects and programmes for the betterment of Caribbean peoples, through a partnership approach with like-minded institutions like CIMH, CDB, UWI and national governments, to name a few. At the request of CARICOM Heads of State, the CCCCC developed a Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015) and its accompanying Implementation Plan. The Framework has recently been updated to cover the period 2018-2028, following intensive consultation with CARICOM member countries. The updated Framework draws from global and regional agreements, frameworks, policies and plans as well as concerns directly voiced by CARICOM Member States and details ten Strategic Elements and Goals to improve climate resiliency. The updated Framework takes cognisance of the fact that the global and regional climate change landscape has advanced significantly, influenced by global developments and charters such as the Paris Agreement, the SDG Goals and regional developments such as the Regional Ocean Policy/Blue Economy of the OECS. These advances served to inform considerations for the current themes of the Strategic Elements and Goals for the revised Framework. The regional Framework provides an assessment of the global and regional context of climate change and details potential impacts of climate change on the region. It provides the platform for Member States to set and pursue national goals and actions for the realisation of resilience building. The Framework will continue to evolve as progress is realized, as new issues develop, and as best practices are developed (CCCCC, 2018a).

The CCCCC has had a long-standing relationship with the Government of Italy's Ministry of the Environment, Land and Seas since 2002. However, more recently in 2015, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation for the Development of Renewable Energy Sources and Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean was signed between the two parties. The Government of Italy has also been very instrumental in developing an Early Warning System Plan for Saint Lucia. The partnership between the CCCCC and the Government of Italy has facilitated the discussions between these two governments and resulted in the creation of a project that would assist in the forecasting of national disasters, flood mapping, and other sectoral events that would support informed decision making. Saint Lucian officials will manage and operate the system thereby building capacity in country while re-enforcing disaster preparedness and post-disaster assessments (CCCCC, 2018b).

The CCCCC implemented the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (UK-DFID) £4.95 million Support to the Caribbean Resilience Implementation Plan (IP) Programme (2011 – 2016). This programme focused on, inter alia, building climate finance capacity within the CDB, enhanced the climate negotiation effort before Caribbean climate change negotiators entered the international fora, better managing of marine protected areas, building water and agricultural security in SIDS, and inculcating a risk management ethos within development planning through the further imbedding of the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL) framework (CCCCC, 2018a).

The CCCCC has also been very active in securing projects that cater to the need of Caribbean SIDS in another initiative funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): The "Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation in the Small Island States in the Caribbean" Project. This project is focused on reducing climate change induced risk for the population of SIDS of the Caribbean and will track the implementation of local adaptation in the following countries: Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jamaica. There are two main components, the first is investments for sustainable improvements of coastal ecosystems relevant for climate change adaptation and the second is assistance in the preparation and implementation of local adaptation measures (CCCCC, n.d.). Another initiative was the

<sup>23</sup> OECS Member countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as well as the British Overseas Countries and Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

MOU the CCCCC signed with the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) in April 2018. This MOU is meant to enhance information sharing on the coverage of climate change matters in the media and to explore opportunities for creating synergies. The partnership between these two entities was even more critical post the 2017 Hurricane Season (idib).

The CDB participated in and financed the Caribbean Pavilion at COP23 held in Bonn, Germany. At the Conference, the CDB joined the NDC Partnership to help BMCs accelerate achievement of their climate action goals. CDB also signed on to the Principles for Mainstreaming Climate Action Initiative as a supporting institution at the end of 2017. In September 2017, CDB partnered with the IDB to host the Second Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Permitting and Compliance. The event facilitated the exchange of experiences, innovative practices, and lessons learned between high-level Caribbean government officials and experts. Additionally, CDB in collaboration with the CCCCC and the GCF conducted a technical workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of BMCs to develop concept notes and proposals for GCF projects in the water and urban sectors (CDB, 2018b).

#### **Box 6** **Regional climate studies financed by CDB**

The CDB financed a study undertaken by Climate Studies Group, UWI Jamaica on the physical, social and economic implications for Caribbean SIDS if global warming rises to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The technical paper will be the contribution of CARICOM to a 2018 Special Report which the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change agreed to produce, at the invitation of the COP to the UNFCCC during the Twenty-First Session in Paris in 2015. A presentation on the initial findings of the study was presented at a side event during COP23.

Source: CDB (2018b).

In May 2018, CDB finalised a grant that would map 10,000 square kilometres of the Caribbean coastline using LiDAR technology. The project will be implemented by the CCCCC, effectively enhancing climate resilience in the subregion. Building on the CCCCC's 2017 acquisition of LiDAR equipment with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Climate Change Adaption Programme, this grant will service the development of an Intellectual Property Policy (IPP) for the CCCCC and train 38 end-users from CDB's member countries to use LiDAR data (CCCCC, 2018c). Similar projects were completed in the British Virgin Islands during 2017, most notably LiDAR mapping towards completion of the Road Town Tortola Catchment Hydrological Study (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2018).

The Sandy Shorelines Project, which is being coordinated with the Cuban Ministry of Science and Technology and the Republic of Korea, recognises that with climate change and its associated effects such as sea level rise and coastal erosion, the Caribbean's coastlines are at risk. This project focuses on examining how coastal erosion dynamics change with climate change effects which are currently being faced by ACS Member States and which will only worsen. Over the next three years, the Sandy Shorelines Project will equip, train and provide expert technical advice to ACS Member States in cutting edge erosion monitoring and beach rehabilitation techniques (ACS, 2018).

The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership was launched in May 2015. The US\$14.8 million programme is expected to run until December 2018 and is being implemented by the UNDP. Target countries include Dominica, Suriname, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jamaica. Priority areas will encompass climate resilient development, energy security and mainstreaming adaptation into local budgeting and planning practices. Along with supporting countries in the generation of NAPs and promoting climate technology development, this initiative emphasises community engagement (particularly with vulnerable groups) as the best method of identifying the most critical nationally appropriate mitigation actions (GCCA, n.d.).

## **2. Health and climate change adaptation**

There is an increasing recognition of the health risks resulting from climate change which need to be addressed through national strategies and national adaptation plans for climate change. The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)/World Health Organisation (WHO) has published relevant documents and provided training for all the Caribbean SIDS in 2017 as a guidance for the preparation of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments (V&As) and Health chapters in National Adaptation Plans to climate change (H-

NAPs). In response to Member State increasing demand and request, PAHO/WHO is providing technical support to Member States for the elaboration of their H-NAPS (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

PAHO/WHO is facilitating greater representation of health officials from SIDS countries to participate in relevant international meetings, such as the UNFCCC 21st and 22nd Conference of the Parties and the 2nd Global Conference on Climate and Health in 2016. Moreover, the “UNFCCC Latin American and Caribbean Week” (LACCW Montevideo, Uruguay; August 20-23, 2018) is a key international summit to foster the implementation of Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. PAHO/WHO facilitated the participation of health officials during the high-level segment (August 22) that addressed international topics to reach recommendations for the next UNFCCC COP24, in Poland, in December 2018. PAHO/WHO is also co-organizing with UNFCCC-LAC a session on “Health and Climate Action”. The session will provide an overview of the effects of climate change on health, describe the status and challenges of health sector participation in the climate change agenda. Additionally, a WHO Special Initiative on Climate Change and Health in SIDS was launched at the 23rd UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP23) in collaboration with Fiji as President of the COP and the UNFCCC in November 2017 (*ibid.*).

The Government of Grenada, with support from PAHO/WHO, is convening the “III Global Conference on Health and Climate Change” in St. George’s, Grenada; October 16-17, 2018. An action plan to address health effects of climate in SIDS is in development in consultation with Member states and other stakeholders. During the conference, national and regional leaders and experts from Caribbean Member States and territories will endorse the Action Plan on “Health and Climate Change in the Caribbean SIDS”, which will contribute to a Global Action Plan to be submitted for consideration by the 72nd WHA in May 2019 (*ibid.*).

### 3. Participatory governance and local adaptation measures

CANARI has developed a toolkit<sup>24</sup> to support CSOs to engage in climate adaptation, which builds their capacity to effectively communicate to build awareness and advocate for change in policy and practice, facilitate participatory vulnerability assessments and conduct participatory adaptation planning and practical actions (including ecosystem-based approaches). CANARI tested this toolkit with five CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago under the Climate ACTT project<sup>25</sup> funded by BHP Billiton and is now rolling out the toolkit to build capacity of CSOs across the Caribbean. CANARI has also developed and piloted a methodology to build resilience of SMEs to climate change and natural hazards. This is based on using a value chain approach to identify vulnerabilities and assess priority adaptation actions needed (CANARI, 2018).

Although some GCF funding is being provided to CSOs to engage in building resilience to climate change and natural hazards (from private foundations, bilateral and multilateral sources), much of the funding coming into the region is being targeted at governments and managed by UN or CARICOM agencies and not reaching CSOs or supporting local climate action. In CANARI’s view, the GCF, for example, needs to address how funding support can be provided directly to support the work of CSOs (CANARI, 2018). It is to be noted also the CSOs can apply directly for GCF resources through national/ Regional Implementing Entities (CCCCC, 2018a).

Better coordination of support and knowledge sharing on innovation and best practices, particularly at the regional level, is also needed. Even where funding is being provided to CSOs, it tends to pre-determine the focus of the action (e.g. mangrove re-planting), rather than supporting the needs required by CSOs to engage in systematic processes to build capacities and knowledge (including capturing local and traditional knowledge), analyse vulnerabilities, plan for adaptation, implement practical adaptation projects, and engage in policy advocacy. However, there has been a growing emphasis on supporting CSOs to undertake ecosystem-based adaptation, using natural ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves and forests for enhancing coastal resilience and protecting watersheds. Using participatory approaches and building the capacity of CSOs and communities to take local action is critical to building local resilience (*ibid.*).

<sup>24</sup> Access the toolkit here: <http://www.canari.org/wpdm-package/climate-actt-toolkit>.

<sup>25</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.canari.org/climateactt>.

**Box 7****Climate-proofing community micro-enterprises in Brasso Seco, Trinidad and Tobago**

Brasso Seco is a remote rural community with livelihoods based on agriculture and use of the surrounding rich forest resources. The Brasso Seco Paria Tourism Action Committee has several income streams including cocoa and coffee processing. Some members developed the Brasso Seco Chocolate Company that makes organic dark chocolate bars that are sold in high-end markets in Trinidad and Tobago. These community entrepreneurs worked with CANARI to apply its value chain 'climate-proofing' methodology. They first developed a simple value chain. The community entrepreneurs then examined each key segment of their value chain to determine vulnerability to key climatic trends around increasing temperature and increasing extreme weather events (note that sea level rise would not directly affect this community). They analysed what were the possible impacts on their enterprises and found that the enterprise was most affected by extreme weather events such as droughts and storms. For each vulnerability identified, the entrepreneurs determined what possible measures they could implement to overcome them to identify resilience-building strategies. They discussed the pros and cons of the strategies for their enterprises and if the strategies would help or hurt the enterprises, and eventually chose to install solar power for their processing facility. By the end of the process they were more aware of and taking actions themselves to strengthen and build resilience of community livelihoods.

Source: CANARI (2018).

**C. Sustainable energy (SDG 7)**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that dependence on imported fossil fuels has been a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for SIDS for many decades and that sustainable energy, including enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of SIDS (paragraph 47).*

It is estimated that the Caribbean relies on imported fossil fuel for more than 90 per cent of its energy needs (ECLAC, 2018c). The bulk of demand across both services and commodity based economies in the subregion lies in the commercial and industrial sectors; driven by energy intensive industries such as tourism, mining and minerals (CDB, 2018b; ECLAC, 2018c). With an average of US\$0.33/kWh (National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), 2015a), electricity tariffs in the Caribbean are among the highest in the world; further inhibiting the sub region's competitiveness and growth. As a consequence of the subregion's dependence on imported fossil fuels, energy costs are particularly volatile and represent a significant proportion of public and private sector expenditures. However, heterogeneities across the landscape must be noted as Trinidad and Tobago, a net exporter of energy, has an average tariff of US\$ 0.05/kWh.

Ambitious renewable energy (RE) targets have been set by many Caribbean SIDS and many are well on their way to achieving these goals. With renewables accounting for 28 per cent of power generation, Dominica leads CARICOM countries with the largest proportion of energy from renewable sources (ECLAC, 2016b). Guyana aims to be 100 percent by 2025. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aims for 60 per cent – 100 per cent by 2030 and the Cayman Islands has set a target of 70 per cent by 2037 (CDB, 2018b). However, the real barriers still exist in the development of RE resources in the Caribbean.

Countries have identified the challenges towards achieving these targets. The high initial investment cost of these systems is particularly problematic given the financial constraints that bind Caribbean SIDS. Further, a lack of regulatory framework and legislation for private investors, independent power producers and power purchase agreements have restrained project development (ECLAC, 2016b). Land use competition, monopolies in transmission and distribution, low technical capacity, and grid stability issues are also cited as serious challenges (ibid.).

Several Caribbean SIDS have also made efforts to promote energy efficiency (EE) with policies and programmes, though they are at different stages of implementation. These include energy efficiency standards, tax credits, tax reductions or exemptions, pilot projects, restrictions on incandescent bulbs, appliance labelling standards and communication and outreach. Aruba, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago all have tax reduction/exemption schemes in place. Additionally, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the British Virgin Islands have already implemented restrictions on incandescent bulbs (ECLAC, 2016b).

Proposed in 2014, the Government of Sint Maarten has begun implementation of its National Energy Policy. In 2015, initiatives were undertaken aimed at developing an execution program for the energy policy especially aimed at measures to stimulate the use of RE. However, progress has been slow due to extensive discussions between Government and the utility company, NV GEBE, on several topics pertaining to the feed in tariff, transition from fossil fuel generated electricity to sustainable energy sources and other related issues. Notwithstanding, various initiatives are being undertaken by the private sector, some through approvals of relevant ministries, to install solar panels for RE generation (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018).

In 2015, energy generation from renewable sources reached 16.24 per cent of total production in the Dominican Republic. Further, its Energy Intensity Index has been systematically reduced since the beginning of the last decade, indicating that the country has been more efficient in its use of electricity (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). While electric power systems reach 97 per cent of the 2.9 million households in the country, challenges are mainly associated with maintaining the financial sustainability of the sector, continuously increasing generation to meet the growing demand in a context of sustained expansion of economic activity, and of transforming the energy matrix towards one in which renewable energies have a greater weight (*ibid.*).

Saint Kitts and Nevis has demonstrated its commitment to future sustainability through a number of RE initiatives including: (i) the establishment of solar farms at the R.L Bradshaw International Airport and the Basseterre Valley Protected Area; (ii) concessions on the import and installation of solar panels; and (iii) supporting R&D for geothermal and wind resources. In December 2015, the Saint Christopher Energy Supply (Amendment) Act was passed by the Parliament of Saint Kitts and Nevis, making provisions for Feed in Tariffs and Net Metering as part of the facilitating environment for the integration of RE in the energy supply. Saint Kitts and Nevis also partnered with the CDB to facilitate the replacement of high pressure sodium lighting with light emitting diode (LED) lights on both islands. This initiative is being facilitated through the CDB's Climate Action Line of Credit. In addition, through the Sustainable Energy for the Eastern Caribbean Programme, energy audits in select publicly owned buildings and water pumping stations are being undertaken. This will serve to analyse energy flows in order to prioritise the energy uses according to greatest to least effective opportunities for energy savings. This will also aid in the identification of the most appropriate RE or energy efficient technology which will facilitate further reductions in operating costs (Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2018).

Saint Lucia has also demonstrated its commitment through a number of RE initiatives: i) Development and endorsement of their National Energy Transition Strategy; ii) Installation and commissioning of their first utility scale solar farm (3MW); iii) Concessions on equipment used to harness RE and promote EE; and iv) Supporting the development of their geothermal resources (Government of Saint Lucia, 2018). Despite its small size, Curaçao strives to build a green energy infrastructure, with more than 25 per cent of energy currently coming from renewable sources, primarily wind energy (Government of Curaçao, 2017). Curaçao's Long Term Economic Strategy identifies the necessary conditions and lays the foundation for further development of economic priority sectors for Curaçao in which alternative energy occupies a prominent role. With respect to this, Curaçao's Government approved a new energy policy in March 2018 and is now coordinating implementation of its objectives (Government of Curaçao, 2018).

With a wide proliferation of photo-voltaic (PV) installations for energy production and water heating applications, Barbados is on its way to achieving its target of 65 per cent of total peak electrical demand by 2030 from renewable sources, with a focus on raising the number of household solar water heaters by 50 per cent by 2025 (ECLAC, 2018c). Further, Barbados was ranked 27th out of some 71 countries on their past, present, and future ability to attract investment for clean energy companies and projects (CDB, 2018a). In Haiti, through the support of UNEP, off-grid hybrid RE systems are being developed. Indeed, the Coopérative Électrique de l'Arrondissement des Coteaux is the first electric cooperative of the country and is covering three towns in Southern Haiti. It currently connects 1300 members (households or business) through a hybrid solar-diesel power plant (UNEP Haiti, 2018).

Since 2016, Guyana has pursued the installation of grid-connected solar panels on the rooftops of 70 public buildings and the installation of Guyana's first photovoltaic farm (400kW), totalling 1.36 MW. The 2018 solar programme targets the installation of systems at 119 public buildings totalling 2.5 MW of installed capacity. The programmes were also implemented in tandem with an EE programme targeting the installation of LED lights and occupancy sensors in public buildings with about US\$7.7 million being allocated in the National Budget to finance the solar and EE Capital Programmes since 2017 (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

The Government of Japan also assisted Guyana in promoting EE and sustainable energy systems through a US\$17.8 million grant aimed at “improving the efficiency of the power system in the City of Georgetown and the surrounding areas by enhancing substation and distribution equipment as well as establishing a PV system and an energy management system at the CARICOM Secretariat” (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018). Under this initiative, approximately 7,000 LED lamps will be installed along the major roads and highways in the country along with 2,000 in the communities across Guyana. The replacement of existing High Pressure Sodium lamps for street lighting is expected to result in a 65per cent reduction in national street lighting consumption annually (ibid).

Additionally, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is expected to receive grant support from the Government of China for the installation of a 4MW Solar PV Farm. Funding support will also be received from the United Arab Emirates-Caribbean RE Fund for the rehabilitation of the 0.7MW Hydropower Station and/or Solar Hybrid PV Farm. Guyana has also been shortlisted and invited to submit a full proposal under the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility for the development of Solar PV Farms at locations in Guyana, totalling 5.2 MW. Guyana has also identified co-financing for this Project Facility through a soon-to-be-finalised loan with the IDB. Furthermore, plans are already advanced for two additional solar PV Farms and a wind farm for the national grid, and Guyana is also working with the Global Green Growth Institute to advance other solar PV initiatives. Now a member of the International Solar Alliance, the country is preparing a submission for support under India’s Line of Credit, for the implementation of a solar PV programme targeting about 4MW of off-grid solar PV with storage for hinterland communities and rural electrification to a value of US\$15 million. Additionally, the IDB has agreed to finance the construction of a 0.15MW hydropower station at Kato, Region 7 (ibid).

Jamaica also has made great strides in the incorporation of RE technologies into its local power mix. The country repealed dated laws governing the electricity sector and added several megawatts of solar and wind power generation capacity in recent years. The country boasts the completion of the Content Solar 20 MW Project in Clarendon, one of the largest solar investments of its kind in the Caribbean. In 2016, a 36 MW wind farm was launched in St. Elizabeth by Blue Mountain Renewables, effectively contributing to the achievement of the country’s goal of sourcing at least 20per cent of its energy supply from renewable sources by 2030. The Government recently allocated J\$120 million under the Solar Systems Project which will reduce electricity consumption by schools across the island through investments in solar PV systems (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

#### **Box 8 Jamaica’s Net Zero Building**

One example of a successful building design is at the UWI Mona campus. The Net Zero Building Project is part of the “Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Buildings in Jamaica” initiative. The total amount of energy used by the building is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created onsite. This structure is designed as a model to encourage construction of the sustainable and energy efficient buildings throughout the region. It will also house the Centre of Advanced Research and Renewable Energy, which promotes research in solar, wind, and biomass energy.

Source: UNEP (2018a).

In February 2018, the Government of Jamaica launched the EE and Conservation Standards Guide, designed to reduce energy consumption levels within the public sector. The Guide was developed through the EE and Conservation Programme which was instituted to enhance the country’s EE and conservation potential. In addition to the savings realized through the retrofitting of government facilities, the Government reported in 2017 that Programme has resulted in the reduction of approximately 3000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Trinidad and Tobago has given indication towards decoupling emissions from economic growth by introducing RE sources into its power generation mix, namely through solar, wind and waste-to-energy technologies. While the country has set a target of 10per cent by 2021, sufficient progress has not been made towards its achievement. However, it must be noted that authorities have moved to eliminate legislative hurdles, create an enabling environment through tax exemptions, cultivate public buy-in through awareness campaigns, and improve institutional capacities through the RE and EE Initiatives Programme (which began in 2017 and included a Waste Characterization Study to determine the feasibility of this technology) (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017a).

Belize has also diligently pursued its energy targets with an RE share of 65per cent; most of which is generated from hydroelectric power and biomass. Further, 0.1per cent of the country's electricity is supplied by a solar photovoltaic system at the University of Belize. Though biomass supplies 8.9per cent of electricity needs, demand currently exceeds supply of biomass (NREL, 2015b). Authorities have also approved a National Energy Policy Framework that aims to achieve 89per cent EE in Belize's power generation facilities and reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports (Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, 2015). Recently too, a grant agreement with the World Bank and GEF was signed with the aim to make Belize's energy grid more climate resilient (Government of Belize, 2018).

While less than 5per cent of Cuba's electricity is currently generated from renewable sources (IRENA, 2018), the country has set upon an ambitious path towards energy transformation with a goal of 24per cent RE generation by 2030. The country's Solar Energy Research Centre (Centro de Investigaciones de Energía Solar) is at the forefront of this drive, building the country's technical capacity with the aid of international organizations such as IRENA. The Government has set an investment goal of US\$3.5 billion for future RE projects and has already mobilised some US\$500 million through IRENA's Lighthouses Initiative. Additionally, Cuba was recommended by IRENA for a US\$15 million co-funding grant from the ADFD in 2018 (ibid).

As previously discussed, the Caribbean is awakening to the possibilities that can be provided from the Blue Economy. Progress has been made in developing ocean thermal energy conversion, seawater air conditioning, and offshore wave energy. The Ocean Thermal Energy Corporation entered into direct power purchase agreement negotiations with the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to build an ocean thermal energy conversion plant on the island of Saint Croix (CDB, 2018a).

CARICOM, under its Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy, has established targets for the contribution of RE to total electricity generation: 20per cent by 2017, 28per cent by 2022, and 47per cent by 2027 (ECLAC, 2018c). In 2017, renewables represented 9.7per cent<sup>26</sup> of installed generation capacity in the Caribbean (CDB, 2017a). Energy conservation and efficiency are also an important priority area for CARICOM, as evidenced by the recent approval of the International Energy Conservation Code (and associated Caribbean Application Document), the EE Code for CARICOM buildings as well as the Regional Energy Efficient Building Code. The Caribbean is beginning the process of phasing out incandescent bulbs. A phase-out initiative, spearheaded by the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality, is scheduled to begin as early as January 2019 (Saint Lucia Times, 2018a).

With new funding from the EU, the development of geothermal resources is being pursued in the Eastern Caribbean. To date, Guadeloupe has the only operational geothermal energy facility in the Caribbean. Implemented through CDB, the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Programme for the Eastern Caribbean facilitates the development of up to 60MW of geothermal energy capacity in up to five countries – Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (CDB, 2017b). With support of the Government of New Zealand, this programme aims to improve energy security for OECS Member States through sustainable use of renewable energy resources for electricity generation and has benefitted from investments of NZ\$5.1 million over the past five years (Government of New Zealand, 2018). The programme has provided targeted technical geothermal advisory support services to partner OECS countries including detailed geoscience studies in Saint Lucia and Grenada and ongoing technical advice to the CDB for their GeoSMART Initiative (CDB, 2017b). To support the diversification of the energy mix in the Eastern Caribbean, CDB launched the GeoSMART initiative to encourage the development of geothermal power generation. Financing for pre-investment activities (geological studies, environmental and social impact assessments, and drilling of early exploration wells), exploration activities, and power plant development can be accessed under this programme (CDB, 2018b).

Under the Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean (a partnership between CDB and IDB), US\$71 million<sup>27</sup> has been made available in loans and grants to facilitate the growth of RE in the Eastern Caribbean. In addition, the Sustainable Energy for the Eastern Caribbean Programme (a multi-partner loan and grant facility with a budget of approximately US\$26 million) is promoting the use of RE and EE among the CDB's BMCs in the Eastern Caribbean. This partnership provides pilot lines of credit of US\$500,000 to selected intermediaries to support MSMEs, as well as a pilot guarantee facility of US\$2

<sup>26</sup> This figure rises to 18% if Trinidad and Tobago (the leading producer of oil and gas in the Caribbean) is excluded (CDB, 2017a).

<sup>27</sup> IDB (2018), Inter-American Development Bank: Approximately US\$42 million has been pledged by the IDB. Available at: <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=EZSHARE-522669563-1262>.

million. Projects have included the construction of a 400kW of solar PV plant, energy efficiency retrofitting of 20 government buildings, the replacement of 21,585 inefficient street lamps with LED systems, and the conduct of 50 energy audits across Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (CDB, 2018b).

In 2014, UNIDO, and the Government of Austria signed an MOU to assist SIDS in Africa, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and the Pacific in the creation of a network of regional sustainable energy promotion centres. The partnership was officially launched during a side event at the Third International Conference for SIDS which took place in September 2015 in Apia, Samoa. The technical processes to establish the centres were finalised successfully with ownership lying with respective regional organisations. The partnership aimed at the establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) under the umbrella of the CARICOM Energy Policy. Financial support was provided by the Austrian Development Cooperation (through the Austrian Development Agency) and Spanish Government. Additional partners include the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Eastern Caribbean Energy Regulatory Authority, CCCCC and CARILEC (UNIDO, 2018).

The CCREEE's establishment was endorsed at the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 2015. On 28 October 2015, the centre was officially inaugurated during a high-level ceremony in Bridgetown, Barbados. After receiving a sufficient number of ratifications, the legal agreement establishing the CCREEE went into force on 19 May 2018. Further discussions on the future of CCREEE were recently held at the Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy with hopes of full operationalisation in 2018 (UNIDO, 2018).

Additionally, the Aruba Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, a project of the UNDP, supports Caribbean countries and territories in the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable energy investments and markets by mitigating existing barriers. The centre coordinates and implements programmes, projects and activities in the areas of capacity and policy development, information and data sharing, as well as investment and business promotion. It demonstrates leadership in the coordination of donor activities and acts as regional hub for sustainable energy issues and activities (UNIDO, 2018).

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) working alongside its Member States upon their request, sought to explore the use of RE sources to power aircrafts while they are docked at the gates. It successfully launched the pilot project in April 2018 in Jamaica at the Norman Manley International Airport. The system developed to run the aircrafts' heating, cooling and other on-board systems will comprise of a gate electrification system and a solar powered generation facility. The ICAO noted that this would contribute to lowering aviation carbon emissions which will be practical and efficient for SIDS (ICAO, 2018).

Led by the IRENA, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative was launched in 2014 and aims to support energy transitions in SIDS with the support of the World Bank, UNDP, the Clean Energy Solutions Centre, the Clinton Climate Initiative, Rocky Mountain Institute - Carbon War Room, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and other development partners. Within the Caribbean, the partnership has been entered into by Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Guyana as well as Trinidad and Tobago. Under this partnership, IRENA "coordinates and facilitates several activities that bring islands and partners together to support all operational steps in the energy transition, from resource assessments and planning to project development support" (IRENA, 2017). To date, the organisation has generated renewables readiness assessments for Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda.

USAID has established the Clean Energy Finance Facility for the Caribbean and Central America to support private-sector clean energy development in the region. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, this agency also provides grant support for early-stage project development. Funds may be used towards legal costs; engineering costs associated with project design, technology assessment, and overall feasibility studies; as well as costs associated with the conduct of environmental impact assessments and technical analyses. Eligible Caribbean SIDS include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis (USAID, 2015).

In helping to shape energy policy, ECLAC conducted technical reviews and updates to the national energy policies of the Cayman Islands and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines during 2016 (ECLAC, 2017a). Further, with the aim of enhancing EE policy frameworks within the subregion, ECLAC has collaborated

with ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency), the French Development Agency, and GIZ to carry out the Baseline Energy Efficiency Indicator (BIEE) Programme under the International Partnership of Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) (IPEEC, 2018). The BIEE programme seeks to: (i) improve data reliability and evidence-based decision-making; (ii) promote comparability at the national and sectoral level; and (iii) monitor and assess EE policies and programmes. With participation from four Caribbean SIDS (Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), the BIEE Programme was launched in December 2017 with several capacity building and review sessions held across the subregion. At completion, energy authorities and stakeholders may make use of this centralised data collection system to analyse EE indicators for seven sectors (ECLAC, 2018h).

Moreover, the Caribbean Energy Statistics Capacity Enhancement Project, supported by OLADE and the World Bank aims to improve the capacity for planning and management of energy statistics in Guyana and four other Caribbean countries. Approved in 2017, the project will provide resources to organise energy sector data, focusing on capacity and management of energy statistics and information systems. OLADE will provide technical support, training and the provision of technological infrastructure, as part of effort to promote regional and sub regional energy integration (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

## D. Disaster risk reduction (SDG 11)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that SIDS continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. It also recognises that disasters can disproportionately affect SIDS and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters (paragraph 51).*

The Caribbean is the world's second most hazard prone region with regular annual disaster losses largely affecting its social and productive sectors (CDEMA, 2014). Disaster impacts are magnified for SIDS, with the cost of disasters (with respect to the size of national economies) in the Caribbean greater than that in South and Central America (Bello, 2017 in ECLAC, 2017c). Vulnerability to the threats of flooding, droughts, volcanism, earthquakes as well as other environmental and anthropogenic hazards have been compounded by poor land use planning, non-enforcement of building codes, and low technical capacity in the operationalization of spatial data management systems. In order to build resilience, governments have continued to update Disaster Risk Management (DRM) legislation and recovery plans, strengthen building codes, establish early warning systems, improve land use planning and incorporate GIS technologies into data management systems since the Declaration of the SAMOA Pathway. Further, the region is strengthening its post-disaster assessment capabilities through training opportunities presented by organizations such as ECLAC. In line with the Sendai Framework, mainstreaming of DRM into all aspects of long term planning processes has also increased among Caribbean SIDS.

It has been suggested that as a result of a changing climate, average annual losses associated with tropical cyclone winds alone are projected to increase by as much as US\$1.4 billion by 2050 (CDEMA, 2018). This is a worrying development as UNEP estimates that approximately 70 per cent of the Caribbean's population resides in coastal settlements. Further, some 49 per cent of CARICOM resort properties may be damaged or destroyed by combined sea-level rise, erosion and storm surge due to inadequate coastal protection (UN-OHRLLS, 2017). Due to the return period (or season) of specific hazards like hurricanes, countries that are still recuperating from a previous disaster find themselves affected yet again. This is a serious hindrance to sustainable development. Unless disaster preparation and recovery focuses on vulnerable populations, their frequency and intensity will increasingly compromise sustainable development. It is therefore imperative that in a resource stretched region like the Caribbean, resources and ideas, people and production are pooled to combat shared risks and sustain an upward development trajectory. In support of sustainable development, it is necessary for National Development Plans, DRM and National Disaster Plans to be synergized and compatible (ACS, 2018).

Several national and regional entities are utilising the guidelines of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 to facilitate the integration of the DRM agenda into regional disaster management frameworks (ECLAC, 2018c). The implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and the Caribbean was discussed during the Sixth Regional Platform for DRR in June 2018. The outcome, the Cartagena Declaration, calls on countries to develop and strengthen DRR plans and strategies at the

national and local levels in line with the Regional Action Plan for implementation of the framework. This is hoped to be accomplished through greater public-private cooperation and coordination, as well as through strengthening the development and usage of methodologies and science-based tools to implement disaster prevention and preparation measures. To further support these strategies, delegates called for greater mutual cooperation and joint research to elucidate the root causes of losses in the region. The Declaration also advocates for increased utilisation of online platforms to better identify and communicate disaster losses and more effectively monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The Sixth Session of the Regional Platform ended with the announcement that Jamaica would host the Seventh Session of the Regional Platform in 2020 making it the first Caribbean island to host the Regional Platform for DRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNISDR, 2018).

Barbados' Draft Physical Development Plan proposes the delineation of Specific Natural Hazard Areas where development controls and flood mitigation measures will be applied to help to increase water infiltration, reduce run off, as well as moderate soil erosion and other associated hazards. Further, the Plan proposes that essential buildings and infrastructure must be constructed with appropriate protective designs and outside of flood susceptible and hazard prone areas. It also encourages the use of best practices when constructing in coastal areas by strictly adhering to the island's building code (Government of Barbados, 2017). The Bahamas has incorporated Disaster Preparedness and Response into its long term national development plan, Vision 2040. This plan proposes the elaboration of a Capital Investment Framework that includes priorities, funding, specific needs of the outlying islands, PPP opportunities and best practices in climate change resistant design and construction (ECLAC, 2017c).

The Government of Belize has mandated the integration of climate and disaster resilience into all public infrastructure planning through the elaboration of a National Climate Resilience Investment Plan. The plan is data oriented, gender informed and led by finance and planning (ECLAC, 2017c; Small Island States Resilience Initiative - SISRI, 2017). Belize's Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy also calls for the implementation of a National Disaster Management Strategy (ECLAC, 2017c).

**Box 9**  
**Mainstreaming DRM in Grenada**

Grenada has begun to monitor disaster and climate change expenditure through the use of modified account charters and budget labelling. Mainstreaming the DRM into the project preparation and evaluation cycle will enhance the project screening process and ensure conformity with national level plans.

Source: SISRI (2017).

Guyana has sought to build awareness and participation at the local level through the development of community-based DRM plans and the implementation of a National Early Warning System. Pilot programmes for community-based early warning systems (targeting the agricultural sector) are also being developed by Guyana's National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) in collaboration with the UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (NAREI, 2017). However, the following gaps and challenges remain: (i) limited sectoral capacity to incorporate DRM with funding limitations; and (ii) limited land use planning coupled with lack of enforcement of building codes and limited monitoring and evaluation for impact (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

Jamaica's achievements were made in relation to legislation and capacity building. With respect to the former, the DRM Act of 2015 was promulgated. Capacity building initiatives included the training of disaster risk management personnel, sector specialists and local authorities in Initial Damage Assessment and PDNA. Initiatives also include training in earthquake, hurricane, DRM and Emergency Planning. Additionally, the creation of an Environment and Risk Management Framework by the PIOJ to mainstream resilience into the policy and programme framework is a welcome development (Government of Jamaica, 2018). The Government of Jamaica also passed the Building Act in 2018 which will facilitate revision of the National Building Code. Further, Jamaica's upcoming National Spatial Plan will enhance local development planning through a macro approach. The Government of Jamaica announced plans for the Spatial Plan in April 2018 which is designed to address climate change and disaster risk considerations in an effort to improve Jamaica's built environment and protect its natural resources (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Suriname's Policy Development Plan 2017-2021 contains four basic processes that will form the basis of its national DRR strategy: Preparation and Readiness; National Coordination of Disaster Response;

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; and Networking with the international and regional community to secure technical assistance and funds for disaster response. Although the country does not have a specific policy for recovery, it places great importance on building resilience at the national and district level. Multiple training workshops have been carried out by CDEMA and the Red Cross which sought to “to strengthen and sustain national resilience through prioritized targeting of the most vulnerable communities” in Suriname (CDEMA, 2016).

Haiti is one of the most exposed countries in the world to natural hazards that include hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. From 1994-2013, Haiti was considered the third most affected country by extreme weather events in terms of lives lost and economic damages. More than 96per cent of the population is at risk of two or more hazards, and 56per cent of the country’s GDP is linked to areas exposed to risk from two or more hazards. Haiti has scaled up efforts to integrate DRM into national policies and long-term development plans. DRM is a key cross-cutting priority in the government’s Strategic Development Plan of Haiti. As part of its first pillar on “territorial rebuilding,” the Plan emphasizes regional and local development as well as improved DRM through better land-use planning (GFDRR, 2017b). With the support of UNEP and partners, an ecosystem based DRR approach is embedded in the National Strategy for DRR (being updated) and is being implemented on the ground. In Southern Haiti, UNEP and the Ministry of Environment promoted the establishment of the first coastal native species nurseries for strategic coastline and riverbank strengthening through reforestation with the view of reducing disaster risks (UNEP Haiti, 2018).

The British Virgin Islands established a Recovery and Development Agency in 2018 to oversee its reconstruction process. Developed in collaboration with the UNDP, Disaster Recovery Coordinating Committee, the Recovery Task Force and other Government officials, the “Public Consultation on the Recovery and Development of the British Virgin Islands” document is a preliminary five--year recovery plan (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2017). The territory is also in the process of finalizing the VI Comprehensive CDM Strategy and Country Programme Framework for the period 2019-2023 which is hoped to strengthen and promulgate its recovery plan and other areas of the disaster management cycle such as preparedness and mitigation (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2018). Additionally, the British Virgin Islands is currently involved with the CDB in a community flood risk programme for three key communities: Sea Cows Bay, East End and Jost Van Dyke. The aim of this project is to use community and geospatial data to incorporate into emergency plans, business continuity plans, infrastructural works and risk reduction recommendations (ibid.).

CDEMA’s Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014-2024 puts forward four priority areas for safer, more resilient and sustainable Member States: strengthened institutional arrangements for CDM; increased and sustained knowledge management and learning for CDM; improved integration of CDM at sectoral levels; and strengthened and sustained community resilience (CDEMA, 2014). CARICOM has recognised this strategy as the Caribbean’s platform for achieving risk resilience (CARICOM, 2018a). At the Sixth Regional Platform for DRR, CDEMA highlighted the five critical areas that CDEMA will focus attention in driving the Regional Resilience Agenda in an effort to achieve the future desired of “Safer more Resilient and Sustainable Caribbean Communities”. These five areas include: Enhancing Social Protection for the most Vulnerable, Safeguarding Infrastructure, Economic Diversification, Environmental/Ecosystems Protection and Enhanced Operational Readiness (UNISDR, 2018). CDEMA has been a key coordinating agency for a number of capacity-building partnerships, data development and training initiatives including the Caribbean Risk Information Programme funded through the ACP-EU Natural DRR Programme. This programme ended in 2016 and targeted Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada for works related to the development of landslide and flood hazard risk data management systems.

The Havana Declaration taken at the 7th Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) under the theme “United for a Sustainable Caribbean”, set the parameters for addressing the matter of vulnerability within the context of the Association. The Declaration, inter alia: Reaffirmed the validity of the principles and objectives set out in the Convention Establishing the ACS, and its importance as an organization for consultation, coordination and cooperation so as to advance Latin American and Caribbean integration, which will result in benefits for all our peoples; and Recognized the threats and challenges facing the Greater Caribbean and in particular, SIDS, for the achievement of sustainable development, and the need to strengthen the coordination and cooperation capacities within the ACS to better face the challenges of the present world context (ACS, 2018).

The ACS Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction continues to work assiduously in maintaining cohesive linkages with its Member States. This Directorate has highlighted the priorities of the Caribbean in advancing the SAMOA Pathway. The Directorate continues to develop and manage projects aimed at strengthening existing DRR systems and introducing new ones where necessary. The ACS has elaborated on the following achievements:

- **Strengthening Hydro-meteorological Operations and Services in the Caribbean SIDS:** This project is implemented by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and has provided new skills and tools for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Disaster Management Agencies for early warning in the case of hydro-meteorological phenomena. More than US\$1.5 million has been provided by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. This project has benefitted the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructure in Member States and Territories of the ACS:** This project is implemented by the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography. This project has been funded with US\$4.5 million by AMEXCID and with US\$200,000 from the Mexico-Chile Fund. This project has benefitted geospatial information managers in 19 ACS countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Sint Maarten, Martinique, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname and Guadeloupe.
- **Caribbean Territorial Information Platform for Disaster Prevention:** Implemented by CENAPRED, this project has been funded by AMEXCID. This project has established a platform to provide territorial geospatial information from national as well as regional sources. It also aims to provide disaster risk analysis in the region, strengthen decision-making for policy development, and reduce vulnerability in strategic sectors. It has benefitted Central American and CARICOM countries (ACS, 2018).

During 2017, hazard monitoring and DRR capabilities were enhanced through the implementation of the “Strengthening Resilience and Coping Capacities in the Caribbean through Integrated Early Warning Systems” Project. This initiative was carried out by the UNDP and Disaster Programme of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO), in partnership with Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b). Additionally, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) along with regional partners, CIMH and CDEMA, and a gender expert, led a review of the Caribbean Early Warning System as part of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative. The review included three interlinked and important aspects of an effective early warning system namely: i) assessing the performance of national and regional early warning systems, forecasting capabilities and accuracy; ii) review of dissemination and communication of warnings and iii) gender considerations of early warning systems (WMO, 2018).

The preliminary findings of this review illustrate that forecasts were generally accurate and timely. However, the rapid change in intensity, especially for Hurricane Maria in Dominica, posed a real challenge. Further, warnings of secondary hazards, including flooding and coastal inundation were insufficient and should be improved to include impact-based forecasting. Findings also indicate that greater investment in national meteorological services is necessary to strengthen physical and communications infrastructure, data collection networks, human and technical capacity as well as interactions with the public. In terms of dissemination and communication of warnings, it was found that the risk assessments and response plans were not sufficiently connected. Risk knowledge, including the risk of river flooding and storm surge, was also limited. It was also found that little systematic work has been conducted at the community level to understand risk with gender differentiation, and little consideration is given to gender differences in preparedness and messaging. Additionally, the review found that there was a break-down in communication infrastructure in severely impacted countries and recommended an overhaul of emergency communication systems (WMO, 2018).

In light of these preliminary findings, expected outcomes of the forthcoming review report include supporting countries in preparing for future hurricane seasons, influencing the inclusion of early warning system needs in recovery funding, providing guidance on the integration of gender in early warning systems, and guiding future CREWS investments and other early warning system investments in the region. WMO,

the World Bank-GFDRR and UNISDR will implement a regional CREWS project for the Caribbean starting in the third quarter of 2018. The priorities of this project will be aligned with the outcomes of this review (WMO, 2018).

Risk transfer instruments have become a primary strategy in managing the adverse impacts of hazards. The Government of Saint Lucia recognizes the peculiar challenges faced by the local insurance industry: a small population and a marked susceptibility to natural disasters. In an attempt to promote insurance options for low income households and small scale farmers, it has supported the introduction of Livelihood Protection Policies; a micro insurance programme introduced by the Eastern Caribbean Global Insurance Company, and developed under the Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance in the Caribbean Project by the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) in collaboration with CCRIF-SPC, MicroEnsure and Munich Re (Government of Saint Lucia, 2017). Haiti has also taken steps to strengthen its fiscal resilience to natural hazard shocks by becoming a member of the multi-country risk-pooling CCRIF-SPC.

CCRIF-SPC was established in 2007 as “a regional catastrophe fund for Caribbean governments to limit the financial impact of devastating hurricanes and earthquakes by quickly providing financial liquidity when a policy is triggered”. Policies to guard against excessive rainfall were introduced in 2013. Eleven of the countries discussed in this report have purchased policies with the CCRIF-SPC whilst Guyana and Suriname have expressed their intention to join the facility. As at December 2017, the CCRIF pay-outs amounted to approximately US\$130.5 million with US\$55 million being disbursed to nine Caribbean SIDS as a direct result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria (CCRIF-SPC, 2018).

**Box 10**  
**DRM capacity building at the community level**

CCRIF-SPC has established a Small Grants Programme for charities, community--based organizations and NGOs working towards reducing community vulnerability to natural hazards. Qualifying projects may access grants ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$25,000 for initiatives in the areas of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, training and capacity building, and environmental management.

Source: CCRIF-SPC (2017).

CCRIF-SPC signed a MOU with the OECS Secretariat in June 2012 with the main objective of assisting the governments of the OECS to adopt policies on DRR and mitigation that minimise the socio-economic, physical and environmental damages caused by natural disasters. In October 2017, CCRIF and OECS signed a second MOU which establishes a framework for cooperation between the two organisations for the period 2017 – 2023. The objective of the 2017 MOU remains the same. Over the period June 2018 – May 2020, the following will be pursued under the MOU and including: Early warning system communication tools for communities and Capacity development to implement community-based DRR Initiatives (OECS, 2018a).

ECLAC has consistently offered training in DALA methodologies and has undertaken the economic assessment of the impacts of disasters in the region. Under the terms of a MOU with CCRIF-SPC, ECLAC conducted trainings in disaster assessment methodologies which benefitted eight specialists involved in disaster management from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis. ECLAC also hosted an expert group meeting on strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries during 2016 (ECLAC, 2017a). Additionally, ECLAC conducted disaster assessments in the aftermath of two hurricanes in that same year: Hurricane Earl, which impacted Belize in August of that year, as well as Hurricane Matthew in The Bahamas.

In 2017, ECLAC undertook five DALA impact assessments in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. ECLAC recently completed training on updated DALA methodologies with the ECCB in April 2018. This regional training session, sought to train 15 stakeholders in the practical applications of the updated DALA methodology and the incorporation of resilience and disaster preparedness elements into public policies (ECLAC, 2018i). Training in the DALA methodology was recently carried out in the island of Tobago during May 2018 (ECLAC, 2018j).

Regarding international DRM cooperation, the Community DRR Fund was established with the support of Global Affairs Canada, DFID and the EU to finance projects to reduce the risks of poor vulnerable communities to the impacts of extreme weather events and to enhance livelihoods streams to adapt to a

changing climate. The competitive demand driven initiative currently has eight projects under implementation in four of CDB's BMCs. Under an ACP–EU–CDB Natural DRM in CARIFORUM Countries Project (US\$ 14.8 million), CDB is developing sector strategies and designing customised tools to support policy design and decision-making for climate and natural hazard resilience in the road transport and water sectors. The project also provides support for preparing national risk profiles and promoting community DRR (CDB, 2018b).

The ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme on the Strengthening Capacity in Post Disaster Needs Assessment for the Caribbean was conducted in partnership with UNDP and the World Bank. The objectives of this partnership were: to support countries in the Caribbean, and more specifically in the Eastern Caribbean, to systematically account for disaster loss; to use this information to strengthen public investments in disaster risk reduction and to strengthen post disaster recovery strategies. The participating countries were Jamaica, Guyana, Belize, Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (GFDRR, 2018).

Between 2016 and 2018, UNFPA supported the policy initiative of mainstreaming the Minimum Initial Service Package, a series of crucial lifesaving interventions to address the reproductive health needs of vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, adolescents at the onset of a humanitarian crisis, into national and sub-regional DRM plans in partnership with CDEMA. UNFPA facilitated a regional workshop in St. Maarten in March 2018 engaging health and protection personnel from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Turks and Caicos as part of the emergency response in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Maria (UNFPA, 2018).

A partnership agreement was signed in April 2017 between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and CDEMA. Outcomes will include increased preparedness and response for nuclear or radiological emergencies and includes collaboration in capacity building, development of educational and training courses and assistance in establishment of risk baselines (IAEA, 2018). PAHO/WHO also supports human resource and organizational capacity strengthening through training on DRR and management (e.g. mass casualty management, emergency care and treatment, logistics support system, etc). Additionally, PAHO/WHO has assisted Member States to implement Plans of Action on DRR, based on the Sendai Framework for DRR<sup>28</sup> (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

In terms of Emergency Telecommunications Regulatory approaches, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has been requested by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to provide information and guidance as relates to the Tampere Convention<sup>29</sup>; particularly on ratification, signatory procedures and Tampere Convention Benefits. The ITU is also preparing the details for an Emergency Telecommunications Workshop in Antigua to be held in the last quarter of 2018. Under this Action, ITU is undertaking a study: "Assessment of Emergency Telecommunication plans and systems in the Caribbean Region for broadcasters." All these will be congruent to the Emergency Telecommunications WINLINK Project<sup>30</sup> which addresses in large measure, "the use of ICTs for emergency and disaster situations in the Americas region" (ITU, 2018).

ITU has been implementing the "Project for the Use of ICTs in Emergency and Disaster situations in the Caribbean region". It is to assist and support the beneficiary countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) in improving their capabilities of emergency telecommunications and to improve response to emergencies and disasters. The beneficiaries, in this project, will receive an emergency tool kit that will allow their integration into a regional network of emergency WINLINK-based telecommunications. In 2018, ITU also hopes to strengthen resilience with the implementation of a multi-hazard mobile/early warning systems app to vulnerable Caribbean territories in partnership with CDEMA (ITU, 2018).

UNICEF is working on developing resilience in children and communities on islands affected by hurricanes. UNICEF has reported that the September 2017 hurricanes Irma and María caused catastrophic

<sup>28</sup> In relation to health, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction's four strategic lines of action are: 1) recognizing disaster risk in the health sector, 2) improving governance of disaster risk management in the health sector, 3) making hospitals both safe and "smart" and 4) building health sector capacity for emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/TampereConvention.aspx>.

<sup>30</sup> WINLINK is a solution developed and administered by the radio amateur community. The technical specifications have been agreed with the cooperation of IARU and with the collaboration of COMTELCA (ITU, 2018).

damage and severely impaired facilities and services, including schools, water systems and more, across several countries in the Eastern Caribbean, Cuba and Haiti, leaving at least 1.4 million people, including 357,000 children, in dire need of assistance. The extent of the hurricanes' impact on several islands had initially made it extremely challenging for UNICEF and partners to reach children and families most in need. However, thanks to the generous support of donors and partners, US\$11.6 million was raised in the aftermath of the hurricanes last year, which helped alleviate the impact on affected children and young people, Water and sanitation services were restored, children could go back to school as buildings were rebuilt and classrooms re-stocked, family-friendly safe spaces were set up that provided psychosocial support, and a cash assistance programme was set up for families in need. Now, with the new hurricane season underway, the continuity of programmes that began during the emergency response last year remains crucial as efforts are made to reinforce the preparedness and social protection systems; to minimize the possible consequences of future catastrophes and the effects of climate vulnerabilities; and to promote resilience in the sub region (UNICEF 2018).

A partnership has also been formed between New Zealand's Geo-Nuclear Science Research Agency and UWI Seismic Research Centre. The Centre is the official source of information for earthquakes and volcanoes in the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean and its vision to be the "leading agency in the Eastern Caribbean for earthquake, volcano and tsunami monitoring and for the dissemination of information to reduce risk, deaths, injuries, property damage and economic loss". With NZ\$412,000 in support over the past four years, this partnership aims to increase resilience and recovery from natural disasters across the Caribbean region and has developed satellite thermal sensing, contributing to improved systems and processes in operation for volcanic monitoring, and enhanced skills and knowledge of the Centre's staff in volcanic monitoring techniques (Government of New Zealand, 2018).

## **E. Oceans and seas (including fisheries) (SDG 14)**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of SIDS. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, the possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in SIDS. Recognising that SIDS have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources, we support their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and resources. We also support their efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage (Paragraphs 53 and 54).*

### **1. Ocean governance and the blue economy**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with assistance from the Commonwealth, is currently implementing its National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2018). Additionally, during the biennium 2017-2018, Curaçao's Government approved ocean policy recommendations put forward by the Waitt Institute<sup>31</sup> and is establishing a five-year plan for implementation (Government of Curaçao, 2018). The Kingdom of the Netherlands has been particularly influential in the promotion of the Blue Economy in Grenada, establishing the Coral Conservation Partnership, investing US\$1 million towards PPPs for Investment in Knowledge and an Ocean Governance Institute, and funding an EC\$10 million Sustainable Growth Cooperation. Additionally, an MOU was signed between these governments concerning the establishment of an integrated programme for the Blue Economy (Ferguson, 2017).

Ocean governance has also been given prominence within the OECS subregion through the establishment of an Ocean Governance Programme, Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy and three-year Strategic Action Plan. Implementation of this Ocean Policy has been furthered through the World Bank's four-year Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project which has the objective of strengthening capacity

<sup>31</sup> The Waitt Institute partners with governments and communities to provide technical assistance for sustainable ocean management. See: <http://waittinstitute.org/>

for ocean governance and coastal marine geospatial planning in participating countries. This project assist in the transition to a Blue Economy (OECS, 2018a).

At the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the United Kingdom committed to support Commonwealth SIDS in the sustainable use of their marine environment. That same year, the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme was established and has offered ample support to the Caribbean since its inception. The programme has provided for the generation of marine data and capacity building, with the various projects being implemented in the Caribbean region (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science/United Kingdom Hydrographic Office Programme, n.d.). Having met in March 2018, regional and international ocean governance stakeholders discussed the sustainable management of marine and coastal assets at the Eighth Meeting of the OECS Ocean Governance Team under the theme: "Unlocking Ocean Wealth in Support of Sustainable Growth and Resilience". Synergies between the World Bank's Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project and the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme were also identified; enabling the efficient harnessing of economic resources and the furtherance of the region's blue development agenda (OECS, 2018c). Recognising the Caribbean's comparative advantage on the Blue Economy, the World Bank launched the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project in September 2017. Funded through the GEF and implemented through the OECS, the project endeavours to strengthen ocean governance as well as coastal and marine geospatial planning (World Bank, 2017b).

## 2. Ecosystem management

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a core element of ocean and coastal zone management and underpin the continued health and viability of the Caribbean's vulnerable marine ecosystems. Aligned with the development of Blue Economies, the implementation of marine reserves or no-take areas has gained prominence in the Caribbean as the region strives towards sustainable development.

While the SAMOA Pathway encourages SIDS to conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020, Belize has already exceeded this percentage by having 21 per cent under protection with a 3 per cent no take zone. The Bahamas, once their legal status is formalised, would also have more than 10 per cent of the country's marine and coastal ecosystems under protection as they seek to add three million hectares of MPAs (Tsioumani, 2015). The Dominican Republic has also been making progress in the conservation and sustainable use of the seas and oceans and effective protection of marine ecosystems. There is still remains demand for more data and other information to allow for the construction of relevant indicators, policies and concrete initiatives of a wide scope. Additionally, the Dominican Republic has declared 31 new marine/coastal protected areas totalling just over 3.2 million acres (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

Saint Kitts and Nevis has declared a protected area that encompasses a two mile radius around the entire island and includes 60 per cent of its nearshore marine and coastal areas (ECLAC, 2018c). As part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)<sup>32</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has also signalled their intention to conserve at least 20 per cent of its marine and coastal environment by 2020 (Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, 2017). Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries is currently working on the creation of a marine park in north-east Tobago (Marine Protected Area Co-Management Capacity Building in North-East Tobago. GEF, UNDP).

In Haiti, UNEP supported the Government in declaring the first nine MPAs of the country in 2013. Since then, progress has been made to effectively establish those areas. Marine and fisheries management units within the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture have been established and trained. Further, an MPA plan and development methodologies have been formulated through South-South cooperation with Cuba. MPA management plans are being finalized. In parallel with planning and capacity building work, actual coastal resource management activities are taking place within local communities. MPAs are being developed as territorial tools for climate change adaptation, DRR, sustainable fisheries production and tourism development (UNEP Haiti, 2018).

Guyana's Protected Areas Commission is partnering with UNICEF and the World Wildlife Fund for the development of a biodiversity reserve and identification of a MPA. As a pre-requirement of this activity, there is the need for a national Marine Environmental Action Plan defining specific activities to meet Guyana's environmental, scientific and sustainability priorities (Government of the Cooperative Republic

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<sup>32</sup> Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), is a coalition of governments, companies and partners working together to accelerate action on the marine and coastal environment (2018), available at: <http://caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org/about>

of Guyana, 2018). Notably, Curaçao recently entered into a cooperation agreement between its Ministry of Health, Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning, Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) and the Curaçao Marine Research Centre to develop Curaçao as a Caribbean leader for marine science and innovation (Government of Curaçao, 2018). Additionally, Curaçao is preparing a proposal for the nomination of ‘Klein Curacao’ as a RAMSAR designation site<sup>33</sup> (ibid.).

Belize has also made gains in ensuring the sustainability of its coastal resources through the endorsement of a National Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan in 2016. According to its 2017 VNR, the plan “presents an informed management scenario, balancing conservation and development, based on assessments of use, value, ecosystems, socio-ecological vulnerability and resilience, socio-economic vulnerability, and ecosystem adaptation”.

#### Box 11

##### **Belize’s Moratorium on petroleum operations in its maritime zone**

In 2018, the Government of Belize enacted the Petroleum Operations Act which imposes an indefinite moratorium on the exploration for and exploitation of petroleum and other petroleum operations in the maritime zone of Belize. The decision effectively excludes the entire World Heritage area from any future oil exploration and makes the site consistent with the World Heritage Committee’s position that oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status. Due to these transformative steps, the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System was officially removed from UNESCO’s World Heritage in Danger List in June 2018.

Source: Government of Belize (2018)

Non-governmental bodies have been key partners in advancing ecosystem management in the region. Sustainable Grenadines Inc. has played the role of strengthening the management capacity of MPAs in the Grenadines as well as promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources (Barriteau, n.d. & CCCCC, n.d.). Blue Finance is supporting a suite of initiatives being developed in the Caribbean Region, partnering with Governments, communities, NGOs and impact investors to design and implement joint partnerships for sustainable financing and efficient management of Marine Management Areas. The Management Areas are expected to contribute to sustainable development agenda of several islands (Blue Finance, n.d.).

Civil society is also continuing to contribute to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods in MPAs and marine managed areas. For example, CANARI’s Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES) Project funded by the EU is building capacity of leading CSOs in ten CARICOM SIDS to undertake innovative actions. The project itself is using innovative approaches to capacity building based on a combination of in-country mentoring and coaching, use of ICT tools and small grants (CANARI, 2018).

The Government of Germany and CARICOM have signed a €25.7 million agreement to finance marine protection in the region under a Sustainable Financing Mechanism (CARICOM, 2018e). As part of a global coral reef monitoring network, CCCCC continues to expand the Caribbean Coral Reef Early Warning System Network with the assistance of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and implemented through USAID’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme. With existing installations in Saint Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, the network has already enhanced the availability and accessibility of near real-time data which is vital to regional monitoring and forecasting efforts. Maintaining the functionality of key equipment is seen as a potential challenge; however, some regional governments have embraced the principle of national ownership to ensure the continued success of this project (CCCCC, 2018d).

Additionally, IAEA regional projects are contributing to the development of a Caribbean Observing Network for Ocean Acidification to serve as reference centres for the monitoring of ocean acidification and its impact on harmful algal blooms. These actions directly contribute to the achievement of SAMOA Pathway which calls for the enhancement of regional cooperation to address the causes of this phenomenon (IAEA, 2018).

In 2013, countries bordering and/or located within the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) adopted a 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine

<sup>33</sup> The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. See: <https://www.ramsar.org/>

Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP). The 10-year CLME+ SAP (2015 – 2025) aims to contribute to the achievement of the regionally adopted long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region” (UNEP, 2018a).

The 5-year (2015-2020) UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources in the CLME+” seeks to support the region’s implementation of the 10-year politically endorsed SAP through the implementation of ecosystem-based management and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. The CLME+ Project’s actions for structural changes in policy and legal frameworks and for increased human and institutional capacity are being combined with progressive implementation of stress reduction measures and innovative demonstrations to help identify high-priority investment needs.

The UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project has also facilitated the establishment of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism to enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. This coordination mechanism was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017 by eight regional intergovernmental organisations. The fourth meeting of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism took place in August 2018. One of the project’s objectives is to promote broader participation of, and contributions from, civil society groups in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. CANARI as a civil society partner, is implementing specific actions in Component 2 of the CLME+ Project as: Development of a *Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Ecosystems* (CLME+ C-SAP) that is aligned with the politically endorsed CLME+ SAP. This component is a critical strategy to raise the profile of civil society and guide civil society capacity building for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementation of the CLME+ SAP. CANARI is coordinating the development of the Small Grants Coordination Mechanism in collaboration with key donors and partners in the region and expects to launch and test it during the period June 2018 to May 2019. This will support better coordination amongst the different small grants initiatives and projects in the region on implementation of the CLME+ SAP (CANARI, 2018).

### 3. Fisheries management

Small-scale fisheries accounts for more than 95per cent of fisheries in CARICOM and are vital for food security and employment, particularly in coastal communities (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), 2018). The Caribbean fisheries sector provides employment for 115,988 persons and contributes between 0.32per cent and 2.3per cent of value added to GDP of CARICOM countries (Figueroa, 2017). It has been postulated that 60per cent of commercially exploited fish species or stocks within the region have been overfished or over-to-fully fished (World Bank, 2016 in CDB, 2018a); a state of affairs which necessitates urgent and concerted efforts from Caribbean SIDS.

The Government of Belize has divided its territorial seas into nine fishing areas or managed access zones (Government of Belize, 2017). To facilitate managed access, authorities have sought to improve the national licensing system and monitoring of artisanal fishing vessels. After one year of implementation, fishing violations dropped 60per cent, no new licenses were issued to unqualified fishers, and more than 90per cent of fishers submitted catch data (Government of Belize, 2018). Additionally, Belize adopted the FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in 2015 (Government of Belize, 2017). Voluntary commitments have also been pledged by Belize’s Fisheries Department including: (i) implementation of a new Fisheries Bill by 2018; (ii) implementation of best practices for sustainable seaweed aquaculture by 2020; (iii) establishment of catch limits for the Caribbean Spiny Lobster and implementation of fisheries management plans for conch, lobster and fin fish by 2020; and (iv) national expansion of replenishment zones to 10per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2018 (Government of Belize, 2017).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries in Trinidad and Tobago has also been assisted by the FAO to improve the National Action Plan and institutional and regulatory arrangement for shrimp/bottom trawl fisheries, with GEF Funding (United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area - UNIC, n.d.). Additionally, the FAO and UNDP are partnering with Guyana’s Ministry of Agriculture to implement ecosystem-based management approaches for the management of resources (fishes) in the marine environment (Government of Guyana, 2018).

At the regional level, CARICOM has generated a Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP). In May 2018, the Fisheries Ministerial Council of the CRFM endorsed a protocol for securing small-scale fisheries and agreed on the need for immediate implementation. It, furthermore, called on regional and international development partners and donors to support the protocol on small-scale fisheries and to assist Member States with implementing it as well as the CCCFP, to improve fisheries and aquaculture governance. The protocol will address principles and standards for securing and strengthening small-scale fisheries. Delegates posited the following improvement strategies for this productive sector: collection and sharing of fisheries data; establishment of early warning systems; risk insurance for fisheries; gender mainstreaming; and development of critical fishery management plans (CARICOM, 2018a).

#### Box 12

##### Inter-regional collaboration in the Fisheries Sector

In collaboration with FAO, the CRFM is currently finalising a set of best practices for small-scale fisheries centred on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in SIDS. This came after a Pacific-Caribbean Nearshore FAD Fisher Exchange with representatives from seven SIDS in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Under this initiative, fishers and fisheries officials from the Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu and Tonga participated in a study tour in Barbados, Grenada and Dominica. The study tour was a critical part of the collaborative and consultative effort by the CRFM and the FAO to facilitate the exchange of fishery-specific information, as well as to collect, synthesise and analyse data and information on the small-scale FAD fisheries in the Caribbean and Pacific SIDS.

Source: OECS (2018d).

The OECS' Fisheries Management and Development Strategy and Implementation Plan also provides strategic guidance for the future of regional fisheries. In preparation for the Eleventh OECS Ministerial Conference convened in December 2017, the region undertook empirical work to formulate a negotiating position on the fisheries subsidies negotiations which took into account for special treatment to address the smallness and vulnerabilities of fisherfolk in Member States. The OECS also played a leading role in the formulation of an ACP negotiating position on Fisheries Subsidies (OECS, 2017b).

Civil society continues to develop, implement and partner on programmes, projects and initiatives to address priority areas. One critical achievement has been the formal establishment of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation. Fisherfolk have been able to play an enhanced role in governance, securing observer status for the Network with the CRFM. The organisation inputted into development of the Protocol on Securing Small Scale Fisheries within the framework of the CCCFP, ensuring that the needs and contribution of fisherfolk are reflected (CANARI, 2018). Under the GEF-funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries Sector of the Eastern Caribbean (CC4Fish) project, CANARI is developing a regional framework and toolkit to guide participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments in coastal and fishing communities across the Caribbean. This will draw on CANARI's experiences, including current work to facilitate participatory vulnerability assessments and support adaptation planning and practical actions in the fisheries sector, using an ecosystem-based approach, by civil society and fisherfolk in Montserrat and Anguilla under a Darwin Plus-funded project (CANARI, 2018).

The Caribbean Fisheries Co-management Project, funded by the Government of Japan, has brought together six Caribbean countries (Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Grenada) to support the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in the region. Implemented until April 2018, it targeted fisherfolk through extensive consultations on FAD fisheries co-management techniques. Technical exchanges and regional workshops were key elements of the project (Japanese International Cooperation Agency - JICA, n.d.).

CCCRIF-SPC has collaborated with the United States Department of State, the World Bank, FAO, and CRFM towards the development of a Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility, a parametric insurance instrument that may boost the attractiveness of investing in the Blue Economy. It is hoped that these risk insurance policies can support measures that contribute to sustainable and climate resilient fisheries management and DRR. Three feasibility type studies have already been undertaken in Jamaica and Saint Lucia. It is hoped that these policies will be publicly available by 2018 (CARICOM, 2018e).

Additionally, the FAO has been championing the "Blue Growth" concept in support of food security, poverty eradication, and sustainable fisheries management. Their Blue Growth Initiative comprises four targeted components: (i) Marine and inland capture fisheries; (ii) Aquaculture; (iii) Livelihood and food systems; and (iv) Economic growth from ecosystem services (Singh, n.d.).

## 4. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries

The Western Central Atlantic, which includes the Caribbean Sea, is in the top five most overexploited fisheries areas worldwide. Fisheries production decreased from 2.5 million tonnes annually in the 1980s to 1.3 million tonnes in recent years. It is estimated that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic accounts for 20 per cent to 30 per cent of total reported harvests, representing a value of US\$450 million to US\$750 million annually with dire implications for millions of peoples' livelihoods, especially in the Caribbean Islands (FAO, 2018a).

The Coast Guard of the Guyana Defence Force has actively engaged in a partnership with the Guyana Maritime Administration Department to enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels is facilitated by the United States Coast Guard (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a). Additionally, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, which entered into force in June 2016, seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of effective Port State Measures as a means of ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources. Seven Caribbean SIDS are Parties to this agreement as of June 2018 (FAO, 2018b).

In 2017, FAO partnered with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to revise draft legislation and regulations to deter IUU Fishing. Consultations to finalise this legislation are currently ongoing (United Nations Caribbean, 2018a). The FAO has also formed partnerships with CARICOM, as well as CANARI, for fisheries conservation in the wider Caribbean region, in addition to hosting national workshops to eliminate IUU fisheries. Moreover, the CRFM Secretariat has convened a regional working group on IUU (including the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization and the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission) to improve coordination and cooperation between national organisations and institutions responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance (UNDP & GEF, 2017).

## F. Food security and nutrition (SDGs 2 & 3)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that SIDS, primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, the eradication of hunger and the provision of livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plants and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. The SAMOA Pathway stresses the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the SIDS. It also recognises the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption (paragraphs 59 and 60).*

Food security in SIDS is a critical issue under the SAMOA Pathway. With some SIDS expending up to 50 per cent of revenues on food imports (compared to the global average of 7 per cent) (UN-OHRLLS, 2017), the sustainability and long-term viability of these societies must be vigorously discussed and addressed. FAO estimates that in at least seven countries in the Caribbean, 80 per cent or more of available food is imported (FAO, 2016). As there is limited investment in commercial agriculture and agricultural technology to boost local productivity, this is a worrying development for the region.

### 1. Nutrition

According to the FAO, much of Caribbean food imports are nutritionally poor (cheap, calorie-dense, high-fat, high-sweetener food), contributing to an increase in obesity rates and the prevalence of chronic, non-communicable diseases (NCDs). It estimates that female obesity rates in most Caribbean countries are about four times higher than those of their male counterparts, with Barbados having the highest female obesity rate in the region at 67.7 per cent. This has led to a doubling of regional per capita health expenditure between 1995 and 2012 (ibid.). Notwithstanding, progress has been made with the number of undernourished persons in the Caribbean declining from 8.1 million in 1990-1992, to 7.5 million in 2014-2016 (FAO, 2018c). Some Caribbean SIDS have achieved undernourishment levels of less than 5 per cent (Barbados, Cuba and Dominica).

Notably, the Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Cuba achieved the Millennium Development Goal 1 target of halving the percentage of undernourished people by 2015 (FAO, 2016). Despite these gains, an estimated 10 per cent of the Dominican Republic's population suffers from malnourishment and there are rates of chronic malnutrition among girls and boys from poor households (11.3 per cent in households in the lowest wealth quintile compared to less than 7 per cent national average). In addition, a high and growing amount of the adult population is overweight or obese, and there is evidence that the productivity and income from small agricultural growers are the lowest in the economy (Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). Haiti remains a special development case, with roughly 50 per cent of the population undernourished in 2015 (FAO, 2018d). Further, as of February 2018, some 622,100 persons were reportedly still in need of food security assistance (United Nations, 2018b). A number of strategies have been put forward by the FAO, regional organisations and Government, including the Strategic Nutrition Plan 2013–2018 which places focus on the most vulnerable groups. While key challenges remain, there have been assiduous efforts to tackle land degradation, high energy costs, the lack of storage facilities for agricultural products, and poor rural agricultural infrastructure (ibid.).

The FAO continues to play a critical role in region. For example, their Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative Support Project aims to permanently eradicate hunger by 2025. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States adopted the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication in 2015 to further this goal. Through a Letter of Agreement between the FAO and the Caribbean Institute for Health Research, UWI will undertake a regional study to strengthen multi-sectoral actions to enhance food security and decrease the prevalence of obesity and related NCDs (FAO, 2018e).

A Letter of Agreement was also signed between FAO and UWI to conduct a diagnostic study of school feeding programmes in 14 CARICOM countries aimed at identifying opportunities for adaptation. Against this backdrop, key stakeholders participated in study tours to Brazil to gain insight into the coordination and management of that country's school feeding approach. Further, a Letter of Agreement was signed in December 2017 between FAO and the Marketing and National Importing Board of Grenada to support the procurement of fresh food from small scale and family farmers for the country's school feeding programmes (ibid.). Further, to support the call for strengthening school feeding programmes, Jamaica recently introduced a ban on sugary drinks in schools effective January 2019 (Government of Jamaica, 2018). In July 2017, FAO organised the first Parliamentary Front against Hunger meeting in the Caribbean. Here, a Technical Cooperation Programme project was proposed to prioritise the issue across the sub region. Twenty-six parliamentarians from 13 countries attended this meeting in Barbados (ibid.).

## 2. Agricultural productivity, adaptation and disaster recovery

The FAO has assisted Saint Lucia in the construction of a modern slaughterhouse/meat processing facility. According to the FAO's 2014 report on Activities in Small Island Developing States, this facility "will enhance food safety, build consumer confidence in meat and meat products, stimulate livestock production and help locally produced meats to reach high-end market segments, including the lucrative tourist industry, which currently imports all of its meats and meat products" (FAO, 2014). Further, in 2018, the FAO, in collaboration with the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), assisted Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis in strengthening their meat inspection and quarantine services.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the FAO has been working closely with the government since 2016 to develop a strategic plan developed to focus on equal access to food. The key areas were Small Scale Farming/Family Farming, Natural Resources Management and Risk Reduction and Food and Nutrition Security (FAO, 2017a). In the case of Haiti, the World Food Programme (WFP) supported the Ministry of Agriculture in mainstreaming SDG #2 into the National Policy and Strategy for Food Sovereignty, Security and Nutrition (Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018).

### Box 13

#### Investment in Trinidad and Tobago's agricultural sector

A review of this country's Public-Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) revealed a number of initiatives in the local agricultural sector. Funding was provided in the following areas: TT\$9.1 million for docking facilities and commissioning of fuel tanks at fishing depots; TT\$2.5 million for the country's Praedial Larceny Squad; and TT\$12.3 million for research and development geared towards revitalising the production of Cocoa, Coconut and Buffalypso.

Source: Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2017a).

The OECS Growth and Development Strategy adopted from the Revised Plan of Action for Agriculture which identifies six priorities for modernising and growing OECS' agricultural sector to improve livelihoods and transform the rural economy. These priorities are organised into two clusters: (1) increasing production; and (2) expanding market opportunities within and beyond the OECS (OECS, 2018a). Through the promotion of climate smart agriculture, building the subregion's agricultural value chain, and strengthening rural livelihoods through targeted initiatives, the Plan seeks to improve sustainability and reduce the region's food import bill. In support of this plan, FAO and OECS launched an Agri-Shipping Initiative which has resulted in an increase in refrigerated shipping within the sub region. This has boosted intra and extra regional trade, forging new linkages with Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, the United States and Canada (FAO, 2017b).

CARICOM has received support from the Government of New Zealand for a Small Ruminants Programme, receiving some NZ\$850,000 between 2015 and 2017. This programme supports the development of capacity in the small ruminants' sector. Implementation is delivered through a partnership with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and in part through technical assistance by a consultant with technical expertise in New Zealand small ruminant production. The goal is to improve awareness and increased application of best practice animal husbandry by farmers' in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Guyana, Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Dominica (Government of New Zealand, 2018). Additionally, the CCCCC recently collaborated with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in exploring options for financing regional climate adaptation and mitigation programmes to boost agricultural productivity and rural development. The GCF is envisioned as a key partner in this regard (CCCCC, 2018d).

The region's cocoa industry has also seen positive resurgence with support from a number of initiatives, e.g. the UWI Cocoa Research Centre and Centre for Development of Enterprise Project. The Project, funded by the EU/ACP, was operationalized to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs within the cocoa sector in Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago. There has been a considerable push to develop and export niche locally grown produce to international markets (UWI, 2018).

The "Cassava Industry Development Market Assessment and Technology Validation and Dissemination Project" and accompanying "Sustainable Approaches to Agribusiness and Value Chain Development for Roots and Tuber Crops" Training Initiative is a collaboration of the CDB and FAO currently being implemented in seven Caribbean countries. According to FAO and CDB, the project continues the technical assistance partnerships to the Caribbean roots and tuber sector concluded recently under the Agriculture Policy Programme funded under the 10th EDF and executed through IICA. It aims to reduce the region's food import bill by improving cassava crop productivity, tackle value chain gaps, and increase consumer demand for processed cassava (United Nations Caribbean, 2018b). The Agricultural Policy Programme has produced a number of key outputs. Networking and knowledge sharing has been improved through several workshops and forums such as Multinational Forum on Building Producer-Buyer Relationships (held in Saint Lucia in 2016), and the Agricultural Marketing and Value Chain Workshop held in Antigua that same year (FAO, 2017c). Commodity based information products and strategy guides for SMEs have also been generated to help with the commercialization of hot peppers, roots and tubers, and other agricultural outputs. Further, processing, packaging and labelling workshops have been conducted throughout the region (ibid).

Further, progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean was discussed at the Thirty-Fifth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, held 5-8 March 2018 in Jamaica. Some key milestones were noted:

- FAO organized the first Caribbean Regional Learning Route in Dominican Republic in November 2017 to strengthen decent rural employment opportunities for young women and men in the Caribbean. Youth representatives from Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago attended. With a high youth unemployment rate in the Caribbean, FAO also organized Learning Routes in Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana and Haiti.
- Eight Caribbean participants attended the Global Breadfruit Summit in Samoa in October 2017. This inter-regional knowledge sharing exercise sought to deepen understanding of the breadfruit value chain (FAO, 2018e).

### 3. Disaster recovery in the agricultural sector

The FAO has sought to support livestock health and dairy production in Haiti, particularly as this sector suffered major setbacks in the wake of Hurricane Matthew in 2016. FAO mobile veterinary clinics diagnosed, treated and gave preventive care to 21,000 livestock in southern Haiti in 2017 while the organisation established three permanent veterinary pharmacies in that same year (FAO, 2018d). The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has pledged to invest some US\$10.8 million to help restore agricultural productivity in some the worst affected areas of Haiti. Distributed through the Agricultural and Agroforestry Technological Innovation Programme (PITAG), new practices endorsed by this organization taught through farmer field schools with tools, seeds and other input provided to farmers. PITAG – a \$76.8 million programme – is already under way in many areas of Haiti with funding from the IDB and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. With 65,000 small farming households targeted, the project focuses particularly on women, youth and other vulnerable groups (United Nations, 2018b).

As the majority of crops in Dominica were destroyed due to the passage of Hurricane Maria, food security represents a significant challenge during the country's recovery process. Towards this end, UN Women and FAO partnered to procure seeds, equipment and tools for women farmers and support the hiring of farm workers for the women farmers to expedite the return of their plots to production. Additionally, FAO provided vegetable seeds, 10,000 vegetable seedlings, 150,000 citrus seedlings, fertilizers, small irrigation equipment, water tanks and hand tools to domestic farmers to assist in the recovery of the food production sector. The WPF partnered with UNICEF to support the Government of Dominica in providing Provide Emergency Cash Transfers to approximately 25,000 people affected by Hurricane Maria. The programme delivered at least 100 metric tonnes of food to roughly 80 locations in Dominica. (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b).

### 4. Agricultural research and technology

IICA is preparing to launch a sweet potato bio-fortification project in Jamaica in collaboration with CARICOM. This initiative hopes to foster R&D in high yield bio-fortified crops, address vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and promote balanced diets (particularly in women and children) (IICA, 2018). IAEA has also provided strong support to the Scientific Research Council's research programme with the intention to increase production yield and improve longevity and resistance of crops such as onions, sweet yam and ginger. This is intended to diversify the agriculture base of Jamaica and improve competitiveness (Government of Jamaica, 2018). IAEA has assisted the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences in Jamaica: the Caribbean's only research reactor located at UWI Mona Campus. In upgrading the Centre's technologies, IAEA has contributed to environmental, agricultural and health-related studies as well as the accomplishment of SDGs #2, #3, #6, #13 and #17. The Centre has expanded research work related to food safety, food security, water and air quality and will be able to accommodate the research needs of other countries from the Caribbean (IAEA, 2018).

Notably, the Dominican Republic has managed to eradicate the Mediterranean Fruit Fly by using the Sterile Insect Technique. This achievement was largely accomplished with the help of IAEA, with support from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, and in close cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, the International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health and IICA. In line with SDGs 1, 2 and 17, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic contained this outbreak through an emergency response programme which resulted in the successful eradication as part of an area wide integrated pest management system (IAEA, 2018).

IAEA is exploring partnerships with CCCCC, CAHFSA, CARDI and UWI. These arrangements will focus on the fields of climate change, food safety and agriculture as well as educational and training programmes in nuclear sciences and technologies. Furthermore, the IAEA is launching regional projects in the Caribbean in the field of nuclear applications in agriculture and food safety. Initial assistance will commence with capacity building to help scientists improve their awareness of the potential uses of IAEA products services then for further specific technical assistance in crop breeding and agricultural health and food safety (IAEA, 2018).

A notable example of North-South cooperation is JICA's grant agreement with the Cuban Government in November 2017. The agreement provides grant aid of up to 1.215 billion yen for a project to help the country improve rice seed production techniques with the use of agricultural machinery. The project will provide the machinery needed for producing rice seeds in the eight targeted provinces and one

special municipality in Cuba. The goal is to increase transplant crop production on paddy fields by 20 per cent and secure a stable home-grown supply of rice in Cuba (JICA, 2018).

## **G. Water and sanitation (SDG 6)**

The SAMOA Pathway recognises that SIDS face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution, the over exploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, drought and water scarcity, soil erosion, water and wastewater treatment and the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply (paragraph 64).

### **1. Water management**

Primary water sources vary greatly in the Caribbean with groundwater accounting for approximately 52 per cent of supply, surface water 35.8 per cent, desalination 11.6 per cent, and rainwater harvesting less than 1 per cent (Cole Engineering Group, 2015 in IDB, CDB & Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), 2018). While most countries report over 95 per cent access to improved water supplies (Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CRew), 2016), water demand far outstrips supply in many islands. The tourism sector, which represents the region's primary economic driver, further stresses regional water resources with studies indicating that hotels may utilise between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of all water supplied by municipal distribution systems (IDB, CDB & CWWA, 2018).

Water management in the Caribbean has largely suffered due to institutional deficiencies such as fragmented governance frameworks, insufficient data, poor coordination between responsible agencies, inadequate technical competencies, and low levels of investment to replace aging infrastructure (IDB, CDB & CWWA, 2018). Additionally, Caribbean SIDS face the following challenges: (i) damage and disruption of infrastructure due to water-related hazards; (ii) increasing demand, inefficient water use and leakage; (iii) increasing climate variability; (iv) vulnerability of agricultural production to seasonal rainfall and drought; (v) ineffective management of water resource quantity and quality; and (vi) escalating costs of flood-related damage and losses (CCCCC, 2018e). While the OECS has sought to develop a common water policy, CARICOM has yet to put forward a regional water sector development agenda (IDB, CDB & CWWA, 2018).

A large proportion of Belize's households (94.5 per cent) reported an improved source of drinking water available within the home, with a further 1.3 per cent reporting a time of less than 30 minutes to access drinking water. Moreover, formal settlements without water systems have been equipped with rain catchment systems in an attempt to achieve universal access to potable water (Government of Belize, 2017). In 2008, Belize adopted the National Integrated Water Resource Management Policy and in 2011, it enacted the National Integrated Water Resources Act. However, due to the lack of resources, both human and financial, it has not been fully implemented. Given the importance of the policy and the act, it is envisioned that during this first phase of the GSDS, funds be available to complete the establishment of the National Integrated Water Resources Authority and strengthened its capacity to implement its mission. A main action under this mission is to complete a Water Master Plan, a National Groundwater and Surface Water Assessment and a Water Vulnerability Profile (Government of Belize, 2018).

Guyana has made significant strides in improving coverage to safe water supply. Already boasting a national average of 98 per cent coverage, ongoing programs saw a number of communities gaining access to a safe water supply for the first time in recent years. Investment in the water sector remains constant with both international development partners and the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana demonstrating commitment to improving access to safe water supply. However, much of the national developmental ambitions of the water sector, particularly to meet quality measures in keeping with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) standards for drinking water, are curtailed due to the lack of available resources. It is estimated that billions of dollars in investments are still required to meet the goal of universal access to a safe water supply, given that much of the existing infrastructure is beginning to show signs of aging. There is also a challenge with access to potable water in the hinterland as there is limited knowledge relating to the presence of groundwater in these areas (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

**Box 14****Water harvesting project in Jacob's ladder, Jamaica**

Introduced in 2015, the Jacob's Ladder Water Harvesting Project was implemented by UNDP with funding from the GEF Small Grants Programme and Australia Aid. The project, which services the Mustard Seed Community in this area (1 of 13 residential care facilities for adults with physical and mental disabilities), has greatly improved water access for use in sanitation, cooking and agricultural activities. This refurbished water catchment system now irrigates 50 hectares of crops which provide revenue for the community. A UNDP Vulnerability Reduction Assessment indicated that the community's vulnerability had been significantly reduced after the project, decreasing 163 per cent from 1.75, (with one being the most vulnerable) to 4.6 (with five being the least vulnerable).

Source: UNDP (2017).

To ensure the integrated management of water resources, Jamaica sought to update its water sector with the development of a draft National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan which is expected to be promulgated in 2018 (Government of Jamaica, 2018). Similarly, the Government of Curaçao is working together with the Global Water Partnership and other stakeholders to create an integrated water resource management plan to better manage these resources (Government of Curaçao, 2016).

The revision and further development of the National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago is currently underway. Moreover, to improve water-use efficiency and management, a preliminary assessment of Trinidad and Tobago's surface and ground water resources is being executed; the results of which will inform abstraction guidelines that will be published upon completion of the exercise. This, along with the implementation of a Leak Management Programme, is expected to promote the coordinated development and management of water and related resources in order to maximise available water supplies (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016).

Climate change and associated sea level rise have already begun to impact the region's water resources. It is expected that Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda (which depend on groundwater sources) will face significant challenges due to saltwater intrusion and the salinization of aquifers (UN-DESA, 2018). Aruba, which possesses no natural freshwater resources, is expanding its use of desalination technologies. In 2015, seawater reverse osmosis units were installed to replace aging infrastructure as part of a transitional step toward the installation of a third desalination unit (WEB Aruba, 2018). CCCCC has also provided support to water stressed regions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, installing a reverse osmosis unit on the island of Bequia which benefitted some 1,000 community members. Similar projects were completed on the islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique through agreements between the Government of Grenada, DFID and the GCCA (CCCCC, 2018e).

With two existing desalination facilities already in place, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is currently pursuing the construction of a third plant (currently in the consultancy development phase). Tobago's Cove Industrial Estate is the proposed site for this facility which is projected to supply approximately 5 million gallons of potable water per day (Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (WASA), 2017). Regrettably, one of Antigua and Barbuda's three desalination plants suffered damages due to the passage of Hurricane Irma. In view of this, CDB approved funds in December 2017 for the rehabilitation of the desalination plant and water storage facilities in Barbuda (CDB, 2017c).

The damage caused during the 2017 Hurricane Season underscored the importance of business continuity planning for regional water and sewerage utilities. Dominica, which was devastated by Hurricane Maria, suffered major disruptions to water utility operations. CDEMA, along with CWWA, were able to provide human and financial resources to assist in the recovery of operations at Dominica's Water and Sewerage Corporation with the assistance of personnel from utilities in Belize, Grenada and Antigua (UN-DESA, 2018).

Haiti's drinking water systems were badly impacted by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, leaving some 700,000 persons without access to potable water sources. Losses caused by climate events such as this have been estimated at US\$20.6 million, including US\$14.2 million in damages caused in rural areas. In October 2017, IDB approved a US\$65 million grant for the improvement of drinking water and sanitation services in Haiti. The project also aims to strengthen the capability and sustainability of Port-au-Prince's Technical Service Centre, the Regional Drinking Water and Sanitation Office of the West (OPERA West) and the National Drinking Water and Sanitation Agency. It is anticipated that the share of the population with access

to drinking water services will increase from 44 per cent to 60 per cent upon completion of this project (IDB, 2017c).

Under the Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados (WSRN S-Barbados) project”, the GCF has approved a US\$27.6 million. This project will result in a paradigm shift that makes the Barbados society aware of the water cycle and climate change impacts threatening the national drinking water supply, create resilience to severe weather impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce consumption and promote appropriate uses of diverse water sources and legislations to support climate smart development and water sector resilience. This will be achieved by employing renewable energy technology, creating a Revolving Adaptation Funding Facility (RAFF), de-centralizing water storage, increasing rainwater harvesting, building technical capacity, helping to shape policies and legislations related to climate change, raising greater awareness about climate variability and change and providing a platform of knowledge and resources to support further climate change adaptation in the Caribbean (Government of Barbados, 2018a).

Rainwater harvesting is increasingly being viewed as a crucial mechanism for ensuring the security of water supplies in the Caribbean. Approximately 500,000 persons across the region are fully or partially dependent on rainwater harvesting to address their water needs. Integration and mainstreaming of rainwater in regional water policy and planning is critical given the predicted effects of climate change and climate variability on freshwater resources (Dempewolf et al, 2015). While rainwater harvesting is actively encouraged or legislated in territories such as Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada and the U.S. Virgin Islands, reinvigoration of this declining practice is being achieved across the region through a number of initiatives; most notably, the Caribbean Rainwater Toolbox which was updated and re-launched in 2015 with the support of the Council for Caribbean Science and Technology, Global Water Partnership-Caribbean and regional water agencies (Global Water Partnership-Caribbean, 2015).

With the potential threats of extended droughts, changing rainfall patterns and increases in vector borne diseases (due to poor management of catchment facilities) have been raised in regard to this issue, the utilization of rainwater harvesting is being embraced and explored. In 2014, FAO completed promising feasibility studies for six Caribbean countries on rainwater harvesting for agriculture. Additionally, advocates have called for increased rainwater harvesting to “augment existing water supplies, particularly after disaster events, when access to municipal water supplies may be disrupted” (Dempewolf et al, 2015).

Significant progress has been made by Caribbean SIDS towards the development of a Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector. Supported by the CDB, IDB, CWWA and other development partners, the plan focusses on: (i) governance in the water sector; (ii) non-revenue water; (iii) regional coordination in the water sector; and (iv) capacity building and resource mobilisation, including investment and financing. The Strategic Action Plan

is carded for endorsement at the 14th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water in October 2018. Additionally, CWWA is advocating the development of national action plans for governance and building climate resilience in the Caribbean (UN-DESA, 2018).

The Global Water Partnership launched the Caribbean Regional Framework for Investment in Water Security and Climate Resilient Development in 2016 in collaboration with more than 80 partners in over 20 Caribbean territories (CCCCC, 2018e). Additionally, a regional strategic plan for the water sector is currently in the works. This initiative is being supported by CDB, in partnership with the IDB and CWWA (CDB, 2018c).

UNEP has assisted several countries in their progress toward the SAMOA pathway and SDGs. Projects of note in the sub-region with significant benefits for Caribbean SIDS include the US\$20 million 5-year GEF-funded project for Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (IWEco) as well as IWCAM – Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management in SIDS. Some achievements of IWCAM include more sustainable use of freshwater supplies; improved freshwater and coastal water quality; better land use; and improved hygiene and sanitation. Within IWEco, projects are underway across eight Caribbean countries with specific key targets covering water, wastewater management, forest conservation/land management and improvements in water quality. Expected outcomes include the implementation of climate-change resilient approaches in sustainable land management and Integrated Water Resource Management; strengthening of ecosystems monitoring; strengthening of the policy, legislative and institutional reforms; and enhancing knowledge exchange (UNEP, 2018a).

## 2. Sanitation and wastewater management

Wastewater collection and treatment of wastewater is noticeably lacking in most Caribbean SIDS. Rapidly expanding urban populations, poorly planned development, and inadequate or poorly designed and malfunctioning sewage treatment facilities have been cited as serious challenges to this sector (CREW, 2016). While there has been improved compliance with and monitoring of effluent standards, a significant proportion of wastewater remains untreated. For example, a 2005 CEP study estimated that 85per cent of wastewater entering the Caribbean Sea remained untreated. More alarmingly, 51.5per cent of households lacked sewer connections and only 17per cent were connected to acceptable collection and treatment systems (UNEP CEP, 2016).

According to the Joint Monitoring Programme of UNICEF and WHO, 83per cent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean had access to improved sanitation in 2015 – an increase from 67per cent in 1990 (UNICEF & WHO, 2017). While this is a considerable improvement, there are notable disparities in access between urban and rural populations in the Caribbean. Urban improved sanitation coverage in the Caribbean stood at 79per cent in 2015 (decreasing by 2per cent since 1990), while rural access increased from 50per cent to 62per cent within the same period (ibid.). The challenge of universal coverage in access to water systems and disposal of excreta adds to the need to increase the proportion of wastewater that is treated, improve the quality of services in terms of continuity and quality, and protect water sources. This is particularly relevant in light of climate change scenarios that indicate reductions in rainfall (and therefore in water availability), a critical factor for Caribbean SIDS (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

In the case of Haiti, a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectoral plan has been developed under the leadership of the country's National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) with World Bank's financial support and UNICEF technical assistance. Other partners such as IDB and bilateral donors are actively supporting future implementation of the plan. The objective is to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation services by 2030 (Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti, 2018).

With respect to sanitation, Belize's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys found that 93 per cent of households had access to improved sanitation facilities (97per cent and 91per cent in urban and rural areas respectively) (Government of Belize, 2018). According to its 2017 VNR, only 64.6per cent of the population used flush toilets while 3per cent of households have no toilet facilities (Government of Belize, 2017). The data shows that the type of sanitation facilities is strongly correlated with wealth and is profoundly different between localities. Open defecation in Belize is generally very low (1per cent of the population) however it raises to 8per cent in the Toledo District (Government of Belize, 2018).

Access to adequate sanitation coverage remains at an alarmingly low rate in Guyana. Improving access to an adequate sanitation facility is still commonly viewed as a private matter to be borne by the household. Gradual progress in sanitation development is being made as increased attention by the government in recent years saw a number of households being assisted to convert their non-functional pit latrines to septic tanks, a programme commissioned by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana with support from its international development partners (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a). Additionally, investments have been made to expand the sewerage collection and transport network within several districts of Sint Maarten with the support of the EDF. Given the precarious nature of the finances of the Government of Sint Maarten, it has proposed the collection of a sewage levy<sup>34</sup> as a means to cover the annual expenditures of the Government in the management of the sewage network (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018).

While several Caribbean countries have realised the potential opportunities that efficient wastewater management can provide for their local economies, the development of this sector requires significant investment, incentives for private sector participation, and a coordinated and inter-sectoral approach to achieve this goal (UN-DESA, 2018). Nonetheless, utilisation in the agriculture, mining and energy sectors has increasingly been observed; for example, the Jamaica Public Service Company has begun utilising treatment plant effluent for cooling and other purposes in the electricity generation process. Within the tourism sector, several countries have mandated that hotels have on-site wastewater treatment plants; for example, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados. Here, wastewater is typically repurposed for use in golf course irrigation (CREW, 2016).

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<sup>34</sup> While legislated through a Wastewater Ordinance, collection of this levy has yet to be enacted.

Trinidad and Tobago has been the beneficiary of IDB loan facilities for the implementation of a Multiphase Wastewater Rehabilitation Project. The US\$579 million project is aimed at expanding and improving centralised wastewater coverage in several regions across both islands as well as institutional strengthening of WASA in the areas of Training, Environmental Management, and Commercial Operations. Upon completion, wastewater coverage is projected to increase from 30 per cent to 48 per cent nationwide, providing access to an additional 200,000 persons (WASA, n.d.). Under Guyana's Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations 2000, funds were obtained through the Canadian High Commission (Canada Fund for Local Initiatives Project) to facilitate testing to contribute to the revision of the interim guidelines for effluent discharge. This project commences in June 2018 (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

The GEF CReW Project has made significant headway in progressing wastewater management in the region. Launched in 2011 and completed in 2017, it aimed at (i) providing sustainable financing for the wastewater sector; (ii) supporting policy and legislative reforms; and (iii) fostering regional dialogue and knowledge exchange (UN-DESA, 2018). Several significant achievements were accomplished during its implementation including the establishment of 3 pilot financing mechanisms for wastewater management in Belize, Guyana, and Jamaica; the development of national action plans, regulations and policies in participating countries; and the delivery of wastewater management training programmes to more than 600 persons across the region (CReW, 2016). Based on the widespread success of this project, UNEP CEP is currently in development of a GEF CReW+ Project Proposal for further funding consideration by the GEF (UN-DESA, 2018).

## H. Sustainable transportation (SDG 9)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of SIDS. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transportation achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We also recognise the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods in fostering full engagement in local, regional and global markets and the potential for sustainable transportation to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas of SIDS (paragraph 66).*

SIDS are crucially dependent on well-functioning and reliable access to transportation services – in particular maritime and air transport – to carry their trade, meet import-dependent consumption needs, and service their highly strategic tourism industry. While coastal seaports and airports are the lifelines sustaining the survival of SIDS, they are also highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially sea-level rise and extreme weather events. The significance of weather and climate-related threats has been underscored by the recent impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and other storms that wreaked havoc on several Caribbean airports and seaports during the 2017 Hurricane Season. The strong interdependence between tourism and transport magnifies the challenge (UNCTAD, 2018b).

CARICOM's Strategic Plan 2015–2019 emphasizes that the development of the region's air and maritime infrastructure and services is essential for improving the region's competitiveness and improving the accessibility and mobility of people and goods. Further, the ACS remains committed to the development of sustainable transport in the region and reported that its commitments for transport include: access to environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well maintained transportation; advancement of the safety of land, sea and air transportation; viable national, regional and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies, management of transport infrastructure; and increased energy efficiency in the transport sectors (ACS, 2018).

### 1. Energy efficiency in the transportation sector

The IMF estimates that approximately 36 per cent of the total primary energy consumed in the region is within the transportation sector (IMF, 2016). With approximately 50 per cent of imported fuel allocated to land and sea transport in the OECS (ECLAC, 2014c), the transportation sector greatly contributes to GHG emissions at the regional and sub-regional level. Energy efficiency and fuel diversification is therefore critical in this regard.

In Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Lucia, the importation of electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles has been encouraged through fiscal incentives. A financing proposal for a plan to introduce electric and hybrid vehicles in the Public Service of Saint Lucia was discussed during a high-level meeting hosted by the GIZ in partnership with ECLAC during September 2016. To date, Saint Lucia has incorporated three

electric vehicles into its Government fleet. These vehicles, in addition to their daily activities, will be used for monitoring and data collection as part of a pilot programme (Government of Saint Lucia, 2018). This innovative initiative was proposed by the Government of Saint Lucia in the context of the project entitled “Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Caribbean through the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and the Use of Renewable Energy Technologies”, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean countries in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy (ECLAC, 2016d).

Trinidad and Tobago has embraced low carbon options for introduction into its public transportation sector. The Government has vowed to maximize the use of compressed natural gas as vehicular fuel, with 2.7 million litres sold in 2015 and expansions in refuelling infrastructure observed across the country. Further, in an effort to change consumer behaviour, authorities reduced the level of subsidy on gasoline and diesel in 2015 and 2016 (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2018). Barbados has created an enabling environment for investments in alternative and low carbon fuels such as natural gas, compressed natural gas and ethanol (Government of Barbados, 2015).

The Global Fuel Economy Initiative was formally launched in Jamaica in 2015 with the aim of strengthening vehicle emission and fuel quality standards and promoting fuel economy. Among the achievements to date is the establishment of a national auto fuel economy database (for light duty vehicles) and a diagnostic study report on air quality management in Jamaica. Additionally, Jamaica continues to diversify its transportation sector with the sale of biofuels such E-10 (a 10per cent ethanol-gasoline blend) (Global Fuel Economy Initiative, 2018).

#### **Box 15** **Biodiesel R&D in Jamaica**

The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica has collaborated with CARDI on biodiesel research in an attempt to increase energy efficiency in the transportation sector. Now in the vehicular trials phase, the biodiesel blend, B5, utilizes the castor plant as feedstock and has been in development since 2016. Local usage of the B5 blend is projected to reduce oil imports by 97,000 barrels per annum, resulting in an approximate savings of J\$540 million.

Source: Renewable Energy Caribbean (2017).

## **2. Connectivity and land transport**

Connectivity issues present a real development challenge and in particular for multi-island states and larger countries in the region such as Belize, Guyana and Suriname. Deficiencies in road transportation and waterway infrastructure have limited integration of these mainland territories with surrounding economic markets in Central and South America. Poor accessibility has affected agricultural production, human development of rural communities and has limited these countries’ tourism opportunities (especially remote historical and ecotourism sites) (IDB, 2013b). These issues further intensify during the rainy season.

The Government of Belize is currently investing over BZ\$700 million in the upgrade and rehabilitation of its transport system; inclusive of all weather, climate resilient highways, drainage and bridges, airstrips and farming roads (Government of Belize, 2018). As outlined in CDB’s Country Strategy Paper (2017-2021) Cooperative Republic of Guyana, improvements are planned in the coming years. CDB, with funding from the UK’s Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership, will undertake interventions such as the construction of interior access roads and a bridge over the Essequibo River to complement other projects aimed at connecting Georgetown with Brazil by road (CDB, 2016). Guyana’s Ministry of Public Infrastructure, with funding from IDB, recently conducted a diagnosis of the urban transportation challenges and gaps and has a considerable number of recommendations to act on to improve the status of urban transportation in Georgetown (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

At the request of Haiti’s National Commission for the Modernisation of Public Transit, ECLAC provided a training course in the area of transport policy and planning in January 2016 (ECLAC, 2017a). Additionally, a national vulnerability assessment of Jamaica’s transportation sector was completed in 2018 to inform resilience building and prioritisation (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Notably, Aruba has embarked on its first major PPP – The Green Corridor Project. This 20 year partnership aims to improve traffic flows and establish road connections with new container ports and free zones under a “design, build, finance, and maintain” contract. Sub-objectives of the Green Corridor Project include “adequate public transport; good accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians; beautification of the route;

sustainable street lighting; and promoting an attractive investment climate for businesses and the hospitality industry” (Aruba Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development of SIDS, 2017).

### 3. Air transportation

Air transport remains a costly transportation option within the region. IDB notes Caribbean airports and routes provide reasonable service to large origin hubs for tourism (mainly in North America and Europe) but less so for intra-regional travel. While trends suggest the market is shrinking, air transport in most Caribbean SIDS is well above the world average due to its tourism dependence.<sup>35</sup> Demand, however, is seasonal with a disparity of 30 per cent in the number of seats on offer between high and low seasons (IDB, 2015).

While regional airlines provide a lifeline for the Caribbean population, aggregated accumulated deficits of the three-major government-owned airlines of the Caribbean region amount to approximately US\$1 billion and require annual subsidies from their governments. CDB attributes this to: small economies of scale, volatile fuel costs, poor financial management, competition from better capitalized foreign airlines, pressure to operate unprofitable routes from governments, and limited integration of regulatory frameworks (CDB, 2015a).

Bilateral and Multilateral Air Services Agreements have been signed to facilitate the development of the industry and minimise hurdles limit the region’s competitiveness. For example, the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement “expands the scope for airlines owned by CARICOM nationals to provide air services throughout the Community. It allows for no restriction on routes, capacity or traffic rights and should facilitate increased intra-regional travel and provide more cargo options for exporters and importers with resulting cost savings” (CARICOM, 2018f). Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was the most recent signatory to this agreement in February 2018.<sup>36</sup>

### 4. Marine transport and freight services

Although served by a number of international air and sea carriers which enable the transfer of tourists and goods into the region, the movement of goods and people among Caribbean islands remains unreliable and costly, both in terms of money and time. While maritime studies in the Caribbean have focused on infrastructural and operational systems for intensifying trade and movement of goods, there is little information on the movement of persons within the region and its potential to encourage further integration and sustainable development (ECLAC, 2017d).

Maritime passenger transportation has immense potential for the region given its large maritime space and high ratio of sea to land mass. Reliable year-round sea transportation also has the potential to encourage trade and tourism, and to retard depopulation thereby ensuring that essential economic and social links are maintained. In the specific case of tourism, many visitors to the region already utilize specialized ferry services for the intrinsic pleasure of the journey itself, as well as to enhance their Caribbean vacation experience. Hence, maritime passenger transportation can serve to expand the range of choices, relative to the set of economic and social activities which may exist among various Caribbean destinations (ibid.).

In the Southern Caribbean, ferry services are generally limited to those that operate between islands that are governed under the same sovereign jurisdiction and are referred to as “domestic travel” (for example between Trinidad and Tobago as well as Grenada and Carriacou). Inter-island passenger services (between different sovereign jurisdictions) and boat charters are well established in Anguilla, Sint Maarten, the Virgin Island Archipelago, Montserrat, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Lucia, Dominica, and Antigua and Barbuda. While all other ferry routes are coastal and open ocean routes, the Guyana-Suriname route was is an inland waterway across the Corentyne River (ibid.).

<sup>35</sup> In 2015, over 70 airports in the region were serviced by more than one weekly international flight (IDB, 2015).

<sup>36</sup> CARICOM’s Multilateral Air Services Agreement has been signed by all member states except The Bahamas, Jamaica and Montserrat.

**Box 16**  
**Ensuring continuity of ferry operations in Montserrat**

Continuity and reliability of transportation linkages is a key issue in the region. As the current contract for the provision of ferry services will soon end, the Government of Montserrat opened the tendering process for maritime transport between Montserrat and Antigua (and potentially other islands). This procurement process should be completed by September 2018.

Source: Government of Montserrat (2018).

Some countries have begun to explore ferry transportation to alleviate road congestion. For example, Saint Lucia has explored options to ease congestion in its Northern Corridor (ECLAC, 2014a), while investments have been observed in Trinidad and Tobago's marine transportation sector to link the northern and southern parts of Trinidad (TT\$24.6 million was spent on increasing efficiencies in this sector in 2017) (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017a).

With seaborne trade forecast to quadruple by 2050 (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science/United Kingdom Hydrographic Office Programme, n.d.), enhanced climate resilience and climate change adaptation for key coastal transport infrastructure is critical for the overall sustainable development prospects of SIDS. DTDEER of the ACS manages the International Transit of Goods, Third Mexican Convention on Hydrography and the Short-Distance Maritime Transport Projects. Each contributes to the realization of the economic growth in trade and business in the Caribbean by investing in proper transport infrastructure (ACS, 2018).

Within the framework of the project "Improved Interconnectivity for Trade Facilitation and Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Caribbean", ACS offered six study grants covering January to December 2018 to officials of the institutions responsible for hydrographical issues, of which only the following two Member States submitted applications, to pursue the Specialty Course in Hydrography and Cartography at the Oceanographic Institute of the Gulf and Caribbean Sea. This project is financed by the Secretariat of the Navy of Mexico and AMEXCID (ibid.)

Sustainable transportation, as a priority area for UNCTAD, features also as one of the key areas on the SAMOA Pathway. Recent work by UNCTAD on climate change impacts and adaptation for key coastal transport infrastructure includes a technical assistance project (2015-2017) with a focus on seaports and airports in Caribbean SIDS: '*Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of SIDS*' (United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project 14150).<sup>37</sup> The main aims of the project were to strengthen the capacity of policy makers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in SIDS to (a) understand climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, and (b) take appropriate adaptation response measures (UNCTAD, 2018b).

UNCTAD's approach to Sustainable Freight Transport is to promote partnerships, dialogues among and build synergies among public and private stakeholders including, relevant organizations, academia, civil society, NGOs and financiers, as a means of supporting initiatives seeking to implement the 2030 Development Agenda. Stakeholders that participate in UNCTAD programme of activities include: government authorities, policy makers, city planners, freight transport and logistics service providers (e.g., shipping carriers and logistics firms), users (e.g., shippers, traders and supply chain managers), infrastructure developers, managers and operators, as well as financial institutions, organizations, academia and NGOs.

In working towards achieving its objectives of supporting developing countries in mainstreaming sustainability considerations into freight transport-related policies, plans, operations, and investment decisions, a Sustainable Freight Transport and Finance (SFTF) Toolkit was developed. The SFTF features three main tools: a (1) Web-portal, (2) Training package, and (3) UNCTAD Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport (UNCTAD SFT Framework). Together these instruments aim to build and strengthen the capacity of key freight transport stakeholders, including government authorities, policy makers, transport infrastructure managers, freight transport and logistic service providers, and shippers, to effectively plan, design, develop, and implement sustainable freight transport solutions (UNCTAD, 2018).

<sup>37</sup> See <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/TTL/Legal/Climate-Change-Impacts-on-SIDS.aspx>.

In addition, one of the modules featured in the SFTF Toolkit is related to the importance of promoting PPPs to design, develop and implement sustainable freight transport systems. It provides guidance on the use of PPPs for the delivery of infrastructure projects in the transportation sector. In addition, the module explores the processes for developing a Strategic Service Model for the transportation sector. (UNCTAD, 2018b).

Main outcomes of the UNDA project “Climate Change impacts on Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of SIDS” include: (i) two case studies focusing on two vulnerable SIDS in the Caribbean (Jamaica and Saint Lucia) providing high quality substantive findings on climate change impacts and climate adaptation options of critical coastal infrastructure; ii) a transferable methodology for assessing climate-related impacts and adaptation options for coastal transport infrastructure in SIDS; iii) three capacity building workshops (around 180 participants) held in the region: national capacity-building workshops in Saint Lucia (24-26 May 2017, Rodney Bay) and in Jamaica (30 May - 1 June 2017, Kingston); and a regional capacity-building workshop in Barbados (5 - 7 December 2017, Bridgetown, Barbados), bringing together seaports and airports authorities as well as a range of other stakeholders, experts, development partners, and organizations from the wider Caribbean region (21 countries and territories) (UNCTAD, 2018b).

As part of UNCTAD’s technical assistance activities, UNCTAD is currently implementing a UNDA-funded project on “Building capacities of developing countries to shift towards Sustainable Freight Transport”. This project which is currently being implemented in the Caribbean, aims at helping national and regional stakeholders to develop transport policies and strategies that promote planning and investment decisions that exploit and foster synergies between freight transport and the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development. Technical capacity building workshops targeting public and private sector stakeholders from more than 15 countries will be organized to: enhance knowledge and cooperation among policymakers, transport operators and financiers in the Caribbean to promote and finance sustainable freight transport development; strengthen capacity and collaboration among policymakers, transport operators and financiers to effectively plan/develop and adopt requisite policies/strategies to promote and finance the development of sustainable freight transport system. This project is ongoing and allows for enhancing and strengthening of sustainable freight transport policies and strategies in the region (UNCTAD, 2018b).

## I. Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, it recalls the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision, and recognises that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. That this should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities (paragraph 68).*

This priority area is an important consideration for nations regardless of size and development status due to the finite nature of natural resources and increasing consumption demand driven by a globally burgeoning population. Nevertheless, sustainable consumption and production is of special importance to Caribbean SIDS in light of environmental vulnerabilities such as the risks associated with sea level rise (Government of Jamaica, 2018). Caribbean SIDS are represented in the Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) in Latin-America and the Caribbean (2015-2022) (UNEP, 2015b). Caribbean regional efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption are incipient. During the second meeting of the ECLAC’s Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on Sustainable Development (April 2018), the role of the private sector participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was identified as crucial and goes way beyond “corporate social responsibility” (ECLAC 2018k).

The Green Business Jamaica Certification Programme is a key government initiative launched in 2017 (currently in 2-year pilot phase) that targets business across all sectors in a bid to promote sustainable consumption and production. The voluntary programme requires companies to implement an environmental management system and awards a green label that consumers can recognize alludes to green operational practices. As the ability to influence consumption and production patterns rely heavily on consumer education and awareness, this programme is expected to initiate a shift in local attitudes towards a preference

for green services and products (Government of Jamaica, 2018). An increase in non-biodegradable waste was noted in studies conducted in Jamaica in 2007. Cognizant of the adverse health and environmental effects being created at major landfills across the country, the Government launched a number of programmes to engender behaviour changes within the population (UNEP CEP, 2017b). A notable example is the Jamaica Plastics Programme which was first piloted in 2012. As at April 2015, approximately 152 schools and several Government ministries and agencies were consistently participating in the plastic separation programme (JIS, 2015). Additionally, Jamaica is proposing to ban Styrofoam, single use plastic bags of a specific capacity and introduce a deposit return scheme for PET bottles (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

The Caribbean SIDS face serious challenges in managing solid waste and plastic litter. Many Caribbean SIDS have been introduced policies, education and awareness raising activities aiming at more sustainable consumption patterns. An effort to develop a regional approach to waste management is currently ongoing and supported by UN Environment and the Dutch Government (UNEP 2018b). Many Caribbean countries have proceeded to establish regulation and trade, import controls on single use plastics and other non-biodegradable materials. Example of these are:

- Antigua and Barbuda, through the External Trade Shopping Plastic Bags Prohibition Order, banned the importation of plastic bags except for those required for garbage collection and disposal (Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, 2017). In 2016, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda successfully implemented a ban on single-use plastic bags commonly used for grocery and other small item shopping. Antigua and Barbuda was the first State within CARICOM to successfully undertake such an initiative. Fuelled by this accomplishment, the Government embarked on a six-month process to expand the ban to include polystyrene or 'Styrofoam' containers (Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, 2017).
- Aruba's ban on single use plastic entered into force on 1 January 2017. This was achieved with close engagement with the retail and service sectors. Thanks to the stakeholder consultations and education programme, the new ban gained wide acceptance and endorsement by the community. Since the introduction of the ban, citizens have even started to report grocery stores that might be providing the outlawed plastic bags by posting pictures on social media (UNEP, 2018b).
- Government of Curaçao: For the biennium 2017-2018, the Government of Curaçao has also proposed the reduction of use of plastic utensils, single use plastic bags, straws and plastic cups through its Commodities Act. This should enable a 90 per cent reduction by 2020 (Government of Curaçao, 2018).
- In Belize, a proposal was approved by Cabinet to reduce plastic and Styrofoam pollution through the phasing out of single-use plastic shopping bags, Styrofoam and plastic food utensils by April 22 2019. Biodegradable alternatives to the plastic and Styrofoam products already exist on the Belizean market in the form of shopping bags, clamshells, coffee cups and plates manufactured from plant-based materials (Government of Belize, 2018).
- Grenada recently announced its ban on the importation of single use plastics and Styrofoam (Government of Grenada, 2018).
- Guyana has adopted a legal supplement referred to as the Environmental Protection (Expanded Polystyrene Ban) Regulations, 2015. This material includes expanded and extruded foams. Polystyrene food service products are those used in food containers, plates, hot and cold beverage cups, meat and vegetable trays, egg cartons et al. The Act prohibits the importation, manufacture and sale of expanded polystyrene product in Guyana. It also bans the use in food containers by food service establishments. Furthermore, it encourages the use of alternative, biodegradable, or recyclable materials in the use in food containers. The Act goes further to impose a penalty of fifty thousand dollars for non-compliance (Government of Guyana, 2015).
- Jamaica: Starting January 1, 2019, the Government of Jamaica will impose a ban on the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of specific categories of plastic packaging materials. These include single-use plastic carrier/shopping bags; expanded polystyrene foam, and plastic drinking straws (Jamaica Information Service, 2018).
- Puerto Rico signed into law the Act for the Promotion of Reusable Bags and Regulation of Plastic Bags in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Act 247-2015 (Puerto Rico, 2018).

Imported used vehicles: A number of Caribbean SIDS has introduced legislation in an attempt to limit the import of used vehicles. Selected cases as listed in Box 17, following:

#### Box 17

##### Used car legislation in the Caribbean

- Antigua and Barbuda: Vehicles must be less than 5 years old.
- Barbados: Vehicles must be less than 4 years old and must have a mileage of less than 50,000km.
- Belize: No restrictions but environmental tax must be paid upon importation. Also have incentive that public officers can apply for duty reduction for vehicles that are 4 cylinder vehicles that are less than 7 years old.
- Bermuda: Vehicles must be less than 6 months old.
- Cayman Islands: No restrictions but environmental tax must be paid upon importation.
- Cuba: Vehicles must be less than 4 years old.
- Dominica: No restrictions but environmental tax must be paid upon importation.
- Dominican Republic: Automobiles and light trucks (under 5 tonnes) must be less than 5 years old.
- Jamaica: Cars must be less than 5 years old. Pick-up trucks must be less than 6 years old. Trucks, trailers and other heavy-duty equipment must be less than 10 years old.
- Saint Kitts and Nevis: No restrictions but environmental tax must be paid upon importation. Higher levies are applied if the vehicle is older than 5 years.
- Suriname: Vehicles must be less than 5 years old.
- Trinidad and Tobago: Gasoline powered cars must be less than 4 years old.

Source: (UNEP & UNECE, n.d)<sup>38</sup>

## J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste (SDG 6)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For SIDS, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and environmental protection, and the small land area and remoteness of many SIDS pose particular challenges for the sound disposal of waste (paragraph 70).*

### 1. Regional overview

Sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes is a challenge that has been recognised and addressed to some extent in the Caribbean region. Due to the small size of the countries, limited human and financial resources and inadequate regulatory systems to manage pesticide importation and use, Caribbean SIDS have been traditionally vulnerable to the entry of potentially harmful, unregistered and unregulated pesticides (FAO, 2017d). In relation to chemicals management, a number of Caribbean SIDS has made progress with the assistance of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Further, countries are also now able to receive support to advance their chemicals management agenda with financial support from the Special Programme under UNEP (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

All Caribbean SIDS are parties to and are in compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (UNEP, 2018c). The performance of the English-speaking Caribbean countries in the implementation of Montreal Protocol obligations continues to attract international recognition and is benchmarked as best practice in sustainable nationalization and ownership of a MEA. The Sub region has been successful in completely phasing out the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), one of the most significant ozone depleting substances.<sup>39</sup> This is a direct result of extensive collaboration between the government and air-conditioning/refrigeration stakeholders in the private sector (Government of Jamaica, 2018). By 2015, the Dominican Republic had reduced 16 per cent of the consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer, thus surpassing the country's goal pursuant to the Montreal Protocol. However, these advances must be complemented with

<sup>38</sup> Data on other imported, previously used machineries and marine luxury, sports, transportation and fishing vessels were not sourced.

<sup>39</sup> Saving the ozone layer in the Caribbean: UNEP Awards for Policy and Implementation Leadership (2018) [http://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad\\_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/12/07/saving-the-ozone-layer-in-the-caribbean-unesp-awards-for-policy-and-implementation-leadership.html](http://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/12/07/saving-the-ozone-layer-in-the-caribbean-unesp-awards-for-policy-and-implementation-leadership.html).

better statistics and indicators that allow the design of effective policies (since data availability was one of the obstacles to achieving this objective) and improved compliance with regulations (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago have completed ratification of the Kigali Amendment to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) (UN Treaty Section). HFCs used as refrigerant are widespread in air conditioners, refrigerators, aerosols, foams and other products<sup>40</sup>.

Most Caribbean SIDS are signatory to the Basel Convention. As a result of the Synergies Decisions adopted by the COP of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, since 2008, Regional/Sub-regional and Coordinating Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs and BCCCs) have also been working with Parties to implement the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (BCRC Caribbean, 2018).

As far as practical, Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency attempts to regulate the export of hazardous wastes as a means of implementing the requirements of the Basel Convention. However, current regulations do not adequately capture the requirements of the Convention. Recently introduced, the Environmental Protection (Export and Transit of Hazardous Wastes) Regulations of 2016 seeks to establish a legal framework to regulate both the export and transit of hazardous wastes. This would therefore mean that developers will require, in addition to consent from importing or transit states, export and transit permits for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Recurrent exports of hazardous waste/materials to countries within the Basel Convention for resource recovery or final disposal have been noted in Guyana (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018). Additionally, Jamaica introduced a National Hazardous Waste Management Policy and Strategy in 2017 (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

## 2. Mercury Contamination

Mercury contamination from artisanal and small-scale gold mining is a significant issue for Guyana and Suriname's rural populations. Apart from the impacts on human health, mining activities have significantly affected important water catchment zones, including the Essequibo Basin in Guyana and the Marowijne/Maroni Basin shared by Suriname and French Guiana. Further, analyses have shown high levels of mercury in freshwater fish in Suriname, resulting in negative impacts on human health as these represent an important food source for many communities (Rham et al, 2017 in UN-DESA, 2018).

The Minamata Convention on Mercury<sup>41</sup>, which aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, has been ratified by Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis (UNEP, 2018d). BCRC-Caribbean's Minamata Initial Assessments utilised a regional approach grouping four countries for two separate MIAs; the first grouping including Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago; and the second, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These projects are funded through the GEF, implemented by UNEP and executed by BCRC Caribbean (BCRC Caribbean, 2018). Four countries have benefited from this project. This approach has allowed the BCRC Caribbean to have cost savings which in the case of these projects were then utilised to facilitate fish sampling for mercury (in countries that are willing to participate) as well as testing of skin lightening creams for mercury (BCRC Caribbean, 2018).

## 3. Persistent organic pollutants and pesticides

A regional approach was also utilised for the approval of a large-scale project under the GEF-5 where a project was developed and approved for eight participating countries: "Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Caribbean". Participating countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. This project is funded by the GEF,

<sup>40</sup> UNEP OzonAction (2018): HFCs are now widespread in air conditioners, refrigerators, aerosols, foams and other products. While these chemicals do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, some of them have high (global Warming Potentials (GWPs) ranging from 12 to 14,000. Uncontrolled growth in HFC emissions therefore challenges efforts to keep global temperature rise at or below 2°C this century (<http://web.unep.org/ozonaction/who-we-are/about-montreal-protocol#kigali>).

<sup>41</sup> The Minamata Convention on Mercury includes a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. See: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/Booklets/COP1%20version/Minamata-Convention-booklet-eng-full.pdf>

implemented by UNIDO and executed by the BCRC Caribbean (BCRC Caribbean, 2018). The project is close to its mid-term review. The main regional achievements are the:

- Review and update of National Implementation under the Stockholm Convention: In line with the national requirements in fulfilment of the Stockholm Convention, the project is supporting the countries through a regional approach with the aim of efficient information management and knowledge exchange. This work will be finalised in 2018.
- Sound chemicals management mainstreamed into all national policies and plans for all eight project countries: Via virtual inception meetings and through regional information exchange and knowledge management, the countries will benefit from experiences on the national levels.
- Regional information system available: ICT infrastructural upgrades within the BCRC-Caribbean and the development of an ICT policy and protocols were done in order to support and inform the development of a POPs Regional Information System.
- Assessment of potential contaminated sites to determine level of soil and groundwater contamination by POPs and develop appropriate remediation strategies: The assessment of potentially contaminated sites will be done in each country, however, through the regional information system knowledge and experience will be shared to ensure regional harmonisation of soil assessment and potential remediation strategies.
- Demonstration of technically and environmentally sound management of POPs. Selected countries are on the way of assessing or implementing environmentally sound management procedures for dealing with U-POPs from open burning of waste and/or dealing with Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Lessons learned from each pilot demonstration will be shared among the countries for suitable replication and knowledge (BCRC Caribbean, 2018).

A large-scale regional project was undertaken by the FAO, with support from the GEF, towards the identification, collection and disposal of obsolete and unwanted pesticides. In 2017, the programme saw the removal of 319 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stocks and related wastes in 11 Caribbean countries (FAO, 2017d). Additionally, the 22nd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean was held in Barbados during June 2018 and included delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Topics under discussion included the development of an Empty Pesticide Container Management Scheme, the replacement of highly hazardous pesticides with safer options and the development of a system of collaboration between the territories of the region (Government of Barbados, 2018c).

#### 4. Solid waste management and marine litter

In Caribbean SIDS, both upstream waste collection and downstream waste disposal present significant financial, environmental, and health challenges (UNEP CEP, 2017b). Lack of sufficient funds prevents adequate maintenance and timely replacement of waste collection vehicles while many of the landfills are reaching or have even exceeded maximum capacity (ibid.). Consequently, it is estimated that 275,000 tonnes of waste per day ends up in open air dumps or local waterways in the region (ibid.). Further, in 2010, it was estimated that 0.16 - 0.42 million metric tonnes of plastic entered the Caribbean Sea (Jambeck, J. R. et al in CDB, 2018a). While regional gains have been made in waste collection and landfill management between 2000 and 2010, Caribbean SIDS have regressed due to a lack of strategic planning, funding, and implementation of programmes aimed at decreasing dependence on landfills and establishing a Circular Economy<sup>42</sup> (UNEP CEP, 2017b).

Urban waste generation per capita continues to rise in the region and the infrastructure for the management, use and adequate final disposal of waste is failing to keep pace with the consumption patterns. Pollution from solid waste, and in particular from plastics, has emerged as one of the greatest global challenges, with economic, social and environmental impacts.

<sup>42</sup> The circular economy is a model of production and consumption which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible (European Parliament, 2018).

**Box 18****The Caribbean waste management conference**

One successful example of data sharing, cooperation and partnership on addressing a prominent issue in the Caribbean is the UNEP CSRO's first Caribbean Waste Management Conference. Approximately 75 participants including regional, international and local experts attended at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston in July 2017. Hosted in collaboration with the Government of Jamaica and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the conference operated under the theme: "SIDS approaches to Waste Management and the Circular economy". Participants shared achievements in successful waste management strategies and lessons learnt and contributed to a "Guide to Best Practices for the Caribbean".

Source: UNEP (2018a).

In Haiti, UNEP is supporting the fourth city of the country (Les Cayes) in the development of its municipal waste management plan with the support of Norway. This plan will be finalized in September 2018 (UNEP Haiti, 2018). According to Trinidad and Tobago's Draft Environmental Policy, authorities have sought to align its solid waste management with the tenets of SDGs. This document, along with the 2012 Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy and 2015 National Waste Recycling Policy, guides this sector as it attempts to minimize illegal dumping, associated flooding, and other environmental hazards. Effluent and leachate management at landfills has also become prioritized as evidenced by the establishment of an Engineered Landfill Programme (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017).

Through implementation of its Environmental Policy Plan 2016-2020, the Government of Curaçao seeks to reduce litter by 90 per cent, limit overall landfill waste and remediate illegal landfills (Government of Curaçao, 2018). Belize is reducing environmental pollution in emerging tourism destinations through the improvement of solid waste management practices (solid waste transport, recovery, and final disposal) in areas across the country (excluding Belize district) (Government of Belize, 2018). UNEP has assisted Jamaica undertake a number of initiatives in the area of management of chemicals and waste. Support towards improved plastics management, sewage management as well as community approaches for improved solid waste management helped Jamaica meet its obligations under the Cartagena Convention. Special focus was placed on alignment with international conventions (UNEP, 2018a).

The improvement of the waste management is a significant challenge for Sint Maarten. As such, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Nature and Environment has prioritized finding a permanent solution to frequent dump fires that plague its landfill site and the health of surrounding communities. While a significant effort has been made to rehabilitate the territory after the hurricanes of 2017, there is still more to be done to clear boat wrecks and debris. As part of efforts to improve waste management, the Government intends to seek the cooperation of its French counterpart to the north, introduce recycling and implement regional best practices (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). A debris management plan was created in 2017 to initially clear the British Virgin Islands of all Hurricane Irma debris to ensure public health, safety, a clean environment and economic recovery. The debris stream has been categorized into 13 types and has been prioritized for collection based on risk level. Most of the debris streams are recyclable (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2018).

UNEP CEP notes a number of recent successful initiatives aimed at decreasing marine waste including: (i) the introduction of an updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in 2014; and (ii) the execution of pilot projects in Barbados, Guyana, and Saint Lucia on Marine Litter and Integrated Solid Waste Management (UNEP CEP, 2017b). Trash Free Waters International is also a recent effort to implement a more integrated solid waste management approach. Developed initially as a domestic programme for the United States, the expansion to the Caribbean region was announced at the "Our Oceans Conference" in 2015 (UNEP CEP, 2017c). Jamaica is presently conducting a pilot project led by a non-profit organization related to the management of plastics and organic wastes in select communities in the country under the Trash Free Waters Initiative (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

## 5. Nuclear safety and e-waste

ITU provided assistance to the Caribbean region in designing e-waste management policies and regulatory frameworks in 2017. Technical assistance for each country was carried out in two phases. Phase one included the assessment of current e-waste treatment and the forecast of e-waste volumes and value. Phase two

focused on designing and commissioning of draft e-waste management policies and regulatory framework documents (ITU, 2018).

Notably, Jamaica introduced a Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act in 2015. IAEA has been supporting nine Caribbean Member States towards establishing radiation safety regulatory infrastructure and cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources by training more than 100 persons in national and regional training courses and expert missions, as well as by enabling these participants to take part in international conferences since 2016. National counterparts in the Caribbean gained knowledge in the methodology for examining, characterizing and recording data on sealed radioactive sources, during seven IAEA expert missions to the region. Data collected is helping to build the national inventories of radiation sources in accordance with International Safety Standards and guidance. In addition to these capacity building actions, the IAEA is currently procuring a variety of radiation detection equipment for countries in the region (IAEA, 2018).

## **K. Health and non-communicable diseases (SDG 3)**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being. It also recognises that the burden and threat of communicable diseases and NCDs remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for SIDS in the twenty-first century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, the SAMOA Pathway calls upon the international community to support the national actions of SIDS in addressing communicable diseases and NCDs (paragraphs 72 and 73).*

### **1. Regional Overview**

Regional approaches such as joint training, phased implementation across a subset of Member States, sharing of lessons, as well as pooling of resources are increasingly recognized as an effective way to implement political decisions made by regional bodies. Similarly, sub regional public goods are also valued as a cost-effective way of reaching a large number of SIDS that have limited capacity for developing complex programmes needed for a sustainable response to regional health challenges (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

PAHO/WHO has provided technical support to the identification of the strategic priorities related to health in the CARICOM Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH). The prioritization was based on a comprehensive situation analysis and identification of critical areas for investment in regional public goods. The main health priorities of the Region as defined by Member States are the following: Health Systems for Universal Health Coverage; Safe, resilient, healthy environments; Health and well-being of Caribbean people throughout life course; Data and evidence for decision making and accountability; and Partnership and Resource Mobilization for Health (ibid.). These strategic priority areas for CCH IV were defined to address more than one health development challenge and encourage interdisciplinary or inter-sectoral response; align with the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway; and integrate CARICOM issue-specific plans and policies (ibid.).

However, implementing the SAMOA Pathway and advancing the regional health agenda requires a “whole-of-government approach”. Major challenges for implementation, particularly as it relates to NCD risk factors, include interference from the industry, ensuring policy coherence, and lack of political will to advance laws and regulations. There is also the need to promote constructive policy dialogue between the Ministries of Health and other sectors, including Ministries of Finance, Trade and Foreign Affairs (ibid.).

### **2. Health sector governance and universal health coverage**

Many of Caribbean SIDS are taking concrete steps towards the provision of Universal Health Coverage. Barbados is currently working on implementing Universal Health Care with their 2017-2021 Strategic Health Care Plan. Trinidad and Tobago, with the support of the UNDP, is also working on the Primary Health Care Initiative. The programme, carded to end in December 2019, aims at enhancing the delivery of healthcare services with the aid of UN Volunteers medical professionals (UNDP, 2018b).

The British Virgin Islands launched its National Health Insurance (NHI) initiative in 2015 while Bahamas’ NHI was launched in 2016 (NHI Bahamas, 2017; OECS, 2018a). In that same year, the 2016-2020 National Strategic Health Plan was approved by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda to make the move toward optimal health for all residents. Saint Kitts and Nevis is continuing work to establish a NHI Scheme

to ensure access to medical treatment to all persons regardless of socio-economic and employment classification (Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2018). Grenada and Saint Lucia are also actively pursuing such an arrangement (OECS, 2018a).

The OECS Growth and Development Strategy focuses on a strategic framework to enhance the chances of citizens from OECS Member States having longer, healthier and more productive lives. The strategy to achieve this is focused on four strategic clusters namely: Encouraging Healthy Environments and Health Empowerment; Improving Equity in Access; Ensuring Accessible Information for the Strategic Governance of Health Systems; and Promoting Long-term Investment. It must be noted that the OECS established a Health Unit in its Human and Social Cluster in 2017 and put forward the Fort de France Declaration on Health as a roadmap to ensuring Health for All (OECS, 2018a).

CARICOM Member States endorsed the PAHO/WHO Caribbean Roadmap on Human Resources for Universal Health at the 2017 CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) and ten Caribbean countries have (or are in the process of finalizing) Human Resource Plans for Universal Health. The Roadmap provides an opportunity for Member States to align the national Human Resources for Health Plans with the PAHO/WHO Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

CARICOM Member States agreed to consider a high-level dialogue on improving efficiency in health service delivery and sustainable financing that will improve the resilience of health systems. The OECS Council of Ministers of Health in 2017 established a Technical Working Group on health financing to facilitate discussions on a sub-regional OECS approach to NHI. PAHO/WHO provided support to the OECS working group to review current health financing arrangements and conducted case studies on health financing and health service delivery models for universal health coverage. The COHSOD decision and the OECS working group provide the platform to further present the results of both initiatives to the OECS Heads of Government and then expand to CARICOM Heads of Government (*ibid.*). The COHSOD also urged Member States to finalize and commence implementation of their NAPs on antimicrobial resistance, in accordance with Resolution CD54.R15 Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance. PAHO/WHO provided technical support to CARICOM Member States in the development of national action plans on antimicrobial resistance and advancing implementation (*ibid.*).

Notably, PAHO/WHO is conducting a survey of migration and mobility in 16 Caribbean countries to quantify the level of mobility of health professionals within CARICOM and the migration of health professionals out of the Caribbean. The outcomes, which are expected for December 2018, are expected to inform regional policy on migration in the Caribbean and contribute to the implementation of the WHO/PAHO/WHO Global Code 2010 on International Recruitment of Health Workers (*ibid.*).

Further, in collaboration with CARPHA and support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PAHO/WHO established a Caribbean Regulatory System in order to strengthen regulatory capacities for medicines, including vaccines and improve access to safe, effective and high quality essential medicines. This System has for example enabled Trinidad and Tobago to procure recommended HIV medicines that in five of seven cases were from 8 per cent – 25per cent less expensive than the lowest price per unit in the previous tender cycle (*ibid.*). This sub regional approach tackles common challenges of the CARICOM Member States, including the quality of medicines, the lack of human, technical and financial resources. PAHO/WHO is also supporting CARPHA to launch a post market surveillance program to test medicines at the CARPHA lab and strengthen pharmacovigilance and improve the reporting of substandard and falsified medicines (*ibid.*).

### **3. Non-communicable diseases**

The implementation of the measures to prevent and control NCDs and their risk factors are still very incipient in the SIDS countries. There is a need for accelerating the process if the target for the decrease of premature mortality due to NCDs is going to be reached as per the WHO and PAHO/WHO Plan of Actions to Prevent and Control NCDs for 2025 and the SDG #3 for 2030. The 2017 evaluation of the Progress Indicators developed to comply with the UN Resolution 68/300 show the number of PAHO/WHO SIDS countries that have fully complied with the indicators. To date, nine countries have an operational multi-sectoral national strategy/action plan that integrates the major NCDs and their shared risk factors (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

Currently, a limited number of commissions for the prevention of NCDs are still active in the region (Bahamas, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Dominica and Grenada).

In 2015, the Cabinet of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda approved a national policy for the prevention and control of NCDs. Within this was a Medical Benefits Scheme with activities for NCD prevention that is aimed at youths. Similarly, in 2015, the Bahamas established the Healthy Bahamas Coalition which serves as the NCD Commission. One notable initiative was the F.I.T initiative which challenges the population to collectively lose 200,000 kg of weight, consume 4 gallons of water on a weekly basis and collective walk 2 billion steps by the end of 2018 (Healthy Bahamas Coalition, 2017).

In August 2017, Guyana enacted the National Tobacco Bill which included smoking bans in all indoor public places and workplaces. Implementing three out of four of the “tobacco-control best buys” identified in WHO Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs, the Bill introduced seeks to improve public health awareness and ban on all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship in Guyana (United Nations Caribbean, 2017a). While Guyana has made several gains in its health sector, the following challenges still remain: (i) frequent stock outs of drugs and medical supplies for NCDs; (ii) absence of an active cancer control and prevention plan; (iii) limited financial resources to offset expenses to ensure maximum output in treatment and care for patients with chronic NCDs; and (iv) insufficient access to health care in hinterland regions (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

CARICOM Heads of Government catalysed a global movement by convening the first ever summit on NCDs and issuing the Port of Spain Declaration: *Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of Chronic NCDs*. As part of the 2018 Third UN High Level Meeting on NCDs, Caribbean Heads of Government have agreed to host a side event during the Meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the Port-of-Spain Declaration. Heads of Government endorsed the following six priorities for the Caribbean to negotiate in the Outcome Political Document on NCDs:

- Establishing and maintaining a smoke-free status for the Region.
- Implementing policies geared to preventing childhood obesity, including for health-promoting school environments and front-of-package labelling.
- Promoting the elimination of cancer of the cervix.
- Support for mitigation of post-disaster vulnerabilities related to NCDs in particular nutrition, treatment and care.
- Increasing international financing and technical support.
- Strengthening accountability in particular through national coordinating mechanisms (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

The CARICOM Secretariat, with collaboration from PAHO/WHO, developed a paper on the status of and progress of NCDs in the Caribbean towards global recommendations as an input to the Heads of Government meeting. The Heads of Government recognized that the Community had not made sufficient progress towards implementing the actions recommended in the Port of Spain Declaration and recommended that Member States support policies, which promote harm reduction, such as taxation of tobacco, alcohol, and sugary foods as a fiscal measure to support the health sector (PAHO/WHO, 2018a). CARICOM Heads of Government recommendations on this subject, have provided the needed impetus for strengthening inter-sectoral action, including work with the CCJ on health and law related to sugar sweetened tax legislation. In addition, the G20 Health Working Group focuses on “child overweight and obesity” as an area of particular interest and CARICOM has been invited by Argentina to the G20 Health Group Meetings (ibid.). CARICOM’s COHSOD recognized Chile’s leadership in front-of-package labelling as a useful tool to address childhood obesity and approved the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development between CARICOM and Chile. As a result of this agreement, two CARICOM countries are in the process of submitting proposals for front-of-package labelling to the COTED (ibid.).

### Box 19 Progress in reducing NCDs

#### National NCD targets for 2025

- Fourteen countries had set time-bound national targets based on WHO recommendations.
- Ten countries have a functioning system for generating reliable cause-specific mortality data on a routine basis.
- Two countries have a STEPs survey or comprehensive health examination survey every five years.

#### People-centred primary health care and universal health coverage

- Five countries have evidence-based national guidelines/protocols/standards for the management of major NCDs through a primary care approach, recognized/approved by government or competent authorities.
- One country has provision of drug therapy, including glycaemic control, and counselling for eligible persons at high risk to prevent heart attacks and strokes, with emphasis on the primary care level.

#### Implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

- No country has reached the threshold of tobacco taxes defined by WHO.
- Five countries are totally smoke free in indoors public and work places.
- Five countries have big graphics health warnings in tobacco packages.
- Two countries have a total ban on advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products.
- One country has implemented well designed and long-term media campaigns.

#### Implementation of measures to reduce unhealthy diets

- One country has adopted national policies to reduce population salt/sodium consumption
- One country has adopted national policies to limit saturated fatty acids and virtually eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids in the food supply.
- One country has implemented WHO set of recommendations on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children.
- One country has fully implemented the International Code of Marketing of breast milk substitutes.
- Twelve countries have implemented at least one recent national public awareness and motivational communication campaign for physical activity behavioural change.

#### Implementation of measures to reduce the harmful use of alcohol as per the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol

- Two countries restricted physical availability of retailed alcohol.
- No country has bans or comprehensive restrictions on exposure to alcohol advertisement.
- Two countries have increased taxes on alcohol.

Source: PAHO/WHO (2018a)<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Tobacco information updated from 2018 Tobacco Control Regional Report (in press).

As part of a multi-regional programme between WHO, the EU and ACP States, PAHO/WHO is developing a roadmap for the “African Caribbean Pacific Programme to strengthen health systems for universal health coverage strengthening the NCD response” and is mobilizing resources for a programme to start in early 2019. Both the poor and the non-poor experience financial catastrophe from NCD-related medical care, despite having medical coverage. There are strong interconnections between NCDs and Universal Health Coverage and the two will be addressed in an integrated manner (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

## 4. Communicable diseases

The Strategy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Congenital Syphilis (Resolution CD50.R12) indicates that the basic conditions for eliminating these two diseases are within reach of Caribbean SIDS. The adoption of Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 90-90-90 Strategy saw a decline at the end of 2014 in Guyana’s mother to child transmission of HIV to 2 per cent (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2015). Their Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme is now fully integrated into their Maternal Child Care Programme (UNICEF, n.d.). June 2015 saw Cuba as being the first country to achieve EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis (WHO, 2015). In 2017, the following countries and territories also received validation: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Monserrat, as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis (PAHO/WHO, 2018a). A WHO Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (2016-2021) expands the EMTCT initiative, leveraging the maternal and child health platform to include the elimination of hepatitis B and Chagas disease. Additionally, the OECS updated its Regional Guidelines for HIV and Tuberculosis in 2017 (OECS, 2018a).

The Bahamas’ National HIV/AIDS Programme, ‘HIV Continued Medical Education for Physicians’, was launched in 2018 and will reinforce their ‘Treat All’ Policy. The latter propagates that private and public health facilities are equipped to provide the complete range of primary care services to persons with HIV

while the former seeks to train health workers to accomplish these goals. Belize also has a HIV/AIDS programme which offers voluntary counselling, testing, and access to therapy, medications, monitoring and evaluation for quality care sustainability (PAHO/WHO, 2018b).

Given the priorities outlined in regional frameworks such as the 2014 CARICOM Regional Integrated Strategic Framework to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy in the Caribbean and the CARICOM Strategic Framework for HIV Prevention, UNFPA has collaborated with state actors to support implementation of sexual and reproductive health policies in nine countries (BVI, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia); policies for reintegration of adolescent mothers into the formal school system in two countries (Jamaica and Guyana) (UNFPA, 2018).

The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), has been integral in reducing transmission in the region. Charged with monitoring the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework, it provides critical oversight and management for a number of projects including the Global Fund Grant, the Knowledge for Health (K4H) and Local Capacity Initiative (LCI) (PANCAP, 2017). PANCAP has heightened its outreach and advocacy activities. In partnership with Caribbean Faith Leaders, consultations were held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2017 on ending HIV/AIDS in the region. Here, faith leaders agreed to establish a virtual regional consultative group for implementing recommendations agreed in previous consultations. Additionally, the PANCAP held the Fifth Meeting of National AIDS Programme (NAP) Managers and Key Partners in March 2017 to further integrate civil society organizations into the planning and decision-making process (PANCAP, 2017).

Workshops have been consistently held across the region, including the PANCAP/K4Health Project one-day workshop on ‘Data for Decision Making’ in March 2017. Youth engagement is critical to the organization, as evidenced by the PANCAP Meeting of Caribbean Youth Leaders on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS in 2017. PANCAP has also sought to engage with legislative members, hosting a Regional Parliamentarians Forum held on 30 - 31 May 2017 in Kingston, Jamaica. Forty-nine regional parliamentarians were engaged, and several recommendations gained towards reducing stigma, discrimination and HIV transmission (*ibid.*).

Partnerships with other regional organizations have been entered into by PANCAP. Under the Regional Strategic Assistance Agreement between CARICOM and USAID, the body has carried out a number of capacity building initiatives with the UWI Health Economic Unit and CSOs. For example, their LCI project, which ran from May 2016 to December 2017, delivered policy advocacy trainings in five participating Member States (The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) to 148 participants from 58 CSOs (*ibid.*).

Additionally, with a view to preventing HIV/AIDS among drug users and supporting treatment efforts, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides technical assistance to Dominican Republic Authorities in the implementation of the first ever National Treatment Programme with Substitutive Medication, which is currently benefitting 43 heroin users in the country (UNODC, 2018). UNHRC has liaised through its partners and with Governments that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to anti-retroviral medication. Important also is on the status of treatment prior to entry (UNHRC, 2018).

Haiti’s Cholera outbreak in 2010 has had lasting effects on the country’s population. In August 2016, the former Secretary-General announced a new UN approach to cholera in Haiti. The new approach has two tracks. Track 1 involves intensifying the UN’s support to reduce and ultimately end the transmission of cholera; improve access to care and treatment; and address the longer-term issues of water, sanitation and health systems in Haiti. This is built around the Government of Haiti’s Medium-Term Cholera Elimination Plan (Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti, 2018).

Since the peak of the outbreak in 2010, there has been a 99per cent reduction in weekly transmission - from 18,500 cases per week at the peak to a weekly average of 263 cases in 2017, and 77 in the first quarter of 2018. Deaths have dropped by over 99.5per cent (*ibid.*). The decrease in new cases resulted largely from improved coordination, field surveillance, targeted support to priority cholera treatment centres, rapid response (24-48 hours) to detected cases and, ultimately, predictable funding in 2017 for the rapid response teams. Despite this very encouraging result, the risk of outbreaks still persists. It is critical that the intensified cholera control efforts be maintained throughout 2018 and 2019 in order to continue to save lives and reduce the transmission of cholera to zero, in line with the targets set in the national elimination plan (*ibid.*).

Track 2 involves developing a package of material assistance and support for those Haitians most directly affected by cholera and is designed to be a tangible expression of the UN's recognition and acknowledgement of the suffering of the people of Haiti as a result of the cholera outbreak. Since the outbreak, the UN and the international community have spent over \$680 million to fight cholera in Haiti (ibid.). Haiti has welcomed the UN Secretary-General's initiative on cholera which has raised \$7.7 million thus far for the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MINUJUSTH, 2018a).

## **5. Maternal and infant health**

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados was certified by the WHO in 2017 as being a Baby Friendly Hospital. Low Maternal Mortality Ratios and Infant Mortality Rates were garnered through various efforts national efforts. Some include training seminar for neonatal nurses, a free immunization policy by the Ministry of Health, legal abortion laws, free HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment for pregnant women, free prenatal, primary care and the development of a Reproductive Health Committee to advise on maternal issues (WHO & World Bank, 2017).

Countries such as Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis have started identifying gaps in their own policy and training process, in order to achieve this same distinction. Belize has a low Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate which has been attributed to an increase in Baby Friendly Hospitals, 23per cent growth in vaccination coverage, exclusive breastfeeding up to six months of age and the implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses initiative (ibid.).

Maternal mortality rates in the Dominican Republic remain high (above 100 per 100,000 live births) while mortality among girls and boys under 5 has declined, albeit slowly (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). Neonatal mortality (in girls and boys of 28 days of age or less) is still high and largely explains childhood mortality. At the same time, the rate is particularly high in the provinces and in the poorest households, as well as in those in which the mother has less education (ibid.).

## **6. Mental health**

In June 2018, CDB and PAHO signed an agreement to enhance capacity for mental health and psycho-social support in disaster management in the Caribbean through regional and in-country training initiatives. Additionally, the project aims to: (i) establish of a roster of regional mental health professionals who can be quickly mobilised to impacted countries; (ii) strengthen competencies to conduct mental health and psychosocial support needs assessments; (iii) create action plans for mental health care and psychosocial support in disaster management; and (iv) increase awareness and acceptance of the need for mental health services in the aftermath of a disaster (PAHO, 2018b).

Recognizing the trauma that natural disasters inflict on vulnerable populations, and especially children, UNICEF provided 13,042 children with psychosocial support through the Return to Happiness Programme in a number of hurricane battered territories (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b).

## **7. Health facilities and technology**

### **a) ICTs and smart health facilities**

PAHO/WHO is supporting the CARICOM Roadmap on Information Systems for Health. The roadmap endorsed by the COHSOD identifies the main activities to advance an integrated and interoperable information systems for health. PAHO/WHO is also facilitating the development of a platform of health systems innovations toward universal health, which includes the documentation and dissemination of country case studies on health systems innovation. All innovations documented and reviewed reflect important investments in health through new partnerships in the community and the use of ICTs (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

Additionally, the PAHO/WHO Smart Hospital initiative established an integrated approach to building and retrofitting health care facilities to ensure that they are environmentally friendly and disaster resilient. With financial assistance from UK DFID, the Smart Hospitals Project Phase II is being implemented in seven countries: Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This project aims at cost saving on health care and utility bills, reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, enhancing physical access to hospitals, improving access to safe water and improving safety conditions. By 2020, at least 45 health facilities will be retrofitted in the project country using "smart" (safe and green) standards (guided by the Smart Hospitals Toolkit) (ibid.).

The project is accompanied with a communication strategy to better target messages to the community. Knowledge surveys of health facility staff and communities are being conducted to understand awareness levels. The results of the survey will enhance the public information strategy and communication messaging that targets different segments of the population. Suriname's Ministry of Health is also gearing up to implement safe and green measures on three health facilities with the financial assistance of Global Affairs Canada and technical support from PAHO/WHO (ibid.).

#### b) **Chemical and radio nuclear treatment**

The OECS Growth and Development Strategy tabled in 2017 outlines that body's commitment to a regional approach to meeting chemical and radio nuclear aspects of International Health Regulations in collaboration with France and French Territories (OECS, 2018a). Additionally, CARICOM's COHSOD has acknowledged the increase in State Party membership to the IAEA in order to develop capacities to deal with radio-nuclear events. In view of this, PAHO/WHO provides technical cooperation to CARICOM Member States to strengthen International Health Regulation core capacities, particularly in areas such as chemical events and facilitating membership to the IAEA (PAHO/WHO, 2018a).

Extensive support has been provided by IAEA to Cuba to strengthen national capabilities in diagnosis and treatment of cancer among other diseases. Technical cooperation capacity building actions and technology transfers are impacting the successful introduction of positron emission tomography/computed tomography technology, nuclear cardiology services in the national reference centre, production of hydrogel membranes for burnt patients and other severe skin pathologies as well as the production of radiopharmaceuticals for nuclear medicine. IAEA is also supporting the reestablishment of the public nuclear medicine service at the University Hospital of West Indies in Jamaica by providing equipment, trainings and expert advice through national technical cooperation projects (IAEA, 2018).

In 2016, IAEA provided emergency response to Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica affected by the outbreak and rapid spread of the Zika virus in the region. Nuclear-derived early detection tools and training were made available to Latin American and Caribbean countries, to enable rapid identification of cases of the Zika virus. The IAEA's support involved the transfer of technology for virus detection based on Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction and procurement of related machines for affected countries in the region. Additionally, consumables, technical advice and training on how to use the technology were provided (IAEA, 2018).

A number of Practical Arrangements were signed between IAEA and regional agencies to enhance nuclear technology cooperation. The first, a partnership with CARPHA, was formalised in June 2017. Here, the objective is to collaborate, among others, in the application of radiation medicine for diagnosis, treatment and management of cancer and cancer control; collaborate in the field of insect pest management practices through the application of the IAEA Sterile Insect Technology; and collaborate to provide assistance for the implementation of the International Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources in support to the Health Regulations (IAEA, 2018).

## **L. Gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5)**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and are a driver of economic growth in SIDS. Women can be powerful agents of change (paragraph 76).*

### **1. Frameworks and monitoring**

The SAMOA Pathway re-emphasised the importance of promoting and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sectors in SIDS. Some specific areas are mentioned, such as elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; the inclusion of a gender perspective in priority areas of sustainable development; access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as access to assets, land and other forms of property, including entrepreneurship of MSMEs; participation at all levels of decision-making processes; and equal access to good-quality education and health care, including sexual and reproductive health and services, disaster preparedness and response; among others. Therefore, the current review of the SAMOA Pathway is read in conjunction with other frameworks, including progress made by Caribbean Countries in the implementation of political agreements at the global level, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; at the regional level, the

Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030; the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; as well as binding-instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), the Belem do Para Convention, among others.

While Caribbean countries have made commendable progress on areas such as improving women's access to health, productive employment and access to education, other areas require more attention, in particular concerning all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and participation at all levels. The ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean provides a platform for regional comparative analysis through a series of indicators that cover women's economic, political and physical autonomies that allows in identifying progress made by Caribbean countries as well as challenges that still remain. The ECLAC Observatory analyses the fulfilment of international gender-equality goals and targets and increase their visibility by making strategic gender inequality indicators and analytical tools for policymaking available to Government; maintain up-to-date oversight of women's physical, economic and political-decision-making as it pertains to gender equality. It also provides annual reports offering a diagnosis of inequalities between men and women in key areas such as: paid and unpaid work, time use and poverty; access to decision-making and political representation; gender-based violence (GBV); and health and reproductive rights<sup>43</sup> which was useful for the present review.

## 2. Equality and governance

Despite the significant advances that have been made in gender equality, the Dominican Republic finds it necessary to complete the legal framework and develop specific actions that contribute to reducing gender inequality and discrimination. Towards this end, there is a Ministry of Women with an explicit legal mandate to promote equality while the country's National Development Strategy aims "to build a culture of equality and equity between men and women". However, there are no specific laws against discrimination and violence against women (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

In Guyana, the Gender Affairs Bureau was established in 2015 and there is a Regional Gender Affairs Committee in each of the 10 administrative regions. Guyana's National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy can also be seen as a major achievement for the nation. The policy is expected to receive Cabinet approval by July of 2018. However, Guyana's major challenges in the advancement of gender equality are persistent despite on-going efforts to address them. The main challenges have been unprecedented levels of interpersonal violence, ineffective implementation of laws, limited access to justice for all Guyanese in particular those in hinterland, disaggregated data to enhance policy development and limited interventions to advance gender equality and social-cultural norms and practices (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a). It must be noted that civil society groups play a critical role in addressing gender equality and women empowerment issues in Guyana. Numerous partnerships were developed and continue to exist with many civil society groups. Some of the more notable ones include: Childlink, United Bricklayers, Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association, Help and Shelter, Women Across Differences, Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO), among others (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

In keeping with the 2016-2030 National Development Strategy (Vision 2030), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of developing a National Policy on Gender and Development (Government of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016). However, despite these positive advances, the Government recognised the need to institute gender focal points at each Ministry and build capacity for gender focal points and staff working on gender related issues by 2030.

## 3. Political participation

The ability of both men and women to participate fully and equally in political and decision-making processes is a critical premise for achieving gender equality. In this context, the number of women holding ministerial cabinet positions is a direct expression of the political will to promote gender parity and the leadership shown by the government. The Montevideo Consensus reiterates the commitment made by Caribbean countries to strengthen the autonomy of women in decision-making processes that impact their lives (Priorities 48, 52 and 55), through parity and other mechanisms to ensure their access to power in

<sup>43</sup> See: <https://oig.cepal.org/en/about-observatory>

electoral systems; the adoption of legislative measures and institutional reforms to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative harassment, in government and private entities.

ECLAC notes that with the exception of Cuba, Grenada, Haiti and Puerto Rico, women still account for less than 20 per cent of cabinet members in the majority of Caribbean countries (ECLAC, 2018c). Despite the existence of obligatory quotas for women in candidacies in the Dominican Republic, their participation in Congress, the Executive and Local Government is low (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). However, progress has been reported, for instance, in Guyana, where women occupy key ministerial positions and represent 52 per cent of the permanent secretaries, and more than 30 per cent of regional democratic councils.<sup>44</sup> In addition, the revised Local Government Act enables political parties to submit a list of candidates which must comprise at least twenty-five women who will be eligible for selection<sup>45</sup>. This progress is also related to the work being done by organisations such as the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership at the regional level (with significant support from UN Women), the Women Leadership Institute in Guyana, the Institute for Women in Leadership in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Women Political Caucus in Jamaica.

Cognizant of this inequity, the Bahamas' Department of Gender and Family Affairs has begun the process of implementing policies intended to strengthen women's representation at all decision-making levels (CARICOM, 2016a). Additionally, while the Government of Belize introduced a Revised National Gender Policy (of Belize) in May 2017, it acknowledges that more work is required to integrate women into political and business leadership positions within the national landscape and have also been taking steps to address this issue (Government of Belize, 2017).

The Women in Politics Project, flagship project of the National Women's Commission of Belize, which has trained close to 100 women between 2009-2014, has seen much fruits with women represented at the highest levels of government and is a "good" practice in the region. The Caribbean Women in Leadership Programme has also done its share to advance women's political representation. Country specific investments must be made in women if they are to realize their level of equality with men (Beijing Platform for Action). In the political sphere where patriarchy governs the rules, spaces not being made for women to take part in political decision-making at the highest level is not only a form of gender-based discrimination but more so a violation of their human rights. The UN Committee of experts which monitors CEDAW has recommended to all CARICOM countries to adopt Temporary Special Measures to fast track women's political leadership as a way of levelling the political playing field with men (CARICOM, 2018a).

In June 2016, UN Women supported the Eighth Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas held in Quito, Ecuador. A training session was held for ParlAmericas' Anglophone membership on applying gender and intersectionality to parliamentary work. Participating Caribbean Parliamentarians were drawn from Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The objective was to give parliamentarians practical skills to apply gender and the intersections of class, ethnicity and all other identities in their daily work to ensure the achievement of the SDGs (UN Women, 2018).

#### 4. Economic empowerment and autonomy

Available data on women's participation in entrepreneurship activities show variations across Caribbean countries. For example, the World Bank's 2010 enterprise surveys show that female ownership of small firms was uneven, ranging from 76 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to 58 per cent in the Bahamas and Guyana, 38 per cent in Jamaica, 41 per cent in Dominica and only 18 per cent in Suriname. According to the World Bank, women represented only 35 per cent of Guyana's workforce (World Bank, 2018b). Further, Guyanese women are still not guaranteed their professional positions once they return from maternity leave (ibid.).

As outlined in the UNDP Jamaica's 2017 Annual Report, gender mainstreaming has been promoted within the Private Sector with the launch of the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme; an initiative introduced in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Bureau of Gender Affairs. The programme aims to "create equitable conditions for both men and women and to establish environments where women's work and contributions are equally valued." To date, 6 entities have confirmed their interest in participating in the programme, including Jamaica's Chamber of Commerce (UNDP, 2017).

<sup>44</sup> Guyana: Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, 2013-2018, p.35.

<sup>45</sup> Guyana, CEDAW/C/GUY/9 (17 April 2018), para. 69.

Notably, Belizean women have been the beneficiaries of initiatives aimed at boosting their autonomy. Apart from training and credit opportunities (accessed through Small Farmers and Business Bank, the Development Finance Corporation and the Belize Enterprise for Sustained Technology), Belizean women who wish to become entrepreneurs can seek to access funding from the CDB and facilitated by the Centre for Employment Training (CDB, 2018b).

International Girls in ICT Day, an initiative backed by all ITU Member States, aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICTs, enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector. Not only are jobs in the ICT sector lifting women out of poverty, but a more gender-balanced sector offers fulfilling mid and high-level careers and enables highly talented women to springboard to the top of the career ladder. Across every corner of the globe, events were undertaken to celebrate ITU's International Girls in ICT Day on April 4th. The Caribbean was no less engaged (ITU, 2018).

Elimination of discrimination in employment, as well as gender equality, is a core mandate of the ILO and these principles are integrated across all areas of the ILO's work. For Domestic Workers in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana – the ILO has been making progress with its partners, in particular workers' organizations, to improve working conditions in line with the ILO Convention No. 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189)<sup>46</sup>. This Convention recognizes that domestic work is often undervalued and invisible and mainly carried out by women and girls are particularly vulnerable to discrimination in respect of conditions of employment (ILO, 2018).

Jamaica ratified C189 in October 2016 and the ILO has been working with the Jamaica Household Workers Union to strengthen its capacity to advocate for its implementation. UN Women provided significant support to this Union to lobby for the ratification C189. Guyana also ratified the Convention in 2013. The ILO has been working with Red Thread, an NGO which advocates for the rights of domestic workers, to assist Guyana in implementation of the provisions of the Convention. It has provided assistance to create a cooperative for domestic workers. In May 2017, Red Thread, in consultation with the Ministry of Social Protection, formulated a service workers cooperative. An interim management committee was also established in May. The cooperative will allow domestic workers, the majority of whom are female, to reap benefits of collectivism, including the right to organise and fight for better working conditions and treatment by employers. The cooperative will offer improved cleaning services to its clients as a result of the technical assistance provided, such as training in improved cleaning methodology using eco-friendly products, workers' rights, business planning, marketing, financial planning, among other areas. This will contribute to improved productivity, better working conditions and decent work for domestic workers (ILO, 2018).

In addition to the above, the ILO assisted national stakeholders to develop two model contracts for domestic workers, in September 2017. The model service contracts will be used by the cooperative to promote the engagement of domestic workers as contractors. The contract was developed in line with C189, relevant national labour laws, and in consultation with the clients of the cooperative. This product is vital to the workers' cooperative particularly as it seeks to ensure that the domestic workers are treated fairly in employment relationships and with greater respect and dignity (ILO, 2018).

Similarly, in Trinidad and Tobago, the ILO has supported the National Union for Domestic Employees (NUDE) to develop a domestic workers cooperative in January 2014 the Service Workers Centre Cooperative (SWCC), whose objective is to better advocate for higher wages and better working conditions for domestic workers. The ILO has continued to support building capacity of the cooperative and assisted them with developing a business plan in 2016, which included marketing and financial plans, to ensure its sustainability. In addition, as part of the improvement of services, the SWCC began to offer specialized cleaning services using eco-friendly products. Furthermore, the SWCC developed a model contract for domestic workers in October 2017. Although Trinidad and Tobago has not yet ratified the Convention, the ILO provides support to create awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention and its implementation, where possible (ILO, 2018).

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working with countries to promote the identification and documentation of asylum-seekers and refugees in several countries in the Caribbean, including women and girls, in order to reduce their vulnerability to labour exploitation and trafficking, and

<sup>46</sup> C189 is a convention setting labour standards for domestic workers with main focus placed on daily and weekly rest hours, entitlement to minimum wage, protective measures against violence, minimum age of employment, and choice of abode. Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C189](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C189).

to promote access to essential services which are linked to workforce participation, including schooling for children (UNHRC, 2018).

## 5. Physical autonomy

Violence against women and girls is currently one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations. According to a 2007 regional victimization survey, violence affects a significant percentage of women and girls in the Caribbean. Notably, some 48 per cent of adolescent girls reported that sexual initiation was “forced” or “somewhat forced” in nine Caribbean countries (UNODC & World Bank, 2007). In addition, all countries in the Caribbean for which comparable data are available (Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago) experienced a rate of rape above the unweighted average of the 102 countries in a recent UNODC Crime Trends Survey (*ibid.*). Violence against women serves as a clear sign of the durability and persistence of gender inequality within culture and ideology and continues to be a major challenge towards the full attainment of the goal of gender equity (UN Women, n.d.).

In view of these issues, the Bahamas’ Ministry of Social Services and Community Development established a National Task Force for GBV. Recommendations included a Unified Family Court, GBV Prevention Program, Sexual Assault Response Team Project and a National Early Intervention Programme for Children Exposed to Violence. Additionally, Bahamian law was amended in 2016 so that Bahamian mothers could automatically confer nationality to their children (CARICOM, 2016a).

In Belize, a National GBV Plan of Action 2017-2020 was presented to Cabinet in January 2017 which incorporated the SDGs and relevant international conventions designed to eradicate all forms of GBV. One notable recent initiative was the amendment of the Criminal Code to provide for marital rape. It must be noted that while the Belizean Government aims to enforce protection measures and provide support programmes, its 2017 VNR underscores that language barriers limit access for non-English speaking victims to these services (Government of Belize, 2017). In the case of Haiti, national police statistics on rape and GBV, albeit consistently underreported, showed a decrease in incidence. The MINUJUSTH specialized police team on sexual violence and GBV continued to support advocacy efforts to professionalize the national police response in investigation, awareness-raising in preventing cases of sexual violence and GBV and treatment for victims (MINUJUSTH, 2018b).

Notably, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines introduced the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 while Barbados amended their Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Amendment Act in 2016 with significant support from UN Women and civil society organisations in the country, giving emergency protection orders to police and adopting best practices from the Commonwealth (UN Women, 2018). In Jamaica, issues surrounding gender have been prioritised through the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of Parliament in 2017 with a mandate to review 13 pieces of legislation such as the Sexual Offences Act, the Child Pornography (Prevention) Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act (Government of Jamaica, 2018). In that same year, Antigua and Barbuda launched the Support and Referral Centre under the Directorate of Gender Affairs. The Centre is the first of its kind in the OECS and the relevant services will now be offered under one roof. The Centre has provided services to over 300 women thus far. UN Women supported Antigua and Barbuda in the technical and financial implementation of this project as implementers of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women in the Caribbean (UN Women, 2018). Similarly, during the biennium 2017-2018, Curaçao adopted and implemented a National Plan against Domestic Violence (Government of Curaçao, 2018).

UN Women and IDB recently collaborated in conducting GBV Prevalence Surveys in the region. Already completed in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, the survey is an adaptation of the WHO international prevalence survey model and will provide baseline data on the prevalence and incidence of different forms of GBV (United Nations Caribbean, 2018a). Within the context of the “Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean” pillar of the UN MSDF, a Virtual Policy Network has been re-launched with a focus on combatting GBV (UN Women, 2018). Further, UN Women has supported an Access to Justice Project with the CCJ - JURIST Project (funded by the Government of Canada) and the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers. The project aims to develop, implement and improve gender responsive systems court policies and procedures. A critical aspect has been anti-bias capacity strengthening trainings for judicial officers. The capacity strengthening training for judicial officers has resulted in gender protocols being completed in Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Sexual offences guidelines for judicial officers have also been developed (*ibid.*).

UNFPA in collaboration with CARICOM has been advocating for the development of National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies with various governments in the region, providing financial and technical support as required. These Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies are essential and long overdue. A pregnancy during childhood jeopardizes the rights, health, education and potential of these adolescents, robbing them of a better future. According to recently published data by PAHO/WHO, deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading cause of death for 15-19 year- old girls in the LAC Region (CARICOM, 2018a).

## 6. Data

Gender disaggregated data remains a persistent challenge in the sub region. Gender statistics is a major priority measure of the Montevideo Consensus on population and development (Priorities 62 and 63). All Caribbean countries have reiterated their commitment to enhance the generation of gender data and statistics, particularly in the framework of the implementation of CEDAW.<sup>47</sup>

In January 2017, the UN Women Caribbean Multi-Country Office signed an MOU with CARICOM to collaborate on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway amongst other international programmes. In line with the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan for CARICOM and the Action Plan for Statistics, the MOU sought to enhance regional data, statistics and analysis and support the implementation of the sub region's commitments as they relate to gender equality (CARICOM, 2017b). As part of its strategy to contribute to the localising of the SDGs, the Caribbean Multi-Country Office collaborated with the CARICOM Secretariat Statistics Division to develop a Gender Equality Indicators' Model. It will include indicators to measure the advancement of gender equality, the status of women and men, as well as approaches and methodologies which have been used by Member States to measure these Indicators in a systematic manner. Regular and accessible data plays a critical role in informing on whether a nation's development is impacting men and women fairly. At least four countries, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and Suriname, have already implemented the model (UN Women, 2018).

The Twenty-Second Regional Workshop of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics<sup>48</sup> was held in June 2018. The main objectives of the workshop were strengthening capacity in order to enable the collection of administrative data on GBV which includes both intra-family and domestic violence; identifying issues and concerns around GBV so as to inform data collection and disaggregation; and developing a harmonised approach to GBV data gathering and disaggregation. The meeting also brought together regional statisticians along with gender practitioners and domestic violence shelter managers to better understand why data matters and how indicators are used to measure especially Goal 5 of the SDGs which has three targets that directly speak to the elimination of violence against women and girls. A special meeting of the heads of regional Gender Bureaux and Women's Machineries also took place (CARICOM, 2018a).

A crucial part of the Gender Work Programme is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the machineries especially as it relates to having their national policies updated, e.g. their Domestic Violence Act, Gender Policies and monitoring their reporting commitments to the various international Conventions that these countries have ratified; chief among them being CEDAW. One of the outcome of this meeting was the need to have a National Gender Policy or a Sexual Harassment Act/Policy. With a recently appointed Deputy Programme Manager for Gender and Development at the CARICOM Secretariat, the region can be assured of technical expertise and a space to fast track work in this area while advancing the much needed work of gender equality, equity and women's empowerment toward 2030 and beyond (ibid.).

<sup>47</sup> Barbados, Concluding Observations CEDAW/C/BRB/CO/5-8 (24 July 2017) p.4; Suriname, CEDAW/C/SUR/Q/4-6/Add.1 (18 December 2017); Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, CEDAW/C/VCT/CO/4-8 (28 July 2015) paras.46-47.

<sup>48</sup> This meeting comes under a CARIFORUM Project, Support for Crime and Violence Prevention and Social Development, Programme Estimate No.1 funded under the 10th EDF. The project aims to strengthen the Region's capacity to prevent crime and violence through support for Crime Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Restorative Justice in CARIFORUM (CARICOM, 2018g). The activity is being executed by the Human and Social Development (HSD) Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat. Specifically, it provides the opportunity to build capacity of service providers, strengthen institutional systems and networks to effectively develop/strengthen social and situation crime prevention strategies with emphasis on areas including intra-family violence.

## 7. Women and disaster preparedness, response and risk reduction

In observance of International Day of the Girl Child 2017, UNFPA Belize, in collaboration with UNICEF and the National Women's Commission, delivered capacity building sessions to over 100 adolescent and youth on Gender and Emergency Response and Planning in line with the 2017 theme "Empower Girls: Emergency Response and Resilience Planning" (UNFPA, 2018). Many of these youths spread empowering messages that were well received on October 11, about the plight of the Girl Child to schools, municipal bodies and many underserved communities (CARICOM, 2018a).

The British Virgin Islands, in responding to the passing of Hurricane Irma and Maria, developed a Referral Pathway for GBV during and after a disaster. This was done in collaboration with UN Women. The territory's Office of Gender Affairs also led a robust program for International Women's Day 2018 to women coping with life after a disaster (Government of the British Virgin Islands, 2018). As part of the emergency response to the onslaught of hurricanes in the Caribbean in 2017, UNFPA coordinated the GBV response in many affected countries. The GBV referral pathway for survivors of sexual violence was developed in Dominica with corresponding standing operating procedures, women friendly safe spaces which offered wide range of medico-social services, clinical management of rape and syndromic treatment of sexually transmitted infections. The capacities of multi-sectoral providers were strengthened in order to mainstream GBV into national responses. In the Eastern Caribbean UNFPA also led the Protection Sub-Cluster on GBV. In a collaborative effort, UNFPA and UN Women supported governments to improve data collection on GBV in order to inform national policies, including those relevant to disaster risk reduction. On a broader scale, UNFPA has also engaged faith-based organizations, male networks and other partners to address GBV and women's empowerment (UNFPA, 2018).

To sensitize disaster emergency workers to GBV and protection risks in temporary shelters, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA supported national authorities to conduct GBV trainings. In partnership with Gender Affairs Departments in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, UNFPA facilitated multi-sectoral GBV trainings for a total of 83 front line workers, shelter managers and health care personnel between December 2017 and January 2018 (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b). UN Women has also supported comprehensive gender responsive recovery and resilience programming in the region. Initiatives have included the Nation Gender Machineries in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda in public awareness and advocacy around GBV risks and protective factors as well as the development of referral pathways in emergency situations in the Turks and Caicos Islands (UN Women, 2018).

In 2018, UN Women will support a South-South Study Tour of Caribbean National Gender Machineries; community leaders and women farmers to the Pacific during the Pacific Resilience Week; a UN Gender and Climate Change Capacity Strengthening Training with Government of Jamaica and the International Institute for Sustainable Development; and Community Gender sensitization training with a civil society partner, the Pinelands Creative Workshop, in Barbados (ibid.).

The Government of Japan has provided funding to Guyana and Dominica in February 2018 to strengthen women's disaster management capacities. Implemented by the UNDP, the US\$5 million project will be carried out over the next three years (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018). Further, US\$1 million was allocated to Barbuda to be used in strengthening physical infrastructure and providing utilities among vulnerable groups, with special focus placed on women (ECLAC, 2018h).

## M. Social development (SDGs 1, 5 & 10)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by SIDS both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and to guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The SAMOA Pathway supports SIDS in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, knowledge, information and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programme (paragraphs 78 and 79).*

## 1. Regional overview

Social development through the promotion of inclusion, autonomy and empowerment, particularly among the most vulnerable, has thus been constrained by the inadequacy of resources for social investment in such critical areas as education, sanitation, health care and housing, the provision of safety nets and opportunities for regular income through decent work and the development of skills and competencies to reflect the future that the Caribbean wants. To ensure its future sustainability, the Caribbean region must address several critical social challenges. These include tackling poverty and inequality; poor housing; unemployment, especially among youth; access to inclusive and equitable education; inadequate social protection; access to quality health and social care; and preparation for an ageing population (ECLAC, 2018c).

Human capital development, including education strategies, can play critical roles in improving Caribbean competitiveness, which was identified as a major challenge to economic performance. While Caribbean countries have experienced a general decline in Human Development Index (HDI) rankings<sup>49</sup> over a five-year period leading up to 2016, most still figure among high human development countries, with the exception of Guyana and Haiti, which fall into the medium to low human development category (ECLAC, 2018c).

Although the Dominican Republic has seen quite encouraging fiscal performance in recent years, there are still challenges to multidimensional wellbeing such as improving public services and housing and avoiding poverty relapse. At the same time, in certain regions of the country, there is a greater incidence of poverty among children and adolescents in rural areas, and among the unemployed population. To achieve more effective results, public policies will continue to deepen their emphasis on universal social security, quality of health and education services, enforcement of existing policies to better deal with gender inequalities, and on unemployment amongst the more vulnerable populations such as young women and those working under precarious conditions (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

As part of the Government of Belize's efforts to strengthen its national social protection system, it commissioned a "Comprehensive Review of Belize's Social Protection System with Policy Recommendations for System Strengthening" during the period 2016 to 2017. This initiative was carried out with financial support from UNICEF and UNDP and assessed over 48 programs related to social assistance, contributory social insurance, labour market measures, social care services and social system subsidies (Government of Belize, 2017). The report noted the following limitations: (i) weak information sharing processes and limited cross-sectoral stakeholder involvement; (ii) low coverage rates of transfer schemes; (iii) lack of staff resources for adequate implementation; and (iv) dated statistics which inhibit evidence-based policy decisions (Government of Belize, 2017).

Towards the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and ECLAC collaborated to bring attention to this issue in Trinidad and Tobago, providing a status report on the Convention's implementation to local authorities. Notably, an Accessibility Code was developed by Trinidad and Tobago's Bureau of Standards for accessibility and has been included in the regulations of the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act. Under the Act, developers submitting applications for consideration must be in compliance with the Accessibility code (United Nations Caribbean, 2018a).

The OECS Growth and Development Strategy addresses the challenges of social development experienced in the region by demographics such as children, youth and at-risk males. It also shares strategies for improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of the social development agenda as well as for increasing social inclusion among the most vulnerable. The strategies are organized into three pillars: improved access to services, expanded coverage of measures, and improved citizen security and safety (OECS, 2018a).

## 2. Unemployment and poverty eradication

The FAO estimates indicate that 30 per cent to 77 per cent of the poor in Caribbean countries are employed; persons referred to as "the working poor" in Country Poverty Assessments (FAO, 2016). As the cost of living increases, the challenges faced by these vulnerable groups further increase their insecurity. Caribbean Governments are implementing a range of programmes to address poverty and inequality. These include

<sup>49</sup> See UNDP Human Development Data (1990-2015): <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>.

cash transfer programmes, national insurance schemes, in-kind programmes (such as school meals, food baskets and medicines), active labour market policies (covering areas such as adult literacy, skills training, and small business support), social care services for persons with disabilities, older persons and victims of abuse, and community-based programmes (ECLAC, 2018c).

Notably, poverty levels in the Dominican Republic have been reduced from close to 40 per cent in 2003 to levels of 25.5 per cent for monetary poverty and 21 per cent for current multidimensional poverty. In turn, extreme poverty is below 6 per cent (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). The high level of economic growth in the Dominican Republic, which on average has exceeded 5 per cent of GDP for many years, has contributed to decreased unemployment. Indeed, unemployment has been falling in recent years, from a rate of 7.3 per cent in 2015 to 5.5 per cent in 2017; although the results in terms of quality employment are still not enough (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). Unemployment affects young people in particular, especially women, and poor people, who show greater difficulties of insertion into economic activity than the national average or adult men. In addition, more than half of occupations are informal, with challenges in terms of productivity, income and access to social security and pension systems. It should be noted that the services sector, which shows greater dynamism with respect to economic growth, has been characterized in the country by a low productivity (ibid.).

Data from 2015 indicates that a relatively high proportion (about a fifth) of Jamaica's population of approximately 2.7 million people are below the poverty line, with rural areas accounting for the greatest proportion. Poverty reduction strategies feature heavily in Government legislation, plans and programmes in an effort to curb its negative impacts on the population as the nation's primary resource, and the linkages to other issues such as crime. The Government of Jamaica has established a Poverty Reduction Coordinating Unit which contributed to the development of the 2018 National Poverty Reduction Programme and the National Policy on Poverty 2017. The two instruments were a response to the need to establish a framework of accountability for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of efforts to address poverty in Jamaica (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Saint Kitts and Nevis launched their Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment in December 2017 under the theme "Assessing the level of progress made towards reducing poverty and charting the course for promoting equitable growth". Here, the government indicated its intention to design and implement associated programmes within the context of the SDGs (OECS, 2017c). In 2015, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined the Multi-Dimensional Approaches to Poverty Eradication in the Eastern Caribbean Project. This project was implemented by the OECS Commission and the UNDP and sought to develop educational and vocational skills, promote job creation and self-employment within communities, while protecting the rights of the vulnerable in society. Further, this initiative aimed to collect qualitative data which could inform future policy measures, poverty reduction initiatives, and related programmes (UNDP, 2018c).

### 3. Housing, planning and post-hurricane reconstruction

One of the clearest expressions of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean is territorial heterogeneity, visible in areas such as slums and informal settlements with inappropriate housing, reflecting the deeply rooted development gaps between the rich and the poor and the inherent urban segregation it entails. It is therefore crucial to recognize that "place matters": the place where someone is born, grows up, lives, and works is an integral part of his/her development potential and will greatly influence that person's chances of living in prosperity, equality and in achieving their fullest development. New research indicates that where you live affects the life you have and is just as crucial to an individual's success as motivation and work ethic.<sup>50</sup>

Land tenure security among the poor is a critical aspect of poverty reduction for Jamaica. As such, its Land Administration Management Programme has been working to assist landowners with obtaining Certificates of Title for their properties through avenues including fee waivers and reductions, preferential property tax agreements and land surveying services. Similarly, squatting is a major challenge for Jamaica that is typically characterized by overcrowding and poor living conditions among the underprivileged. Efforts to address the issue of squatting are focused on regularisation and relocation, where possible. Most recently in 2017, the

<sup>50</sup> Stanford researcher Raj Chetty and his colleagues have shown clearly that simply moving to better neighborhoods leads to substantial "increases in children's earnings as adults, increases in college attendance and reductions in out-of-wedlock births" (2018) available at See: <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org>

Government of Jamaica announced plans to regularise of four informal settlements across the island. An estimated J\$12.5 million will also be spent to upgrade the properties and enhance the infrastructure (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

In the Dominican Republic, the proportion of the population living in slums has been reduced significantly, but still 12.1 per cent of the urban population lives in informal settlements and inadequate housing. As a result of initiatives to improve access to quality housing in areas of high poverty density, low-cost housing projects have been developed with a comprehensive vision for the social and economic inclusion of the beneficiaries. This has allowed a housing deficit reduction and improved resilience of these homes, although with localized impact in specific areas (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

The Caribbean Urban Forum<sup>51</sup> held in June 2018 assisted in streamlining the collective approach towards the finalisation and implementation of the Sub Regional Action Plan (Sub-RAP) for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>52</sup> in the Caribbean. The forum sought to underscore the importance of good-quality housing in reducing poverty and vulnerability in the Caribbean. The Sub-RAP proposes the integration of Caribbean-specific elements and prioritisations in order to provide a useful tool for orienting national and subnational sustainable urban development within the sub region (ECLAC, 2017e). Further, a “Caribbean Cooperation Programme”, a collaboration between United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and ECLAC, will draw on synergies between work programmes in support of the Sub-RAP. Within this framework, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme will be executed; an ACP initiative implemented by the UN-Habitat in collaboration with ECLAC and the Caribbean Working Group (ECLAC, 2018c).

Though the concept of “building back better” (a key pillar of the Sendai Framework for DRR), and regularly espoused in regional disaster risk management policies, is that few countries have instated legislation or regulatory frameworks to ensure and mainstream hurricane resistant construction and engineering. It is vital to address housing issues as the region’s geographical location on the route of storms and hurricanes can significantly affect livelihoods and generate substantial economic losses. Therefore, an important challenge is to systematically account for the housing situation and the economic impact of disasters in order to design policies that effectively promote resilience (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

While non-binding, the U.S. Virgin Islands produced design guidelines in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, championing the resilience of Traditional West Indian architecture as these buildings have been observed to best survive hurricane strength winds due to their peculiar roof design (Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands, 2017). Following on the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommended practices for selecting, detailing, and installing doors, windows, and storm shutters to enhance wind and water leakage resistance (FEMA, 2018).

As the issue of adequate and affordable housing was a priority before the hurricanes of 2017, their passage has exacerbated this problem for Sint Maarten. The housing waiting list at the Sint Maarten Housing and Development Foundation has increased from 1500 prior to Irma to more than 2500 post-Irma (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). The financial situation of the Foundation is fragile, resulting in little room for investment, while maintenance costs have risen significantly as a result of the damage from Hurricane Irma. However, the Government has signalled its support for construction of new affordable housing projects in various locations. In this regard, there is a need to restructure the current agreements for tasks and responsibilities between the Government and the Foundation to make the cooperation more effective (*ibid.*).

An important project aimed at the sustainability of construction of buildings in Sint Maarten, including housing, is the modernization of the building code, for which a project is currently underway with the support of the international arm of the Association of Dutch Municipalities. Further initiatives include the completion of a Spatial Development Strategy for the country as well as the establishment of zoning legislation (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). In 2017, Antigua and Barbuda proposed the “Resilience to

<sup>51</sup> The Caribbean Urban Forum has been held annually since 2011 and brings together relevant policy makers, academics, municipal managers and other urban professionals to provide a space for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and training (ECLAC, 2017e).

<sup>52</sup> The New Urban Agenda seeks to guide sustainable urban development over the next 20 years. It contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, particularly but not limited to Goal 11 of creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. See: [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42147/1/S1700845\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42147/1/S1700845_en.pdf)

hurricanes, floods and droughts in the building sector in Antigua and Barbuda” project for funding through the GCF. The proposed project seeks to implement climate-resilient technologies and interventions in public and community buildings (for example: disaster services, healthcare, fire services, police, schools and community centres) and enable climate-resilient building development in the long term (GCF, 2017).

As part of UNDP’s Build Back Better approach, the organisation partnered with authorities in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda to improve construction standards and support more resilient building code amendments (UNDP, 2018d). Additionally, UNDP assisted the British Virgin Islands in developing a Post-Irma Housing Recovery Plan. The policy assisted in streamlining reconstruction application procedures and providing construction guidelines to reduce potential damage to infrastructure from future Category 5 hurricanes. Approval was fast tracked for concrete roof designs and some wooden roof designs that met pre-approved specifications (Caribbean News Now, 2017).

The World Bank’s Housing Recovery Project for Dominica was approved in April 2018 and seeks to improve the application of resilient building practices in the housing sector. As much of Dominica’s housing did not meet building code requirements, the project seeks to address deficiencies in planning processes and impediments to the uptake of resilient building practices in the country. Additionally, the US\$40 million project will provide technical assistance and subsidies in the form of small grants for owner-driven reconstruction or replacement of houses that were classified as destroyed (World Bank, 2018c).

#### 4. Children’s and youth issues

The number of children aged 0-14 in the Caribbean has been declining since the early 1970s, and the number of youth aged 15-29 has been falling since the late 1980s. This is mainly due to falling fertility although migration also plays a role. Among 16 Caribbean countries, declines in the number of young people have been taking place, or are projected to take place, in all of them. This decline in the number of young people presents an opportunity to make real increases in investment per head in children and youth. There are a number of critical social development challenges facing the Caribbean which impact especially hard on children and youth. Children and young people are more likely to be living in poverty than older adults. They are more likely to be victims of some form of violence, including sexual violence, than older adults. Youth are more likely to be unemployed than older adults while young women, particularly those living in poverty, are at greater risk of unintended pregnancies, HIV or other sexually transmitted infections.<sup>53</sup>

Regarding the area of labour and employment, an estimated 12.8per cent of the Dominican Republic’s population between 5 and 17 years of age did some type of work in economic activities or in household chores in 2014. Child labour has since declined, although it still affects some infants of households in poverty (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). The ILO partnered with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) to publish its first Youth Activity Survey in 2018, in order to collect data on children’s engagement in economic activities. This support helped to strengthen their data collection and analysis capacities so that they could run further surveys on a more frequent basis (ILO, 2018).

ILO has supported countries in the region with activities aimed at improving their performance. One key achievement includes the prevention and elimination of child labour. The Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Saint Lucia, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago became signatories to the Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour Regional Initiative, which was initiated in 2014. This initiative is a commitment by the countries to accelerate the process towards the elimination of child labour. At the same time, it represents an innovative cooperation instrument to consolidate and sustain progress achieved, ensuring the full exercise of children’s rights in the Latin American Region. A project was implemented in 2016-17 in collaboration with the Government of Brazil, Ministries of Labour and Education, and workers’ and employers’ organizations, which focused on promoting the school to work transition and the implementation of comprehensive apprenticeship programmes as a strategy to prevent and eliminate child labour (ILO, 2018).

ILO’s Regional Initiative is a good example of south-south cooperation in the region and a cohesive sub-regional group of Caribbean Child Labour Focal Point within Ministries of Labour has been formed through countries’ involvement. This contributes to internal capacity development within the Ministries and to better participation and representation of Caribbean interests in the wider Regional Initiative, through

<sup>53</sup> Implementation of The Montevideo Consensus On Population And Development In The Caribbean: A Review Of The Period 2013 - 2018 (2018) ; available at [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/review\\_of\\_implementation\\_of\\_montevideo\\_consensus.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/review_of_implementation_of_montevideo_consensus.pdf)

professional networking and information sharing. The activities undertaken through the Regional Initiative have helped Caribbean countries take national action in their efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour. For example, in 2017 Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas signalled their intent to develop national child labour policies (ibid.).

In partnership with UNICEF, ECLAC conducted workshops on multidimensional child poverty measurement in 2016. Both Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname benefitted from this initiative (ECLAC, 2017a). In 2017, UNICEF and the OECS Commission launched a report on Child Poverty in the Eastern Caribbean Area, including Barbados, providing for the first time disaggregated poverty data on children. Additionally, UNICEF provided technical assistance to Anguilla in assessing the efficacy of social protection programmes in reducing child poverty in the territory (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b).

Youth unemployment rates have been rising for over a decade and have reached alarming levels. A recent CDB study found the average youth unemployment rate was nearly 25 per cent for the countries in the Caribbean for which data were available more than three times the adult rate of 8 per cent. Gender differences were evident, with young women experiencing unemployment rates of over 30 per cent, compared with 20 per cent for young men. (ECLAC, 2018c & CDB, 2015b).

As approximately half of the region's population is under 25 years old, it can be described as a young region. The region continues with challenges of youth unemployment, poverty, teenage pregnancy, high risk for HIV infection and crimes there are some barriers to overcome. Improvements have been made in the Education sector and the overall upward trend in youth development in the region was evident. Youth development in general, and youth unemployment in particular, have become increasingly growing concerns for Caribbean countries which are currently implementing youth policies and programmes in response to these concerns and have designed National Youth mechanisms for implementation. The region does not suffer from a shortage of policies and programmes to address the very specific needs of children and youth but, as previously noted by an ECLAC study on youth in the Caribbean, the structural lack of analysis and monitoring of the situation does not allow for targeted and efficient action for long-term successful outcomes. Despite the multiple efforts to assist policy makers to bridge this policy-practice gap, more needs to be done to ensure that the data available is analysed to provide the empirical background information for evidence-based policy formulation and monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of the efforts undertaken. Moreover, having committed to the SDGs and other SIDS-specific development platforms, Member States now need to synergise these programmes and platforms in order to guarantee the full participation of youth in the implementation and monitoring stages (ECLAC, 2018l).

ECLAC is currently conducting the Caribbean Synthesis report on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on its 20th Anniversary. One of the outputs of this report is to determine the level of implementation and engagement regarding the policies and programme geared towards youth development. The paper will also include the strides made at the 11th Commonwealth Youth Forum in April 2018, and on the declaration by signed by the Young People of the Commonwealth "Powering Our Common Future".

The Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development was held in July 2018 and combined two important processes in the subregion. Firstly, a Caribbean Youth Dialogue to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and secondly, the Caribbean's preparations for a comprehensive review of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development five years after its adoption. The forum was jointly convened by CARICOM, UNFPA, CDB, the Commonwealth and ECLAC, with the collaboration of the Caribbean Youth Regional Council (CRYC), the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps, and the Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow Ambassador Corps (UWI STAT) of the University of the West Indies. The Caribbean Youth Dialogue served as a consultative platform to address youth policies and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth policies and programmes, and other youth platforms and agreements in the Caribbean, particularly the World Programme of Action on Youth, the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2017-2022), and SDGs. The meeting served as a converging platform for policy-makers, youth experts, researchers, and representatives of civil society and youth organizations, as well the United Nation system to evaluate the implementation of youth policies and programmes and exchange best practices for the development and full participation of Caribbean youth in the sustainable development of the sub-region (ECLAC, 2018l).

The Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Directors of Youth Meeting was convened on 23 June 2018 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was attended by several players involved in youth

development including: Directors of Youth, senior government Officials, representatives from the CRYC, the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), youth development partners, stakeholders, ECLAC, CARICOM Secretariat, CDB, UWI and SALISES 50/50 Youth Research Cluster. The meeting participants discussed priorities and emerging elements of the Caribbean youth development agenda. The discussion on youth development surrounded areas of regulatory and policy environment for youth development; funding arrangements for youth development; coordination of regional youth development programmes and initiatives; regional and national institutional arrangements for youth development. The meeting concluded with the Port of Spain Statement of Priorities for Action focusing on Policy and legislative environment; funding for youth development; institutional arrangements to support youth development; regional coordination of youth development initiatives; communication and partnership engagement for youth development (ECLAC, 2018).

The OECS Youth Strategy under the brand OECS Youth Empowered Society (OECS YES) was developed based on the need for greater attention and action on issues directly affecting OECS youth. The strategy focused on the following key pillars crucial to young people: YES I Belong – Citizenship & Identity, YES I Earn – Employment & Entrepreneurship, YES I Express – Creativity & Culture, YES I Inherit – Environment & Sustainable Development, YES I Learn – Education & Training, YES I Matter – Child & Youth Protection and YES I Move – Healthy Lifestyles (OECS, 2018a).

The OECS YES is vitally important to commitments such as the SAMOA Pathway because its approach is one of empowerment and engagement of young people in defining the solutions that need to be put in place to enable them to achieve their aspirations. The OECS YES pillars provide a strategic cross cutting agenda for national and regional youth deliberations exemplified at the 2016 Anguilla Youth Conference and the Caribbean Youth Conference in 2018. The Anguilla Youth Parliament is a best practice framework for the formal inclusion of youth in the development of public policy and legislation whilst facilitating the development of leadership skills, competencies and encouraging interest and active participation in the national democratic process. The OECS Youth Strategy will seek to support such best practices and also facilitate the development of an OECS Youth Assembly as part of its framework. The Pillar – YES I Inherit – Environment & Sustainable Development, provides the space for organisations such as the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) to take a lead role in deeper involvement of young people in shaping sustainable development initiatives (OECS, 2018a).

In 2016, the OECS Commission recognised and promoted entrepreneurship amongst OECS Youth by undertaking the OECS 30 Under 30 initiative which sought to identify thirty young entrepreneurs under the age of thirty who are making strides in the OECS as examples of youth success in entrepreneurship. The young entrepreneurs ranged from disciplines including art and fashion design, business, technology, agriculture, sustainable development and social development. They benefitted from support by the Branson Centre, and the OECS Competitive Business Unit, mentorship to aid their professional and business development, technical assistance and assistance in sourcing markets and financial inputs (OECS, 2018a). OECS also assisted in the implementation of the USAID funded Juvenile Justice Reform Project Phase II in 2016 across the six independent Member States of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (ibid.).

UNHCR worked through staff presences in several countries in the Caribbean as well as through local partners to facilitate access to education for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless children or children at risk of statelessness. UNHCR has also made recommendations in support to governments and on a case by case basis on this subject (UNHCR, 2018).

## 5. Ageing populations

The Caribbean is not exempt from the ageing of its population. While still youthful, Caribbean societies are in the midst of a demographic transition process that has already begun to affect the age and sex composition of the majority of the countries (ECLAC, 2008). Between 2015 and 2040, the number of older persons will double in the Caribbean from 1.2 million, which corresponded to 14per cent of the population in 2015 to 2.1 million or the equivalent of 23per cent of the population in 2040 (ECLAC, 2017f). All States and territories across the Caribbean are, therefore, concerned by this demographic transformation, although the dynamics of ageing vary from country to country (ibid.).

ECLAC notes that the regional average of the national dependency ratio<sup>54</sup> was 14 for the Caribbean in 2015. The ageing of the population is, however, more advanced in Aruba, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique and the United States Virgin Islands, with the dependency ratio in 2015 ranging from 18 in Aruba to 30 in Martinique. In Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, the dependency ratio is close to the regional average of 14, whereas the process is less advanced in Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname, with dependency ratios below the regional average (ECLAC, 2016e). This issue is particularly urgent in Curaçao, where workforces in most businesses are nearing retirement with too few young staff to replace them (Government of Curaçao, 2016).

The ageing of the population is a common and pressing issue having considerable impact on all Caribbean societies and important implications for public policy, responding not only to the challenges anticipated but also considering the opportunities that it presents (ECLAC, 2016e). Since the inception of the SAMOA Pathway, five Caribbean SIDS have drafted or adopted national policies on ageing: The Bahamas, The Cayman Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Belize. Other countries are in the process of reviewing their previous plans/policies/strategies, including Bermuda, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Nonetheless, it is not clear whether these revisions will include the recommendations enshrined in the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>55</sup> related to intergenerational solidarity and to the duration of plans, which should be medium to long-term. It is also not evident if these revision processes guarantee the rights of older persons in the policy reviewing process and further implementation and monitoring. (ECLAC, 2017f).

In Jamaica, one of the main objectives of the National Policy for Senior Citizens is to provide recognition of older persons. This is achieved through the various programmes and activities of the National Council for Senior Citizens, which include public education on ageing, preparation for retirement and the rights of older persons. It was reported that these areas will be further strengthened under the revised policy, which is expected to be completed during the 2017/2018 fiscal year (*ibid.*). Barbados, too, has excelled in this regard, establishing a Centenarian Registry. In December 2016, 27 centenarians were featured on local stamps in Barbados and their contributions to society were listed and celebrated in a separate booklet that was distributed with the stamps (*ibid.*). Furthermore, several regional governments are involved in awareness raising activities, workshops, and special events intended to highlight the importance and contributions of older persons to society. Countries have also adopted complementary or defrayed social care services that provide for medical equipment, medicines, counselling and general assistance in case of emergencies (*ibid.*).

Regarding long-term care institutions, most countries provide government run homes but most of these institutions are run by private sector or community based organisations, with limited government monitoring and regulation, which poses a series of concerns in terms of accessibility, affordability, and sustainability and thus, the quality of such care offered to older persons. In Bermuda, for example, the Department of Health operates two long-term care facilities, and provides support to community health nursing services and community rehabilitation services to persons requiring episodic care, as well as grants to four care homes that are registered charities. The Government has recently adopted a long-term care action plan in 2017, which sets out actions to address long-term care needs within a year, including a commitment to a 3-5 year strategy, and has also adopted initiatives to increase private sector involvement in long-term care (*ibid.*).

In terms of the development of, and access to palliative care to ensure that older persons with terminal illnesses die with dignity and free of pain, little information has been received from States and other stakeholders and, in most countries (with the exception of Bermuda and Barbados), services are not well developed. In Trinidad and Tobago, palliative care facilities have been introduced. There are a number of hospices providing care to terminally ill cancer patients and the first publicly funded palliative care unit in a hospital opened in 2014. However, provision is still inadequate to meet demand and there have also been persistent problems related to the supply of drugs for pain management (*ibid.*).

Significant progress has been made in the development of regulations, standards and monitoring mechanisms for the quality of care offered to older persons. For example, Barbados' Ministry of Health adopted a health service regulation in 2015 for private hospitals, nursing homes and senior citizens' homes, which was enacted under the Health Services Act that establishes standards for the operation of nursing

<sup>54</sup> The dependency ratio relates the number of children (0-14 years old) and older persons (65 years or over) to the working-age population (15-64 years old). See: [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/methodology\\_sheets/demographics/dependency\\_ratio.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/methodology_sheets/demographics/dependency_ratio.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> The San José Charter proposes a series of measures to strengthen the institutional framework for policy for older persons. See: [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21535/1/S2012897\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21535/1/S2012897_en.pdf)

homes and senior citizens' homes. Since 2015, the Ageing and Disability Services of Bermuda's Ministry of Health and Seniors has been responsible for the administration, coordination of the registration and oversight of care homes, including personal home care providers receiving payment through a government benefit. In Guyana, the Government adopted a set of Minimum Standards for Elderly Residential Facilities in 2016 and launched a Visiting Committee to monitor the operations of elderly residential facilities (ibid.).

A 2016 ECLAC study indicated that there are still many older persons living below national poverty lines. Based on data for 10 countries, the average poverty rate among persons aged over 65 was 17 per cent, although the rate varied significantly, from 7 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago to 34 per cent in Belize (ibid.). While several countries have social protection, systems guaranteeing a minimum income for older persons, the coverage of social security systems, however, varies significantly from country to country according to the extent of formality or informality in each economy. Between 2014 and 2017, Dominica and Saint Lucia finalised (with the assistance of the ILO) actuarial evaluations of their respective social security institutions in order to assess financial sustainability. The latter is relevant as social security is an important component of national social protection systems and provides direct protections to the working age and retired populations. In 2017, the ILO signed agreements with Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana to undertake similar actuarial evaluations (ILO, 2018).

The Third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Lima, Peru from 7 to 9 August 2018. The purpose of the meeting, among others, was to examine the first regional draft report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; to present national progress on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; and to consider a proposal for a virtual platform for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus (ECLAC, 2018m).

## 6. Indigenous peoples

Comparative to other Agenda 2030 lead initiatives, and in the context of this report, few substantive SAMOA Pathway aligned results were sourced. This can also be an indication on the needed work to be addressed for the further implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in this region.

To stimulate effective participation in policy processes, indigenous and tribal associations have been working tirelessly across the region to promote indigenous rights, sustainable development and environmental protection. Notable examples include Suriname's Association of Indigenous Village Leaders (VIDS), Indigenous Platform ESAV and Association of Saramaka Authorities; Guyana's National Toshias Council; Belize's National Garifuna Council and Maya Leaders Alliance; Dominica's Kalinago Council; as well as Trinidad's Garifuna and First Peoples' Communities. With funding from Canada's Improved Access to Justice in the Caribbean (IMPACT Justice) project, several representatives of these groups met in March 2018 to discuss the way forward for the Network of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Formed in October 2017, the network was an outcome of meetings jointly hosted by IMPACT Justice and the University of Guyana regarding the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Caribbean News Now, 2018b).

In the Caribbean, there are a number of indigenous peoples' groups active in preserving raising awareness regarding their language and culture. The status of some of these indigenous groups' languages have been captured in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger 2010 publication. Three Caribbean nations are featured in the online Atlas:

- Dominica's indigenous language has been categorized as being extinct.
- Guyana has classified eleven languages: Warao definitely endangered; Kari'ña severely endangered; Lokono critically endangered; Akawaio definitely endangered; Berbice Dutch Creole critically endangered; Patamona vulnerable; Macushi vulnerable; Wapishana vulnerable; Taruma critically endangered; Wai Wai vulnerable; and Mawayana critically vulnerable.
- Seven languages were identified for Suriname: Kari'ña severely endangered; Lokono severely endangered; Akunyo critically endangered; Trio vulnerable; Wayana critically endangered; and Sikiyana critically endangered (UNESCO, 2010).

### Box 20 Guyana's Warrau Language Project

The revival of the Warrau language has been a priority for the Government of Guyana. In 2016, GY\$2 million was donated to the Warrau community of Kanwatta Hill to support this initiative. Notably, some 50 youth from the Whitewater community have graduated from a one-year language study programme.

Source: Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (2016a) and (2016b).

Representing approximately 20 per cent of Suriname's population (IDB, 2006), the exploitation of natural resources in the interior is an important issue for indigenous groups. Indigenous peoples which have typically been marginalized and are increasingly vulnerable to pressures on land and resources from extractive industry and large infrastructure projects (*ibid.*). Bolstered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' (IACHR) 2007 decision to recognize the right of the Maroons (a non-indigenous minority group) to the natural resources within its lands, advocacy groups have fought to ensure the compliance with international rulings (VIDS, Association of Saramaka Authorities & Forest Peoples Programme, 2015).

Notably, while Suriname voted in favour of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it is yet to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of 1989 (C169)<sup>56</sup> (ILO, 2017). Suriname's National Development Plan 2017-2021 mentions little on the country's indigenous and tribal groups.

While Suriname has a significant population of Maroons and indigenous persons, the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has previously expressed concerns on their limited participation in public life and governmental bodies, and in the development and approval of public standards and policies (United Nations, 2015). The Organization of Indigenous People of Suriname has pushed for greater societal recognition in this regard but have also taken up the issue of extractive industries in ancestral lands. Gender mainstreaming has also been a priority area for the indigenous groups of Suriname. As at 2015, 10 out of 52 villages were led by women, all with recognition from VIDS (USAID & International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN, 2015). VIDS has developed Multi-Annual Strategic Programmes which include indigenous women's rights in most aspects of its objectives and strategies. Focus has been placed on inclusion in decision making, participation in national policy and decision making, as well as on the socioeconomic advancement of indigenous women through agricultural micro enterprise development (*ibid.*).

With a population of approximately 30,000, Belize's indigenous peoples (of Mayan descent) represent roughly 9.6 per cent of the country's total population (IFAD & Centre for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples, 2012). Against this backdrop, IFAD has stated that participation of indigenous groups in the design and implementation of Belize's development projects will become increasingly imperative (*ibid.*). UNICEF has noted lower birth registration rates among Belize's indigenous population. The health and nutrition of these children have also come into focus. UNICEF, therefore, has pledged to support indigenous caregivers with increased skills in nutrition, parenting and child care to boost early childhood development (ECD) in this country (UNICEF, 2016). Belize has recently developed the 2017-2021 National ECD Strategic Plan. Implementation of this strategic plan involves the establishment and activation of clear and efficient structures to ensure accountability, drive implementation and provide a forum for stakeholders' continued engagement. The Government has also embarked in developing a national ECD data management system to monitor the progress, Belize's ECD indicators have been developed (Government of Belize, 2018). Discrimination and denial of traditional property rights are also key issues affecting Belize's indigenous population. While the land rights of the local Mayan population have been affirmed by Belize's legal system, incursions into village lands have still occurred. In 2015, after such an event in Belize's Toledo District, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples urged the Belizean Government to address this issue, emphasizing "under international human rights standards, indigenous peoples have the right to use, develop and also to control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership" (UN-OHCHR, 2015).

Guyana, through its Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, has made significant progress in the development of its indigenous population. Implemented in 2015, the Hinterland Employment and Youth Service has aided almost 4,000 youth in all of Guyana's administrative districts through training programmes

<sup>56</sup> C169 is an operative international law guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples. See: [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312314](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312314)

in English, mathematics, life skills, agriculture, tourism, entrepreneurial skills, sewing and welding (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2016c & Kaieteur News, 2018). The Ministry has also been mandated to help preserve indigenous languages through initiatives such as dictionary production, written literature and music development.

Dominica has embarked on two initiatives focused on boosting the social development of the community that resides in the Kalinago Territory: the Business Enterprise Centre and the Small Business Development Fund. They are aimed at developing frameworks that would foster entrepreneurship, promoting a culture of business and alleviating the economic challenges many face in the Territory. The Business Development Fund will be primarily focused on strengthening the agricultural and tourism base of the Territory (Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2016). Dominica's Ministry of Kalinago Affairs initiated the Furniture Building Program in October – December 2015 in recognition of the significance of human capital in developing a commercial enterprise. The programme aimed to inculcate an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. The Ministry of Kalinago Affairs is also driving deliberate collaboration between researchers, artists and audience to preserve and build further awareness of the Kalinago culture. There is a designated cultural facility, the Kalinago Barana Aute (KBA), which is focused on producing and promoting an excellent Kalinago programme locally, nationally and internationally. The Ministry envisions a synergistic blending of arts, heritage and community with the aim of making the KBA a cultural Mecca within the Kalinago Territory, Dominica and throughout the Caribbean (Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2018).

Dominica's Kalinago community was hard hit during the 2017 Hurricane Season. Hurricane Maria devastated housing in the Territory. The Housing Minister Reginald explained that the Kalinago Territory lost as much as 69 per cent of their homes as a result of the storm. The Government of Dominica recognised the urgency to assist the devastated community and the Territory was earmarked as one of the areas for the first wave of reconstruction. The government signed an agreement with a Saint Lucian company to receive 20 hurricane resistant homes, 10 of which were to be built in the Kalinago community. Many of the inhabitants of the Territory are farmers, but powerful hurricane wind speeds swept away their crops, resulting in food shortages. Water shortages were also experienced as the water system was badly damaged (Saint Lucia News Online, 2017).

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago designated 13 October 2017 as a one-off public holiday in commemoration of the First Peoples. The Chief of the First Peoples noted that the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community Museum had been in existence since 1976. The creation of this space and the First Peoples Heritage Village provided a wealth of knowledge and built awareness on the traditions and practices of the First Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago. Both the Chief of the Santa Rosa Community and the Mayor of Arima noted that the one-off public holiday would build further awareness of the Amerindian culture in the country.

CARICOM has noted that indigenous and tribal groups represent a disproportionately large segment of the food insecurity. As stated within the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2012-2026, CARICOM acknowledges the need to combat hunger, malnutrition, and the relatively higher incidence of poverty among indigenous peoples. It also highlights the need to identify and build on successful indigenous knowledge and strategies for climate adaptation, resilience building and agricultural management (CARICOM, 2011). Similarly, CARICOM's Draft Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework recognises that the engagement of the region's indigenous peoples is critical to the success of environmental and sustainable development processes. CARICOM has resolved to protect its biodiversity by ensuring the preservation of indigenous Caribbean culture and the legal protection of the expressions of folklore, other traditional knowledge and national heritage, particularly as it relates to the Caribbean's indigenous populations (CARICOM, 2017c).

## **N. Culture and creative arts**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that SIDS possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion (paragraph 80).*

## 1. Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has developed a plan that serves State Parties and UNESCO by monitoring and updating heritage policies and measuring the contribution of the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage (UNESCO, 2014). Further, Antigua and Barbuda has developed a Cultural Heritage (Protection) Bill in 2016 that aligns with both the SIDS Agenda and the SDGs.

The Culture Division of Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts has the mandate to develop both the cultural and artistic aspects of Trinidad and Tobago through its work with cultural organizations, community groups, artists, and art based NGOs. One of the areas of focus is heritage preservation, guided by the heritage preservation commitment made in signing the related UNESCO Conventions. Further, Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2030 has referenced cultural factors as a vehicle that could promote development (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016).

Notably, Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2015 (Government of Jamaica, 2018). In Cuba, the Rumba was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity in 2016 (UNESCO, 2016a). In that same year, Curaçao applied to the UNESCO Participation Programme via its local commission and received funding for the production of educational materials for primary and secondary schools in order to safeguard Curaçao's ICH (Government of Curaçao, 2018). In July 2018, Sint Maarten's National Commission for UNESCO and Department of Culture finalized the territory's first National ICH Inventory with the goal of recording, preserving and revitalizing aspects of the island's cultural heritage (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). Similarly, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis held discussions on protecting their ICH in April 2018. The government partnered with UNESCO's ICH Fund to implement the full project from 2018–2020.

The Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, with the assistance of the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO and the Government of Sint Maarten's local organizing committee, organized a Disaster Recovery and Heritage Preservation Conference in St. Maarten from July 30th to August 3rd, 2018. The goal of the conference was to bridge the gap between civil authorities and cultural stewards in placing heritage preservation squarely at the forefront of both planning and practice. This was the first time following the catastrophic hurricane season of 2017 that international and regional policy makers, emergency responders and cultural heritage stewards met to exchange priorities and methods that will ensure the best possible outcomes for the regional protection, not only of people and property but also of cultural heritage (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018).

To foster integration and promote the region's cultural heritage, CARICOM annually manages the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) with hosting carried out by one of the CARICOM Member States. This regional event brings together the artistic work of various countries in the region and will be hosted by Trinidad and Tobago in 2019 (CARICOM, 2017d).

## 2. The orange economy

The Orange Economy is generally understood to encompass the creative arts and the creative industries. Operation of the Orange Economy not only stimulates economic growth through creating value, but also promotes innovation in priority sectors for the region. As such, there is an increasing view among Caribbean governments and regional agencies that the creative industries can be an engine for economic growth and a mechanism for diversifying economies and improving global competitiveness (IDB, 2017b).

Against this backdrop, Sint Maarten's first Creative Industries Interactive Exchange Forum was held on March 21, 2018. The forum, organized by its Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, brought together luminaries of the creative industries in Sint Maarten to dialogue and explore the concept of the Orange Economy (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). Barbados' Tourism Master Plan 2014-2023 has targeted Creative and Performing Arts as a major subsector for economic growth (Government of Barbados, 2014). In support of this growth strategy, Barbadian cultural practitioners can access funding for projects through the Cultural Industries Development Fund, established under the 2015 Cultural Industries Development Act. Further, projects approved by the Cultural Industries Development Authority will be able to access incentives such as VAT exemption as well as income tax and duty-free concessions (Barbados Cultural Industries Development Authority, 2018) Barbados has passed the Cultural Industries Development Act (2015) and established the Cultural Industries Development Authority. This legislation seeks to position Barbados as a cultural brand for commercial activity. In 2017, Barbados hosted the Caribbean Festival of

Arts and legislated for the Film and Digital Media Commission. Trinidad and Tobago's CreativeTT operates in a similar manner; providing support to the local film, music, and fashion industries through initiatives such as the Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme, Film Production Expenditure Rebate Programme and Artist Development Programme (Creative TT, 2018).

Jamaica's creative sectors have had a long history of success. Producing several distinct musical genres since the mid-twentieth century, this feat was recognised by UNESCO in 2015 with the designation of its capital, Kingston, as a Creative Music City (ECLAC, 2018n). Jamaica's exports of creative goods and services were estimated to increase from US\$40.8 million in 2003 to almost US\$54 million in 2012 (UNCTAD, 2016). According to Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, cultural and creative industries contribute roughly 5per cent to the country's GDP and represents a sector with great untapped economic potential (Jamaica Observer, 2017). This was supported by earlier studies which also estimated that Jamaica's cultural and creative industries generate revenues of US\$15 million to US\$20 million annually, accounting for 3per cent of total employment (James, 2007 in ECLAC, 2018n). A funding agreement between the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport was signed in 2016 and Jamaica went on to become one of six countries in the world that received funding from UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity Programme (Government of Jamaica, 2016).

Notably, the creative industries are viewed as a crucial engine for economic growth and reconstruction in Haiti. The country's first music industry mapping exercise was completed in 2017 with financial support from UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity. More than 1,500 professionals across 35 different professions from around the country participated in this study (UNESCO, 2017). Cuba has also relied on the creative sector as an employment and economic driver. Cuba's 2016 Report on UNESCO's Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions estimates that some 2,234 institutions in the country provide services in all areas of creative sector (UNESCO, 2016a). Cuba has also sought to increase inter-cultural collaborations with international counterparts, having signed a cultural cooperation agreement with the Government of Hungary in 2017 (Granma, 2017).

An Agricultural Film and Video competition was launched in July 2010 and hosted again in 2013 by the CCST, The University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development (CARDI), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP- EU (CTA), and the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC). Eighty-six teams of young professionals between the ages of eighteen to thirty-five and representing twelve Caribbean countries submitted entries in this series film and video competitions. A high level of creativity, knowledge and awareness of the issues facing agricultural development in the region was demonstrated by the young professionals who took part in the competitions. Their videos will certainly help to raise public awareness and highlight the key issues facing agriculture and food security in the region, which were two main objectives of the competition. The videos also provide as an attractive mechanism for increasing the engagement of more young people to address agricultural challenges through STI and for promoting the use of ICTs for improving communication within the sector (NIHERST 2018).

CARICOM has long recognised the importance of the Caribbean's cultural and creative industries as a driver of economic growth. This has been evidenced by the development of a Regional Cultural Policy in 1994, the publication of the "Cultural Industries in CARICOM: Trade and Development Challenges" Report in 2007 and the establishment of the Regional Task Force on Cultural Industries in January 2008. Further, CARICOM has generated a number of sector strategies and action plans for sub-sectors that have demonstrated comparative advantage, for example: music, audio-visuals, visual art, publishing, festivals, fashion, performing arts and craft (CARICOM, 2018h). During the Twenty-Sixth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in 2015, Caribbean leaders acknowledged the potential of the cultural and creative industries in contributing to the development of the region. To further develop an enabling environment for this sector, CARICOM and CEDA proposed the establishment of the Caribbean Creative Industries Management Unit (CCIMU) (CARICOM, 2015).

Launched in 2016, CCIMU is envisioned as a key catalyst in the process of building sustainable cultural and creative economies in the Caribbean (Fleming, 2016). As outlined in its Prioritisation Paper, its core mission is to (i) build the capacity and competitiveness of the Caribbean's creative industries (with a focus on export and investment readiness) and (ii) strengthen regional networks, enhance value chains and facilitate collaboration (ibid). Four sectors have been prioritised by CCIMU: Music, Animation and Film, Fashion, and Festivals (Fleming, 2016). However, the following are some of the challenges outlined as potential barriers to its success:

- Fragmentation and lack of cooperation among Caribbean states;
- Under-exploited international markets due to the region's limited track record in monetising intellectual property (IP) and an inconsistent approach to positioning and promoting the overall Caribbean creative industries portfolio;
- Disparity in IP frameworks across the region;
- Generalised lack of respect for creators and poor IP implementation in terms of copyright protection and enforcement;
- Poor accreditation of creative education and skills provision; and
- Low levels of access to finance, investment and investor readiness (*ibid.*).

In spite of these challenges, regional organizations are forging new mechanisms to support the development of the creative industries sector. In 2017, CDB announced the establishment of a Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund as a pilot intervention by providing grants and technical assistance to governments, business support organisations and academia that support this sector. With an initial capitalisation of US\$2.6 million, its main objectives are to support an enabling environment with a focus on legislative reforms and incentive policies; improve research and strengthen the existing knowledge infrastructure related to cultural industries; enhance the technical capacity, competitiveness and knowledge of MSMEs in the cultural industries sector; and strengthen related business support organisations (CDB, 2017d).

### 3. Carnivals

Carnivals are inextricably ingrained in the cultural fabric of the Caribbean region. While Carnival is celebrated in various styles and with slightly different names throughout the Caribbean (e.g. Crop Over in Barbados, Junkanoo in The Bahamas, and Batabano in the Cayman Islands), all manifest the cultural pluralism of its participants. With Trinidad and Tobago home to the Region's largest Carnival celebration, the export of related goods and services to regional counterparts has greatly increased in recent years. Additionally, overseas diaspora carnivals generate millions in revenue. ACS notes that Carnival has developed into a viable and sustainable global economic industry supported by talent, expertise, skills and knowledge that are almost exclusively Caribbean (ACS, 2017b).

There has been a recognised need to evaluate the social and economic contributions of Carnivals to regional economies; particularly as festival statistics such as these provide the basis for the development of policies in relation to culture, development and diversity, as well as project management, tourism development and cultural industries (UNESCO, 2009). The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan seeks to refocus Carnival not just as a social event but as a crucial economic activity since it offers rich potential for national development. Broad-based goals include: (i) the collection and usage of comprehensive data to measure industry potential and monitor the support needed by local businesses; (ii) promotion of private sector development; (iii) increased stakeholder participation in shaping the national policy consensus; (iv) maturation of carnival-related law and policy; (v) investment promotion, marketing and rebranding for industry development; (vi) infrastructure development; and (vii) education and related training for sector development (National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, 2018).

Against this backdrop, Trinidad and Tobago has sought to publish this data on an annual basis. Government reports indicate that revenue from Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival exceeds on average US\$100 million (ACS, 2017b). An analysis of the 2017's figures revealed that 37,448 visitors arrived during the peak period (10-28 February 2017). Based on an average expenditure of TT\$8,943.00 per visitor, cumulative visitor expenditure was estimated at TT\$334,897,464 or US\$49.6 million (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017b). Barbados' National Cultural Foundation also plays a pivotal role in the development of the country's carnival offerings. The body estimates that Crop Over generated some BD\$80 million or US\$40 million in economic activity in 2014 (NCF, 2018).

Cognizant of its cultural and economic import, local academic institutions have also developed mechanisms to hone and preserve this aspect of Trinidad and Tobago's cultural heritage. Both UWI and, more recently, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), offer B.A and M.A. programmes in Carnival Studies with a focus on thematic areas such as Creative Enterprise Management and Entrepreneurship,

Cultural Studies, Mas Design and Carnival Research, Ethnomusicology, as well Calypso and Pan Studies (UWI, 2009 & UTT, 2018).

## O. Sport

The Caribbean has a strong heritage of sporting excellence and has distinguished itself in many areas of competition. Additionally, sport is increasingly being utilized as a tool for community development and social interventions in response to crime and violence, particularly among youth and men (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Jamaica's Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport paid special focus to sport development during 2011 – 2016. The country's Green Paper on National Sport Policy promotes "a healthier society and strengthening of appropriate regulations and legislation that support and facilitate sporting activities". Jamaica has held discussions on establishing sport cooperation programmes in the region to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and technical skills of physical education teachers and coaches (JIS, 2016). Jamaica has also sought to increase its international sport partnerships in recent years. In October 2017, the country signed a three-year Letter of Exchange for a Technical Cooperation Project on Sport Coaching with the Government of China. Under this agreement, Chinese representatives will provide technical assistance in the areas of swimming, synchronised swimming, badminton, gymnastics, volleyball, football and basketball. Additionally, 138 Jamaican sport personnel are expected to participate in training and competitions in China during this period (JIS, 2017).

### Box 21

#### Usain Bolt – the world's fastest human

Without a doubt, the Honourable Ambassador Usain Bolt, OJ is the fastest athlete the world has ever seen. His athletic prowess and remarkable world record breaking performances in both the 100 and 200 metres sprints have left the world in awe. At the 2008 Olympic Games held in Beijing, China, Bolt wrote a new page in history when he became the first and only athlete to topple three Olympic and world records at the same Games. A year later, at the 12th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in Berlin, Germany, the Hon. Usain Bolt set a new time of 9.58 seconds in the 100 metres sprint; erasing his previous record of 9.69 seconds. He further clocked 19.19 seconds in the 200 metres; shaving off 0.11 seconds from his Olympic and world record run of 19.30 seconds.

Source: JIS (2018).

Trinidad and Tobago's Draft Sport Policy seeks to strategically place the country as a sport tourism destination by investing in stadia and related sport infrastructure and facilitating and supporting educational initiatives for persons and groups aligned to sport tourism. This policy was developed partially in response to the growing trend in Sport Tourism in the region. Within this draft policy, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago traces the positive impact of Sport Tourism in other countries and the potential it holds of the region; for example, the Cricket World Cup, the Caribbean Premier League T20, the Pan American Junior Track Cycling Championships, the Tobago International Cycling Classic, and Rugby Americas North (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017).

Dominica's Kalinago community benefited from several sports related initiatives including: the donation of pitch covers to the Kalinago Sports Community at the Jolly John Memorial Park; the donation of seven cricket gear bags to individuals and teams (benefiting both male and female sports persons); collaboration with foreign governments to negotiate for Kalinago sportsmen and women; and the Australian High Commissioner's donation of cricket kits valued at US\$2,000 to the Kalinago Sport Committee and the L'Escalier Cricket Team .

CARICOM, through its Sport and Development Sub Programme, seeks to develop sport for the advancement of health, economic development and regional integration and has identified these strategic outcomes:

- Greater awareness and incorporation of sport as a factor for growth and development;
- Improved systems and frameworks for the delivery/promotion of sport and the management of sports organizations and elite athletes; and

- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration with regional and international organizations and institutions (CARICOM, 2018i).

CARICOM has identified several major challenges confronting the development of this sector including: (i) a lack of international funding for Caribbean Sportspersons; (ii) absence of a regional policy on sports; (iii) absence of a regional database detailing facilities and expertise; (iv) weak regional cooperation on anti-doping issues; and (v) lack of a robust mechanism for harnessing sports for uniting and improving the health of the Caribbean citizens (CARICOM, 2016b). Despite these challenges, the spirit of regional integration has continuously been fostered by CARICOM. The Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) Games, held annually since 1972, is a junior track and field championship competition comprising 65 track and field events. Its latest instalment, held in The Bahamas during April 2018, brought together some 500 athletes and 150 team officials from 26 territories (CARIFTA Games, 2018).

The Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) launched the Next Play Programme in 2018; a grassroots development programme being implemented alongside football federations, Ministries of Sport and Education, and volunteers in The Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados. Train the Trainer workshops have already been carried out in preparation for future roll out of the programme (CONCACAF, 2018a). Six Caribbean Member Associations also benefitted from FIFA’s first regional Technical Exchange Programme held in Jamaica during May 2018, while eight Member Associations benefitted from FIFA’s Technical Directors Workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago in that same month (CONCACAF, 2018b).

With regards to Cricket, a five-member panel of CARICOM citizens was selected by the Prime Ministerial Committee on the Governance of West Indian Cricket to review the governance of the regional sport. West Indian Cricket is an integral aspect of the Caribbean psyche. Poor management, an antiquated governance system, and delivery of this public good through a private institution have been cited as some of the major challenges hampering the performance of West Indian cricketers (CARICOM, 2018a). The review panel made recommendations for the intervention of a Change Management Expert to guide the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the panel. However, despite these challenges, the West Indian Women’s Cricket team cupped their first Women’s International Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 title in 2016 (ICC, 2016).

Another Caribbean sport initiative is the collaboration between the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Digicel<sup>57</sup> to host a series of national basketball clinics throughout the Caribbean under its Jumpstart initiative. Now in its fourth year, the following countries are set to benefit from this partnership: Turks and Caicos, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago (Digicel, 2018).

UWI’s University Council approved the establishment of a Faculty of Sport in April 2017 and it became operational in the 2017-2018 academic year. The new faculty consolidates under a “One UWI” umbrella of knowledge, sport programmes offered across all four campuses (CARICOM, 2017e). In May 2018, CDB approved US\$210,000 in funding for UWI’s Faculty of Sport to enhance its capacity for strategic business development planning, increase its responsiveness to the needs of BMCs, and to advance the region’s sports industry. Key personnel justified this venture, indicating that “three of [CDB’s] BMCs top the list of countries with the highest Olympic medal count per capita from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games... and there is a responsibility to the people of the Region to develop a more robust higher education sports programme that will deliver teaching, research and training in various sporting disciplines, and establish world-class sporting facilities, equipment and technology to fully prepare the next generation of high-performing athletes for record-breaking success” (CDB, 2018d).

## P. Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities (SDG 16)

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises the importance of supporting SIDS in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities, including through building responsive and accountable institutions and ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations. It recognises that the sustainable development of SIDS can be negatively affected by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures can lead to*

<sup>57</sup> A regional telecommunication network provider.

*increasing numbers of young men and women becoming involved in violence and crime. It supports the efforts of SIDS to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, promoting strong institutions and improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labour in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties. It supports the development of action plans in SIDS to eliminate violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict, and to ensure that they are centrally involved in all relevant processes (paragraphs 83-86).*

## 1. Regional Overview

Crime and insecurity represent real obstacles to social and economic development in the Caribbean. The illicit arms and drug trades, organized crime, porous borders, and limited detection capacity have had a profoundly destabilizing effect on the region (Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, 2017).

To combat the societal malaise that is organized crime, anti-gang legislation was assented to in Trinidad and Tobago and took effect in May 2018. This follows the passage of the Jamaica's Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) Bill in 2014. Crime is a major concern for Jamaica, particularly in light of the recent increase in gang related feuds due to the rise in local lottery scamming activities (Government of Jamaica, 2018). According to the UNDP Jamaica's 2017 Annual Report, Canada has partnered with the country in progressively strengthening its justice system. The outcome of this partnership with Canada was the establishment of model customer service information centres in two courts and training of 45 court staff in customer service standards. Additional gains include: (i) the introduction of new business processes for 80 per cent of courts; (ii) training of 136 members of staff in new methodologies; and (iii) delivery of law reform and legislative drafting training for 26 justice sector staff (UNDP, 2017). Jamaica is also pursuing a justice reform programme under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

Crime and violence is perhaps the most serious social ill impacting Belize. Due to the small population (resulting in a high murder rate per capita), Belize consistently ranks among the top 10 countries in the world for homicides, with an average of around 40 homicides per 100,000 persons over the past eight years (Government of Belize, 2018). Corruption, human smuggling/trafficking, the drug trade, and local criminal gang activity remain significant criminal problems, exacerbated by a low conviction rate. Major reported crimes in contrast saw a slight fall in 2017 compared to the previous year, with burglaries and thefts down, and robberies slightly up. A true crime victimization survey has never been completed, and, as such, the level of under reporting of crime is unknown (Government of Belize, 2018). In February 2018, Belize received US\$500,000 from the Government of Taiwan to support ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening the Belize Police Department as part of the Security Cooperation that exists between the two countries (ECLAC, 2018h).

The growing concern with crime and violence in Guyana has placed citizen security and crime reduction among the leading policy priorities of the national authorities. In response to these realities, the Government of Guyana, with the assistance of IDB, has developed the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme that focuses on the prevention and reduction of crime and violence, and public sector and civil society capacity building. This agreement was signed in February 2015 and commenced implementation in December of said year. Additionally, the Safe Neighbourhood Crime Victimization survey was completed in March 2018. The main purpose of the survey was to garner information on criminal victimisation, fear of crime, perception of safety, attitude towards the Guyanese Police Force and opinions about effective crime prevention strategies. Guyana's Ministry of Public Security has benefitted from numerous partnerships that provided various forms of assistance. Notably, this Ministry was the beneficiary of a transportation fleets from the Peoples Republic of China via the China Aid Programme (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

The 2017 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report by the US Department of State to Congress indicated that Guyana showed interest in furthering collaboration and enhancing interagency with counter-narcotics capabilities. In 2016, a National Drug Strategy Masterplan (2016-2020) was launched and the National Anti-Narcotics Agency created (United States Department of State, 2017). Further, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), U.S. Department of State and Government of Canada collaborated with the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory to strengthen its National Forensic Ballistic System. Key activities included: (i) the provision of software for professional identification of cartridges and calibres as

well as double casting equipment to create replicas of bullets and cartridge cases; and (ii) training of personnel in operational forensic ballistics (United Nations, 2017a).

Haiti has come a long way on its path to durable stability, and there can be no room for regression in the gains made in the security sector. MINUJUSTH's police component continued to provide operational support to the national police during the period under review by participating in joint temporary checkpoints, foot and vehicle patrols and joint police operations and providing support in six crowd control operations related to protests in Port-au-Prince (MINUJUSTH, 2018b). To combat increased gang activity, the community violence reduction programme, through a bottom-up approach, is fostering complementary initiatives to reduce insecurity, foment dialogue for peace and stabilization, provide support to communities and local institutions and create income-generating activities, in partnership with local and international organizations (ibid.).

The Haitian penitentiary system continues to be characterized by severe overcrowding (with a 366 per cent occupancy rate) owing to the high incidence of prolonged pre-trial detention. UN Women, with technical support from MINUJUSTH and financing through the community violence reduction programme, has elaborated a legal aid project to reduce the number of women in pre-trial detention in the new women's prison, where 80 per cent of detainees are at the pre-trial stage. MINUJUSTH is also providing technical support to the prison administration to develop and implement a targeted and dedicated recruitment and training strategy (ibid.).

MINUJUSTH, through its quick-impact projects, improved the potable water and electrical power supply and assisted in the installation of toilet facilities at penitentiaries. Meanwhile, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System project at the National Penitentiary has processed the files of some 3,000 inmates with technical support from MINUJUSTH. The project is to be replicated in the prisons in Les Cayes and Cap-Haïtien, where infrastructure refurbishment and electricity installation works, financed through the joint rule of law programme, are ongoing (ibid.).

Additionally, CARICOM has sought to tackle the illegal arms trade and remains a strong advocate for the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). In line with the 2014 CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) (in collaboration with UNLIREC) has developed various strategies to curb the proliferation of these weapons. Outcomes of this partnership have included improved security at approximately 120 arms stockpiles across the region; the destruction of over 54,000 weapons and 67 tonnes of ammunition; and training of almost 800 personnel in destruction techniques, stockpile and armoury management and port security (Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, 2017). Moreover, IMPACS received assistance during 2015 from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs towards the development of model legislation for the implementation of the ATT and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. This came after a gap analysis identified the shortcomings in existing legislation in 14 CARICOM Member States (United Nations, n.d.).

**Public access to information and participatory decision-making:** Caribbean countries are increasingly ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels as well as providing public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms. To date, seven Caribbean countries have freedom of information legislation in force (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago) and four more have draft legislation (Barbados, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia). Such laws give effect to fundamental democratic principles, such as transparency, accountability and public participation, granting the right to obtain access to official documents held by public authorities, including ministries, agencies and other stakeholders exercising public functions. Nationally, for example, general environmental laws in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago contain extensive provisions providing for specific requirements for public participation both in activities and projects and in plans and policies, including public notices, the obligation to consult, timeframes for representations and access to relevant information. Town and country planning legislation, generally also regulating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), likewise enshrine access rights, particularly foreseeing planning registries and inviting the public to participate in consultations and make comments both in the authorization of activities and projects and in the drafting and amendment process of development plans. Public participation is legally required in all EIAs in Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. In such countries, the Authority shall at least cause a public notice, invite comments and representations either in writing or orally on an application and take into account any report, representation or comment submitted or made to it. Furthermore, public consultations, meetings and hearings must also be called in some countries, such as in

Belize or Trinidad and Tobago. In Jamaica and Suriname public participation during EIAs is not foreseen expressly in law but is applied in accordance with Government guidelines. Furthermore, the Judiciary has also upheld key common law principles such as the concepts of legitimate expectations, the right to a fair hearing of those affected by a decision before it is taken or failure to consider representations by concerned citizens, or the principles of natural justice. This is also in keeping with the objective and purpose of the Escazú Agreement, which contains guidelines for informed and participatory environmental management and a strong capacity-building and cooperation (ECLAC 2018).

## 2. Transnational organised crime and terrorism

On transnational organized crime, CARICOM in November 2017, commenced the review of the implementation of its Crime and Security Strategy adopted in 2013. The review is aimed at: assessing the risks identified in the strategy to see whether and how they have remained constant or changed and new responses; review the usefulness/ continued relevance of strategic areas identified; identify and update regional and national responses to the risks; assess the nature/level of implementation of the strategy and elaborate on the challenges encountered; review the extent of coordination and identify areas for improvement; assess perception of the impact and identify new priority areas.<sup>58</sup> CARICOM has developed a Regional Counter Illicit Trafficking Strategy to increase trans-border intelligence and information sharing; establish appropriate legal frameworks; strengthen partner country's security institutions and enhance capability to detect, monitor, investigate, interdict, and prosecute illicit trafficking; target criminal assets and prevent criminal facilitation of illicit activities; and reduce demand for illicit commodities (CARICOM, n.d.).

UNODC continues to work with IMPACS in the context of the organization's Regional Programme for the Caribbean in Support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy. In the field of border management, the UNODC Container Control Programme supports the establishment and functioning of Joint Port Control Units (JPCUs) in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. As a result of this support, these JPCUs seized over 3,045 kg of cocaine, 240 kg of cannabis and a number of cases of cash smuggling, tax evasion, undeclared goods and violations to International Property Rights during 2017. Furthermore, the establishment and operationalization of Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces under the UNODC Airport Communication Project in key airports of Barbados, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica has resulted in the seizure of 286 kg of cocaine, 89 kg of cannabis, 1.2 kg of heroin and over US\$ 200,000 of undeclared cash during the 2016-2017 period (UNODC, 2018).

According to the 2017 Survey of Global Maritime Security, there has been a surge in piracy in the southern Caribbean as Venezuela's economic collapse spurs nationals into banditry. Seventy piracy incidents took place in the region in 2017, compared to just one in 2016. During 2017, in close coordination with IMPACS and the Regional Security System, UNODC placed a mentor in Barbados tasked with the responsibility of conducting a needs and gaps assessment in the field of Maritime Crime, which paved the way ahead for the development of a Maritime Crime Programme for the Caribbean, which is currently underway (UNODC, 2018).

In the field of money laundering, during 2017-2018, UNODC provided support to eight CARICOM Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines), in the implementation of Financial Action Task Force Recommendation 32 on Cash Smuggling. A total of 320 persons were trained in all the face to face workshops. A further 280 persons were enrolled on GPML online platform and had access to 13 self-paced modules. In terms of seizures carried out by trained officials, the following results were obtained: 1) Barbados: US\$ 2.1 million in March 2017; 2) Saint Lucia: US\$ 39,500 in September 2017, €21,150 in October 2017, €129,880 in November 2017; 3) Trinidad and Tobago: €39,500 in September 2017 and 4) Antigua: US\$ 23,000 in September 2017 (UNODC, 2018).

On Counter-Terrorism, a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted during the 29<sup>th</sup> Inter-Sessional Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The strategy articulate measures by Member-States to promote sustainable peace through: the prevention of violent extremism; denying terrorists the means and opportunity to carry out their activities; disrupting extremist and terrorist activities and movements in the region; improving preparedness and defence against terrorist attacks and responding effectively to terrorists and promoting a culture of resilience (CARICOM, 2018j).

<sup>58</sup> Information provided by the UN Peace and Development Advisor – Caribbean. The final CARICOM report of the review is pending.

Belize's financial sector continues to attract illicit funds. These sectors offer convenience and, often, anonymity to those wishing to hide or launder the proceeds of narcotics trafficking and other serious crimes. After implementing stricter enforcement procedures, Belize announced a six-month moratorium on new licenses for certain types of securities trading companies. In September 2017, Belize's International Financial Services Commission announced a six-month moratorium on new licenses in Trading in Financial and Commodity-based Derivative Instruments and Other Securities ("No. 7 License"). All No. 7 License holders are required to complete a "Declaration of Compliance" certifying they have operated and continue to operate within the Standard Conditions of the License for Trading in Securities (Government of Belize, 2018). Belize made efforts to strengthen its anti-money laundering regulatory regime, including amending the Money Lenders Act in 2016. As a new signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Belize is conducting a corruption AML/CFT gap analysis under the aegis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Government of Belize, 2018).

### **3. Corruption**

In 2017, in an effort to support the Government of Barbados, an anti-corruption project delegation from the UNODC Office in Panama carried out a visit to Barbados during which time they met with members of the Executive, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and Members of the Royal Barbados Police Force's Financial Investigation Unit. These discussions surrounded the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as technical assistance in anti-corruption which can be offered to the Government of Barbados. These discussions have been reinitiated with the new administration (UNODC, 2018).

Likewise, since the ratification of the UNCAC by Grenada and Belize, UNODC continued to support these governments in strengthening institutions and mechanisms to combat corruption in each country. UNODC continued to support Grenadian and Belizean officials in the implementation of recommendations from the Implementation Review Mechanism for each country. In Grenada, support for the strengthening of the Integrity Commission through the training of 18 officials, led to increased capacities of the Commission for the successful participation in and completion of the Audit on Asset Declaration. Likewise, UNODC also supported the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies through the realization of a regional workshop which catered to participants from Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. During this workshop, Belize, Jamaica and Grenada began the drafting of their strategies with technical assistance from the UNODC advisors. The plans are currently being examined and revised at the national level for later implementation (*ibid.*). Support is also being provided by UNODC to Guyana in the strengthening of national capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of corruption and support prevention efforts in cooperation with the private sector and civil society organizations, in line with UNCAC (*ibid.*).

In Haiti, MINUJUSTH continued to support anti-corruption efforts, in particular the oversight bodies, namely the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police. In 2017, the General Inspectorate reported the receipt and investigation of 367 complaints, of which measures were taken for 35 per cent. Further to this, the World Bank has provided assistance to improve budget and treasury management, strengthen internal and external controls and reduce misuse of public funds and corruption, and also provides technical support and funding to build capacity within financial oversight and accountability bodies. (MINUJUSTH, 2018b).

### **4. Migration and human trafficking**

In relation to the situation of Haitian migrants, some 2 million persons are estimated to live abroad, with the Dominican Republic and the United States hosting the majority of migrants. In 2013, the Dominican Republic counted some 458,000 Haitian migrants. That year, a ruling by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic reinterpreted criteria for nationality set forth in the Constitution. In practice, the ruling led to the deprivation of Dominican nationality and the deportation of thousands of people, most of them of Haitian descent (MINJUSTH, n.d. in Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Haiti, 2018b). In 2014, the Dominican authorities set up a National Regularization Plan for Foreigners to rectify some of the shortcomings of the Court's decision. The Plan, which led to the regularization of some 260,000 people, is due to terminate in August 2018 (*ibid.*). Following tensions in March 2018, Haiti and the Dominican Republic reinforced their military and police presence on both sides of the border, while MINUJUSTH deployed a team to monitor the human rights situation and formed police unit platoon in support of the Haitian National Police (MINUJUSTH, 2018b).

The 2017-2018 National Action Plan developed by Guyana sought to combat the trafficking of persons. In an effort to strengthen Guyana's capacity to effectively combat trafficking in persons, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) facilitated a legislative and policy review of existing legislation. Significantly, it conducted consultations with key stakeholders towards the development of Standard Operating Procedures to "guide investigations, prosecutions and convictions, child-sensitive investigation procedures, court procedures, identification, referral and protection of victims of trafficking" (United Nations Caribbean, 2017a).

Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Jamaica did not fully comply with the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking as reported by the US Department of State. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia though, have been taking steps to rectify this situation. Increased anti-trafficking laws enforcement efforts has been increased as well as funding towards the development of NAPs to combat this. Jamaica has also developed a 2012-2018 NAP and implemented two new victim protection protocols to address the issue of human trafficking. In an effort to highlight the issues surrounding human trafficking, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago and IOM contributed to the development of the 2018 film, "Moving Parts"; providing feedback on human rights during script development. "Moving Parts" tells the story of a female Chinese national smuggled into Trinidad and Tobago. Local screenings are also being planned to raise awareness of migrants' issue (Caribbean Communications Network, 2016).

INTERPOL coordinated an exercise (Operation Libertad) from its Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) in Barbados in April 2018 where 22 arrests were made in connection with human trafficking. Thirteen.<sup>59</sup> countries participated with 350 potential victims of sexual exploitation and forced labour were rescued under this initiative (INTERPOL, 2018). In 2018, UNODC supported the Government of Jamaica in the implementation of the Blue Heart Campaign against Trafficking in Persons, becoming the first Caribbean country to join the campaign, an international awareness-raising initiative developed by UNODC to encourage involvement and action to help prevent this crime. Likewise, from 18 to 20 June 2018, in Kingston Jamaica, UNODC, through the Airport Communication Project, and in collaboration with UK Immigration Enforcement and UN Women, facilitated a training on Human Trafficking in International Airports, for AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces in Jamaica, as well as representatives of airline companies (UNODC, 2018).

In close coordination with the Office of the Attorney-General and the National Police, during the 2016-2018 period, UNODC delivered a series of training activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of front-line officers working in border areas of the Dominican Republic to prevent, identify and address potential Human Trafficking cases. Furthermore, in 2017, the Office of the Attorney-General of the Dominican Republic signed an MoU, promoted by UNODC, for the exchange of human trafficking-related information with the Attorney-General's Offices of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama (ibid.).

UNHCR and its partners are liaising with Governments towards addressing elderly asylum-seekers and refugees in the Caribbean (UNHCR, 2018).

## 5. Cyber-crime

With the technical support of the Cyber Security Program of the Organization of American States (OAS), Jamaica developed a National Cyber Security Strategy in 2014 and the Cybercrimes Act in 2015, indicating that a fight against crime is therefore a fight for development. Measures to reduce the social and economic damage caused by pervasive crime were viewed as "integral to the developmental activities of the state". A taskforce was established to achieve these goals in 2015 (OAS, 2015).

In Guyana, Saint Lucia and Suriname subcrime bill exists. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines passed in 2016 a Cybercrime Act which provides up to two years' imprisonment for online defamation (Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2016).

In March 2016, CARICOM Member States signed off on the Regional Cyber-Crime Action Plan. The Plan contains key activities on training, legislation, technical capacity and law enforcement in Member States. It was also aimed at curtailing the activities of terrorist linked to previous cyber-attacks on financial institutions, as a way of raising finances for their activities (CARICOM, 2016c).

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<sup>59</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Curaçao, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and Venezuela.

ITU has also provided assistance in this regard. The organization hosted the Regional Caribbean Cybersecurity and Cyber Drill in 2017 which provided capacity building and training on the establishment of a National Computer Incident Response Team. The event hosted two experts from the Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre in addition to 99 attendees representing eight countries: Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and USA (ITU, 2018).

Under ITU's "Enhancing Competitiveness in the Caribbean through the Harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures" (HIPCAR) Project.<sup>60</sup> Jamaica sought and received assistance between 2013-2015 to provide a sensitization workshop introducing the HIPCAR methodology and the HIPCAR model text; and to discuss the potential impact of the introduction of Privacy and Data Protection Legislation in Jamaica. Recommendations and amendments were prepared based on the outcomes of the workshop and consultation with the Ministry. Also prepared were the draft-drafting instructions for the proposed legislation and Draft Data Protection Act. Since then a Data Protection Bill was prepared and tabled in the Houses of Parliament. The bill contemplates the establishment of an Office of the Information Commissioner which would have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act and the Access to Information Act. The ITU was asked and with the assistance of an international expert is currently establishing the OIC. The final delivery date is November 2018 (ITU, 2018).

## 6. Youth issues

Cyberbullying has been increasingly prevalent among youth in recent years. To combat the diffusion of these types of anti-social behaviours, ITU held a Stakeholder Meeting in Belize in 2017 to develop a cyberbullying manual for Regional Schools. The ICT Cyber Security awareness workshops were targeted towards educating and sensitizing school principals, teachers, parents/guardians and school counsellors with regards to cyberbullying and its sequelae. They also facilitated feedback on the draft manual and its eventual adoption by Caribbean countries and promoted the responsible and safe use of the Internet and connected devices by students (ITU, 2018).

### Box 22

#### ITU's Caribbean school cyber security awareness programme

ITU implemented the Caribbean School Cyber Security Awareness Programme in 2017. This initiative was designed to assist the Ministries of Education in Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis to promote awareness in the safe use of ICT, anti-cyber bullying and general cyber security awareness in secondary schools. Approximately 120 participants benefited from the delivery of cyberbullying workshop sessions in Guyana.

Source: ITU (2018).

### Box 23

#### Establishment of Caribbean cyber security centre in Belize

This Centre was established to wean youths (usually the target population by criminals and extremists) away from the streets and provide them with skills in different areas such as computer forensics, vulnerability assessment, penetration testing, security operational assessment, incident response, ICT governance support, information security programme development and support, computer security incident response and cyber-security awareness training.

Source: UNFPA (2018).

Also notable is the "Strengthening Evidenced Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean" (CariSECURE) Programme implemented in 10 southern and eastern Caribbean countries with the aim of reducing youth involvement in crime and violence. USAID is funding this venture that seeks to use 'evidenced-based decision-making' to develop and approved programs and policies. Here, intervention logic will be used as it focuses on preventing disease/injury rather than treating the consequences of same (UNDP, 2016b). UNODC will also work closely with UNDP for the implementation of the CariSECURE Project in the Eastern Caribbean.

<sup>60</sup> See <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ITU-EC-ACP/hipcar/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Box 24**  
**Trinidad and Tobago juvenile court**

On preventative measures, the TT Juvenile Court project is also a good practice. It has modernized and reformed the juvenile justice system through the implementation of core areas of the Children Act and the Children's Authority, establishment of two juvenile courts, one in Port-of-Spain and in San Fernando, respectively. In keeping with a more rehabilitative and less punitive approach, it also developed court-annexed diversion programmes through coordination and referrals mechanisms in cooperation with the Children's Authority, other state agencies and NGOs. It as well drafted court rules and procedures and built the institutional capacity of the juvenile courts to adjudicate juvenile cases in an effective and efficient manner.

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Juvenile Court Project (2018).

UNFPA supported Belize's Department of Youth Services in hosting the 2017 World Youth Conference under the theme "Globally Running to 2030, Becoming Sustainably Strong". The Conference reached 136 young people hailing from 28 countries across the globe, facilitating an enabling environment that promoted youth interaction, networks and partnerships across cultures, empowering and supporting youth as agents of social inclusion and peace thus promoting a culture of partnership for action and continued knowledge sharing and sharing of best practices aimed at achieving the SDGs by 2030. The outcome document is the "Mahogany Declaration" which details the affirmations and agreed actions of the youth participants (UNFPA, 2018).

UNODC supported Dominican Republic authorities (Ministry of Education and National Drugs Council) in the adoption and implementation of programmes to prevent drug abuse and other risk behaviours among youth from vulnerable communities. Over 400 Dominican families benefitted from these programs during 2017 (UNODC, 2018). In Haiti, MINUJUSTH adjusted its community violence reduction programme and quick-impact projects to increase the participation of marginalized communities and youth at risk in national policing initiatives and rule of law projects (MINUJUSTH, 2018b).

## **Q. Education (SDG 4)**

*The SAMOA Pathway reaffirms that that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard (paragraph 87).*

### **1. Regional overview**

For Caribbean countries to become economically competitive, they will need to enhance the capacities of their human capital development and education systems by maintaining efficient social equity and protection policies for individuals while increasing quality and accessibility at all levels of education and training.

The Government of Curaçao is actively pursuing opportunities for improvement in the traditional school system. With decreasing student numbers and aging teacher demographics, the country seeks to reallocate its existing educational budget (20per cent of government expenditures and close to 6per cent of GDP as of 2016) and existing infrastructure portfolio to offer a more attractive education experience to children (Government of Curaçao, 2016).

Illiteracy has been declining in the Dominican Republic with implementation of a programme aimed at eradicating it in the coming years. In 2015, illiteracy rates stood at 7per cent among the population aged 15 and over. Higher rates are observed in the rural population, in poor households, and among men (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). The increase in public education funding since 2013, which has helped to expand school infrastructure throughout the country and increase teacher salaries, is gradually being used to strengthen training programs and recruitment of new teaching talent. In this context, the principal challenge relates to the quality of educational services. Although the Dominican Republic has been subjected to the rigours of regional and global tests the measure the achievements of educational processes in terms of learning, results are low (ibid.).

Focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics development, particularly for youths and adults is crucial. Although Caribbean countries have fairly good primary and secondary education participation rates, results in examinations entries, sittings and performance scores over the past decade have been somewhat disappointing. The pass-through rate to tertiary education in the Caribbean — currently

about 15per cent — should necessarily serve as a benchmark to begin to approach levels in the developed world, which are now more than twice the level of that in the Caribbean<sup>61</sup> (ECLAC, 2018c).

CARICOM countries have been guided by a number of strategic policies including the Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy, Regional Framework for Action for Children and regional mandates such as Health and Family Life Education, Culture in Education, and Health in Education (CARICOM, 2018a). CARICOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO have supported the implementation of Health and Family Life Education curriculums in the Caribbean which are geared towards the empowerment of young people by building on their individual capacities (UNFPA, 2018).

The adoption of the CARICOM Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy in 2017 aimed at contributing to education and training reform in the sub-region and embedding skills and competencies appropriate to globally competitive 21st century economies and society. The strategy is a consolidated effort to review existing documents and frameworks and determine suitability for the Region's response to 21<sup>st</sup> Century demands. The strategy is intended to create a seamless education system that promotes access, equity, relevance and quality in education (CARICOM, 2018a).

## 2. Early childhood and primary education

According to the CDB, 25per cent of the region's children, particularly members of poor and vulnerable families, do not have access to early childhood education during critical developmental years. Towards this end, CDB and UNICEF partnered to produce a Caribbean Early Childhood Development Good Practice Guide to improve quality of early childhood education in the Caribbean (CARICOM, 2018k).

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are taking part in the OECS USAID Early Learners Program which helps to improve the learner levels of Kindergarten to Grade 3 children. In 2018, 100 education professionals in Saint Lucia took part in the OECS Teacher Education and Professional Development Conference where they brainstormed on how to improve teacher training and had the opportunity to analyse current reports on the educational situation in that country (OECS, 2017d).

The results of Belize's Out-of-School Children Initiative indicate much more work is required to reduce barriers to school completion in that country. With only two-thirds of students completing secondary school and fewer than half of children attending preschool, the study recommends a number of strategies to tackle these issues, for example: (i) increasing quality and service delivery through training; (ii) standardization of the preschool curriculum; (iii) subsidization of educational costs for families in need; (iv) improved tracking of students through the system; (v) extending the age range for compulsory education; (vi) increasing anti-bullying programs; and (vii) emphasizing learning of language and reading skills in the first primary school years, amongst others (UNICEF, 2018).

Notably, Belize has recently developed the 2017-2021 National Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan. Implementation of this strategic plan involves the establishment and activation of clear and efficient structures to ensure accountability, drive implementation and provide a forum for stakeholders' continued engagement. The Government has also embarked on developing a national Early Childhood Development data management system to monitor the progress (Government of Belize, 2018).

In the Dominican Republic, net coverage at the primary level (for population between 6 and 13 years) is close to 95per cent and efforts are made towards 100per cent (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). In pre-primary education, coverage has oscillated around 30per cent and is higher in urban areas and non-poor households. However, it should be noted that there has been significant achievement in the area of early childhood care with a comprehensive initiative to promote a protection policy. Private education at the early level reflects a much higher coverage (ibid.).

It must be noted that across the five countries impacted during the 2017 Hurricane Season, UNICEF's education efforts have benefitted more than 19,000 children and adolescents of school age and 1,092 of preschool age by providing facilities for the resumption early childhood and education services (United Nations Caribbean, 2017b).

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<sup>61</sup> Enrolment of 19-year-olds in tertiary education averaged 33% in OECD countries in 2015 and was as high as 73% in the Republic of Korea (ECLAC, 2018a).

### 3. Secondary, technical, vocational and other tertiary education

There has been recognized regional progress in some areas such as certification and benchmarking for secondary education in the Caribbean, vocational training, the development of Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) based on regionally agreed occupational standards, and the development of a CARICOM Qualifications Framework to facilitate mobility of students and graduates seeking further education or employment (ECLAC, 2018c).

Science Technology and Innovation (STI) are now more than ever seen as key enablers of sustainable development. National and regional investment in STI, and STI capabilities of organisations, countries and the Caribbean region are therefore vital. Beyond Research and Development many organisations play a key role in facilitating the diffusion and use of scientific and technological knowledge (NIHERST, 2018).

In 2014, Saint Kitts and Nevis, with assistance from the EU, facilitated the training of members of the TVET Council and educational professionals to become certified assessors and verifiers. Further steps were taken through support from the EU: (i) the development of a National Qualifications Framework which was launched in 2016 to provide a mechanism for quality assurance; (ii) the establishment and achievement of nationally recognised and consistent training standards; and (iii) a rationalised approach to structuring existing and new qualifications in a systematic manner. This will be supported by the National Qualifications Registry and National Occupational Classification which are scheduled to be completed shortly (Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2018).

Integration of international best practice in TVET, including investment in relevant and emerging technology, life-long learning and the possibility of upgrading during job performance, presents an opportunity to raise the profile and usefulness of vocational education in Curaçao. An international TVET Conference held in October 2015 indicated that though Curaçao has the basis for TVET in its school programme and thus, has a good base from which to build (Government of Curaçao, 2016). In 2017, the Antigua and Barbuda's NTA submitted a draft TVET policy to the Ministry of Education, which is currently being used by the NTA and the Ministry of Education as integral part of an ongoing project aimed at reforming the technical and vocational education and training system in Antigua and Barbuda, considering critical areas of skills development, i.e., programme articulation, curricula development, instructor professional development, skills anticipation, vocational guidance, financing and inclusive education.

The ILO has assisted countries in addressing the problems of skills mismatches in order to develop quality skills development strategies. Hence, support to improve the TVET policies and programmes was offered to Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Grenada, Jamaica and Belize. In 2018, Barbados will be provided with assistance to revise its National TVET policy (ILO, 2018).

Governance bodies have proved receptive and responsive to the needs of regional labour markets, introducing new courses and qualifications in recent years. For example, CVQs in Commercial Food Preparation Training were introduced in Dominica after a 2014 survey revealed a shortage of certified workers in that field. Consequently, Discover Dominica Authority and the 10th European Development Fund collaborated on a two-phased training project to alleviate the shortage of skilled, experienced and certified labour (Discover Dominica Authority, 2017).

In 2015, UNESCO's sub-regional project aimed to develop the implementation plan for the Global Micro-science Experiments Project for Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) territories in an attempt to stymie the decline in youth's interest in the Sciences. This was done in collaboration with UNESCO Kingston, Jamaica Cluster office and involves Belize and Saint Lucia (where it was piloted in October 2015) (Saint Lucia News Online, 2015). In 2017, e-testing was introduced by CXC. Twelve subjects (multiple choice) can now be examined in this new medium. Five hundred candidates from seven countries participated in the first instance. Additionally, new Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination subject areas have been and are currently being developed, including Biotechnology (with initial examinations carded for 2021), Entrepreneurship, Green Engineering, Tourism, Logistics and Supply Chain Operations, Digital Media and Financial Services Studies (CXC, 2017).

The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth: Implemented through the Commonwealth of Learning, this learning resource encourages the use of non-proprietary content so that materials can be easily adapted to country contexts. Established since 2009, it built on the momentum of the SAMOA Pathway, offering skills-related courses to 12 participating Caribbean SIDS in areas such as tourism,

entrepreneurship, disaster management, life skills, use of information and communication technologies, and small fisheries management (United Nations, 2014).

New Zealand offers a small number of scholarships to prospective students from Caribbean countries to undertake study or training in New Zealand, in areas of importance to partner countries, e.g. in priority areas of agriculture, renewable energy, and disaster risk management. For 2017, this support equated to approximately NZ\$762,000 (approximately 39 students) from Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname (Government of New Zealand, 2018).

## **R. Biodiversity, forests, desertification, land degradation and drought (SDG 15)**

### **1. Biodiversity, conservation and invasive alien species**

*The SAMOA Pathway agrees to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature. It recognises that, overall, SIDS have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk. (paragraphs 89 and 90).*

*Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of SIDS to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for the efforts of SIDS (paragraph 95).*

The Caribbean islands are one of the world's greatest centres of biodiversity, but are also under extreme pressure from many threats, including invasive species, climate change impacts, and habitat destruction and fragmentation due to unsustainable human development, agricultural encroachment and overexploitation of natural resources.

#### **a) Biodiversity and Conservation**

In May 2017, the Government of Guyana signed a contract with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility for the national project “Enhancing Guyana’s National Biodiversity Information System Database” to develop a national biodiversity database. The aims of the project are: (i) to strengthen the national biodiversity information facilities; (ii) to mobilise biodiversity data among sector agencies; and (iii) to improve sharing of biodiversity data to support decision making (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

Guyana’s partnerships with international, regional and local organisations, such as the GEF, UNDP, UNEP, German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW), IUCN, IDB, and World Wildlife Fund have allowed its Environmental Protection Agency to implement a number of projects, all aimed at improving biodiversity management. Additionally, Guyana’s Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission was established by Section 4 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. The Act, which was brought into effect on June 1, 2017, provides for the protection, conservation, management, sustainable use, internal and external trade of Guyana’s wildlife (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

In May 2018, the Government of Belize formally endorsed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This plan is part of Belize’s commitments to the Convention of Biological Diversity. This is aligned with Belize’s Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy which brings to the forefront the role of biodiversity in achieving sustainable growth (Government of Belize, 2018).

Trinidad and Tobago has created rules in an effort to protect and conserve Environmentally Sensitive Species and Environmentally Sensitive Areas. One of the country’s national birds, the Scarlet Ibis, has received this designation in 2018 to counteract poaching and habitat destruction (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017a). Jamaica has also reaped successes through its Iguana Headstart Programme where the critically endangered iguana species is seeing improvements in its population

(Government of Jamaica, 2018). Dominica's forests support the only population of the endemic parrot *Amazona Imperialis* (Imperial Parrot) that is recognised as critically endangered. The damage to the environment is very high, with 80-90 per cent of environmental resources significantly affected. Damage to forest resources was particularly severe and there is concern regarding the status of critical habitat supporting the highly endangered Imperial Parrot (Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2017).

Although the Dominican Republic has a remarkable system of protected areas, and the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems has made important advances, it requires more and better statistics for its monitoring, as well as higher levels of resources in general. Along with the dynamic growth of the forest area, only a fraction of it is under sustainable management and requires greater protection effectiveness in the case of the surface for exclusive preservation purposes. At the same time, the quality of the new forest areas is uncertain, which also makes the environmental services they are able to provide uncertain (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

CARICOM's Natural Resources Policy Framework will address the protection and sustainable use of the Community's Natural Resources as laid out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and called for by the Twenty-Eighth Special Meeting of COTED. The advancement of this Policy Framework was supported with funding from Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), the Government of Japan and the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF. The CARICOM Secretariat is also in the process of preparing a CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy is proposed to harmonise the region's approach to achieving the Aichi Targets under the Convention of Biological Diversity. It is expected that implementation of this Strategy will involve the collaboration of the CARICOM Secretariat, the OECS Commission, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, a regional endowment established to support governments of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, has contributed substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity through its Conservation Finance Programme and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility. With support from the Government of Germany, the Adaptation Facility was established as a US\$26.5 million fund to support projects in targeted countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, 2018).

Another project of note is the Caribbean Biological Corridor initiative which began in 2007 with a political declaration from the Ministers of the Environment of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Funded by the EU and implemented by UNEP, this initiative aims to make an important contribution to the long-term conservation of biodiversity based on ecosystems connectivity across countries and beyond political boundaries. A second phase (2017-2020) is currently under discussion between the three countries involved, the EU and UNEP (UNEP, 2016).

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to civil society to protect critical ecosystems. CEPF's first investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot between October 2010 and July 2016 responded to these threats and produced a broad range of conservation results in eight countries and at the regional level focused on terrestrial biodiversity. Specific priorities for funding and targeted results were identified in the CEPF Caribbean Islands Ecosystem Profile and the final evaluation recognised the significant results that had been achieved. The CEPF implemented a US\$6.9 million investment in eight Caribbean SIDS and at the regional level through 77 grants to 68 CSOs, with 78 per cent of the funds going to local and regional Caribbean CSOs (CANARI, 2018). The CEPF is currently finalising the design and programming of a second phase of investment.

With this focused support, the CSOs were able to achieve significant results for conservation and livelihoods. Demonstrable improvements in management were achieved in 25 Key Biodiversity Areas covering a total of 593,967 hectares, as guided by management and operational plans. Eight new protected areas were created covering 111,496 hectares in The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, including terrestrial and marine national parks, municipal reserves and a private protected area. The Dominican Republic's first private protected area was declared, and the procedures required to implement the existing legal framework for the declaration of private protected areas were developed and disseminated (ibid.).

Under the CEPF, climate change adaptation was integrated in protected area planning and implementation actions for the first time in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. A climate change risk assessment was prepared for the Portland Bight and Hellshire Hills sub-area management plans in Jamaica. Similarly, a climate change adaptation action plan and strategy was included in the management plan for

Dominican Republic's La Humeadora National Park. CSOs in the Dominican Republic also developed a capacity building action plan to access climate finance in order to conserve critical ecosystems in the context of climate change (CANARI, 2018). 379.381.

In May 2018, the Government of Belize formally endorsed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This plan is part of Belize's commitments to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). Belize's NBSAP is aligned to Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy which brings to the forefront the role of biodiversity in achieving sustainable growth (Government of Belize 2018).

#### b) **Invasive Species**

Caribbean SIDS, with their diverse but delicate ecosystems, are particularly at risk from invasions which can do great damage to native biodiversity. In the Caribbean, invasive alien species are a major threat to the vulnerable marine, freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity of the many islands, and to the people depending on this biodiversity for their livelihoods and well-being. Due to the nature of many of the invasive species and their ability to spread and colonise new areas, any attempt to tackle this threat will require a regional effort. Caribbean SIDS have recognised this need for a regional strategy, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity's declaration that efforts must be made to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species that threaten ecosystems.

Currently in the Caribbean, three distinct Invasive Alien Species Working Groups have been established to address mitigation of Invasive Alien Species: MTIASIC (Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean), CISWIG (Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group) and CPHD (Caribbean Plant Health Directors). These groups encompass the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International - CABI, 2018).

In partnership with international CSOs, national CSOs developed operational and biosecurity plans and successfully eradicated invasive alien species from 19 offshore islands. Supporting local leadership in control helps ensure long-term sustainability of efforts, cost-effectiveness, and local community buy-in. The CEPF model provided useful lessons for other grant programmes to Caribbean SIDS, and CEPF will build on the success of this initial investment by launching a second phase of investment in the Caribbean Islands in 2018 (ibid.).

#### **Box 25**

##### **Bermuda Lionfish Taskforce**

Bermuda has established a Lionfish Taskforce as a "mechanism to coordinate and focus the efforts of stakeholders and concerned citizens upon the implementation of all components within the Bermuda Lionfish Control Plan". Funded through a Darwin Plus Grant of approximately £170,000, the Control Plan prioritizes public awareness campaigns, research and assessments, detection and removal of local lionfish populations through targeted culling efforts, as well as monitoring of the socioeconomic impacts of this invasive species (e.g. fisheries, tourism and human health).

Source: Bermuda Lionfish Taskforce (2014).

The OECS developed an Invasive Alien Species Action Plan for the OECS Region in 2015 which outlines strategic and programmatic interventions required over the short, medium and long term to address the issue (OECS, 2018a).

## **2. Forests**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that forests are vital to livelihoods and ecosystems (paragraph 94).*

Forest conservation and addressing threats to forest destruction, degradation and fragmentation continues to be a significant threat in Caribbean SIDS. Several Caribbean SIDS have national forest policies in place (for example Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) and have actively been protecting environmentally sensitive areas and forest reserves. Dominica assigned approximately 27 per cent of its forests protected status (Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2017). FAO indicates the Caribbean showed a net increase in forest area between 2010 and 2015 and was particularly evident in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago (FAO, 2017e).

Outlined in its 2018 Public Sector Investment Programme, Trinidad and Tobago continues the sustainable development of its forest resources with TT\$8.3 million allocated to its Forestry Division in 2017 to undertake conservation activities including the upgrade of the national seedlings nursery facility, fire suppression training and the preparation of 220 hectares of land for re-afforestation works (Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2017a).

The Dominican Republic is the beneficiary of an IDB Sustainable Agroforestry Development Programme that entails a sustainable watershed reforestation program (IDB, 2018b). It is expected that ongoing initiatives to offer support to agroforestry projects will represent a critical impetus to efforts to strengthen the protection and sustainable management of forests, which today only represents 3 per cent (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.). In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry and U.S. Forest Service assisted Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in conducting damage assessments of rural and urban forests, assessing reforestation needs and determining tree species recommended for planting (U.S. Forest Service, 2018).

Suriname is currently in the Readiness Phase of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme and was finalizing its National REDD+ Strategy in late 2017. Guyana and the Kingdom of Norway signed a REDD+ agreement since 2009, providing the former with much needed finance while incentivising the conservation of Guyana's primary forest resources. As approximately 83.3 per cent of its area is covered by forest, this performance based financial scheme has allowed Guyana to pursue its development priorities while maintaining forest cover. Guyana continues to receive performance-based payments from the Kingdom of Norway for forest carbon services. This has kept the rate of annual deforestation below 0.1 percent (CARICOM, 2018a). Guyana is also in the Readiness Phase of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility with the IDB as Delivery Partner (ibid).

These efforts are particularly important when considering the rights and livelihoods of Guyana's indigenous population. In 2012, Guyana's indigenous population was estimated at 80,000 persons, comprising roughly 146 distinct communities and collectively occupying 14 per cent of its national forest area (Overman et al, 2018). Under the REDD+ agreement, Guyana developed an Opt-In mechanism for indigenous groups, allowing for land tenure as well as inclusion in and ownership of the national development process. However, the delivery of promised finance and projects has been slow (Laing, 2018). Under the Opt-In Mechanism, communities were promised payment for protecting the lands to which they held title, but the mechanism has yet to be fully operationalised. With funding from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), the Amerindian Land Titling Project (2013-2018) is accelerating the titling and demarcation of Amerindian lands. Eighteen additional villages were demarcated under the project. In addition, the first Amerindian conserved area – Kanashen Amerindian District – was declared under the Protected Areas Commission Act (CARICOM, 2018a).

With the promulgation of Guyana's National Forest Policy Statement and Forest Plan in 2011, there have been some significant accomplishments in this sector, allowing current and future generations of Guyanese to enjoy tangible forest-related benefits through strategies such as the encouragement of value-added and non-traditional products. This Plan and Policy was revised in 2018. Progress has also been made in the formation and functioning of logging associations across the country (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

Importantly, systems of national and community Measurement, Reporting and Verification Systems (MRVS) have been developed by Guyana, under the stewardship of the Guyana Forest Commission. Linked to the Guyana-Norway agreement, and falling originally under Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, local stakeholders have participated in MRVS through Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification mechanisms (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

Guyana has further committed to the low carbon development approach; forwarding its Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) in 2017. Forestry is a core element of this strategy, with funding for future initiatives directly financed from the GRIF (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2017). Additionally, Guyana has strengthened its forest governance and regulatory mechanisms towards the reduction of illegal logging and timber trading as well as deforestation. This is evidenced by the 2012 signing of the Guyana-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). VPAs are key element of the EU's Forest Law and Enforcement-Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>62</sup> See <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/home>.

Although a plethora of international partnerships was forged over the last 15 years in furtherance of the objectives of Guyana's forestry sector, only two were carried out since the conceptualisation of the SAMOA Pathway. These include: (i) implementation of Phase 2 of Guyana's MRVS with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); and (ii) the second phase of the International Tropical Timber Organisation's Project on Forestry Industry Development (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018).

The Government of Belize enacted the Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulation which came into effect on 23 June 2018. This new mangrove regulation places greater emphasis on the management and conservation of mangroves in critical areas. They recognise the significance of mangroves as an important feature of our coastline and cays - the role they play in coastline protection, contribution to our economy, and their aesthetic, ecological and environmental values and functions - and incorporate these intrinsic values to inform the decision-making process for alteration requests. The new regulation also provides for an improved application process for alteration permits, institute a new systematic fee system, and strengthen penalties and fines to deter illegal mangrove alteration (Government of Belize, 2018).

FAO and CANARI recently launched a strategic alliance aimed at developing a regional strategy on forests and climate change. The alliance will identify priorities for scaling up of initiatives, develop proposals to mobilise resources, and enhance readiness of stakeholders, but more will be needed to mobilise partners, build capacity and attract support. Two sustainable funding mechanisms were established through the sale of the Caribbean's first forest carbon offsets in a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme which allows smallholders and cocoa farmers in the Dominican Republic to improve production while reforesting their plots with native species. An economic valuation of water resources to support a participatory PES system involving Santo Domingo's water authority was also completed, laying the foundation for another innovative financing scheme (CANARI, 2018).

While forests are recognised to be critical in adaptation and mitigation to climate change, much of the resources are being focused towards building coastal resilience. Little work has been done on how climate change and variability will affect forests on Caribbean SIDS. There is a need to focus resources to build climate resilience of forests and associated rural community livelihoods in the Caribbean SIDS to climate change and natural hazards. Development of a regional framework, tools and allocation of resources are needed to guide development of appropriate policies, research and practical actions (ibid.).

### **3. Desertification and Land Degradation**

*The SAMOA Pathway recognises that in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical for the achievement by SIDS of food security and nutrition, their adaptation to climate change, the protection of their biodiversity and the development of resilience to natural disasters. It also strongly support the efforts of SIDS in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and in catalysing financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as in promoting the sustainability of their limited soil resources (paragraph 92).*

Guyana's National Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2017-2030 and High-Level Note have been undertaken in partnership with the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, served by its Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cabinet endorsement was received in January 2018.

This Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme aims to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD and improve land management with a focus of balancing losses with gains to achieve long-term, concrete measures in order to achieve established targets (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

Further, Guyana's Aligned NAP to Combat Land Degradation was recently completed. This Aligned NAP 2015-2025 builds on the previous National Action Plan from 2006 and outlines the approach and roadmap towards continuing to enhance the way of managing land and resources in Guyana. While Guyana has acknowledged the need to combat land degradation, its efforts have been hampered by the following gaps and challenges: (i) absence of a National Land Policy; (ii) land use conflicts; (iii) lack of definition of management /administration institution and land titling for land management; (iv) limited data to monitor land degradation using stratified indicators; (v) creation of jurisdiction issues due to overlapping/ similar legislation; and (vi) the need for early warning systems and emergency plans to mitigate the impacts of

drought, floods and other natural disasters to be integrated in planning (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018a).

## R. Industry, technology, data & statistics (SDG 17)<sup>63</sup>

### 1. ICT Development

Access to technology and the internet underpins the commitment to many of the thematic areas within the SAMOA Pathway and most importantly, to the eradication of poverty. Advocacy is critical to ensuring government accountability through access to information, political participation and freedom of expression, all of which is facilitated by internet access (Government of Jamaica, 2018). Many countries have begun to engage in strategic capacity building, particularly through the adoption of technology and expansion of networks.

The Bahamas, as part of its development plan (Vision 2040), has made strides in relation to ICTs with the installation of fibre-optic submarine cables joining the USA to The Bahamas and improving both voice and data communications and providing “an enabling environment for business growth and development” (Bahamas Trade Info, 2017). The Dominican Republic’s Digital Republic initiative, launched in 2016, seeks to significantly increase access to and use of the Internet and reduce the digital divide thanks to the expansion and strengthening of the connectivity infrastructure, reduction of connectivity costs, and increased access of students and teachers to electronic devices. By 2020, it seeks to bring broadband connectivity to 70per cent of the population and reduce the cost by more than 30per cent. In fact, the initiative is already significantly improving access to public services through the Internet (Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, n.d.).

The Government of Jamaica, through its Universal Service Fund, has financed projects and initiatives geared towards increasing local broadband connectivity. Figure 4 below demonstrates Jamaica’s progress in network connected sites as of August 2017. Beyond ensuring internet access within key infrastructural institutions, the Fund also oversees initiatives with communities through Community Access Points. Through partnerships with NGOs and other organizations, 260 access points have been established across communities in Jamaica. The sustainable operation of these facilities are supported by solar photovoltaic systems for energy generation. The 2016 USFConnectJA Project is another initiative that is seeking to advance internet connectivity for Jamaican citizens. Under the project, over 400 connections have been established in locations frequented by the general public (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

**Diagram 2**  
Jamaica’s broadband network connected sites as of August 2017



Source: Government of Jamaica (2018).

<sup>63</sup> It should be noted that the SAMOA Pathway does not have a specific section as this SDG 17: Industry Partnerships, Technology, Data and Statistics. The findings obtained seek to align as per best fit to this SDG 17.

Recently in March 2018, the Government of Jamaica announced plans to provide free internet access on public buses and to launch a “smart town” pilot project. A smart town is described as an area that utilizes information and communication technologies to create an environment that facilitates a digitally driven approach to enhancing government services and information sharing. The pilot project will be launched in New Kingston, Jamaica’s primary commercial district. The public transportation project is expected to outfit 400 buses with free internet access by the end of 2018 (*ibid.*).

Saint Kitts and Nevis became the first Caribbean nation to introduce a unique internet identifier in March 2018. This has allowed the government to strengthen the resilience of internal networks and improve the quality of e-government currently offered to its citizens (OECS, 2018e). The country is also preparing for the introduction of the computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) method in conducting household interviews. Supported by the World Bank, CDB and other stakeholders, training in this technology has already been completed in Saint Lucia and Grenada (which received equipment through the CDB’s Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment Project). Programmes in Antigua and Barbuda as well as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are expected to be completed in the near future (OECS, 2018a).

The role of ICT continues to be integral to the realization of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy and more recently (as for developing countries), ICT’s role as an enabler of economic growth has become more pivotal. In 2017, the CARICOM Heads of Government approved a roadmap and workplan for the CARICOM Single ICT Space (CARICOM, 2018a). Specific areas for attention in developing the Single ICT space (all which speak to the social, economic and environmental) include:

- Telecoms/Connectivity: Broadband development and access for increased penetration; Reducing and /or eliminating voice and data roaming charges; Spectrum management and re-organisation to facilitate increased competition in the market; Legal and regulatory environment (policies, standards, examination of existing models for regulation, copyright, competition, and cloud storage) and Development of the Roadmap for the Single ICT Space.
- Single Information Space: The Space provides additional opportunity for regional organisations and governments to work together on the policy, technology and applications necessary to make information (including statistics) an asset of competition and innovation in the region.
- Bringing Technology to the People and transforming them to Digital Natives and Digital Entrepreneurs (including Sector specific applications, e.g. Agriculture, Tourism, Transport).
- Cyber Security.
- Mobilization of resources and commitment of Member States to invest in ICT.
- Developing the CARICOM Digital Agenda 2025; and
- Regional and International Focus: CARICOM Secretariat will continue to work to coordinate a common approach within the discussions of the wider Latin American and Caribbean Group and the wider World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, while at the same time, helping to preserve the special interests of Member States through the post-2015 Agenda initiatives (CARICOM, 2018a).

In the context of the UN Post-2015 Agenda, it is important to note that the UN is also pursuing a similar process for ICT under the ambit of WSIS beyond 2015/ WSIS +10. Data will support the fact that CARICOM has not been able to treat with the complexity of coordinating and completing/reaching targets outlined under the WSIS 2005 process within the given time frame 2005-2015. CARICOM is not alone in this as is evidenced from the WSIS post 2015 report on emerging issues and challenges (*ibid.*). ICT adoption, cost of access, usage as well as funding for ICT programmes are therefore flagged as issues which need to be addressed urgently for the CARICOM Region and registered as a serious challenge for economic growth and sustainable development for the Region. To date, much of the regional discussion on the SAMOA Pathway has been centred on climate change and other environmental vulnerabilities. ICT has roles to play as an enabler and catalyst in both economic and social development and it is hoped that ICT will be identified as an area of vulnerability in this new digital era and addressed appropriately (*ibid.*).

With regard to international engagement, a key priority area for ITU is spectrum management and digital transition for Caribbean countries. In 2017, ITU aided Dominica in the preparation of a model Roaming Bill. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has also benefited from this organization's work through the ITU-Korean Project on the Development of Master Plans for Spectrum Management. This country's Master Plan was completed in 2017. Further, ITU is in the process of assisting Guyana through its National Frequency Management Unit (NFMU) in assessing and reviewing its Spectrum Assignments as part of its reform process (*ibid.*).

The development of a National ICT Plan 2017 – 2027 for Trinidad and Tobago is currently in the works. Here, ITU will provide technical advice to the government to ensure organizational, functional and governance structures that are consistent with the Government's national agenda and goals for the sector; taking into consideration the country's specific requirements, circumstances and limitations. ITU is also assisting the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in updating the legal and regulatory framework of its telecommunications sector. Preparations are in progress by the ITU to provide support to Antigua and Barbuda, to review the Telecommunications Act and to identify priority supporting Regulations consistent with the Act. The final delivery date is November 2018 (*ibid.*).

The development of Government Wide Area Networks (G-WAN) in the Caribbean was a major highlight of ITU's 2016-2017 programme. ITU facilitated this initiative for a secured integrated IP communications infrastructure of G-WANs for Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis through collaboration with Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU). The project entailed presenting key principles for planning, designing, developing and implementing an appropriate GWAN network configuration; assisting in the conduct of audits of existing government network infrastructure; facilitating Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer; and training on aspects of planning and design and future implementation of the G-WAN (*ibid.*).

Youth engagement is also a crucial element of ITU's approach to improving the access, use and knowledge of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the Caribbean. Towards this end, ITU hosted a Youth Innovation Event during its Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) for the Americas Region Meeting in June 2018. Hosted in Trinidad and Tobago, the sessions were carried out in collaboration with the CTU, the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The event will also discuss and propose a model for first stage Caribbean C&I and discuss related issues, in particular associated with the creation and implementation of a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for C&I Approval of IoT devices within CARICOM (ITU, 2018).

In response to the SDG11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", ITU and UNECE launched the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative. U4SSC primarily advocates for public policy to encourage the use of ICTs to facilitate and ease the transition to smart sustainable cities worldwide. More specifically for the Caribbean region, ITU held the 17th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR17) in Nassau, Bahamas on 11th – 14th July 2017. GSR, which brought together heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities from around the world, has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators to share their views and experiences on the most pressing regulatory issues they have identified (*ibid.*).

ITU, in collaboration with the Government of The Bahamas, launched the Bahamas "Smart Island" initiative in 2017. This initiative will be a blueprint for other Caribbean countries. The improvement in urban infrastructures, systems and governance will help Bahamas to become more efficient, liveable and help save lives by better preparing to meet the challenges of climate change including disruptions in the wake of a disaster. It will also contribute to social equality through universal access of public services – health care, security and intelligent traffic systems, as examples (*ibid.*).

ITU has assisted Belize in the procurement of computers for Community Telecentres so that these shared sites can provide and increase public access to the Internet and to services available over the Internet. This also forms part of the Beneficiary States' policy in relation to Universal Access, to increasing Broad Band Connectivity and creating the platform for access to content, facilitating and promoting E-government, the creation of local content, stimulating and to improving community life. Ten computers were delivered under this initiative (*ibid.*).

E-agricultural strategies are also at the forefront of ITU's Caribbean developmental agenda. A Regional Capacity Development Workshop on national e-Agriculture strategies in the Caribbean was held on 9th – 13th July 2018 in Georgetown, Guyana. The workshop was organized by the ITU in collaboration

with UN Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO/SLC), and CTU. The Forum brought together proven e-agriculture solutions that will benefit agriculture stakeholders; shared knowledge on successful e-agriculture solutions and identified ways of scaling up implementations; establish a Community-of-Practice among e-agriculture solution providers; and encouraged experience sharing in implementing ICT solutions for agriculture (ITU, 2018).

ICT for Development now spans all areas of development from e-learning, e-commerce, e-government, e-inclusion, e-waste, e-education to cyber-security, there is need for deciding how to leverage ICT, to assure the development of CARICOM, and to clearly articulate its role in the Region. Selected major ICT challenges in supporting economic and social growth and developing a Digital economy include: having limited Access to ICT including infrastructure and tools; national requirement for articulating in national strategies and plans and also for addressing ICT both a Sector and enabler for the CSME and other regional initiatives and programmes; need to develop a national framework for the convergence of the ICT Sector (CARICOM, 2018a).

## 2. Extractive Industries

With burgeoning and expanding extractive industries in Suriname, Grenada, and Guyana, MOUs have been signed with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to promote technical cooperation in the development of new regional oil and gas sectors. For example, a MOU between the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PETROTRIN) and Suriname's state-owned oil company, Staatsolie, was established in February 2017 to "establish a formal framework for mutual cooperation between both companies on commercial and technical fronts". Activities should centre on the upstream and downstream arms of the crude oil value chain within particular interest in applying enhanced oil recovery (EOR) strategies in onshore well applications (PETROTRIN, 2017). The re-establishment of cooperation agreements was actively being negotiated between the Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in 2017 after an initial MOU expired in 2013. Additionally, the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) formalized its commercial agreement with the Global Petroleum Group (GPG) in April 2018 for exploratory and appraisal activities off Grenada's southern coast (NGC, 2018).

Further, a MOU was signed in March 2018 between the Trade and Economic Development Unit of the UWI and the Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI) Steering Committee and Secretariat to host capacity-building workshops in these emerging markets to promote best practice in natural resource management in the wider Caribbean. The following goals are hoped to be achieved: (i) building social, economic and environmental knowledge in relation to the exploitation of natural resources and (ii) increasing understanding of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's (EITI) implementation methodology and benefits (TTEITI, 2018).

## 3. Data and statistics

Each CARICOM Member State and Associate Members have some form of statistical authority be it semi – autonomous agencies such as in Jamaica, Belize, Haiti, Suriname and Guyana, or as Departments of Ministries and in rare cases as sub-departments. Grenada is transitioning currently to be a semi-autonomous body and the legislation is being tabled in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in SIDS are impacted by the economic and financial challenges faced at the country level, resulting in inadequate resources to undertake the production of official statistics inclusive of developmental work in new areas of statistics such as on the production of indicators to act as early warning signals and ready advent into new data sources. The challenges faced by the NSOs are exacerbated by the more increasing demands for data to monitor national, international and regional commitments and initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway and the regional integration agenda. While efforts are being made to bridge the data gaps the lack of resources implies that access to timely data on areas such as Environment and Social/Gender Statistics is difficult. There is the need to strengthen NSOs and Central Statistical Offices as extensive gaps exist with respect to up-to-date reporting, disaggregated statistics and other meta-data for evidence-based policy making at national and regional levels (CARICOM, 2018a and ACS, 2018).

In 2015, the St Maarten Info database system was introduced to foster result-based management in the territory. A technical workgroup was established by Sint Maarten's Department of Statistics and staff have since undergone trainings. However, this system needs to be completed and formalized by Cabinet (Government of Sint Maarten, 2018). Guyana's Strategy for the Development of Statistics Development was

launched in April 2018 (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018). Under the provisions of a current IDB-supported statistical capacity building project, Guyana's Bureau of Statistics also oversaw the launch of a National Statistical System (Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, 2018). Additionally, STATIN, with technical assistance from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), is expected to develop a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for Jamaica to address the issues of data reliability and integrity (Government of Jamaica, 2018).

The development of a national statistical system in Belize is currently in the pipelines and will strengthen the collection, analysis, dissemination, and overall management of data and information in that country. With the assistance of UNFPA, the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) participated in the CARICOM Workshop on Common Country Questions in Preparation for the 2020 Census Round. This resulted in a common core questionnaire for CARICOM Countries to ensure comparability of data and evidence generation for regional interventions. Additionally, UNFPA provided financial support to SIB to conduct a stakeholder consultation; a key deliverable in its Census pre-enumeration phase. The consultation facilitated dialogue between SIB and data users to ensure that the Census meets the data needs of the country (UNFPA, 2018). Equally important was Belize's participation in ECLAC's Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) workshop on database creation and development of web applications for data processing and dissemination. This has enhanced local capability to house past Census Data and other survey data and makes the datasets more readily accessible to the public for further analysis. Stakeholders have increased capacity to utilize data for further analysis and decision making (UNFPA, 2018).

Notably, the strategic framework for the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) was endorsed at the 39th CARICOM Heads of Government meeting. Leaders agreed to the development of a comprehensive Implementation Plan for the RSDS, a Resource Mobilisation Strategy, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and a Communication and Advocacy Strategy and further called on Member States and the CARICOM Secretariat to allocate the necessary human resource capacity to facilitate RSDS implementation (CARICOM, 2018m).

Big Data is a recent phenomenon on the agenda of official statistics globally and regionally. CARICOM is seeking to make use of the opportunities to enable access to this data source. As an example, some Member States of CARICOM, as well as the CARICOM Secretariat, were able to participate and present at the Fourth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in Colombia in November 2017. In addition, the Secretariat is on the Global Working Group on Big Data. While Big Data access will pose a challenge for SIDS, CARICOM SIDS are well-poised to take advantage of every opportunity to become aware of the progress being made globally and to make use of Big Data as a key data source for more timely availability of evidence-based statistics (CARICOM, 2018a).

The OECS has also sought to enhance regional statistical capacities with the launch of its own RSDS 2017 to 2030, the overarching goal of which is to support OECS countries to make available and accessible social, economic and environment data; and to ensure these data are country comparable, using advocacy and communication programme to promote the importance of data and statistics. The World Bank provided support with a two-year grant for the design of the OECS RSDS for transitioning to computer-aided personal interviewing (CAPI), data analysis and data documentation (OECS, 2018a).

Additionally, OECS Info 2.0, a centralised database with regional social and economic statistics, was launched in June 2017. This project was implemented with the support of the CDB and the CARICOM Secretariat's Regional Statistics Programme with funding from UNICEF. Adapted from the dissemination tool DevInfo, the OECS Commission has developed this web-based application to facilitate access to data under the following themes: Education, Juvenile Justice, Population, Unemployment, Tourism and GDP (OECS, 2017e). The OECS has also provided the following examples of engagements on supporting the development of this field:

- Establishment of the Statistical Services Unit in 2015;
- Cooperation with PARIS21 on statistical governance and development of national statistics development strategies; and
- Cooperation with Statistics Canada under the Project for the Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) in areas that include household surveys, business surveys, population census and advocacy and communication (OECS, 2018a).

Further, with support from the UNDP, World Bank, CDB and Statistics Canada, the Commission activated a programme to help OECS countries transition from paper-aided personal interviewing to CAPI by supplying NSOs with tools, training and software to collect and geo-reference data using tablets, and thus allowing for tremendous efficiency improvement in the statistics value chain from collection to dissemination (OECS, 2018a).

Notably, UNEP is working through the CEP and the CSRO to strengthen coordination and build capacity to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the environment. The CSRO is promoting the development of sub-regional partnerships and has helped to convene intergovernmental meetings to tackle regional issues. Data sharing initiatives include Regional Getaway for Technology Transfer and Climate Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) (UNEP, 2018a). The GEO-LAC reflecting the state of the environment of the region also informs the reporting of the sustainable development commitments. UNEP is assisting Caribbean SIDS in systematic data collection and to develop information systems for governments to better monitor and report on their international commitments. UNEP is also assisting Caribbean SIDS to establish environmental indicators that are relevant to the Caribbean and which will be used in reporting on the SDGs (UNEP, 2018a).

## T. SAMOA Pathway: Communication and Awareness Raising

In the period of this study, no national nor regional examples of communication and outreach were found that specifically focused on the SAMOA Pathway. Governments, UN and other partner agencies do have awareness raising of the activities, projects and events and as per their respective portfolios. In this review, the weight of focus on communication and awareness is on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Regional NGO- Panos Caribbean has sought to empower and amplify the voices of vulnerable groups throughout the region by through media engagement, allowing these groups to produce, broadcast and disseminate materials and information based on their experience and perspectives. This has fostered the coverage of often under-reported developmental issues, largely focused on climate change and climate justice, social justice, sustainable energy, freedom of expression, and discrimination. Panos works in four Caribbean languages (English, French, Kreyol and Spanish) and coordinates its regional programme out of offices based in Haiti and Jamaica (Panos Caribbean, 2018).

In collaboration with CCCCC, CDB, the OECS Commission, CYEN and the Government of Saint Lucia, Panos Caribbean launched the “1.5 to stay alive campaign” in 2015, working with regional artists, media workers and climate change negotiators to raise awareness of climate change issues and of the Caribbean’s stake and positions in international negotiations. Panos continues to provide training and to produce information materials on climate change and climate justice (ibid).

The United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area (UNIC) is mandated to strategically communicate information on United Nations priority issues and activities to achieve the greatest public impact (UNIC, 2018). The UNIC’s ICT infrastructure is key to achieving these objectives, notably through its online platforms. Selected output as provided by UNIC that could be aligned to one or more elements of the SAMOA Pathway implementation in the Caribbean region are:

- Provision of technical guidance and support to UN colleagues participating in the UNDAF Rollout Workshop in May 2015. Additionally, UNIC was represented at a UN information table during the 45th Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries conference, held in Paramaribo, Suriname in June 2015. This UN exhibit served to introduce some 130 conference attendees (from institutions throughout the UNIC’s Area of Responsibility - AoR) to the UN’s communications, public information and research tools; and to promote the Centre’s Caribbean activities and its role as the United Nation’s primary information resource in the region.
- UNIC has sought to increase video-conferencing as a means of strengthening networks; sharing information resources with Caribbean UN colleagues as well as other regional and international partners; and widening participation in UNIC events. Such events have included the first regional video conference among all six UN country teams in the Caribbean. This WebEx event, hosted by the UNIC at its Port of Spain office in May 2015, featured the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, Ms. Amina Mohammed. Earlier in 2015, the UNIC also participated in video conferences commemorating International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade (co-hosted by UNIC offices in Port of Spain,

Trinidad and Tobago, and Accra, Ghana); served as an organizing partner for the 27 March global conference among secondary school students in Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States (Nebraska and UN Headquarters in New York); and hosted video conferences on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (with participation from Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Sweden), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (with participation from four other Caribbean UN country teams).

- A key SDG campaign activity was the Centre’s production of an SDG exhibit that was launched by the UN System in Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on UN Day 2016. The exhibit was subsequently displayed at a Saint Joseph’s Convent, San Fernando special event to mark the school’s integration of the SDG campaign into its academic and administrative programming (8 March 2017). At this event, the UNIC delivered briefings on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ran a live Facebook feed of the activities.
- Sessions of the General Assembly (UNGA) and related special events, e.g. the High-Level Event on Ebola; the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants; the Secretary-General’s meeting with leaders of the CARIC; and the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit.
- Outreach and public information activities on the post-2015 process included lectures to employees of the Environmental Commission of Trinidad and Tobago at their Public Service Day commemoration, information dissemination and outreach support to the UN Women Caribbean Multi-Country Office in its promotion of women’s rights and gender empowerment, and the implementation of the Beijing + 20, UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, HeForShe, Free and Equal and Step it Up campaigns. Support activities also included co-production - within the UNCG - of an e-bulletin (April 2015) focusing on Beijing + 20 commemoration activities, coordination and dissemination of press material on ending child marriage in Trinidad and Tobago (January 2017) and dissemination of monthly Orange Day e-mail alerts.
- The UNIC disseminated material and developed a theme page at the UNIC website (<http://portofspain.unicnetwork.org>) to promote the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha in April 2015. It also launched the related “It’s a Crime” global campaign in the Caribbean via the Centre’s Caribbean UN Facebook account.
- Launch of Caribbean Human Development Report: The Centre supported the UNDP in the promotion and coverage of this launch (Barbados, 12 September 2016) – which was led by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark - through the dissemination of material to traditional media houses and at UNIC social media sites.
- On Human Rights Day 2016, the UNIC hosted a seminar on the role of human rights action and activism (with a focus on ex-prisoner social integration) in forwarding the SDGs. The seminar was targeted at NGOs, existing collaborators and associated groups, and others who were being encouraged to become active in support of the Centre.
- The UNIC screened the film, "Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess" and presented a Remember Slavery poster exhibit (on International Decade for People of African Descent themes) on 27 March 2017 in commemoration of International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- To commemorate Nelson Mandela Day and promote its themes of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and community service, the UNIC collaborated with the UNV programme on a briefing session (21 July 2017) for young adults (ages 17 to 30) on supporting achievement of the SDGs through volunteerism (both within and outside the UN system).
- Gave technical guidance and publicity assistance to UN offices providing emergency support to hurricane-affected countries, and it provided communications support for the Secretary-General’s visit on October 2017 to assess damage in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda.
- The Centre hosted a regional videoconference for secondary students that addressed climate change awareness and resilience to the natural disasters in Caribbean SIDS (October 2017). In March 2018, the UNIC was among the moderators for a regional media workshop on natural disaster reporting. Judging of entries in a secondary school visual arts competition organised by

the UWI Saint Augustine Campus, Faculty of Law (April 2018); dissemination of material on refugee rights, including press releases on the Venezuela refugee situation in Trinidad and Tobago.

- SDG outreach included the supply of information materials for training, conferences and exhibitions; lectures and presentations to teachers, secondary school students and non-government organization representatives; and the first in its series of SDG media workshops, which was held in Suriname in May 2018 to commemorate World Press Freedom Day.
- 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The Centre launched commemoration of the anniversary year with an online student seminar featuring participants from Denmark, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

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## **Annexes**

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Draft

**Table A.1**  
**CARICOM, SAMOA Pathway, SDG linkages to UN MSDF**

MSDF priority areas	Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	SAMOA pathway (Themes)	CARICOM strategic plan priorities	CARICOM-UN agreement- Key areas and priorities
An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean	Goal 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere	Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all	<b>Economic resilience, stabilisation and sustainable economic growth and development</b> ECN 1.a. Full implementation of five regimes under CSM ECN 1.d. Facilitate fuller participation by the private sector especially for production integration	Support to CARICOM-wide 2030 Development Agenda Statistical Institutional Infrastructure Strengthening Programme to enable the Region's implementation, monitoring and follow-up efforts for the 2030 Development Agenda, including the Samoa Pathway
	Goal 4: inclusive and equitable quality education	Gender equality and women's empowerment		Monitoring and evaluation of performance of the implementation of the SDGs
	Goal 5: gender equality and empower all women and girls	Social protection		
	Goal 8: promote sustained, sustainable economic growth	Education	ECN 2.b. Address the conditions/factors for creating an enabling environment to facilitate the private sector	Collaboration with UN to support development and implementation of CARICOM's 2030 Human Resource Development Strategy
	Goal 9: infrastructure and Industrialization	Social development - Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities	Social Resilience – Equitable Human and Social Development SOC 1.a. Develop a Regional Education and Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy to create a workforce for the 21st century SOC 1.b. Identify and seek to address critical skill gaps required for successful implementation of regional integration initiatives and advancement of the CARICOM agenda SOC 1.c. Support national implementation of actions un the CYDAP 2012-2017	Support work of Human Resource Development Commission
	Goal 10: reduced Inequalities			Enhance the capacity for analysis of integrated youth-development and gender analysis within government ministries, departments and national and regional agencies that coordinate policy development (focus on health, education, employment, access to financial services)
	Goal 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies		SOC 2.a. Develop and institute a regional support programme to build capacity in public sector organizations to undertake analysis, data collection and budgeting to support mainstreaming for gender, disability and the aged	
A Healthy Caribbean	Goal 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere	Food security and Nutrition	<b>Social Resilience – Equitable Human and Social Development</b> SOC 2.a. Develop and institute a regional support programme to build capacity in public sector organizations to undertake analysis, data collection and budgeting to support mainstreaming for gender, disability and the aged	Support for the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiative (CCH)
	Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Health and non-communicable diseases		Support for NCD control is required to draft the legislation required to address tobacco, alcohol and food advertising
	Goal 3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all	Gender equality and women's empowerment	SOC 3.a. Explore options for developing a regional health insurance system for a basic	Support is needed to re-train health cadre to address the special needs of adolescents including sexual and reproductive health needs

MSDF priority areas	Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	SAMOA pathway (Themes)	CARICOM strategic plan priorities	CARICOM-UN agreement- Key areas and priorities
	<p>Goal 5: gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Goal 6: water and sanitation for all</p> <p>Goal 10: reduced Inequalities</p> <p>Goal 12: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>		<p>package of services based on a costing of services</p> <p>SOC 3.b. Advance implementation of HIV initiatives in accordance with programme of action under the Global Fund Programme</p> <p>SOC 3.c. Further implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of NCDs</p> <p>SOC 3.d. Create an enabling environment and facilitate inter-sectoral actions for improved health and wellness across the community</p>	<p>Support regional consultations designed to identify specific health needs of the elderly and to prepare model health management protocols</p> <p>Leveraging relationship with FAO towards the development of the agriculture and food sector in the Caribbean</p> <p>Cooperation in policy, institutional and scientific matters to enhance innovation</p> <p>The development of a CARICOM agriculture value-chain action plan for implementation in the context of the Samoa Pathway Building linkages with national and international food safety and standards bodies and Agricultural statistics and indices of food security</p> <p>Enhance the capacity for analysis of integrated youth-development and gender analysis within government ministries, departments and national and regional agencies that coordinate policy development (focus on health, education, employment, access to financial services)</p>
A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean	<p>Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Goal 4: Inclusive and equitable quality education</p> <p>Goal 5: Gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies</p>	<p>Social development - Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities</p> <p>Gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Social protection</p> <p>Education</p>	<p><b>Social Resilience – Equitable Human and Social Development</b></p> <p>SOC 2.a. Develop and institute a regional support programme to build capacity in public sector organizations to undertake analysis, data collection and budgeting to support mainstreaming for gender, disability and the aged</p> <p>SOC 4.b. Develop training programmes for law enforcement and security officials and expansions of regional Centres of Excellence</p> <p>SOC 4.g. Deepen crime prevention initiatives and programmes</p> <p>SOC 4.h. Reform of Justice Systems across the region</p>	<p>Stronger advocacy for greater international control of small arms</p> <p>Data: development of greater empirical data-collection capacity around public and private insecurity; development of greater analytical capacity for crime and security data; mining the cross-cutting data components of crime and security that exists in other institutions; enhance the capacity for analysis of integrated youth-development and gender analysis)</p> <p>Training: to facilitate reform that is more citizen-centric in handling victims of all forms of violence; to adopt rights-based actions and approaches; to prevent, reduce and address</p>

MSDF priority areas	Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	SAMOA pathway (Themes)	CARICOM strategic plan priorities	CARICOM-UN agreement- Key areas and priorities
				<p>gender based violence including sexual violence; in the use of testimonial-assistance techniques to protect the safety, privacy and identity of victims who testify as witnesses in court; facilitation of development of training institution(s) for certification</p> <p>Development of innovative plans to respond to population dynamics, and incorporate them into the national policy and planning frameworks</p> <p>Support in developing capacity to track persons who have offended or fallen out of school through various interventions</p>
A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean	<p>Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Goal 5: Gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Goal 7: Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy</p> <p>Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <p>Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p> <p>Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>Sustainable energy</p> <p>Oceans and seas</p> <p>Food security and nutrition</p> <p>Water and sanitation</p> <p>Sustainable consumption and production</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Sustainable transportation</p> <p>Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Invasive alien species</p> <p>Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Economic Resilience, Stabilisation and Sustainable Economic Growth and Development</b></p> <p>ECN 4.f. Advance implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy, Food and Nutrition Security Policy</p> <p>ECN 4.h. Advance implementation of priority actions of the CARICOM Energy Policy</p> <p>Environmental Resilience</p> <p>ENV 1.e. Promote actions to derive benefits from the international response to climate change</p> <p>ENV 2.a. Integrate CDM into national policies, strategies and legislation</p> <p>ENV 2.b. Strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for effective support of CDM implementation, monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>ENV 2.c. Enhance preparedness and capacity for effective and efficient coordination of response and recovery at the national and regional levels</p> <p>ENV 2.d. Build an infrastructure for fact-based policy and decision making</p>	<p>Establish tools and enhance capacities to enable CARICOM SIDS to evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects/requirements related to accession, ratification and implementation of the various multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments</p> <p>Capacity-building support for strengthening the scientific approaches to management of regional fisheries resources, including Caribbean queen conch</p> <p>Programme of assistance for conducting a valuation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors</p> <p>Development of data and statistics for the fisheries sector</p> <p>Capacity-building assistance for ratification and implementation of international fisheries instruments</p>

Table 1 (conclusion)

MSDF priority areas	Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	SAMOA pathway (Themes)	CARICOM strategic plan priorities	CARICOM-UN agreement- Key areas and priorities
	<p>Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas</p> <p>Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems</p>		<p>ENV 2.e. Improve integrated risk management at the sectoral level for key priority sectors</p> <p>ENV 3.a. Develop and institute a Common Environmental and National Resources Management Framework</p>	<p>Enabling coastal-ecosystem-based adaptation</p> <p>Request assistance to facilitate training and capacity building on oceans governance, including the development of the region's ocean-forecasting capability</p> <p>Promote and enable greater SIDS-SIDS collaboration towards the implementation of the "Sustainable Consumption and Production for SIDS Initiative"</p>

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**Table A.2**  
**OECS implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and links to the SDG goals**

Samoa pathway priority areas	SDG alignment	Some OECS commission actions to date
Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication	1- No Poverty	Establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Cluster (ESC)
	5- Gender Equality 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth	Preparation of the OECS Growth and Development Strategy Implementation of the Multi-Dimensional Approaches to Poverty Eradication in the Eastern Caribbean Project (MDAPP) in five Member States- Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of Dominica (Dominica), Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Climate change	13- Climate Action	Establishment of Partnerships: Global Green Growth institute (GGGI) NDC Partnership Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)
Sustainable Energy	7- Affordable and Clean Energy	Establishment of Partnerships: IRENA SIDS Lighthouse and Global Geothermal Alliance
Disaster Risk Reduction	11- Sustainable Cities and Communities	Update of the OECS Building Code
Oceans and seas	14- Life Below Water	Continued implementation of the OECS Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) Commencement of implementation of the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) Formulation of a negotiating position on the fisheries subsidies negotiations which took into account for special treatment to address the smallness and vulnerabilities of fisher folk in Member States
Food Security and Nutrition	2- Zero Hunger	Commencement of the OECS Agri-Shipping Initiative
	3 - Good Health and Well-Being	Establishment of a Regional Food Reserves for the OECS Development of Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Action Plans for OECS Countries
Water and Sanitation	6- Clean Water and Sanitation	Inclusion of a Programme on Land and Water Management in the Environmental Sustainability Cluster Approval of the Model Water Policy and Law for the OECS
Health and Non-Communicable Diseases	3- Good Health and Well-Being	Inclusion of a chapter on Agriculture and Fisheries in the OECS Growth and Development Strategy
		Establishment of the Health Unit Inclusion of chapter on Health in the OECS Growth and Development Strategy Adoption of the Fort de France Declaration on Health
Samoa pathway priority areas		Updating of OECS Regional Guidelines for HIV and TB Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in 2017 in Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, St. Kitts & Nevis and Montserrat A commitment to a regional approach to meeting Chemical and Radio nuclear aspects of International Health Regulations Development of Multi-sectoral Mechanisms for addressing non-communicable diseases (NCD Commissions) and Action Plans Launch of National Health Insurance in 2015 in the British Virgin Islands, while Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis are actively pursuing the same Partnership: Health Unit working closely with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency to participate in Health Policy Forum meetings to ensure coordination
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	5 - Gender Equality	Ensuring gender equality features strongly in the activities undertaken in the area of social development

Samoa pathway priority areas	SDG alignment	Some OECS commission actions to date
Social Development	1 - No Poverty	Inclusion of a chapter on Social Development and Protection in the OECS Growth and Development Strategy
	5 - Gender Equality	Development of an OECS Youth Strategy
	10 - reduced Inequalities	Establishment of the Anguilla Youth Parliament Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Project Phase II
Culture and Sport	4 - Quality Education	Hosting of training for coaches in Child Protection in Sports Development of an OECS Youth Strategy
Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities	16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Community Resilience: The Commission has with support from a number of Development Partners, (The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/German Government, CCRIF, New Zealand) including: the development and strengthening of microenterprises training of community-based organisations in conducting vulnerability assessments and risk management techniques the implementation of small scale hard and soft approaches for reducing impacts of natural hazards and climate change in target communities
Education	4 - Quality Education	Development of an OECS Youth Strategy
Biodiversity	15 - Life on land	Development of an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Action Plan
Desertification, land degradation and drought		Provision of Training in Pest Surveillance and Invasive Species
Forests		
Invasive Alien Species		
Partnerships	17 - Partnerships for the Goals	Partnerships established and renewed with the following: Global Green Growth institute (GGGI)
Financing		NDC Partnership
Trade		Statistics Canada
Capacity-building		World Bank
Technology		Caribbean Development Bank
Data and Statistics		Partnerships in Statistics for the 21st Century (PARIS21)
		UNDP
		Pan American Health Organisation
		Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)
		Pursuing Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation
		Capacity building of the region in sustainable energy with a focus on energy efficiency in buildings, regulations and physical planning for sustainable energy
		Ratification of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation
		Playing a leading role in the formulation of an African Caribbean Pacific negotiating position on Fisheries Subsidies
		Continued work on the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union
		Establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union particularly with respect to establishing the administrative and legal framework for the regimes for free circulation of goods and trade in services
		Undertaking of Capacity Building initiatives including: OECS 30 Under 30 Initiative OECS Digital Internship Programme
		Community Resilience with support from several Development Partners, (TNC / German Government, CCRIF, New Zealand)

Samoa pathway priority areas	SDG alignment	Some OECS commission actions to date
		<p>EU-GCCA SLM Project initiative including GIS training and tools</p> <p>Use of the Zoom platform that has transformed the Commission's internal communication and its reach regionally and internationally</p> <p>Establishment of the Statistical Services Unit in 2015</p> <p>Design of the OECS Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2017 to 2030</p> <p>Implementation of the CDB-funded five-year Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment Project</p> <p>Provision of support to the OECS countries from Statistics Canada under the Project for the Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC)</p> <p>Implementation of programme to help OECS countries transition from paper-aided personal interviewing (PAPI) to computer-aided personal interviewing (CAPI)</p>
Institutional support for SIDS	OECS Commission's 5 Strategic Priorities <sup>64</sup>	<p>Provision of support to Member States as mandated by the Revised Treaty of Basseterre</p> <p>Functioning Councils of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability, Agriculture and Fisheries, Health and Education.</p> <p>Working on the development of OECS policy frameworks on Energy, Climate Change and Biodiversity.</p>
Monitoring and accountability	This review of OECS actions to date	This report reviews the progress made to date by the OECS Commission in actions that contribute to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the specific development agenda approved for SIDS by the international community.

<sup>64</sup> The OECS, guided by the following five (5) strategic priorities to consolidate the single economic space for enhanced economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection: (i) advance, support and accelerate regional trade, economic and social integration, (ii) mainstream climate, economic, environmental and social resilience (iii) promote and support equity and social cohesion; and leverage cultural and linguistic diversity of Member States (iv) support alignment of foreign policy of Member States with the development needs of the OECS and (v) align and strengthen the institutional systems of the Commission to effectively deliver its mandate.

**Table A.3**  
**Key statistics – Caribbean SIDS**

Country	Population ('000) (2015) <sup>1</sup>	Land area (sq. Km) <sup>1</sup>	GDP/capita (Current US\$) (2015) <sup>2</sup>	GDP growth (Annual per cent) (2015) <sup>2</sup>	Human development Index (2015) <sup>3</sup>
Anguilla	15	90	22,596.9	3.2	-.4
Antigua and Barbuda	99.9	440.0	13,659.3	4.1	0.786
Aruba	104.3	180.0	25,807.1	-0.5	-
The Bahamas	386.8	13,880.0	29,056.1	-3.1	0.792
Barbados	284.2	430.0	15,703.8	0.9	0.795
Belize	359.3	22,970.0	4,850.0	2.9	0.706
Bermuda	70.8	54	95,528.2	0.6	-
British Virgin Islands	30.1	150	31,697.8	0.3	-
Cayman Islands	60	240	62,264.5	2.7	-
Cuba	11,461.4	110 860.0	7,608.6	4.4	0.775
Curaçao	158	444	19,947.5	0.3	-
Dominica	73.2	751.0	7,313.8	-2.5	0.726
Dominican Republic	10,528.4	48 670.0	6,468.5	7.0	0.722
Grenada	106.8	344.0	9,212.1	6.2	0.754
Guadeloupe	450	1690	-	-	-
Guyana	768.5	214 969.0	4,136.7	3.1	0.638
Haiti	10,711.1	27 750.0	780.0	1.2	0.493
Jamaica	2,727.3 <sup>7</sup>	10 991.0	4,939.8	0.9	0.730
Martinique	386	1060	-	-	-
Montserrat	5	100	11,555.6	0.4	-
Puerto Rico	3,473.2	8870	28,076.0	-1.1	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	49.1	261.0	16,178.2	4.0	0.765
Saint Lucia	177.2	616.0	8,184.1	1.9	0.735
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	109.5	389.0	6,912.3	1.8	0.722
Sint Maarten <sup>5</sup>	40.5	34	27,052	0.4	-
Suriname	553.2	163 820.0	8,724.6	-2.6	0.725
Trinidad and Tobago	1,360.1	5 128.0	19,055.6	0.2	0.780
Turks and Caicos Islands	34.3	948	25,121.8	4.1	-
U.S. Virgin Islands	107.7	1 910.0	34,955.	0.2 <sup>6</sup>	-

Sources: 1. Compiled from CEPALSTAT. See: [http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/WEB\\_CEPALSTAT/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=i](http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/WEB_CEPALSTAT/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=i)

2. Compiled from United Nations National Accounts Main Aggregates Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnIList.asp>.

3. Compiled from UNDP Human Development Data (1990-2015). See: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>.

4. Data not sourced at time of this report.

5. Provided by the Government of Sint Maarten.

6. Compiled from World Bank Development Indicators. See: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD/1ff4a498/Popular-Indicators#>

7. Population extracted from official statistics of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (via [http://statinga.gov.jm/Demo\\_SocialStats/Newpopulation.aspx](http://statinga.gov.jm/Demo_SocialStats/Newpopulation.aspx)).

**Table A.4  
National planning bodies on the SIDS agenda**

Country	Sustainable development plan and including SIDS agenda	Ministry/Organization/Office/Unit	Oversight unit for the management of the implementation the SIDS agenda
Anguilla	Anguilla 2040 (In development)	Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce, Tourism, Lands and Physical Planning	Not clearly stated
Antigua and Barbuda	Medium-Term Development Strategy 2016-2020	Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance	Not clearly stated
Aruba	Medium-Term National Strategic Plan 2018-2021, aligned with the SDGs(in development)	Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Sustainable Development	National SDG Commission
The Bahamas	Vision 2040: National Development Plan of the Bahamas	Office of the Prime Minister of Bahamas	Economic Development and Planning Unit
Barbados	Medium-Term Growth and Development Strategy: 2013-2020 / Barbados Economic Recovery Transformation Plan 2018	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs	Not clearly stated
Belize	Belize Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2020	Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum (The SAMOA Pathway is managed through the Sustainable Development Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, The Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration)	Policy and Planning Unit
Bermuda	Charting our Course: Sustaining Bermuda - Draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan for Bermuda	Not clearly stated	Not clearly stated
British Virgin Islands	Public Consultation on the Recovery and Development of the British Virgin Islands	Not clearly stated	Not clearly stated
Cayman Islands	Development Plan 1997	Central Planning Authority	Not clearly stated
Cuba	Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social 2030 de Cuba	Ministerio de Economía y Planificación de Cuba	Not clearly stated
Curaçao	Building on Strengths: National Development Plan Curaçao 2015-2030	Ministry of Economic Development/ Directorate of Foreign Relations (SAMOA Pathway)	Not clearly stated
Dominica	Growth and Social Protection Strategy (GSPS) 2014 – 2018	Ministry of Finance	Not clearly stated
Dominican Republic	Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo 2010-2030	Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo de República Dominicana	Not clearly stated
Grenada	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy: 2014-2018 / National Sustainable Development Plan 2030 (In development)	Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic Development and Physical Development	Not clearly stated
Guadeloupe	Guadeloupe Strategy 2020: Action plan for the region of Guadeloupe for the programming of European Funds 2014-2020	European Commission/ Préfet of Région Guadeloupe	Not clearly stated
Guyana	Green State Development Strategy of Guyana: 2017 - 2030 (Draft)	Ministry of the Presidency of Guyana	Department of Environment
Haiti	Plan Stratégique de Développement d'Haïti (Strategic Development Plan of Haiti)	Ministère de la Planification et de la Coopération Externe	Not clearly stated

Country	Sustainable development plan and including SIDS agenda	Ministry/Organization/Office/Unit	Oversight unit for the management of the implementation the SIDS agenda
Jamaica	Vision 2030 / Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2015-2018	Planning Institute of Jamaica ( )	The Ministry of Environment is the focal point for the SAMOA Pathway. Also included in Vision 2030 Jamaica- Technical Secretariat
Martinique	Operational Programme ESF Martinique Etat 2014-2020	European Commission/ Préfet de Région Martinique	Not clearly stated
Montserrat	Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan 2008 - 2020	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Department of Economic Development and Commerce	Not clearly stated Not clearly stated
Puerto Rico	Integrated Economic Development Plan	Ministry of Sustainable Development	Department of Economic Affairs and PSIP
Saint Kitts and Nevis	National Adaptation Strategy (2006- 2017)	Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Civil Service	Economic Planning Unit
Saint Lucia	National Vision Plan / Medium Term Development Strategy: 2018-2021 (In development)	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	Central Planning Division
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	National Economic and Social Development Plan: 2013-2025	Department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BAK)	Not clearly stated
Sint Maarten	Workgroup National Recovery Plan – Interim Report October 2017	Stichting Planbureau Suriname (SPS) (Planning Office Suriname)	Not clearly stated
Suriname	Development Plan 2017-2021	Ministry of Planning and Development Ministry of Finance, Investment and Trade	Not clearly stated Strategic Policy and Planning Department
Trinidad and Tobago	Vision 2030: National Development Strategy 2016-2030	Ministry of Planning and Development Ministry of Finance, Investment and Trade	Not clearly stated Strategic Policy and Planning Department
Turks and Caicos Islands	Turks And Caicos Islands Development Strategy 2013-2017	The Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority	Not clearly stated
U.S. Virgin Islands	The United States Virgin Islands 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy		

## Annex 1

### Joint statement of the ninth general meeting between CARICOM and its associated institutions and the UN system

20 and 21 July 2017, New York

- The Ninth General Meeting between the United Nations (UN) system and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 20 and 21 July 2017. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and the Secretary-General of CARICOM, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, addressed the participants. The meeting – which enjoyed wide participation of representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat and its associated institutions and of the UN system – was co-chaired by Ambassador Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations of the CARICOM Secretariat, and Ms. Martha Doggett, Director, a.i. of the Americas Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs. Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Ambassador Granderson delivered closing remarks.
- The UN Secretary-General congratulated CARICOM on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the General Assembly session during which it was granted observer status at the UN and thanked CARICOM Member States for their leadership on pressing global issues, such as climate change and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He underlined that the UN system stood ready to help prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change, a global threat and a hurdle for sustainable development which affects, in particular, the most vulnerable countries such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including low-lying coastal States. He commended the progress of regional integration in the Caribbean and welcomed the meeting as a means to increase bilateral cooperation between CARICOM and the UN. The UN Secretary-General thanked the Caribbean region for its strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy and expressed his gratitude for CARICOM's longstanding role as an advocate for Haiti. He praised the contributions to the UN by CARICOM nationals who figure prominently among his senior advisers and the UN leadership in general, while calling for CARICOM and the UN to stand together in defence of the rights and well-being of future generations.
- The Secretary-General of CARICOM expressed the Caribbean Community's appreciation for the support rendered by the UN System to the integration movement and the development of its Member States. He reiterated the Region's commitment to the UN "as a principal forum for multilateral cooperation and a platform from which small States can be seen and heard." He outlined some of the major challenges faced by CARICOM, including the adverse effects of climate change, graduation from concessional development financing based on GDP per capita and not taking into account the inherent vulnerability of SIDS, crime and violence, the illicit trade in drugs and small arms, the threat of terrorism and extreme violence, the blacklisting of CARICOM Member States as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions despite their compliance with the relevant OECD regimens, the withdrawal of correspondent banking relations, and the high economic cost of addressing NCDs. With regard to NCDs, Secretary-General LaRocque welcomed ECOSOC's most recent resolution on their prevention and control, which, inter alia, called for greater financing to facilitate the work of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force. He, also, noted the opportunity provided by the Ninth General Meeting to examine the impact of global changes and developments of significance to SIDS and to strengthen cooperation between CARICOM and the UN system in relation to those developments.
- An update was provided on the Caribbean Community, highlighting the links between the Community's four (4) pillars – economic integration, foreign policy coordination, human and social development and security – and the implementation of the Community's first Strategic Plan 2015-2019. The Meeting was also informed of the outcome of the review of the CSME, which highlighted the significant progress made but also the challenges involved in completing implementation. Note was taken of recent decisions of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community further strengthening the integration arrangements and charting the way forward toward making the CSME more effective.

- As part of the review of the implementation of decisions adopted in the previous General Meeting, the Meeting was informed of progress made in various areas of strategic intervention and received a briefing on the main activities undertaken via the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which has been signed by fourteen (14) CARICOM Member States and twenty (20) UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Taking into account that the UN MSDF and CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019 are fully aligned and complementary, the UNDS proposed to use the UN-MSDF as the Strategic Framework for collaboration with the UN system, which was welcomed by the CARICOM Secretariat. Thus, CARICOM will continue to engage with the UN system in the Caribbean through the MSDF Annual Coordination Meeting to enhance collaboration and for better and faster results toward the SDGs in the Caribbean region. Also, the UN system will engage with CARICOM and its institutions to build initiatives addressing identified needs and gaps, while ensuring complementarity that may be identified by the MDSF Virtual Policy Networks. This does not preclude the existing MOUs with specific UN Entities. UN Agencies will continue to engage in specific areas of sectoral expertise with CARICOM. The CARICOM side expressed its appreciation to the UN for its support. A brief overview of current changes and developments in the international and hemispheric political and economic environment and their geopolitical and geo-economic implications for the Caribbean Community was presented.
- The action framework that the UN has adopted regarding SIDS, with particular reference to the SAMOA Pathway, was presented. Participants highlighted the challenges that Caribbean States face in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda as well as the goals of the SAMOA Pathway. The aim of the Caribbean Community in achieving a high level of congruity between the developments at the international level on SIDS with its regional strategic plan and the international sustainable development agenda was noted. CARICOM stressed the urgency to take action, mobilize resources, strengthen cooperation and undertake activities needed to achieve the SDG and SAMOA targets. Additionally, the economic and social burden on the region from the epidemics of CHIKV and Zika and the gap in regional health security was noted.
- The Meeting also focused on the strong linkages between the development of Caribbean States and the environment. The role that the CARICOM Secretariat and the UN system could play in supporting Member States' participation in both regional and global multilateral environment agreements was highlighted. CARICOM's impending engagement in a series of national, sub-regional and regional consultations on the proposed Community Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework and First Action Plan was underlined and discussion on these engagements with UN stakeholders was invited.
- The Meeting also received a report on the energy situation in CARICOM Member States, which depend heavily on fossil fuels and which face technical, environmental and socioeconomic obstacles to improving energy efficiency. Participants were updated on CARICOM's Energy Policy, and the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS). The Meeting recognized the critical role of energy within the sustainable development agenda of CARICOM SIDS, along with key issues faced by CARICOM in integrating variable renewals and resilience into energy planning and in incorporating energy at the centre of development planning. CARICOM pointed out that a sustainable energy architecture, if suitably designed, could play a significant role in empowering Member States with an ability to implement some of the measures that are necessary for adapting to climate change and sea-level rise. It could also support other critical interventions, which are necessary for Member States' sustainable development and resilience building. The General Meeting noted the positive steps made within the Caribbean Community, inclusive of the establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CREEE), thanks in part to the critical support of international partners.
- Recognizing that the impacts of climate change will be felt most strongly by SIDS, CARICOM sought support for adaptation and mitigation measures and in implementing national action plans as well meeting commitments under the COP Paris Agreement. Adverse effects include more extreme climate events occurring with more intensity, frequency and unpredictability. The importance of community-level preparedness was highlighted, given the differential impacts of recent hurricanes in the region. The UN recognized the capacity of CARICOM through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and offered support to strengthen partnerships for joint risk assessment, mobilization of disaster experts and resource mobilization.

- Additionally, the Meeting noted the multi-dimensional challenges of financing for development. These included the lack of economic resilience and of access to concessional multilateral financing and a worsening of the external public debt situation resulting from a constrained fiscal capacity. Several initiatives were being pursued by CARICOM States toward the achievement of fiscal and debt sustainability, such as a fiscal responsibility framework for the Caribbean Community and an ECLAC initiative on debt for climate change adaptation and debt reduction. The Meeting was also informed of external challenges which exacerbate inherent vulnerabilities. These included the decrease in correspondent banking relations –which disrupted international payments and capital inflows –and the high cost of compliance with the OECD-driven international tax agenda.
- CARICOM emphasized the need to advance measures to develop sustainable ocean-based economies in the Caribbean and the importance of technical assistance and investments in unlocking the potential of oceans and seas for food security, employment and the economic development of Caribbean countries, especially in the context of SDG 14 – “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” – and of the outcomes of the UN Oceans Conference held in June 2017. CARICOM also highlighted the ongoing work on the development of a legally binding international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) was spotlighted as a model for protection and sustainable development of marine resources.
- The important relationship between fisheries and the environment was underscored. In recognition of the blue-growth concept, which focuses on generating economic growth from oceans and seas, CARICOM sought to expand and sustain the productive potential of fisheries and aquaculture, while developing new opportunities for trade in marine products and improving the resilience of coastal communities. It was posited that although marine conservation and fisheries were treated as separate issues, they were part of the same system. A call was made by CARICOM, therefore, for closer collaboration between the agencies involved in the maritime environment and those involved in fisheries, as well as for continued technical support from the UN system to develop and implement fisheries management plans, strengthen data collection and statistics for evidence-based decision-making, and build human resources in fisheries and oceans management.
- A presentation was made on CARICOM’s Human Resource Development Strategy, which will focus on the development of technical and personal skills to address the workplace, the future of jobs and active citizenship. It was recognised that the opportunities for lifelong learning and certification presented through the proposed seamless system would be crucial in addressing wastage and the current high stratification of outcomes. The importance of an inter-sectoral approach and partnerships at all levels in ensuring successful implementation of the Strategy was stressed.
- Furthermore, linkages were drawn between the CARICOM’s HRD Strategy and the framework for the implementation of SDG 4: “Ensure inclusive and quality for all and promote lifelong learning” on education. It was stressed that, as a basic human right, as a transformational force for poverty eradication, as an engine for sustainability, and as a force for dialogue and peace, education is a fundamental enabler for the enjoyment of other rights. Implementing evidence-based education policies is in fact a key strategy to address all development challenges and uphold the 2030 Agenda.
- Prioritizing early-childhood development and addressing the need for reform and expansion of higher education were exemplified as commitments to lifelong learning in the region. In order to improve learning outcomes, tackle disparities, prevent dropouts, secure completion of secondary education and increase completion of tertiary education, participants underscored the need to generate tangible outcomes in relation to SDG 4, such as: tying education with employment; moving towards a technology and gender-inclusive approach; developing vocational training based on requirements needed to go into the workforce and ultimately building a culture of human rights.
- Participants drew attention to the linkages between health and nutrition security, particularly with respect to the child population and underscored the value of the ongoing collaborative work between CARICOM and the UN in securing Food and Nutrition Security with emphasis on reducing the food-import bill through increased food production and trade, wider application of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS), supporting

the Regional NCD Strategy and implementation of effective Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems. The Meeting was advised of decisions of CARICOM Heads of Government supporting action in these areas and the importance of the Region realizing the potential for the contribution of agriculture. CARICOM expressed its appreciation particularly to the FAO for its ongoing contribution to the Region's agriculture sector.

- Participants assessed youth development as an accelerating factor for national and regional development, paying attention to the outcomes of CARICOM's Youth Development Action Plan. The benefits of systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective, including a gender perspective in development frameworks, were underscored. Participants agreed on the need to foster the use and collection of data and application of gender-analysis tools such as the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators as a means to support and amplify Governments' capacity to achieve gender equality and monitor and assess its SDG implementation. Participants welcomed the decision of the CARICOM Heads of Government during the 28th Inter-sessional Meeting celebrated in February of 2017 in Guyana to endorse the "Every Caribbean Women, Every Caribbean Child Initiative" and to take actions to address women's, girls', children's and adolescent's health. Attention was drawn to the fact that gender equality, including the prevention of gender-based violence and adolescent pregnancy, as well as combating NCDs and HIV requires a multi-sectoral approach that relies on the availability of sex disaggregated data as a minimum requirement in all monitoring frameworks.
- UN participants praised CARICOM's leadership in raising global awareness of NCDs. Cooperation options between the UN and CARICOM to improve Caribbean States' health systems were explored, including sexual reproductive health and "Fast Tracking" the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, under a convening role of CARICOM/PANCAP.
- The regional challenges regarding transnational organised crime and citizen security were discussed. CARICOM highlighted its concerns regarding the escalating crime and violence in the region and their deleterious impact on society and the need for support for interventions to eradicate this scourge. Participants agreed on the need to maintain a comprehensive approach to security issues.
- Responding to the priorities emphasized by CARICOM, the UN also stood ready to continue to support the Caribbean region in strengthening the approach to citizen security through tackling key areas of concern, including criminal intelligence and the control of small arms and light weapons, as well as the strengthening of capacities at both the national and regional levels for statistics. UNODC applauded the work of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) in the development and drafting of the Caribbean Agreement for the Return and Sharing of Recovered Assets and pledged to continue to support the development, adoption and subsequently the implementation of the Agreement in the region. As the Caribbean region, led by IMPACS, seeks to strengthen its capacity to prevent, combat and prosecute terrorism through the development of a Caribbean Counter Terrorism Strategy – currently under development – the UN System aimed to support the implementation of the Strategy through the focus on region-wide strengthening of the legal counter terrorism framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with UN Security Council resolutions.
- An overview was provided of the University of the West Indies (UWI)'s 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, which is focused on expansion of access to tertiary education, alignment of industry and academia for wealth creation and economic growth, and UWI's agility to respond to global opportunities. In highlighting the UWI's current thematic research areas, synergies with the MSDF in the Caribbean, the SDGs and CARICOM development goals were identified, with the UWI pledging to increase UN access to its research and graduate talent.
- Participants agreed that the Ninth UN-CARICOM General Meeting achieved its goals of strengthening the existing partnership between the two organizations and identifying ways to maximize progress in the priority areas of cooperation. The Tenth UN.
- CARICOM General Meeting is expected to take place at the CARICOM Headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana, in 2019.

## Annex 2

## Green climate fund activities in the Caribbean

**Table A.5**  
**Green climate fund Caribbean readiness and preparatory support portfolio as at January 2018**

Country	Results	Delivery partner	Approved funding (dollars)				Disbursed funding (percentage)	Duration (months)
			2015	2016	2017	2018		
Antigua and Barbuda	No-objection procedure established	Ministry of Health and Environment (MHE)	300,000				250,000 (83)	24
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes							
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed							
	Country programmes and pipeline developed							
	Private sector engaged and mobilized							
Bahamas	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed	PwC			30,209		12,341 (41)	
	Adaptation planning processes developed	MHE			3,000,000			36
	No-objection procedure established							
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes							
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed	CCCCC		300,000			250,000 (83)	12
Barbados	Country programmes and pipeline developed							
	Private sector engaged and mobilized							
	No-objection procedure established							
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs			300,000			12
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed							
Belize	Country programmes and pipeline developed							
	Private sector engaged and mobilized							
	No-objection procedure established							
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes							
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed	CCCCC		300,000			122,500 (41)	12

Country	Results	Delivery partner	Approved funding (dollars)				Disbursed funding (percentage)	Duration (months)
			2015	2016	2017	2018		
Dominica	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed	UNDP			464,778		232,389 (50)	24
	Country programmes and pipeline developed Private sector engaged and mobilized							
Dominican Republic	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes	FRP					75,000 (25)	12
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed Country programmes and pipeline developed Private sector engaged and mobilized		300,000					
Grenada	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes	GIZ			380,311			18
	Readiness support for Development in a climate resilient city	NYU			600,000			
Guyana	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes	CCCCC	300,000				120,000 (40)	12
			<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		
Haiti	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes	UNDP		430,000			215,000 (50)	12
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed No-objection procedure established Private sector engaged and mobilized				350,000			
	No-objection procedure established National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)		300,000			
Jamaica	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed Private sector engaged and mobilized	MEGJC			582,000			18
	Direct access entities accreditation supported and pipeline developed	PwC			33,915			
							-	

Country	Results	Delivery partner	Approved funding (dollars)				Disbursed funding (percentage)	Duration (months)
			2015	2016	2017	2018		
Saint Kitts and Nevis	No-objection procedure established	FAO			432,942		18	
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes							
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	No-objection procedure established	Ministry of Economic, Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Labour and Information			300,000		18	
	National stakeholders engaged in dialogues on country programmes				120,000 (40)			

Source: GCF (2018), "Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme: Progress Report".

**Table A.2**  
**Green climate fund Caribbean readiness and preparatory support projects in pipeline as at January 2018**

Country	Activity	Delivery Partner	Amount (dollars)	Duration (months)
Antigua and Barbuda	Strategic Frameworks	UNEP	667,750	24
	Entity Support	OECS	69,790	12
Bahamas	Strategic Frameworks	Climate Technology Centre & Network <sup>65</sup> (CTCN)	368,715	12
Cuba	NDA strengthening and country programme	UNDP	360,000	18
Dominica	Adaptation planning	Ministry of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda	3,000,000	36
	Entity Support	OECS	100,000	12
Dominican Republic	Adaptation Planning	UNEP	2,112,239	36
Grenada	Entity Support	OECS	100,000	12
Guyana	Strategic Frameworks	FAO	700,000	18
Jamaica	Strategic Frameworks	MEGJC	397,250	18
Saint Lucia	NDA Strengthening and Country Programme	CCCC	300,000	12

Source: GCF (2018), "Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme: Progress Report.

<sup>65</sup> An arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the UN Environment Programme and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), (CTCN,2018). See: <https://www.ctc-n.org/>

## **Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean**

Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of the SIDS accelerated modalities of action (S.A.M.O.A.) pathway.

Draft