

Transportation, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and Sustainable Consumption and Production



A sub-regional assessment from the perspective of a Caribbean SIDS

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Objective

To give a general overview of the situation of the Caribbean sub-region as it relates to the CSD-18 themes, providing a broad assessment of progress and challenges that emerged based on the discussions at the Third RIM held in Antigua, Guatemala, and related documentation.

Introduction

- ❑ Important to take a sub-regional approach to assessing progress and challenges;
- ❑ Although challenges are common to countries across the wider LAC region, unique and acute vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS continue to warrant special attention and efforts to support government policy and actions;
 - Specific vulnerabilities: Size; geography; structure of our economies;
- ❑ Policy responses should be tailored to suit the unique situation of the Caribbean countries as SIDS;
- ❑ MSI provides a good international framework to assess progress and challenges under the CSD-18 thematic cluster, although it does not address chemicals and mining;

Thematic Discussions:

Transportation

- ❑ Inter and intra-regional transportation costs remain high, linked to issues of economies of scale;
- ❑ High transportation costs adds to high food prices; most of the countries in the sub-region are net food importers;
- ❑ Significant investments needed in public transportation systems at the national level;
- ❑ Air and maritime transportation significant in the context of CSME;
- ❑ Sub-regional frameworks in place through organizations such as CARICOM and OECS;

Thematic Discussions *cont'd*

Chemicals

- ❑ Maintaining a natural and pristine environment free of pollutants is crucial, and this elevates the importance of sound chemicals management;
- ❑ The sub-region seems to have a fairly good track record in signing on to and pursuing full implementation of the major international chemicals convention;
- ❑ Disposal of chemicals in an environmentally sound manner and need for capacity building in this regard;
- ❑ Transshipment of hazardous material accorded priority among sub-regional governments; (cross-cutting with waste management)

Thematic Discussions *cont'd*

Waste Management

- ❑ The growing volume and complexity of water and solid waste is a challenge for the Caribbean SIDS because of limited carrying capacity;
- ❑ At the same time there appears to be improvement in waste collection coverage and management of landfill facilities;
- ❑ A world bank (2008) study has sited significant improvement in sanitation systems in the Caribbean;
- ❑ Sub-regional frameworks have been put in place, eg., the OECS solid waste management strategy supports national solid waste management authorities in the Eastern Caribbean member states;
- ❑ Illegal dumping; Monitoring waste disposal at sea and ship-generated waste;

Thematic Discussions *cont'd*

Mining

- ❑ Mining is an important economic activity across the region both for export and the domestic economy, but ranges in its significance;
- ❑ Impact of the financial crisis on exports and domestic demand;
- ❑ With fragile ecosystems and natural environments that are highly vulnerable it's important for the Caribbean countries to acquire the capacity to manage tensions between mining as an industry and the community (social and environmental issues);
- ❑ Regulatory frameworks to address the environmental and social impacts of mining do exist in varying degrees;

Thematic Discussions *cont'd* Sustainable Consumption and Production

- ❑ SCP is increasing in importance but not yet mainstream;
- ❑ Varying approach to SCP strategies throughout the sub-region but for the most part integrated into sustainable development plans and strategies;
- ❑ SME are increasing their awareness of SCP, particularly industries for which the national environment is important;
- ❑ Cleaner production projects reported, but can be scaled up, esp. in the larger Caribbean countries with heavy manufacturing base;
- ❑ Priority action has been taken in related issues that can have a significant impact on advancing SCP, including renewable energy, eco-tourism and environmental management;

Crosscutting Issues

- Public awareness and education (Waste Management and SCP in particular);
- Financing and technology (all);

Conclusion

- Support for improvement of reporting practices;
- Identification of challenges and opportunities as well as best practices and approaches that are appropriate to the SIDS countries in the sub-region should form part of a wider LAC assessment;

Thank you!!!