



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the Secretary-General

# 2015





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of the Secretary-General  
**2015**

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

Guyana

2021

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

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ISBN 978-976-600-388-3 (pbk)

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#### ON OUR COVER (L-R):

- ✎ Chair of CARICOM (January to June), Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister of The Bahamas and CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque
- ✎ (L-R) CARICOM Youth Ambassador from Haiti, Mr Nikson Athis; CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; CARICOM Secretariat staffer, Ms Evelyn Defreitas; President of Haiti, H.E. Mr Michel Martelly; and CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General for Human and Social Development, Dr Douglas Slater, at the CARICOM booth at CARIFESTA XII held in Haiti in August
- ✎ CARICOM Youth Ambassadors from Barbados, Mr Mosiah Hoyte and Ms Sade Jemmoth in discussion with Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque at the #Ask-SG event held in Barbados in June
- ✎ Chair of CARICOM (July to December), Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados signs the guest book as Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque looks on, during the Chair's visit to the CARICOM Secretariat in May



## Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019: Repositioning CARICOM

### Our Vision

A Caribbean Community that is integrated, inclusive and resilient; driven by knowledge, excellence, innovation and productivity. A Community where every citizen is secure and has the opportunity to realise his or her potential with guaranteed human rights and social justice; and contributes to, and shares in, its economic, social and cultural prosperity.

A Community which is a unified and competitive force in the global arena.

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### Our Mission

**The Community works together to deepen integration and build resilience so as to:**

- ☞ **Affirm** the collective identity and facilitate social cohesion of the people of the Community.
- ☞ **Realise** our human potential as defined by the Ideal Caribbean Person, full employment and full enjoyment of human rights.
- ☞ **Ensure** that social and economic justice and the principles of good governance are enshrined in law and embedded in practice.
- ☞ **Systematically** reduce poverty, unemployment and social exclusion and their impacts.
- ☞ **Mainstream** all aspects of sustainable development, including the environmental, economic and social dimensions.
- ☞ **Create** the environment for innovation, the development and application of technology, productivity and global competitiveness, in which the collective strength of the Region is unleashed.
- ☞ **Promote** optimum sustainable use of the Region's natural resources on land and in the marine environment, and protect and preserve the health and integrity of the environment.
- ☞ **Encourage** citizens to willingly accept responsibility to contribute to the welfare of their fellow citizens and to the common good, practice healthy living and lifestyles, respect the rule of law, protect the assets of the Community, and abhor corruption, crime and criminality in all its forms;
- ☞ **Project** *one voice* on international issues.
- ☞ **Increase** savings and the flow of investment within the Community.

# Our Core Values

- Unity/Togetherness:** We commit to winning hearts and minds to work towards a robust and inclusive Caribbean Community, able to work together to preserve the gains of regional integration and address the current challenges of economic recovery and growth and sustainable human development. We celebrate the strength of both the shared and diverse aspects of our culture, heritage, and communities.
- Equity:** We emphasise the reach of services and benefits to all stakeholders across the Community.
- Integrity:** We practice a consistent commitment to honesty, trustworthiness and that which is morally correct in our relationships and operations. We are passionate about what we do and what we believe in - the value of regional integration to enable the development of our Member States.
- People Centredness:** We emphasise the pivotal role of the peoples of the Community at all levels and in all spheres of endeavour to embrace regional integration and the benefits it continues to offer.
- Performance Driven/  
Results Focused:** We emphasise the importance of targeted results in achieving sectoral/cross sectoral as well as institutional strengthening goals.
- We value productivity and we pursue good management practice with planning and implementation of our work and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting to ensure the desired results are achieved.
- Good Governance:** We have an abiding respect for human rights, the rule and law, and take action to ensure social and economic justice for the people of the Community.
- We provide proactive, visionary leadership for promoting and reinforcing the spirit and commitment to regional integration, emphasising transparency, accountability and operational excellence within all organs and institutions in the Community. We rely on research for evidence-based decision-making at all levels, with a systematic approach to monitoring and measuring policy outcomes and impacts.
- Good Environmental Management:** We are committed to good environmental management and the protection of the Region's natural assets across all sectors of development; and empowering the peoples of the Community in their preparation for and management of the impacts of natural and manmade hazards and the effects of climate change.

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**Caribbean Community**

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

July 2016

TO: The Conference of Heads of Government

It gives me great pleasure to submit herewith a Report of the work of the Community for the period January to December 2015, in accordance with Article 23 paragraph 3 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Irwin Laroque'.

**IRWIN LAROCQUE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL**



# INTRODUCTION

**This past year has been a most fulfilling one for us in the Caribbean Community. The value of our integration movement proved itself, at home and abroad, as we continued our efforts to provide an improved standard of living for all our citizens. The progress we have made on many fronts has been due to our acting in concert to secure the best option for our Community.**



Ambassador Irwin LaRocque,  
Secretary-General of the  
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

At the core of our efforts is the provision of an even better service to our citizens as we begin implementing our Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2019 with high priority attention accorded to the following eleven areas, given the Community's limited resources:

- ☞ Accelerate implementation and use of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)
- ☞ Introduce measures for macroeconomic stabilisation
- ☞ Build competitiveness and unleash key economic drivers to transition to growth and generate employment
- ☞ Human Capital Development
- ☞ Advance Health and Wellness
- ☞ Enhance Citizen Security and Justice
- ☞ Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management
- ☞ Develop the Single ICT Space
- ☞ Deepen Foreign Policy Coordination (to support the strategic repositioning of CARICOM and desired outcomes)
- ☞ Public Education, Public Information and Advocacy
- ☞ Reform of the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organs, Bodies, Institutions and governance arrangements



The Governor-General of The Bahamas, CARICOM Heads of Government/Delegation and the Secretary-General at the Twenty-Sixth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference held in The Bahamas in February

It is in delivering better health systems; providing disaster management and relief; devising a more relevant education system for our youth; improving the ease of doing business; creating the avenues for investment and jobs; and ensuring a safe and secure living environment, that our integration process touches the lives of all.

We have been taking steps to strengthen our internal arrangements for more effective delivery of the benefits of our integration movement to our citizens. In that regard, two major planks of our reform process have been put in place, at the level of the Secretariat and in the Community.

The CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA) began its work earlier this year and will play a significant role in helping to remove the roadblocks to decision implementation.

In the Secretariat, I have established a Change Management Office (CMO) to help me deliver a restructured Secretariat and a reformed Community institutional architecture which will emerge more effective, efficient and relevant to the needs of the people of the Community.

It is the stimulation of sustained economic growth which would create the jobs so necessary for maintaining a decent quality of life. Many of our Member States are facing financial and economic challenges, including high debt and being graduated out of access to financing at concessional rates. We are making strides in addressing these issues, particularly with respect to changing the criteria for access to concessional financing.



CARICOM Heads of Government/Delegation and the Secretary-General at the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference held in Barbados in July

(L-R) CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Kamalesh Sharma; and United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon following the Opening of the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in July



Also, interesting and innovative ideas have been put forward to alleviate the debt burden. The achievement of our goals in those two areas will greatly assist our efforts to encourage growth.

The influence that our united front can wield in the international arena was demonstrated, in no uncertain terms, in 2015. Our attempts to gain international support for positions which advance our interests met with some success at global conferences held this year to deal comprehensively with the challenges of developing countries such as ours.

CARICOM played an important role in negotiations for the Paris Agreement, the outcome document of the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). It has given us hope that we can confront this existential challenge. Our Region was united on this issue and we can be proud of what we achieved in Paris.

COP 21 was the third in the series of international conferences held this year, all of which were pertinent to advancing the development of the Community. The others, Financing for Development and the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, which set out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressed solutions to the issues which our Member States face.

For us in the Caribbean Community, the outcome of these global discussions, particularly on the issue of climate change, bears significant relevance as we continue efforts to build our economic and environmental resilience, both of which are priorities in the Community's Strategic Plan.

To fulfil the potential of the decisions taken at these conferences will require us to continue to strengthen the co-ordination of our foreign policy so that our advocacy will carry the strength and weight of a tightly knit Community.

Advocacy of our positions formed the major elements of our discussions during this year at the highest levels of Government including with Costa Rica, France, Panama and the United States as well as with the United Nations Secretary-General.

At home, CARIFESTA XII, held in Haiti, proved to be an extraordinary success. It provided an excellent platform to demonstrate once again, that unleashing our collective creative talents and skills could provide a significant economic boost to our economies.

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to look forward to. I am confident that with the initiatives underway, bolstered by the tangible evidence of what our unity can achieve, our Community will provide the safe, secure and viable society that will make us all proud to be citizens of CARICOM.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque with youth from Haiti at CARIFESTA XII



Members of the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica performing at CARIFESTA XII



## **SECTION I**

# **ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

*Building Economic Resilience &  
Building Technological Resilience*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Accelerate implementation and use of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) (ECN 1)*
- ⌘ *Integrate into the global economy (ECN 2)*
- ⌘ *Introduce measures for macroeconomic stabilisation (ECN 3)*
- ⌘ *Build competitiveness and unleash key economic drivers to transition to growth and generate employment (ECN 4)*
- ⌘ *Develop the Single ICT Space (TEC 1)*
- ⌘ *Bring technology to the people and transform them into Digital Citizens and Digital Entrepreneurs (TEC 2)*
- ⌘ *Mobilise resources and commitment of Member States to invest in ICT (TEC 4)*

### The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) remains the main vehicle for the Community to build its economic resilience and provide a platform to integrate further into the global economy. Twelve CARICOM countries participate in the CARICOM Single Market (CSM) arrangements, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Efforts continue to fully integrate Haiti into the CSME arrangements. Montserrat participates in some areas of the CSM, including the trade regime and elements of the movement of skills regime.

With significant funding from the European Union (EU), under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF), legislative and regulatory frameworks for the CSME were further advanced or strengthened during the year. This included:

- ⌘ **Completion of a draft model Procurement Bill**, in October, as part of efforts to create an integrated Public Procurement Regime. The draft Bill is being considered by a Government Procurement Task Force which is expected to complete its review during the first half of 2016. Thereafter, the draft will be reviewed jointly by Ministers comprising the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), and the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP).

The Public Procurement Regime will establish an integrated and single public procurement space within the CSME. It will also provide opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), through networking and joint bidding on larger projects. The Regime comprises a Framework Regional Integration Policy (FRIP) on Public Procurement; a Policy on Public Procurement; a CARICOM Model Bill; Procurement Standard Operating Procedures (PSOPs); Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs); and a Community Public Procurement Notice Board (CPPNB).

National Consultations will be held in 2016, on the draft Model Bill as well as training workshops on the other regime instruments.



As regards the Public Procurement Notice Board, national consultations on its systems requirements began in November and are expected to be completed by March 2016. The COTED has agreed that Member States with e-procurement systems would be connected to the Community Public Procurement Notice Board. Also, national advertising portals are to be designed for those other Member States that do not have e-procurement systems and these will be integrated and connected to the Community Public Procurement Notice Board.

- ☞ Preparation, in March, of a **draft Framework Policy to create a single jurisdiction for companies** operating in the CSME. Consultations were held on the draft Framework in June and August in all the CSME Participating States.

The Framework Policy sets out common standards and rules for starting a business in a Member State, in keeping with global best practices. It addresses issues such as incorporation of companies, securities and bankruptcy.

The Single Jurisdiction is designed to establish a seamless space within which companies in the CSME can do business. It will allow businesses in the CSME Participating States to register anywhere in the CSM. This one-time registration will provide easier access to cross-border commercial opportunities for companies, create possibilities for economic growth, and increase employment.

A revised draft Framework Policy is being prepared for consideration by Registrars of Companies and Senior Government Officials in the first quarter of 2016 and thereafter by the COTED.

- ☞ Completion of assessments of national company registries towards the establishment of a **Regional online registry**. National registries will be converted to online systems in 2016 to facilitate participation in the Regional E-registry. Based on the assessments, new automated business systems were built or existing systems were upgraded. Establishment of the Regional E-registry is also part of creating a single jurisdiction for companies operating in the CSME.

The regional e-registry will facilitate information exchange and networking among the national registries and the CARICOM Secretariat. It will also function as a portal via which persons can perform name searches, reserve business names, and register a company in CSME Member States. Once a company is registered in one Participating State, it will be deemed to have been registered in all.

- ☞ Adoption of a **draft CARICOM Model Consumer Protection Bill** by the COTED, in April. The Bill addresses a range of areas including the establishment of national Consumer Affairs Commissions, Consumer Rights, Duties of Suppliers, Unfair Trading Practices, Consumer Safety, Recall of Goods, Distance Selling, the establishment of a Rapid Alert System and Consumer Agreements.



Chairperson of the COTED, Senator the Hon. Maxine McClean of Barbados, at the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting held in Guyana in April (3<sup>rd</sup> left). (Others L-R) Ambassador Gail Mathurin, Office of Trade Negotiations, CARICOM Secretariat; Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; and Mr Joseph Cox, Trade and Economic Integration, CARICOM Secretariat

Next steps towards finalising the Model Bill include examination by the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) regarding its financial services aspects; and final consideration by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC). Thereafter, it will be submitted for adoption as the Model CARICOM Protection Bill to be used by Member States.

- ✎ Finalisation of **Regulations for a Harmonised Regional Customs Framework**. The Regulations will bring a strengthened, standardised complaints system for aggrieved traders that will engender greater accountability. They will provide a single identical electronic form for the Region’s customs brokers to improve accuracy and facilitate the generation of reliable data, thereby significantly reducing hindrances and frustrations to both regional and international traders. The regulations were finalised in February-March by customs officials and legal experts from Member States along with representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat.

The Regulations will be submitted to the COTED and the COFAP in 2016, for review and endorsement, and thereafter to Member States for implementation along with the harmonised Customs Bill, adopted in 2014.

Work also advanced in the following policy areas:

- ✎ **CARICOM Policy on Deposit Insurance** which will help maintain integrity in the financial services sector and protect citizens who are subjected to credit checks. It may also encourage cross-border financial flows as persons move within the Community.

In October, the CARICOM Secretariat joined representatives of Member States and Regional Institutions and Organisations at a Regional Consultation, in Barbados, to develop a harmonised deposit protection model for consideration. The model will be used to help draft the CARICOM Policy which will, among other things, strengthen the existing risk architecture and promote greater financial stability in the CARICOM Region.

- ☞ **CARICOM Policy on Credit Reporting** which will help maintain integrity in the financial sector and may encourage cross-border financial flows as persons move within the Community.

In September, Member States' representatives, as well as those of the CARICOM Secretariat and Regional Institutions and Organisations reviewed proposals for a Legal and Regulatory Framework for Credit Information Exchange to establish performance standards for credit reporting agencies, such as credit bureaus and financial reporting institutions, including banks and credit unions.

The Framework will form the basis for drafting the CARICOM Policy on Credit Reporting which will be submitted to the COFAP for approval.

### **CSME Sensitisation and Education**

Also with funding under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, **sensitisation sessions started in October for consumer groups and government officials** on a wide range of areas including consumer affairs and policy, best practices in product safety rules, competition law and enforcement and mergers and acquisitions. Participants were also sensitised about the CARICOM Rapid Alert System for the Exchange of Information on Dangerous (Non-food) Consumer Goods (CARREX) which provides a regional response to harmful products entering the markets of Member States. CARREX, which was launched in 2011 and has become progressively operationalised, is an on-line portal that allows consumers in fourteen Member States (all except The Bahamas) to alert authorities about dangerous non-food products. Participants were also exposed to the draft CARICOM Model Consumer Protection Bill. The sessions this year were held in Dominica, Grenada and Suriname as well as with the CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC). Sessions in additional CSME Participating States will be held in 2016.

To also **inform and educate stakeholders about the CSME**, a range of activities was undertaken during the year. In addition to building capacity, the activities provided participants with a sense of ownership of the CSME. They were funded by the EU - under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF - and by the Government of Canada, under the CARICOM Trade and Competitiveness Project (CTCP). They included:

- ☞ Thirteen training workshops from January to May, for teachers in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines aimed at incorporating CSME concepts in teaching the secondary school curriculum. The workshops attracted 300 teachers from 200 schools. In some countries, officers from Ministries of Education were among the participants.

- Development of CSME teacher training modules in Suriname for use at the Junior High School level.
- Nine CSME study tours, each with twenty tertiary-level students, as part of the Project entitled *Students Engaging the CSME through Field Promotions*. The aim of the Project is to inform and expose tertiary students about the opportunities offered by the CSME.



Students from Suriname visit Dominica's Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, during the CSME field promotion to that Member State



Secretary-General Ambassador LaRocque with students from Trinidad and Tobago, at the CARICOM Secretariat, during the CSME field promotion to Guyana



Students from Antigua and Barbuda arrive in Barbados

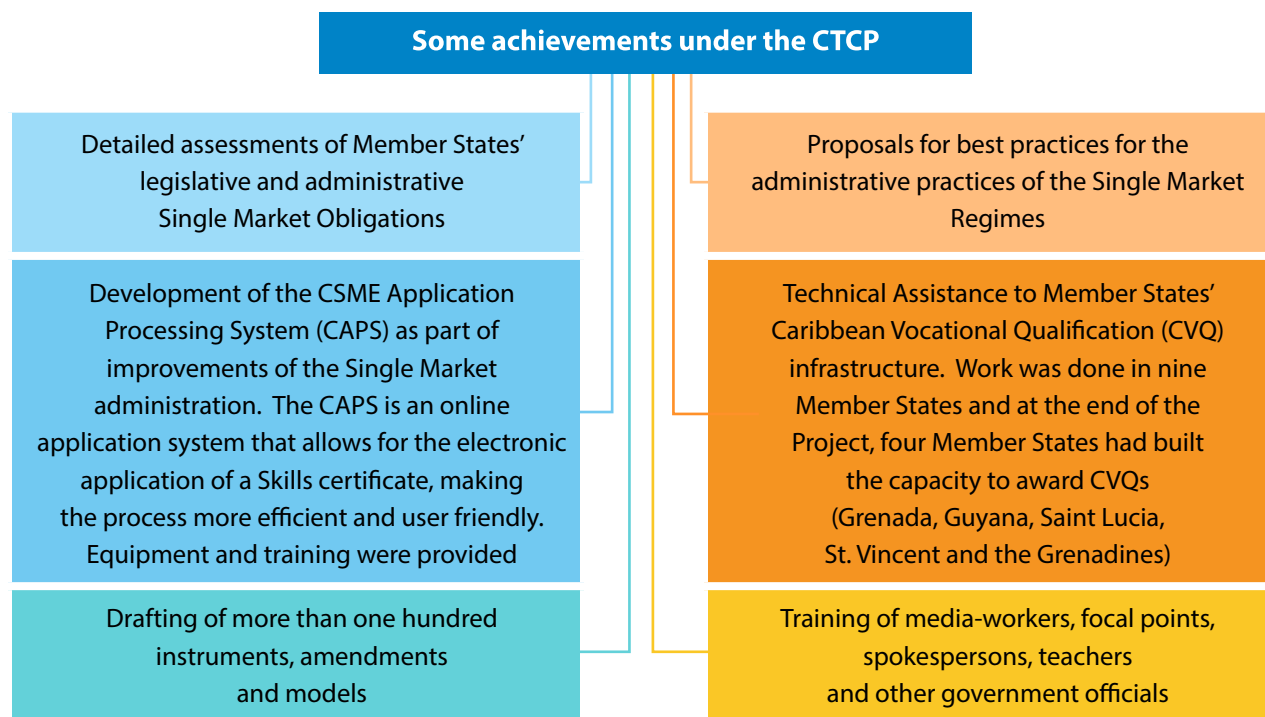
- Training for media, including broadcasters and newspaper editors, to enable them to better report on CSME issues. A regional workshop for newspapers editors was held in April in Trinidad and Tobago and several national workshops were held for media practitioners from February to May. Media practitioners from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines benefitted from the national workshops.



Members of the Association of Caribbean Media Workers at a workshop for Caribbean newspaper editors on the CSME, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April

- ☞ An information/discussion session, in creole in Dominica, about the CSME and the five regimes which facilitate its operation. The session was conducted in February through a popular creole radio interview and call-in show *Naftanoun* on the state-owned Dominica Broadcasting Service.

In June, the **CARICOM Trade and Competitiveness Project (CTCP)**, funded by the Government of Canada, came to an end. The CTCP was a major Project aimed at improving the operational effectiveness of the CSM. Launched in May 2008, the Project was valued at approximately Cdn\$10,000,000.



## Agriculture

In 2015, the **Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) became fully operational** with the recruitment of a full staff complement. This important Regional Institution is now equipped to provide technical support in the area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).



Chief Executive Officer of CAHFSA, Mr Simeon Collins

During the year, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines received **support for the preparation and implementation of national agricultural policies and plans, consistent with the Region's Community Agriculture Policy and the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy**. The support was provided as part of the Caribbean Component of the Agricultural Policy Programme (APP), funded by the EU.



Facilitators at the discussions in Guyana regarding the preparation and implementation of a national Agricultural policy and plan under the Caribbean Component of the EU-funded APP

(L-R) IICA Representative in Guyana, Mr Wilmot Garnett; Ambassador/Head of the EU delegation in Guyana, Mr Robert Kopecky; Minister of Agriculture, Guyana, Dr Leslie Ramsammy; Programme Manager Agriculture and Industry, CARICOM Secretariat, Ms Nisa Surujbally; and Technical Co-ordinator of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Dr Mario Fortune

In February, the Secretariat launched the following two initiatives, also as part of the Caribbean component of the EU-funded APP:

- ✎ *Assessment of market infrastructure needs:* This involves assessing the current state of public marketing facilities, estimating their value to the agriculture sector, and providing recommendations to governments on policies and programmes to be adopted to improve the productivity and incomes of farmers while contributing to the welfare of consumers.
- ✎ *Improving the information system for Caribbean agribusiness:* This is to enhance the **Caribbean Agribusiness website** and responds to a long-standing need to create a platform for the exchange of information on a wide variety of issues affecting Caribbean agriculture. The enhanced website will provide, among other things, statistics, business and marketing tools, as well as a platform for Caribbean agribusinesses to promote their products and provide consumer information.

The APP benefits both the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. Its objective is to increase the capability of Regional Agricultural Development Organisations of the Caribbean and Pacific regions to address the development needs of smallholder agriculture, thereby helping to enhance the regional (Caribbean and Pacific) and inter-regional capabilities of the agricultural sector to eradicate poverty.

## Energy

In July, **Heads of Government endorsed the establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)** as the implementation hub for sustainable energy activities and projects within the Region. Following a competitive selection process, the Centre will be located in Barbados.



CCREEE will support and coordinate the execution of CARICOM's renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes, projects and activities. It was established with the assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the Government of Austria, and the Small Island Developing States Energy Initiative (SIDS DOCK).

During the year, there were several activities focused on building awareness and capacity within Member States and on facilitating public-private partnership in energy development to advance the **CARICOM Energy Policy** adopted in 2013. These included:

- ✎ Conduct of bioenergy assessments in all Member States. The assessments were commissioned by the CARICOM Secretariat and were supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance (REETA) Project. The work was conducted by a team of German and Caribbean experts. The Assessments examined the regulatory environments in terms of their relative attractiveness for the development of bioenergy projects.
- ✎ Completion of a regional standardised methodology for the collection and treatment of energy data to improve Member States' ability to collect and manage this data. With support from the Clean Energy Solutions Centre (CESC), the process began in January with a scoping exercise and continued with further engagements in April. It built on the work done in 2014 which created the database called the Caribbean Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Matrix (CREEEM).
- ✎ Technical assistance to the Government of Montserrat to support the integration of photovoltaics (PV) into the island's power system, and the eventual transformation from fossil-based generation towards one hundred per cent renewable, including a planned geo-thermal power plant. GIZ and Siemens provided support for this initiative.



Report on Technical Assistance to the Government of Montserrat

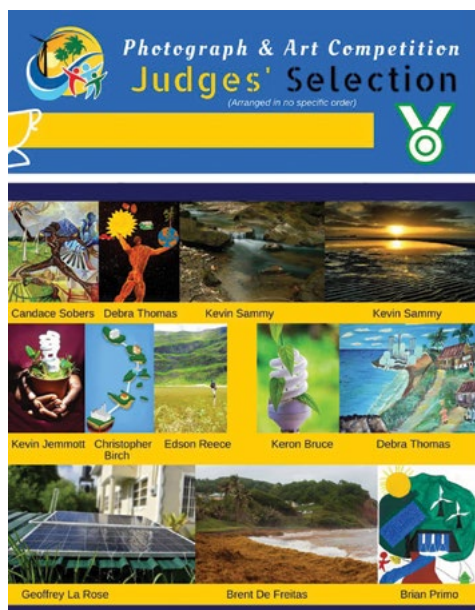
Regional Institutions with mandates for Climate, Environment and Energy coordinated their efforts in providing technical support to Member States for Community engagements during the year with the United States under the **Caribbean Energy Security Initiative**. The Initiative, first announced in June 2014, aims to boost energy security and sustainable economic growth in the Region by attracting investment in a range of energy technologies through a focus on improved governance, increased access to finance, and strengthened coordination among energy donors, governments, and stakeholders.

**CARICOM Energy Week (CEW) 2015** was observed across the Community in November under the theme *Empowering our Sustainable Development*. The Week provides an opportunity to discuss and raise awareness of energy matters in the Region. This year's focus was on some of the critical issues that continue to limit sustainable energy use and sustainable economic development in the Region.



The CARICOM Secretariat provided support to Member States in planning and hosting their activities, which included high-level panel discussions, in which government officials spoke on country-specific energy matters; spot questions with prizes and energy tips, on radio; engagements with schools; and field trips to in-country renewable energy sites. The national events and activities focused on local issues with which persons were familiar and provided a fillip for the Regional activities, which included photo and video competitions.

At the Regional level, the CEW organisers sought online digital photographs or scans of artwork, highlighting the empowerment of the peoples of the Region, through sustainable energy use. CARICOM nationals were also invited to submit online creative videos or animations which highlight the vibrant energy and passion of Caribbean people, whilst simultaneously capturing the options and opportunities for sustainable energy production and use.



Collage of submissions to the CARICOM Energy Week art contest



Participants at the Energy Week Walk in Antigua and Barbuda

The CEW was established in 2011 as an annual event, based on a mandate from CARICOM Energy Ministers to provide a platform for increased awareness of energy matters.



## Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development

In 2015, work continued on the development of the **Single ICT Space Roadmap** as the digital layer to support the CSME. The ICT Cluster comprising representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network Agency (CKLNA) identified the following working definition for the Single ICT space -



*The CARICOM Single ICT space is an ecosystem of regionally harmonised ICT policies, legislation, regulations, technical standards, best practices, networks and services through which ubiquitous, affordable access to broadband and communication technology services is provided to enhance CARICOM's functional cooperation and enable consistent, Caribbean-wide availability of digital information for the promotion of inclusion, innovation and productivity.*

The scope of the definition allows ICT to be embedded in and to support all processes and sectors important to the Region.

**2015 International Girls in ICT Day** was held in April under the theme *Expand Horizons, Change Attitudes*. To mark this international observation, the Secretariat hosted an Information Technology Forum and Exhibition for female students in Guyana and gave them a tour of the Secretariat's social media platforms. The event exposed the young women to topical IT Applications. They were urged to step outside their comfort zones and investigate the endless opportunities available through ICT. They were also challenged to become active advocates of bridging the ICT gender gap across the Region and the world. The event helped to further advance the mandate from CARICOM Heads of Government to promote youth in ICT activities.



Secondary students from Guyana in a *Girls in ICT* interactive session at the CARICOM Secretariat in April

## Strengthening Private Sector Collaboration



Special session of the COTED with private sector representatives in November

Ministers comprising the COTED and representatives of the private sector continued their engagement during the year. In November, at a Special Session of the Council with the regional business community, discussions focused on transportation of people, goods and services throughout the Region; ease of doing business; ICT to improve efficiencies and competencies; the effective use of the CSME; greater engagement of the private sector at the national level, through increased public-private partnerships (PPPs); and the need for a more structured dialogue with the business community.



Some representatives of the Regional Private Sector at the Special Meeting of the COTED in November

Private sector bodies represented at the Special Session included the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), the West Indian Rum and Spirits Association (WIRSPA), the Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (CASME), the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), the Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA), the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export), the Private Sector Commission of Guyana, and the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA).



## SECTION II

# HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Building Social Resilience*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Human Capital Development: Key Skills, Education Reform and Youth Development (SOC 1)*
- ⌘ *Mainstream inclusiveness in public policy: Gender, Persons with Disabilities, Age (SOC 2)*
- ⌘ *Advance Health and Wellness (SOC 3)*

### Human Resource Development (HRD)

During the year, the Community continued to work towards the development of a Regional Education and **Human Resource Development (HRD) 2030 Strategy**. In March 2014, Heads of Government established a CARICOM Commission on HRD to develop the Strategy which will form the basis for converged action by Member States and relevant institutions and create a framework for the CARICOM Education Agenda. The seventeen-member Commission comprises specialists and other stakeholders in the field of education and HRD. It is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture of St. Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Shawn Richards.

The Strategy will seek to address wide-ranging deficiencies including: low levels of performance and engagement by students; low access to secondary-level exams; and the mismatch between the skills of graduates and the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and society.

The CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) signed a Grant Agreement in October to provide financial support for the work of the Commission. Researchers were engaged to collect data and to conduct a gender-sensitive analysis of national and regional policies, strategies and programmes, in the context of global best practices.

Next year, consultations to help craft the Strategy will be held with a wide cross-section of stakeholders in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and in Saint Lucia for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

***The process of administering the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ)*** was strengthened during the year. With support from the Government of Barbados, under the *Standardised Training Modules and Training Programmes for Assessors and Verifiers of the CVQ*, previously trained Assessors and Verifiers from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were certified to provide CVQ Training and certification. They joined the other Member States which already had certified Assessors and Verifiers.



The CVQ was first launched in 2007 to facilitate the movement of a range of skilled persons in the CSME, such as artisans, beauticians and electricians. The CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) played a pivotal role in establishing the Common Standards and Framework to facilitate the introduction of this new qualification.

The Secretariat sought, during the year, to ascertain the true levels of ***trained teachers for Special Needs***

**Education (SNE) in Member States.** A baseline survey, conducted in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), revealed a critical shortage of trained SNE teachers at the pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. The survey recommended that Member States introduce open and distance learning on a wide scale to fast track the upgrading of SNE practitioners who do not have the requisite qualifications; and increase the number of prospective SNE teachers being trained throughout the Region.

## Health and Wellness

With **Ebola concerns** spilling over from the previous year, the Region continued to implement the *Ten-Point Plan of Action to Stop Ebola There and Here (SETH)*, adopted by Heads of Government at their Special Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2014. That Plan calls for, among other things, strengthening health systems including training, equipment, laboratories and containment, and enlists the participation of airlines in the Region, in transporting specimens and response teams.

During the year, the diagnostic capability of the **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** was enhanced. CARPHA's laboratory staff received training in Canada; its testing facility was equipped to support Ebola diagnosis; and laboratory personnel in Member States were trained to retrieve and package specimens for shipment to CARPHA, using International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. CARPHA also entered into arrangements with Caribbean Airlines and the Leeward Islands Air Transport Services (LIAT) to transport shipments to its laboratory, as part of its preparedness strategy.

Towards the end of the year, the **Zika virus**, transmitted by the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, was reported in several Member States, prompting an intense regional response, led by CARPHA and including Ministries of Health. An awareness campaign was launched which provided a checklist of measures to help communities keep their environment clean and help individuals protect themselves against mosquito bites. Pregnant women were particularly targeted due to the health risk to the foetus.

As part of efforts to continue the **fight against chronic diseases and their risk factors**, a Forum of Key NCD Stakeholders – *Advancing the NCD Agenda in the Caribbean* – was held in Barbados in June. Stakedolders comprised Ministers of Health, senior Health Officials, representatives of the Secretariat and of CARPHA, representatives of Civil Society and of multilateral organisations.



Participants at the Forum of key NCD Stakeholders –  
*Advancing the NCD Agenda in the Caribbean*

It concluded with a renewed commitment to the principles of CARICOM's 2007 Port-of-Spain Declaration as well as of the 2011 political declaration of the United Nations' High-Level Meeting on the prevention and Control of NCDs and the formal 2014 UN review of progress on NCDs. It was agreed that stepped-up efforts, using all-of-government and all-of-society approaches to tackling NCDs, were needed for the Region to meet the goal of reducing NCD deaths by twenty-five per cent by 2025.



NCD Stakeholders in session

An important step was taken towards the introduction of a **Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS) for Medicines** to ensure citizens have access to quality cost-effective medicines and bring the Region in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards. Representatives of Member States, the Secretariat, CARPHA and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) met in April to draft the details of the System and recommended that CARPHA be designated the regional standard-setting body for the CRS. In November, the COTED considered the matter and urged Member States to conduct national consultations on the proposal so that a decision can be taken in 2016.

**Caribbean Wellness Day (CWD) 2015** was observed on 12 September under the theme *Love that Body - Eat Healthy, Live Longer*. Activities were held across the Region to promote the wellness revolution, first advocated in 2007 at the Special Meeting of Heads of Government on NCDs, held in Trinidad and Tobago.



Secretary-General LaRocque at the Opening of the Secretariat's Health and Wellness activities

The CARICOM Secretariat joined the Community in observing CWD 2015 with a week of activities which climaxed with a well-supported Health and Wellness Promotion Walk.



Participants in the Health and Wellness Week walk held in Guyana led by Staff of the CARICOM Secretariat



Participants at the CARICOM Secretariat's sports day

## Gender

**A Regional Gender Analysis of the CSME** was conducted during the year, as part of efforts to increase the mainstreaming of gender issues in the work of the Community. Among the findings of the analysis was that pre-existing conditions, including patriarchal social and economic systems and culturally-reinforced attitudes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men, effectively hinder social and economic development. The analysis also included gender mainstreaming recommendations in the areas of education and training; curbing violence against women; and advancing women's representation in leadership. The analysis involved all the CSME Participating States and has been made available to governments, international and regional agencies and civil society.

**Similar work was undertaken in respect of the CARICOM Youth Development Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Crime Prevention Action Plan.** The Secretariat, with the support of a volunteer from the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO), conducted the analyses which included recommendations on ways to make the indicators and targets of the M&E Framework and the goals of the Action Plan more gender sensitive. The recommendations are being used to improve both the M&E Framework and the Action Plan.

## Children and Youth

**To create greater awareness of the need to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation, especially in sports,** the Secretariat collaborated with Member States, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) during the year. This initiative commenced with the *Break the Silence Campaign against Child Sexual Abuse*, launched in nine Member States in 2013. Manuals for Primary School Coaches and Teachers on Child Protection in Cricket were produced and were approved by the COHSOD in July. Training workshops in the use of the Manuals are to be held in national school systems across the Region.



Also, during the year, the Secretariat started developing a **Prevention of Violence Against Children (PVAC) Strategy**. The work is being undertaken with support from UNICEF's Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office and contributions from Member States. The Strategy, mandated by the COHSOD, will provide an important regional resource to guide action and strengthen the Community's ability to use effective and proven practices in violence prevention.

**Youth entrepreneurship training** through the *Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO)* Project was expanded to two additional Member States during the year. Montserrat, and Trinidad and Tobago joined eleven other Member States which had previously benefited from the training workshops. Over a period of six days in March, fifty Youth from these two Members were required to set up and staff simulated companies, develop a basic business plan as well as create, market and sell products and services using seed money provided by the *Bank of CEBO*.

CEBO, an initiative of the CARICOM Secretariat, seeks to promote entrepreneurship development as a priority for countering youth unemployment, mitigating drug abuse, crime and violence, and fostering economic resilience in the Region. It is supported by the Governments of Spain and of the United States, the latter through its Agency for International Development (USAID).



Youths in Montserrat receive entrepreneurship training at a CEBO Workshop in March

In June, a **Youth Skills Development Pre-Technology Programme** was launched. The six-month programme provided academic strengthening, psycho-social development and an introduction to a skills training exercise, involving ICTs, food and beverage preparation and agro-processing. Just over 1,000 youth participated in the programme in the six Member States of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Youth Skills programme is part of the broader CARICOM Education for Employment (C-EFE) Programme, supported by the Government of Canada. The C-EFE is designed to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the technical and vocational advanced skills training systems in Member States and develop a more competitive, productive and gender-equitable workforce. The Pre-Technology Programme was executed through institutional partnerships between Canadian and Caribbean Institutions.

In 2015, fourteen Member States and three Associate Members appointed **CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (CYAs)**. Mr Dennis McCall Jr of St. Kitts and Nevis was appointed Dean in September and will serve until August 2016.





(L-R) St. Kitts and Nevis Minister of Youth, Hon. Shawn Richards and St. Kitts and Nevis CYAs, Joy Napier and Dennis McCall Jr (CYA Dean, 2015-2016)



Guyana CYA, Adrian Alfred, engages with youth visiting the CARICOM Booth at a volunteerism fair held in Guyana

The CYAs staged a successful engagement between the Secretary-General and the Region’s young people in June, in the run up to the July Meeting of Heads of Government. The large in-house audience in Barbados was complimented by a strong social media presence with tweets, posts and skype-calls from youths across the Region. The main topic for the **#Ask-SG discussion** was **Entrepreneurship: CARICOM’s Economic Life-Jacket**. The event was co-chaired by the outgoing Barbados CYAs Ms Sade Jemmoth (CYA Vice-Dean for Regional Initiatives) and Mr Mosiah Hoyte, with support from outgoing St. Vincent and the Grenadines CYA Mr Kishore Shallow (CYA Vice-Dean for Communications).



(L-R) 2014-2015 CYAs Kishore Shallow and Sade Jemmoth, the Secretary-General and 2014-2015 CYA Mosiah Hoyte



## CARICOM Youth Ambassadors 2015-2016



<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	Ms Jo-Nelle Walsh Mr Kurt Williams	<b>Jamaica</b>	Mr Andre Marriott-Blake Ms Terisa Thompson
<b>The Bahamas</b>	Ms Khadijah Young Mr Jarrell Hall	<b>Montserrat</b>	Mr Darion Darroux Ms Claris Yearwood
<b>Barbados</b>	Mr Shamar Ward Ms Zuwen Perry	<b>Saint Lucia</b>	Mr Charde Desir Ms Stecia Stanislas
<b>Belize</b>	Mr Andrew Munnings Ms Tarun Buther	<b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>	Mr Denis McCall Jr Ms Joy Napier
<b>Dominica</b>	Mr Eardley Pierre Ms Kerahia Jno Baptiste	<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	Mr Andre Browne Ms Chelsia Ferdinand
<b>Grenada</b>	Mr Judd Cadet Ms Amanda Scott	<b>Suriname</b>	Ms Samaidy Akima Mr Eugenio Bruce
<b>Guyana</b>	Mr Adrian David Ms Jewel Collier-Swan	<b>Anguilla</b>	Mr Clemvio Hodge Ms Glenneva Hodge
<b>Haiti</b>	Ms Schebna Bazil Mr Menson Henry	<b>Cayman Islands</b>	Mr James Geary Ms Takiyah Smith
<b>Turks and Caicos Islands</b>		Mr Arean Louis Ms Mary Fulford	

## Culture - Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA)

For the first time, Haiti played host to the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) the Region's roving, multidisciplinary artistic extravaganza. CARIFESTA XII was held from 21-30 August, under the theme *Our roots, our culture, our common future*.



President of Haiti, H.E. Michel Martelly performs with band Tabou Combo during CARIFESTA XII

Thirteen Members and two Associate Members participated in the Festival, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago; as well as Anguilla, and the Cayman Islands. Special guest countries were Canada; French overseas territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique; Mexico; and the United States. The Festival was held in five cities across Haiti, namely Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien, Jacmel, Les Cayes and Gonaïves.



Country performance – Antigua and Barbuda



Jamaican dance company L'Acadco joined on stage by Dr L'Antoinette Stines

CARIFESTA XII consisted of more than 120 shows and events, which underscored the message of Caribbean cultural integration. The highlight of the Festival was the highly patronised Grand Market in Port-au-Prince. At the closing ceremony, President Michel Martelly of Haiti handed over the CARIFESTA baton, created by acclaimed Haitian Visual Artist Phillipe Dodard, to Culture Minister Stephen Lashley of Barbados. That Member State is scheduled to host CARIFESTA XIII in 2017.



Discussions about the future of CARIFESTA and Caribbean culture at the CARIFESTA Youth Village



Performance by the Haitian delegation at the closing ceremony



President Martelly passes the CARIFESTA Baton to Minister of Culture of Barbados, Hon. Stephen Lashley

Earlier in the year in February, Heads of Government had focused on the Region's cultural and creative industries at their Twenty-Sixth Inter-Sessional Meeting held in The Bahamas. Their discussions had been facilitated by a presentation from former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. P.J. Patterson on **Leveraging CARICOM's Human, Cultural and Natural Assets for the Economic Development of the Community**. The Heads of Government acknowledged the importance of these industries to regional integration and the CSME, as well as a driver of social development and cohesion, cultural identity and diversity, and youth engagement. They requested the Secretariat to collaborate with Regional Institutions and other cultural entities to further develop an enabling environment for the industry. The collaboration is expected to lead to the establishment of a Caribbean Creative Industries Management Unit in the Barbados-based Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) as a dedicated body to address the needs of the industries; and a Creative Industries Innovation Fund as a much needed financing mechanism.

## Reparations for Native Genocide and Slavery

This year marked the start of the **United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent**. In observance of this important beginning, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda held a launch ceremony in February, using the UN declared theme, *People of African descent: recognition, justice and development*. The Decade will seek to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

The Community's establishment of the **CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC)**, in 2013, was credited for having inspired an International Reparations Summit held in New York in April. Eight Member States were among the more than twenty countries and organisations which attended the event, organised by the Institute of the Black World 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a US-based think-tank which focuses on empowering Black organisations and communities through cooperative and collaborative methods and strategies. The CARICOM Countries represented were Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.



Participants at the Reparations Summit held in New York in April

A key agreement reached at the Summit was that the CRC would support the National African-American Reparations Commission (NAARC) by encouraging and facilitating Caribbean political leaders, artists, civil society activists and scholars to participate in NAARC initiatives. The NAARC in turn pledged to support the CRC in its mobilising and organising its work. Both bodies welcomed the establishment of reparations commissions in Britain, the rest of Europe, and Canada and agreed to meet with them in the future.

The CARICOM Reparations Commission was created to establish the moral, ethical and legal case for reparations by the Governments of all the former colonial powers and the relevant institutions of those countries, to the nations of the Caribbean Community for the crimes against humanity of native genocide, the trans-Atlantic slave trade and a racialised system of chattel slavery. In 2016, the Commission is expected to directly engage the public in a series of national rallies in Member States. A Reparations Baton will be passed along the chain of rallies.

## Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP)

PANCAP, the **Pan Caribbean Partnership Against the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**, is a Caribbean-wide regional partnership comprising governments, regional civil society organisations, regional institutions and organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies and contributing donor partners.



It is located administratively within the CARICOM Secretariat which provides a range of services, including human resource management, administrative, legal and procurement.

PANCAP was established by a Declaration of CARICOM Heads of Government in February 2001, in response to the threat of HIV to sustainable human development. It provides a structured and unified approach to the Caribbean's response to the HIV epidemic; coordinates the response through the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS (CRSF) to maximise efficient use of resources and increase impact; mobilises resources; and builds capacity of partners.

PANCAP's major activities in 2015 included **consultations with Member States** in response to mandates from the COHSOD, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General and the guidelines from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to fast track the end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The consultations were spearheaded by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV in the Caribbean, Dr Edward Greene and PANCAP's Director, Mr Dereck Springer.

Eleven consultations were held in eight countries, namely Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago. They included discussions with some Heads of State, parliamentarians, faith leaders and a cross-section of NGOs, including representatives of youth groups, the private sector and media.

Major areas of focus during the consultations were:

- ✎ Modification of the agenda for eliminating AIDS related stigma and discrimination under the PANCAP Justice for All Programme.

The Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet for Human Resource Development, Health and HIV, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr Timothy Harris, has agreed to advocate for the FastTrack/JFA process and champion the aspiration of **Caribbean First to Zero**.

- Activities coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and CARICOM under the **Every Caribbean Woman and Every Caribbean Child** Initiative, which mirrors the flagship programme of the UN Secretary-General, *Every Woman, Every Child*.



Staff at the CARICOM Secretariat Marking World AIDS Day 2015

The **Justice for All** Programme, inaugurated in 2013, is coordinated by PANCAP in collaboration with UNAIDS. It was originally conceptualised to comprise five elements (focus on family life; access to affordable treatment; reducing gender equality; improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and eliminating Aids-related stigma and discrimination). The Programme was modified in 2014, in keeping with the recommendation of COHSOD, to include the *UN 90-90-90 treatment targets* (90% of people with HIV and AIDS tested and knowing their status; 90% of those tested on affordable treatment; and 90% of those on treatment with low viral loads the prevent transmission of the disease).

### Caribbean Launch of UNAIDS LANCET Commission Report

A Caribbean launch of the UNAIDS Lancet Commission Report *Defeating AIDS – Advancing Global Health* was held at the time of the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting in July. The Caribbean Launch, which followed the global launch in London in June, provided an opportunity to highlight specific recommendations of the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission that are relevant to both national and regional responses required to end the AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean. Key recommendations include the need to:



- ☞ **Get serious** about HIV prevention, and continue the expansion of access to treatment, while also working to address structural determinants of health that put people at risk.
- ☞ **Forge new paths** to uphold human rights and address stigma and discrimination, using practical approaches to change laws, policies, and public attitudes that violate human rights.
- ☞ **Urgently ramp up and fully fund** AIDS efforts efficiently, and emphasise sustainability.
- ☞ **Demand robust accountability, transparency, and better data.** This relies on fresh processes and mechanisms to enable more transparent data review, improve research on high-risk populations, and link data to policies and programmes.



(L-R) Minister of Social Care of Barbados, Hon. Steve Blackett; UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon; and Lead CARICOM Head of Government for Health, including HIV/AIDS, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr Timothy Harris, at the Caribbean launch of the Lancet Report

## Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child (ECWECC)

The Every Caribbean Woman and Every Caribbean Child (ECWECC) programme focuses on elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, reduction of violence against women and children, cervical cancer and teenage pregnancies, all major challenges in the Region. It emerged after the launch, in March, of the UN Secretary-General's flagship programme *Every Woman Every Child* after which it was patterned

Belize's First Lady Ms Kim Simplis-Barrow, Special Envoy for Women and Children, has played a leading role in the ECWECC which is supported by the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica and CARICOM Lead Head of Government for Human Resources, Health and HIV, Prime Minister Timothy Harris of St. Kitts and Nevis, are also helping to champion the programme.

ECWECC developments during the year included:

- ✎ Agreement of First Lady Simplis-Barrow to serve as a bridge between First Ladies of the Caribbean and those of Central America in advancing the programme.
- ✎ Formation of a Steering committee coordinated by Ms Sheila Roseau, Director UNFPA Caribbean and the conduct of regional consultations leading to the development of a Caribbean Commitment, with Jamaica as a pilot.
- ✎ Submission of the Caribbean Commitment to the CGI and receipt of a Certificate of Commitment from that organisation.
- ✎ Agreement of Guyana's First lady Ms Sandra Granger, to join Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica and the First Ladies of Belize and Haiti as champions for the Programme with a proposal to add to the priorities, the elimination of trafficking in persons, with special reference to girls.





## **SECTION III**

# **SECURITY COOPERATION**

*Building Social Resilience*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Human Capital Development: Key Skills, Education Reform and Youth Development (SOC 1)*
- ⌘ *Enhance Citizen Security and Justice (SOC 4)*
- ⌘ *Strengthen Cyber Security (TEC 3)*

### Strengthening Citizen Security

During the year, the Community strengthened its partnership with the United States of America (USA) to enhance citizen security. In keeping with a decision taken at the CARICOM-US Summit in Jamaica in April, the Fifth High-Level Dialogue on Security issues was held in The Bahamas in June. During the discussions, Security Ministers and other high-level representatives from CARICOM Member States, the Dominican Republic and the US committed to greater progress in providing a safe, prosperous society for their citizens, over the next five years.



Caribbean and US representatives at the High-Level Security Cooperation Dialogue held in The Bahamas in June

They agreed to deepen the coordination, cooperation and sustainability of joint efforts among Caribbean States and international partners, to address the security challenges in the Caribbean more effectively, and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of programme implementation for effective results. These agreements are set out in their outcome document - *The Nassau Commitment for Citizen Security in the Caribbean*.

The Nassau Commitment identifies a number of priority actions to be undertaken by States and international partners at the national, bilateral and regional levels in the following key areas:

- ☞ *Illicit traffic in firearms*: In particular, institutional strengthening, legislation and implementation of polices.
- ☞ *Advancing public safety and security*: Priority areas include civil asset forfeiture legislation, specifically targeting transnational criminal organisations; national legislation to permit plea bargains and implement alternative sentencing regimes for non-violent drug abusers; professional standards units within all national police; collecting and sharing basic crime data that conforms to global best practices; dedicated special victims units to incorporate global and regional best practices to humanely and professionally investigate cases of domestic violence and sexually based offenses against women and children.

- ✎ *Promoting social justice:* Focusing on issues of at-risk youth and juvenile justice reform including: reforming current law, policy, and practice to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child are observed; alternative sentencing for youth and rehabilitative justice; appropriate legislative and policy reform as well as training; addressing the societal factors that put youth at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of crime; improvements in basic education, including the monitoring of school management and performance, developing public/private partnerships and improving literacy and numeracy for primary school students and young adults.

## Reducing Youth Violence and Crime

The Secretariat continued to spearhead the implementation of the **CARICOM-Spain Citizen Security Project – Support for the Reduction of Youth-on-Youth Violence Violence in Selected Schools and Communities**. The Project is being piloted in five Member States, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Funded by the Government of Spain, the Project commenced in 2014 and is expected to end in 2016. Its objective is to prevent and reduce levels of violence and crime in Member States through a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach. It targets groups at risk of engaging in violent behaviour and criminal activities, in particular, children and youth in selected schools and communities in the five States.



Youths from Cunupia, Trinidad and Tobago who were trained under the community component of the CARICOM/Spain Reducing Youth-on-Youth Violence Project



The CARICOM Secretariat Representative with the Principal, Students and other Stakeholders during consultations in Jamaica under the Reducing Youth-on-Youth Violence Project being implemented with financial support from the Government of Spain

Key achievements in 2015, were:

- ☞ **Establishment of Champions for Change Clubs in schools in each of the five pilot countries**, benefitting more than 400 children. Also, the establishment of a local community Club in the Cunupia district in Trinidad and Tobago, through which community residents and local police help to support at-risk youths up to the age of eighteen and their parents.
  
- ☞ **Training workshops in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design** in five schools, benefitting more than 300 children. Through the training workshops, participants were taught how to effectively use the physical environment to deter decisions that precede criminal acts, and at the same time help inhabitants to feel a sense of territorial control, thus reducing crime and the fear of crime.
  
- ☞ **Provision of life skills training to 150 students** in schools.
  
- ☞ **Capacity building for 100 parents** in Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago, through workshops on Parenting.

Also with a focus on youth, in November, the Community and the US Government concluded an agreement to support efforts to reduce youth crime and violence in targeted communities. Through USAID's 2015 to 2019 Regional Development Cooperation Strategy, US\$89M will be made available for initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname.



## **SECTION IV**

# **DISASTER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

*Building Environmental Resilience*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Advance Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (ENV 1)*
- ⌘ *Advance Disaster Mitigation and Management (ENV 2)*
- ⌘ *Enhance management of the Environment and Natural Resources (ENV 3)*

### Climate Change

As part of the Community's preparations for the twenty-first session of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, Heads of Government held discussions on a range of Climate Change related issues of importance to CARICOM at their Meeting, held in Barbados in July.

Recognising the need for a strong Community position, they issued a **Declaration for Climate Change**. The Declaration, among other things, recognises climate change as an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies which requires urgent attention by all Parties to the UNFCCC. It also reaffirms that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remain a special case considering their unique and particular vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, as acknowledged in the Convention and by the International Community in multiple international meetings since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Brazil in 1992.



Some SIDS Heads of Government, the CARICOM and UN Secretaries-General and Head of the CARICOM Task Force on Sustainable Development meet during COP 21

(L-R) Head of the CARICOM Task Force on Sustainable Development, Dr the Hon. James Fletcher, Minister of Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia; CARICOM Lead Head of Government for Sustainable Development, Dr the Hon. Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; CARICOM Chair, Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados; UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon; President of Kiribati, Mr Anote Tong; President of the Marshall Islands, Mr Christopher Loeak; Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr Enele Sosene Sopoaga; and CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque

In the Declaration, the CARICOM Leaders:

- ⌘ **Urge** all Parties to the Convention, with developed countries taking the lead, to work with urgency and purpose to achieve an ambitious, comprehensive and meaningful outcome in December 2015 at COP 21 in Paris.
- ⌘ **Stress** that the Convention is, and should remain, the primary international, inter-governmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and reaffirm the importance of continuing to apply the principles of the Convention.

☞ **Call for** the adoption of a new international legally binding agreement under the Convention that is in the form of a protocol and is applicable to all Parties at COP 21 in Paris (the 2015 Agreement).

☞ **Call for** the 2015 Agreement to include, inter alia:

- \* provisions to address the specific needs and special circumstances of SIDS
- \* enhanced provisions for supporting the adaptation needs of vulnerable developing countries, including provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional finance, technology and capacity building support, and strengthening of the institutional arrangements
- \* loss and damage as a central and distinct element of the agreement, that should be treated separately from adaptation
- \* the Technology Mechanism and the Warsaw REDD+ Framework
- \* commitment by developed country parties to take the lead in scaling-up the provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, and opportunities for other Parties willing to do so, to also contribute to scaling up climate finance
- \* provision of support for capacity building and technology development and transfer to SIDS
- \* an explicit objective of limiting long-term the global average temperature increase to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, supported by aggregate mitigation commitments that represent a feasible pathway to achieving that goal
- \* an explicit provision that parties fulfil and continuously enhance their mitigation commitments over time
- \* five (5)-year mitigation commitment cycles, with robust ex ante and ex post review and upward adjustment processes
- \* provisions for measuring, reporting and verification of performance on commitments
- \* a compliance regime.

In the Declaration also, the Heads of Government highlight the following three areas as significant to the Caribbean and SIDS generally:

☞ **Supporting Measures Finance**, including the need for Caribbean countries to receive improved and prioritised access to public, grant-based financial support to address climate change. Also the need for the recently capitalised Green Climate Fund (GCF) to play a critical role in facilitating access of Caribbean Countries to financing to promote the paradigm shift towards low-carbon and climate resilient development pathways.

☞ **Loss and Damage**, including an exhortation to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to work closely with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF-SPC) to assist in the design, development and implementation of innovative approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change tailored to the needs of SIDS. This should include the agriculture sector.

Also in this area, a proposal to establish a process to develop appropriate international rules and procedures to redress economic and non-economic losses emanating from irreversible and permanent damage resulting from human-induced climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events.

- ☛ **International Cooperation**, including an exhortation to the international community to support the Caribbean in its ongoing efforts to contribute to the global effort to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The International Community was also urged to ensure that the outcome of COP 21, resulted in an ambitious international agreement that limits global warming to as far below 1.5 degrees as possible, in order to ensure the survival of the Caribbean States and territories.

At COP 21, the Community's representatives played an integral role in the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change, adopted by 195 countries on that occasion. Most of the Region's positions were recorded in the Agreement, thanks to an experienced team of regional negotiators, and strong coordination by the Secretariat and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which led to a focussed, unified campaign.

The Community delegation comprised CARICOM Heads of Government, including the Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister Freundel Stuart of Barbados; and Lead Head of Government for Sustainable Development, Prime Minister Kenny Anthony of Saint Lucia. The other Heads of Government were the Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, and St. Kitts and Nevis. The Secretary-General was also in attendance with his team along with the Executive Director of the CCCCC and his team.

Under the leadership of the CARICOM Chair and the Lead Head of Government for Sustainable Development, the Community mobilised support for CARICOM positions through direct engagements, including a series of high-level bilateral meetings. Prime Ministers Stuart and Anthony along with the Secretary-General led the Region's engagements with the United States President and the UN Secretary-General.



CARICOM Caucus at COP 21

(L-R): Minister of Health of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Hon. Clayton Burgin; Foreign Minister of Jamaica, Sen. A.J. Nicholson; CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Barbados, Ms Sonja Welch; CARICOM Chair, Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados; Lead Head of Government for Sustainable Development, Dr the Hon. Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; and Head of the CARICOM Task Force on Sustainable Development, Dr the Hon. James Fletcher, Minister of Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia





CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque chairs a CARICOM Caucus at COP 21. Mr Crispin d'Auvergne, Chief Sustainable Development Officer of Saint Lucia sits to his left



Community Officials and Negotiators in discussions at COP 21



Executive Director of the CARICOM Climate Change Centre and his Team chair an event at the Caribbean COP 21 Pavilion. (L-R) Policy Advisor, Ms Sharon Lindo; Executive Director, Dr Kenrick Leslie; Head, Project Development and Management Unit, Dr Mark Bynoe; Deputy Director and Science Advisor, Dr Ulric Trotz; and Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr Leonard Nurse

The Community negotiators were very effectively led by the Head of the CARICOM Task Force on Sustainable Development, Dr the Hon. James Fletcher, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia, who was also the driving force behind the CARICOM campaign mantra **1.5 to Stay Alive**.



CARICOM negotiators successfully advocated for community positions in a range of areas which were included in the Paris Agreement. For example:

- ☞ Reference to take account of the Region's position for 1.5 degrees or below as the long-term *temperature rise* goal - *1.5 to Stay Alive*.
- ☞ Special consideration for financing climate response actions for SIDS, given their special circumstances. The Paris Agreement stipulates the need for a baseline contribution of US\$100 billion annually.

- ☞ Separate treatment for Loss and Damage on the one hand and Adaptation on the other. Loss and Damage requires specific treatment given slow onset climate impacts from sea level rise, increased temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and its related impact, salinisation, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and diversification. The Agreement reflects this concern, and specifies the establishment of an international mechanism to address Loss and Damage.
- ☞ Support for forest conservation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, plus the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). This is of particular significance to Guyana and Suriname, as well as other Member States with forested areas.



## **SECTION V**

# **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

*Strengthening the CARICOM Identity and  
Spirit of Community*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Enhance Public Education, Public Information, Public Relations and Advocacy (UNY 1)*
- ⌘ *Refine and promote the CARICOM Identity and Civilisation (UNY 2)*
- ⌘ *Facilitate opportunities for the people of the Region to build social and economic relationships (UNY 3)*
- ⌘ *Strengthen relationships among Member States (UNY 4)*

### Elections Observation

During 2015, five CARICOM Elections Observation Missions (CEOMs) were mounted at the requests of Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Missions comprised CARICOM nationals with election management and observation experience. The CARICOM Secretariat coordinated and supported the work of these missions.

In February, a CEOM comprising two persons, Ambassador Rudolph Collins, former Chair of the Guyana Elections Commission and Mr Anthonyson King of the Elections Commission of Antigua and Barbuda, observed the elections in **St. Kitts and Nevis**. The Mission, which was headed by Ambassador Collins, noted in its report that the electoral process in its legal, institutional and operational aspects had presented challenges. It commended the voters and people of St. Kitts and Nevis for their enlightened and mature responses to these challenges.



Chief of the CEOM to St. Kitts and Nevis,  
Ambassador Rudolph Collins

In May, an-eight-member Mission observed the elections in **Guyana**. The Mission was led by Mr Earl Simpson, Deputy Director of Elections, Jamaica. Other members were nationals of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Mission praised the polling day activity, describing it as transparent, free and fair. They congratulated the Guyana Electoral Commission for its administration of the process, and the political parties and their representatives for the peaceful and orderly manner in which they conducted themselves on Elections Day.



Chief of the CEOM to Guyana, Mr Earl Simpson and Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms Josephine Tamai, addressing the media in Guyana

General Elections in **Suriname**, in May, were also observed by an eight-member eight-member CEOM. The Mission comprised nationals of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Mission was headed by Mr Ian Browne, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Barbados.

The Mission reported that, generally, the results of the day's activity proved that the process was transparent, free and fair and that electors had cast their vote without fear, intimidation or harassment.

A twelve-member Mission observed **Trinidad and Tobago's** elections held in September. Mr Orrette Fisher, Director of the Electoral Office of Jamaica, headed the Mission. Other members of the team were nationals of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The Mission's assessment of the day's activities indicated voters were able to cast their ballots without intimidation or harassment and that the results of the Elections reflected the will of the people.

In October, a ten-member Mission headed by Dr Steve Surujbally, Chair of the Guyana Elections Commission, observed the first Round of the Presidential Elections and second Round of the Legislative Elections in **Haiti**. Other members of the Team were nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In its post elections statement, the CEOM drew attention to a number of issues which they noted, if not corrected, could lead to undesirable sequels in future elections. The areas included anomalies pertaining to voting norms, varying methodologies in poll practices and inadequate physical space at polling stations. The Mission also documented its appreciation for the high level of support and cooperation received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Members of the CEOM to Suriname and the CARICOM Secretariat Coordinator



Chief of the CEOM to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Orette Fisher, and Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms Josephine Tamai



Chief of the CEOM to Haiti, Dr Steve Surujbally

An eight-member Mission observed the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** General Elections in December. Headed by Mr Gasper Jn Baptiste, Chief Elections Officer of Saint Lucia, the Mission also comprised nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Mission observed no major concerns and assessed the day's activities as voters being able to cast their ballots without intimidation or harassment and that the results of the Elections reflected the will of the people.



Some members of the CEOM to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including Chief of Mission Mr Gasper Jn Baptiste (4<sup>th</sup> left), at a press conference



## **SECTION VI**

# **FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

*Relations with Third States, Groups of States  
and Organisations*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

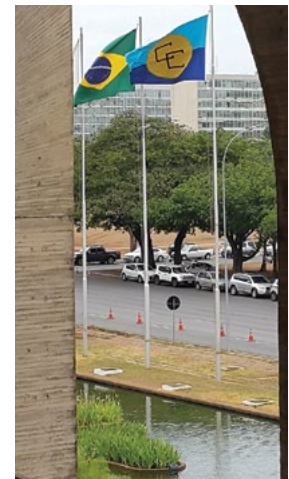
- ⌘ *Deepen Foreign Policy Coordination to support the achieving of CARICOM's strategic priorities and desired outcomes (FOR 1)*
- ⌘ *Integrate into the global economy (ECN 2)*



### Federative Republic of Brazil

As part of efforts to strengthen relations between the Community and Brazil, the Secretary-General paid an official visit to Brasilia in October. While there, he held discussions with the Minister and Senior Officials of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil, as well as with the Director of the Brazilian Agency for Technical Cooperation; and the President of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, EMBRAPA. He also participated in a round-table discussion with the Director and students of the Rio Branco Institute Diplomatic Academy, discussing the structure, functioning and key issues facing CARICOM. The engagements sought to maintain the dynamism of the ongoing CARICOM-Brazil dialogue and review technical cooperation processes.

During the visit, the Secretary-General was informed that the Brazilian Government had just completed its internal processes to become a non-borrowing member of the Caribbean Development Bank. The Secretary-General also took the opportunity to meet with the Ambassadors and other diplomatic representatives of CARICOM Member States to Brazil – Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago – updating them on developments in the Community and gaining their perspectives about the avenues for further deepening the CARICOM-Brazil relationship.



The CARICOM Standard and the Flag of Brazil fly outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil during the Secretary-General's visit to that country in October



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque makes a point during the Round-table at the Rio Branco Institute, the graduate school of International Relations and Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. Looking on is the Director of the Institute, Ambassador Gonçalo Mello Mourão



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque in discussions with the Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. Mr Mauro Luiz Vieira





## Canada

In July, CARICOM Heads of Government welcomed the decision of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to grant a waiver for the Caribbean-Canada Trade Agreement (CARIBCAN) up to 2023 and expressed their appreciation to Canada for having made that request. CARICOM countries have been trading with Canada under this Agreement since its introduction in 1986. Because of its unilateral nature, the arrangement required a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) waiver at the WTO.



In May, Canada suspended the negotiations for enhanced trading arrangements through a Trade and Development Agreement. These negotiations had been ongoing since 2009. Heads of Government have expressed regret at this decision and have re-affirmed the Region's interest in deepening economic co-operation and trade relations with Canada through a mutually beneficial and development-oriented trade agreement. They have also emphasised the Region's willingness to re-engage in negotiations in the future.



## Republic of Costa Rica

In the margins of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in September, CARICOM Heads of Government held discussions with the President of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera. Those discussions focused on common positions on a range of issues, including climate change, the Caribbean Sea Initiative, obstacles to development that stem from CARICOM Member States' classification as middle-income, and international cooperation.

Earlier in the year in June, the two sides held the First Meeting of the Joint Council under the CARICOM-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement (FTA). At this first meeting, held in Trinidad and Tobago, the Joint Council focused on the issues to give effect to the institutional arrangements set out in the Agreement and the mechanisms for future engagements.



## Republic of Cuba

The Community continued to build on its relationship with Cuba with particular focus in 2015, on trade and economic relations. In October, discussions were held in Cuba, under the Joint Commission of the CARICOM-Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (TECA), signed in 2000. Those discussions focused on market access issues, the negotiations for which had gathered momentum in 2014. CARICOM and Cuba have been seeking to expand preferential access for their respective goods into each other's market beyond what is currently provided under the TECA.

CARICOM's More Developed Countries (MDCs) have granted duty-free access to fifty-one of the eighty-five products for which Cuba is seeking additional preferential access. Cuba confirmed its offer of duty-free access to 295 products from CARICOM.

In July, at their Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting held in Barbados, Heads of Government welcomed the announcement earlier that month by the Presidents of Cuba and the United States, regarding their decision to re-establish diplomatic relations between the two countries and to re-open Embassies in their respective capitals. The Community has consistently advocated on behalf of Cuba, including for the normalisation of relations between Cuba and the United States.



## Federal Republic of Germany

The Foreign Ministers of CARICOM and the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Minister of Germany in March, in Berlin, for wide ranging discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation. The focus of the discussions included:

- ☞ Reenergising CARICOM-Germany cooperation.
- ☞ The need to reconsider the use of GDP per capita as the main criterion for concessionary development finance for SIDS.
- ☞ Matters related to the UN including:
  - \* contribution of the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to international and regional peace and security
  - \* security council reform
  - \* the need for a durable partnership in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda
  - \* the need for climate mitigation contributions from the global community with adequate attention given to developing states.

The Community received the Government of Germany's support for a multidimensional poverty measurement in the context of the Post-2015 Agenda, even while that country maintained its position that GDP was an easily measurable and useful eligibility criterion for access to certain concessionary financing.



Foreign Ministers of CARICOM, the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Germany at discussions in March

CARICOM and Germany recommitted to further strengthen existing fields of cooperation and to explore new areas for interaction. CARICOM is a regional partner and coordinator of German-Caribbean cooperation which includes energy, environment, health and regional economic integration.



## Republic of India

CARICOM and India sought to solidify relations during the year, through discussions at the level of the CARICOM-India Joint Commission. The Joint Commission is one of the formal mechanisms to coordinate closer cooperation between the two sides and was established in 2003.

In June, the inaugural meeting of the CARICOM-India Joint Commission was held at the Community's headquarters in Guyana. The discussions focused on ways to further enhance bilateral collaboration in areas such as agriculture and food security, health and pharmaceuticals, small and medium enterprises, marine development and oceanography, disaster management; and on issues on the international stage.

Leading the team from India was Vice Minister and Special Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, His Excellency R. Swaminathan. The CARICOM side was led by the Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, and Her Excellency Dr June Soomer, Ambassador of Saint Lucia to CARICOM. All Member States participated in the discussions along with representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat.



(L-R) Ms Riva Ganguly Das, His Excellency R. Swaminathan, Her Excellency Dr June Soomer, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan at the Inaugural Meeting of CARICOM-India Joint Commission held at the CARICOM Secretariat in June

The discussions continued at the Second Meeting of the Joint Commission, held at Ministerial level, in September in the margins of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York. Those discussions also focused on issues on the international agenda and on strengthening bilateral relations.



Second Meeting of the CARICOM-India Joint Commission, held at Ministerial level, at UN Headquarters in September

As regards the international agenda, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Ethiopia, in July and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UNGA. They also expressed their expectations for a successful outcome of COP21 in France.

In terms of strengthening bilateral relations, they agreed to focus on:

- ☞ Capacity building in project management, information technology, agri-business, health, disaster management, animal husbandry and dairying.
- ☞ Promoting business and trade.
- ☞ Enhancing people to people contact, with particular emphasis training young CARICOM diplomats.
- ☞ Business and cultural events.

At the second Meeting, the two sides were led by the Chair of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), the Minister of External Affairs, Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia, Hon. Alva Baptiste and the Minister of External Affairs of India, Ms Sushma Swaraj.



## Republic of Panama

In July, Heads of Government engaged the President of Panama, H.E. Mr Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez. They recalled the strong historical ties between CARICOM countries and Panama due to the migration of several thousand West Indians, particularly from Barbados and Jamaica, to work on the construction of the Panama Canal and railroad. They agreed on the importance of strengthening these ties, through cooperation in trade and investment, tourism, transportation, security, education, culture and people-to-people contacts.



President of Panama, H.E. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez (R) at the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government held in Barbados in July. To his right are Minister of Commerce and Industry of Panama, H.E. Mr Melitón Arrocha; and Minister of Education of Panama, H.E. Ms Marcela Paredes de Vásquez



## United States of America (USA)

CARICOM-USA relations advanced significantly during the year, with developments taking place on several fronts.

In January, during discussions involving some Caribbean Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General with the US Vice-President in Washington, the US announced that it would be changing its voting position on graduation policies in International Financial Institutions (IFIs), in respect of renewable energy and natural disaster management. That earlier position had supported the use of GDP per capita as the main criterion for access to concessionary financing and had resulted in the denial of such access to many CARICOM Members.

CARICOM has consistently advocated for a reversal of the use of GDP per capita for this purpose. This change of posture by the United States of America follows that of Japan which, in 2014, had also indicated a willingness to change its voting position in the IFIs.

As part of the strengthening partnership, the Heads of Government of CARICOM and of the USA held discussions in April at a Summit. The CARICOM-USA Summit, described as a new and positive beginning for CARICOM-USA relations, was held in Jamaica, under the joint chairmanship of the CARICOM Chair, Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister of The Bahamas and the US President, Mr Barack Obama.



CARICOM Heads of Government and the US President at the CARICOM-USA Summit held in Jamaica in April

In the outcomes of the Summit, the United States:

- ☞ Committed to provide initial funding for a sustainable energy programme in the sum of US\$20 million. The programme would also include a Task Force on Renewable Energy to assist with creating the much needed regulatory framework for the sector.
- ☞ Noted that there was great interest in renewable energy among US investors and expressed a willingness to work bilaterally with Member States to help leverage private sector investments to build on the initial funding.

- ☞ Indicated its continued support for established US-CARICOM security partnerships, including a High-Level Security Meeting to strengthen cooperation in security. These discussions were held in June in The Bahamas and resulted in a commitment on both sides to fight crime over the next five years. (see Pg.28)

In November, the Secretary-General signed an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the provision of US\$165M in development assistance from the United States Government to the Eastern and Southern Caribbean. The Agreement is in keeping with USAID's 2015-2019 Regional Development Cooperation Strategy which focuses on Youth, HIV & AIDS and Climate Change. Through the Agreement, significant assistance will be given to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The assistance will target the reduction of youth involvement in crime and violence in select communities; the control of HIV & AIDS among key populations; and reducing the risks to human and natural assets, resulting from climate vulnerability.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and US Ambassador to CARICOM, H.E. Mr Perry Holloway sign the USAID Agreement at the CARICOM Secretariat in November while USAID's Eastern and Southern Caribbean Mission Director, Mr Christopher Cushing (L) looks on



## African Union (AU)

As part of efforts to foster a better understanding of the Community, the Secretary-General received a delegation from the African Union (AU) Commission, in April, at the CARICOM Secretariat. The visit was part of an AU comparative study of some multilateral and inter-governmental organisations. The delegation examined CARICOM's systems and operating procedures to identify best practices to ultimately improve the working methods of the AU Commission. Areas of focus included the CARICOM Secretariat's institutional architecture, key conference processes, agenda setting and decision-making processes as well as mechanisms for implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

During his interaction with the Delegation, the Secretary-General underscored the value which the Community placed on its relationship with the AU and stressed the importance of integration movements among developing countries working closer together.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and his team in discussions with Members of the AU Commission Delegation during their visit to the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana



Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Head of the AU Commission Delegation, Ambassador Baso Sanqu, Chief Adviser to the AU Commission Chair

## Multilateral Relations

The Community used its participation at **major international conferences** to firmly advocate for sustainable development issues of critical importance to the Region. This included access to concessionary financing; the need for the international community to consider high levels of indebtedness and vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters in measuring development; and that GDP per capita was not an accurate measurement of development for SIDS.

One high-level advocacy opportunity was the **UN Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda** held at UN Headquarters, New York, in September. At that Summit, CARICOM Heads of Government joined other world leaders to formally adopt an ambitious framework for global development - **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets to eradicate poverty, eliminate inequality and flight climate change.

The Chair of the Community, Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados, addressed the Summit along with the Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne; The Bahamas, Hon. Perry Christie; and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves; and the President of Guyana, H.E. Mr David Granger.



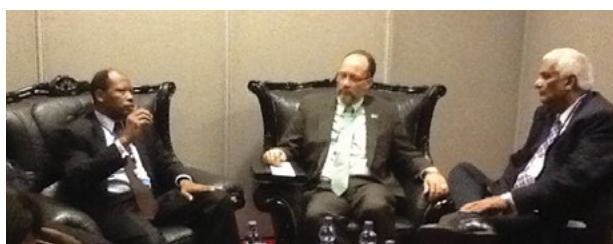
Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister Freundel Stuart of Barbados addressing the UN Summit

The Heads of Government made the case that to achieve the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, debt relief and concessional financing were important considerations for small vulnerable states. They also highlighted the devastating impact on Dominica of Tropical Storm Erika, which left twenty dead and caused serious infrastructural damage and the need for a comprehensive international effort to tackle the existential threat posed by climate change. They pointed to the need for a strategy on debt relief to create more fiscal space for much needed economic development, and a re-examination of the bases for access to concessional finance for countries in the Region.

The Community's advocacy on the need for access to concessional finance and financing solutions for the burdensome debt servicing of Member States was also a key platform for the Region at the **UN's Third International Conference on Financing for Development** held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July. The Community's representatives stressed the need for special support for SIDS in their efforts to mobilise resources for development, given their small size, inherent vulnerabilities and lack of resilience. The Community's delegates urged strong collaborative action among development partners to address the issues in a focused way. The Conference was addressed by the President of Guyana, H.E. Mr David Granger; the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne; and CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque. The event brought together government, business and civil society leaders to launch a global partnership for financing people-centered sustainable development.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and AU Commission Chair, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, in discussions at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Ethiopia in July



Some Members of the CARICOM Delegation in Caucus at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. (L-R) Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN, H.E. Mr George Talbot; Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Winston Dookeran

In July, the Secretary-General Headed a team comprising Officials of the **CARICOM Secretariat and Community Institutions, in discussions with representatives of Agencies comprising the UN System**. These discussions, held biennially, are aimed at strengthening the partnership between the two organisations and identifying ways to maximise progress in priority areas of cooperation.



(L-R) Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations, Ambassador Colin Granderson; Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan; Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; Chief of the Americas Division, UN Department of Political Affairs, Ms Martha Doggett



This Eighth General Meeting focussed on the Region's economic performance and the outlook for growth and debt; sustainable development matters, including SIDS, renewable energy, and climate change; alternative criteria for accessing financing for development; agricultural development and food and nutrition security; prevention and control of NCDs; and transnational organised crime, in particular the illicit drug trade which is integrally linked to the illegal arms trade.

## Plenipotentiary Representatives of Third States Accredited to CARICOM

During the year, Costa Rica, the Holy See, New Zealand and Kazakhstan accredited their first Plenipotentiary Representatives to the Community. This brings the number of Third States and Organisations accredited to CARICOM, to thirty-seven.

The year also witnessed the strengthening of existing ties as the Secretary-General received new Ambassadors from the Kingdom of Belgium, Canada, Mexico, the United States of America and the European Union. The Deputy Secretary-General received the new Ambassador from the Austria, on behalf of the Secretary-General.



Deputy Secretary-General Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan and Ambassador Gerhard Mayer, Austria's Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Guy Sevrin, Belgium's Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Pierre Giroux, Canada's Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Lydia María Peralta Cordero, Costa Rica's first Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Mikael Barfod, the European Union's Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, The Holy See's first Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Konstantin Zhigalov, Kazakhstan's first Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Roberto Sierra Medel, Mexico's Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Jan Henderson, New Zealand's first Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and Ambassador Perry Holloway, the United States' Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM



**SECTION VII**

**GOVERNANCE**

*Strengthening Community Resilience*

## Strategies, 2015-2019

- ⌘ *Reform the Organs, Bodies and Governance Arrangements to enhance decision-making, implementation, accountability, and enforcement (GOV 1)*
- ⌘ *Develop arrangements for participatory governance (GOV 2)*
- ⌘ *Develop governance arrangements for Community Institutions (GOV 3)*
- ⌘ *Strengthen relationships and build partnerships with IDPs (GOV 4)*
- ⌘ *Develop and agree on the desired governance arrangements for the future (GOV 5)*

## Community Reform

The Community's Reform Process is guided by the *Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019: Repositioning CARICOM* and has two major outcomes: (i) a more focused, effective and impactful Community; and (ii) a restructured CARICOM Secretariat, with strategic focus, implementation capacity and strengthened corporate functions. It also includes Governance arrangements that facilitate coordinated implementation of the Strategic Plan by the CARICOM Members, the Secretariat and Community Institutions – the Implementing Partners.



### Implementing the Community Strategic Plan

In January, the Community Council approved the Community Strategic Implementation Plan 2015-2019 which emphasises the eleven high-priority areas for focused attention, as recommended by the Secretary-General and approved by Heads of Government. The Secretariat coordinated the development of the Implementation Plan with the inputs of the Member States and Community Institutions.

To clearly articulate how the Member States, the Secretariat and the Community Institutions as well as the Community Organs and Bodies contribute to the Community Strategic Goals and Objectives, an Operational Plan has also been prepared.

The Community Operational Plan (COP) was completed in April and was presented to Member States for input, via the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA). The Committee members will discuss the Plan in their capitals and provide inputs/feedback in the first quarter of 2016. The COP aligns the work programmes of all the Implementing Partners – the Member States, the Secretariat and Community Institutions – to the Strategic Plan priorities. It provides for greater co-ordination among the Partners.

To monitor the performance of the 2015 Operational Plan, a Scorecard was developed which was completed by the Secretariat and Regional Institutions to report on performance against the indicators set out in the Operational Plan. The Scorecard is an important self-reporting and monitoring tool which will play the vital role of providing an indication of performance, based on the 2015 Community Operational Plan.

The Scorecard has revealed that amidst the many challenges faced during the implementation process, much was achieved in 2015 as highlighted throughout this report. A significant number of the Outputs delivered in 2015 will be advanced in the 2016-2017 Community Operational Plan, where more focus will be placed on implementation leading to achieving the respective Outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan.

### Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting on the Community Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan commits the Secretariat to establish a planning, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting system that is results-focussed. In response to this mandate, the Secretariat sought financial support from the CDB to develop a CARICOM Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System. The Bank, a subscriber to a results-focussed approach itself, is funding the development of the system under a collaborative Project entitled *Promoting the Principles of Managing for Development Results-Furthering the Regional Integration Process*. The CARICOM-CDB agreement for the Project was signed in August. A Consulting Firm will be appointed in early 2016, and the twenty-two month Project is expected to commence during the first quarter of 2016.

The development of the System will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase will include a needs and situational analysis and a number of activities to engage stakeholders from regional Institutions and Member States, to ensure their input and involvement in the process and sustainability after the engagement of the Consultants. The second phase includes post-implementation support by the consulting firm for one year.

### Change Management

To carry the reform process forward, in particular the restructuring of the CARICOM Secretariat, the Secretary-General has established a Change Management Office (CMO). The CMO is assisting him in driving the internal (Secretariat) transformation. In July, the Head of the CMO assumed office.

Following desk research and discussions with a cross-section of staff, the CMO drafted a Reform/Reformation Framework for the CARICOM Secretariat proposing a Reform approach to make the Organisation *Fit for Purpose*. The Framework focusses on **Strategy, Technology, People and Processes along with Governance as a cross cutting area**.



The strategy area is being given priority, specifically the preparation of a Business Plan for the Secretariat and of aligned biennial Work Programmes. The Business Plan will establish and communicate clearly:

- ☞ The Secretariat's mission and strategic priorities, aligned to the Strategic Plan and given available resources.
- ☞ How the structure, people and process within the Organisation must be transformed to achieve the mission and strategic priorities.
- ☞ The Organisation's role in achieving the priorities of the Strategic Plan.

It will ensure that the activities of the Secretariat are aligned to the Community Strategic Plan in such a way that it enables the Secretariat to deliver its *regional goods* to the right standard, at the right time and in the right way. Work on the Business Plan commenced in December.

The proposed Reform/Reformation Framework was presented to the CCA in November. The Committee Members have agreed to review the Framework and provide feedback to facilitate the preparation of a revised draft for consideration of the Community Council in early 2016.

## CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA)

Heads of Government, in February, agreed to establish the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors as a key component of reforming the Governance arrangements within the Community. The CCA comprises the Ambassadors of Member States accredited to the Community and will provide support to the Community Council of Ministers.



Inaugural Meeting of the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors, held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana

## Functions of the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors

- ☞ **Provide** strategic advice, recommendations and support to the Community Council of Ministers in the discharge of its functions as per Article 13 of the Revised Treaty, towards the advancement of the integration process.
- ☞ **Provide** strategic advice, recommendations and support to the Community Council of Ministers in advancing the Implementation Plan of the Community Strategic Plan.
- ☞ **Serve** as the nexus between national/Member State needs and the regional agenda. In so doing, **work closely** with the Organs and Bodies of the Community, the CARICOM Secretariat and the Community Institutions and Associate Institutions to establish and maintain an efficient system of consultations at the national and regional levels.
- ☞ **Advance** implementation, at the national level, of decisions taken by the Organs of the Community. In so doing, Committee Members will provide regular reports regarding the status of implementation of decisions taken by the Principal Organs and Organs of the Community.
- ☞ **Review and make recommendations** to the Community Council with respect to the Annual/Biennial Work Programme and Budget of the CARICOM Secretariat as well as of any Community Institution requiring approval from the Community Council. The Committee will work closely with the Budget Committee in this regard and joint Meetings of the Committee and the Budget Committee will be held as required.
- ☞ **Provide** support and advice to the Secretary-General with the restructuring of the CARICOM Secretariat and with the reforms to be undertaken within the wider Community construct.
- ☞ **Provide** support and advice to the Secretary-General regarding the efficient functioning of the CARICOM Secretariat.
- ☞ **Identify and make recommendations** to the Community Council in respect of challenges and log jams that may stymie implementation of agreed actions to advance the Implementation Plan and/or other Community decisions which may be taken.
- ☞ **Identify and make recommendations** to the Community Council in respect of challenges and log jams arising from consultations at the national level, regarding proposed Community policies/programmes/decisions.
- ☞ **Monitor and evaluate** the status of implementation of the Community Strategic Plan and **report** to the Community Council on a regular basis.
- ☞ **Engage and interact** with citizens of the Community to highlight and promote the objectives, work and benefits of the Community at the national level with a view to strengthening the CARICOM Identity and Spirit of Community.

The Committee is chaired by the Ambassador to CARICOM of the Member State which also chairs the Community Council. The Secretary-General or his representative is an ex-officio member of the Committee. The Committee commenced work in May, holding its inaugural meeting in Guyana.

## Associate Membership of the Community

During the year, the Community and the French Overseas Territories in the Caribbean held discussions regarding the latter's 2014 application to become Associate Members of CARICOM. In January and in February, the Secretary-General and his team met with delegations from French Guiana and Martinique and from Guadeloupe, respectively, at the Secretariat Headquarters in Guyana.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque (7<sup>th</sup> left), President of the Regional Council of French Guiana, H.E. Mr Rudolphe Alexandre (6<sup>th</sup> left) and their delegations

The wide-ranging discussions focused on the structure and operations of CARICOM, the terms and conditions of Associate Membership and the role of Associate Members. These discussions follow a mandate from CARICOM Heads of Government to engage the Territories in recognition of their interest in being a part of CARICOM.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque (3<sup>rd</sup> left), President of the European Affairs and Cooperation Commission in Martinique, Ms Christiane Mage (4<sup>th</sup> left) and their delegations



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque (5<sup>th</sup> left), President of the Commission on Cooperation in Guadeloupe, Ms Thérèse Marianne-Pepin (4<sup>th</sup> left) and their delegations



## Agreements Signed/Ratified

The following Agreements which had been **opened for signature prior to 2015 were signed and/or ratified** by Member States as indicated:

- ✍ **Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions**, (Castries, Saint Lucia, 13 November 2003)
  - Saint Lucia (*signed, 26 February 2015*)
  - St. Vincent and the Grenadines (*acceded, 5 June 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Accreditation Agency for Education and Training**, (Nassau, The Bahamas, 8 March 2008)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 27 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)**, (Belize City, Belize, 4 February 2002)
  - Saint Lucia (*ratified, 6 May 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement Establishing the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)**, (Bird Rock, St. Kitts & Nevis, 6 July 2006)
  - The Bahamas (*acceded, 22 May 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement Relating to the Operation of the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)**, (St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 4 July 2008)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Amendment to Annex III of the Agreement relating to the Operation of the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)**, (Grand Anse, Grenada, 26 February 2011)
  - Saint Lucia (*ratified, 6 January 2015*)
  - St. Vincent and the Grenadines (*ratified, 13 January 2015*)
  - Dominica (*ratified, 17 April 2015*)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 27 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Memorandum of Understanding for the Sharing of Intelligence among Member States of the Caribbean Community**, (Bird Rock, St. Kitts and Nevis, 6 July 2006)
  - The Bahamas (*acceded, 22 May 2015*)

- ✍ **Protocol to amend Article 83 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy**, (Buccament, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 11 March 2014)
  - Trinidad and Tobago (*signed, 16 January 2015*)
  - Haiti (*signed, 29 April 2015*)
  - Belize (*signed, 10 June 2015*)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Protocol Amending The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to Incorporate the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) as an Organ of the Community and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) as an Institution of the Community**, (Belize City, Belize, 13 March 2009)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela on Trade and Investment**, (Venezuela, 13 October 1992)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Government of the Republic of Colombia**, (Cartagena, Colombia, 24 July 1994)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Agreement between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Government of the Republic of Cuba**, (Canouan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 5 July 2000)
  - St. Vincent and the Grenadines (*ratified, 27 April 2015*)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Free Trade Agreement Between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Acting on Behalf of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica**, (Kingston, Jamaica, 9 March 2004)
  - Grenada (*ratified, 29 September 2015*)
  
- ✍ **Memorandum of Intent between the Government of the United States of America and Member States of the Caribbean Community on Co-operation regarding the development of an Advance Passenger Information System (APIS)** (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26 October, 2006)
  - The Bahamas (*acceded, 22 May 2015*)



**SECTION VIII**

**STATISTICS**

## Statistical Advocacy

Using the opportunity provided by **Caribbean Statistics Day (CSD) 2015 on 15 October**, the Secretariat sought to raise the profile of Statistics among the youth with a Quiz Competition among Primary and Secondary schools students in Guyana. Following a series of preliminary rounds, Winfer Gardens Primary and Central High School, both in Georgetown, emerged Primary and Secondary School champions respectively, in the finals held at the Secretariat in Guyana.

The Day and the Quiz were held under the theme *Better Data. Better Lives.*



Winners from Winfer Gardens Primary School, Georgetown

(L-R) Safira Williams, Antone Herod, Alexandria Forrester and Jochen Camacho



Winners from Central High School, Georgetown

(L-R) Melissa Adams, Sovindra Koomal, Crystal Wills and Kiven Bonds

This was the seventh annual observance of CARICOM Statistics Day which seeks to highlight and recognise the vital role of statistics in improving the daily lives of the peoples of the Community and in raising the profile of statistics and statisticians across the Community.

The Secretary-General used his 2015 Statistics Day message to urge Member States to provide the investments required to improve the production of statistics to support and guide the Community's sustained economic and social development.

## Strengthening Systems of Statistics

During the year, in response to a request from Grenada, the Secretariat provided that Member State with support to strengthen its Environmental Statistics. With funding from the EU under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, in March, the Secretariat and the Grenada Statistical Office provided support to staff of Ministries/Departments and the Statistical Office who compile data on the environment. They reviewed data collection mechanisms; the concepts, definitions, methods of computation and source of data for the environment indicators; and strengthened inter-agency collaboration.

There was strong focus on **capacity building across Member States** in the area of Merchandise Trade Statistics during the first half of the year with a training workshop for persons working in the area, followed by a Train the Trainers Workshop.

The Training workshop, convened by the Secretariat and held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in January-February, benefitted twenty-nine Trade Statisticians and Information Technology staff of the national statistical offices in Member States who work in the area of Merchandise Trade and two staff members from the Secretariat. The workshop was facilitated by three experts funded by the EU under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

The Train the Trainers Workshop, held in St. Kitts and Nevis in February, helped to establish a team of qualified trainers in the Region to provide training and assistance to new users in data processing and dissemination of Merchandise Trade statistics and to respond to some of the challenges being experienced by countries. Participants were trained in the Principles of Effective Communication – Getting the Message Across; Introduction to Data Processing and Data Dissemination; Basic and Advanced Training on Eurotrace and Comext Systems; and the Evaluation of Trainee Profiles.

## 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): CARICOM Core SDG Indicators

In May, the Secretariat brought together statisticians and other experts from across the Region to sensitise them about the UN's proposed preliminary list of SDG Indicators. The Session also facilitated preparation of the Region's feedback, based on national and regional priorities and on those set out in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted at the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS. The Region's feedback has been transmitted to the UN and will be conveyed to the UN Statistical Commission at its 47<sup>th</sup> Session in March 2016.

The sensitisation session was organised and conducted by the CARICOM Secretariat with funding from the EU under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

## Databases and Publications

During the year, electronic databases for economic and social statistics were updated in two areas:

- Foreign Direct Investment (data for thirteen countries for 2002 to 2013 and for one country from 2002 to 2012)
- Health Educators (data for ten countries for 2005 to 2013)

Additionally, the following publications were issued in 2015:

- [National Accounts Digest, 2008–2014 – Volume 1](#)
- [Crime Statistics - CARICOM Member States and Associate Members: 2000 - Latest Available Year](#)
- [Statistical Profiles: A Collection of Statistical Indicators from Across the Caribbean. 2015 Edition](#)



## **SECTION IX**

# **CARIBBEAN FORUM OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES**

***CARIFORUM***

## CARIFORUM Establishment and Functions

CARIFORUM, the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, was established in 1992. The Forum comprises all the independent CARICOM Members, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

Relations between CARICOM and CARIFORUM and the EU are conducted mainly within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement. Cuba is not a party to the Cotonou Agreement and is not a beneficiary of the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programmes (CRIPs) financed by the EDF.

The functions of CARIFORUM are to:

- ✎ manage and coordinate policy dialogue between its Participating States and the EU
- ✎ promote integration and cooperation in the Caribbean
- ✎ coordinate the allocation of resources and manage the implementation of Regional Indicative Programmes financed by the EDF and regional programmes financed by Member States of the EU as well as any other source as may be approved by the Council of Ministers from time to time
- ✎ provide technical guidance and assistance to Participating States in meeting the commitments and securing the benefits provided for in the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
- ✎ provide support for the effective participation of CARIFORUM in the Institutions provided for in the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.

The Council of Ministers of CARIFORUM is the political decision-making body of the grouping. It provides policy guidance and mandates. The Chair of CARIFORUM is held for twelve months commencing 1 July. It rotates in the alphabetical order of the Participating States.

The Secretary-General of CARICOM also serves as the Secretary-General of CARIFORUM. The CARIFORUM Directorate, headed by a Director-General, supports the Secretary-General. The CARIFORUM Directorate is located administratively within the CARICOM Secretariat which provides a range of services including human resource management, administrative, legal and procurement.

## Development Cooperation

During 2015, CARIFORUM made significant progress in its development cooperation and resource mobilisation activities with the conclusion of negotiations on and signature of a €346M package of grant financing under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF CRIP. The Agreement was signed in June and the detailed programming work commenced with CARIFORUM-EU joint technical meetings of the Thematic Task Forces, established as part of the governance architecture of the Agreement.



The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF provides grant resources in the following areas:

#### **Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration - €102M**

- \* To strengthen Regional Cooperation and Integration. This includes support for OECS and CARICOM Integration, Intra-CARIFORUM cooperation and relations between CARIFORUM and neighbouring countries, states and territories.
- \* To support inclusive and sustainable private sector development, investment facilitation and external trade capacity.
- \* To support reinforced CARIFORUM-EU Cooperation, including EPA Implementation.

#### **Climate Change, Disaster Management, Environment and Sustainable Energy - €61.5M**

- \* To improve regional resilience to impacts of climate change and natural disasters affecting sustained economic and social development.
- \* To support regional capacity for the suitable use of natural resources.
- \* To promote Energy Efficiency (EE).

#### **Crime and Security - €44M**

- \* For Crime Prevention, Risk Reduction and Enhancement of Restorative Justice.
- \* To enhance citizen and border security.
- \* To increase compliance with international norms on financial crimes, terrorism financing and corruption.

#### **Caribbean Investment Facility - €135M**

- \* To contribute to economic development and growth, regional integration, poverty reduction and environmental protection.

#### **Technical Cooperation Facility - €3.5M**

- \* To provide short and long-term technical assistance, police advice and studies to support programming, preparation and implementation of activities.

In addition, a number of activities under the projects of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme continued to be implemented. A notable achievement was the launch, in March, of a capacity-building project focusing on competition, public procurement, and customs and trade facilitation. The project which seeks to assist CARIFORUM States to implement commitments under the CARIFORUM-EU will run for twenty-seven months. It involves the National EPA Coordinators as well as representatives of Regional Institutions and other non-state actors.

## CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

By the end of 2015, eight of the fifteen CARIFORUM States had ratified the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, a trade and investment partnership signed by CARIFORUM and the EU in 2008. They were joined by nineteen EU Member States. The Agreement, which is being provisionally applied, makes it easier for people and businesses from the two regions to invest in and trade with each other, and to spur development across the Caribbean.

As part of their EPA commitments, five CARIFORUM States ratified a round of tariff reductions which took effect on 1 January 2015. This built upon earlier reductions by eleven Member States in 2013 and thirteen Member States in 2011.

CARIFORUM States made progress in a number of areas where they have legal commitments under the EPA and where the Agreement creates opportunities for them. These areas include Trade in Services, Agriculture and Fisheries, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Intellectual Property Rights and Monitoring.

In keeping with the provision for the conduct of a Five-Year Review of the EPA, preparatory work for the review was undertaken during the year at Preparatory Technical and Political Meetings, as well as by a Joint CARIFORUM-EU Task Force on the Five-Year Review, the CARIFORUM-EU Trade and Development Committee and the CARIFORUM-EU Consultative Committee. The review culminated at the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council of Ministers Meeting held in Guyana in July.

CARIFORUM and the EU placed strong emphasis on the review to determine the Agreement's impact, including the costs, benefits and other consequences of implementation and, to inform, as necessary amendments to the provisions of the Agreement and the adjustment to their application. The major finding was that CARIFORUM States had not yet begun to realise the benefits of the EPA.



## SECTION X

# OPERATIONS OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT

*Principal administrative organ of the Community*

As the principal administrative organ of the Community, the CARICOM Secretariat plays a key role in regional policy, programme and project formulation; supporting Member States in the delivery and implementation of Community Programmes; provision of legal services including Opinions, draft legislation, and representation before the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). The Secretariat also supports the work of the Organs and Bodies of the Community. In the process, the Organisation works collaboratively with Member States (at the governmental and sectoral levels), Community Institutions, and development partners.

The Secretariat's Work Programme for 2015 was approved by the Community Council of Ministers in January and spanned all the areas highlighted in this Report. Highlights of some areas of the Secretariat's administrative operations for the year are set out below.



## Capacity Building in Member States

The Secretariat's internship programme continued to facilitate capacity building for nationals of Member States. In 2015, nineteen students from four Member States participated in the internship programme.

These nationals of Guyana (15), Jamaica (2), Barbados (1) and Grenada (1) consisted of twelve undergraduate, one graduate, one postgraduate and five vocational students. The Interns were based at the Secretariat's Headquarters in Guyana and at its Office in Barbados. Areas of internship were Administrative Services, Energy, Health, Information Technology, Office of the General-Counsel, Strategic Planning and Trade Negotiations. Included among the interns was the CARICOM Youth Ambassador (CYA) of Guyana, Mr Adrian Alfred, who was attached to the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Guyana.

The Interns were students at the University of Guyana; McGill University, Canada; the Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago; Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica; the University of the West Indies (UWI); Carnegie School of Home Economics, Guyana; and the Government Technical Institute, Guyana.



## Conference Services

The Secretariat continued to support the process of consultation and decision-making within CARICOM through the provision of effective and efficient conference service support for Community meetings. Services included preparation and dissemination of documentation, meeting administration and logistics, rapporteur support as well as unofficial translations for short documents.

Approximately 226 meetings were serviced in 2015. The use of information technology continues to enhance the speed and efficiency of the dissemination of documentation and has significantly reduced the need for printed copies. The information technology also provided Member States with a secure platform to access meeting documentation and other information.



## Greening the Secretariat

In January, the Secretariat started a *Greening Initiative* towards greater energy efficiency in all its buildings. This included replacement of existing air-conditioning units with more energy efficient and ozone friendly ones; replacement of fluorescent and incandescent lights with LED lights; and installation of an energy monitoring system.

The Greening Initiative, seeks to reduce, as much as possible, the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the operations of the Secretariat and improve its energy efficiency. It is being implemented as part of the CARICOM Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP), supported by the Government of Germany. Since its introduction, the average monthly energy consumption at the Secretariat's headquarters has dropped from 129,000 KWH in 2014 to 110,000 KWH in 2015.

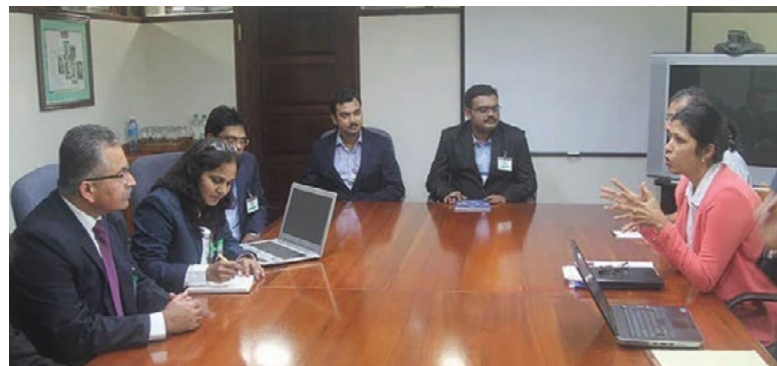


Energy Monitoring Equipment on display as part of the BEEP at the CARICOM Secretariat



## Information Technology (IT)

During the year, an IT needs assessment was conducted across the Secretariat to determine its requirements in preparation for the roll-out of the CARICOM-India ICT Project, scheduled to begin in 2016. The Project will help the Secretariat upgrade its IT infrastructure and software services for use by staff. The assessment was conducted by a team of IT specialists provided by the Government of India.



Members of the CARICOM-India IT Project in discussions with Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan

Also during the year, the Secretariat provided IT support to the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency, headquartered in Suriname. The assistance was to set up its computer network and videoconferencing system.



## Exhibitions and Tours

The Secretariat mounted exhibitions highlighting particular issues and/or milestones in 2015. These included information about Statistics, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Health and Wellness, CARIFESTA, CARICOM Day, World Environment Day, International Day of Biodiversity, Girls in ICT, Slavery and Our Caribbean, International Women’s Day, and World Water Day and Sustainable Development.

### Marking important Days and Observances at the CARICOM Secretariat



Breast Cancer Awareness



CARICOM Day



Biodiversity for Sustainable Development



International Women’s Day



World Environment Day



World AIDS Day

During the year, the Secretariat staff conducted eighteen tours for local schools and visiting delegations. The tours included information/sensitisation sessions about CARICOM and some key issues, such as the CSME and those related to Human and Social Development.



Students from Josel Educational Institute in Georgetown (March)



Teachers and students from Seaford Primary School, West Coast Berbice (March)



Students and Teachers from St Aloysius Primary School, East Berbice (February)



Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque with teachers and students from Saraswat Primary School, Essequibo Islands (February)

The CARICOM Secretariat's **2015 Staff Talent week** was celebrated in November under the theme *Utilising Talents, Boosting Economies*. The week featured a display of art, craft, horticulture, photography, collectibles as well as how-to demonstrations.



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque opens Staff Talent Week 2015



## Internal Audit

During the year, the Secretariat undertook some new initiatives to improve the provision of audit services. These included the procurement of audit management software to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of audits; improving the design and content of the Audit Committee reports; and staff training.

Audits were conducted in a number of areas, including procurement, human resource information systems, cash management, fixed assets management, and stores management. This included the conduct of compliance testing and provision of recommendations for improvements, where necessary.

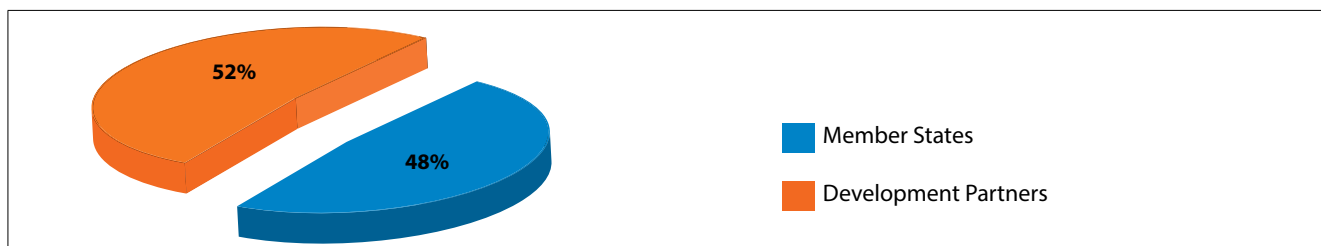




## Finance and Budget

In 2015, the Community Council approved a budget of **EC\$113,879,672** for the CARICOM Secretariat. Of this amount, Member States funded EC\$54,232,093 and development partners contributed EC\$59,647,579.

### 2015 Approved Budget Member States and Development Partner Resources

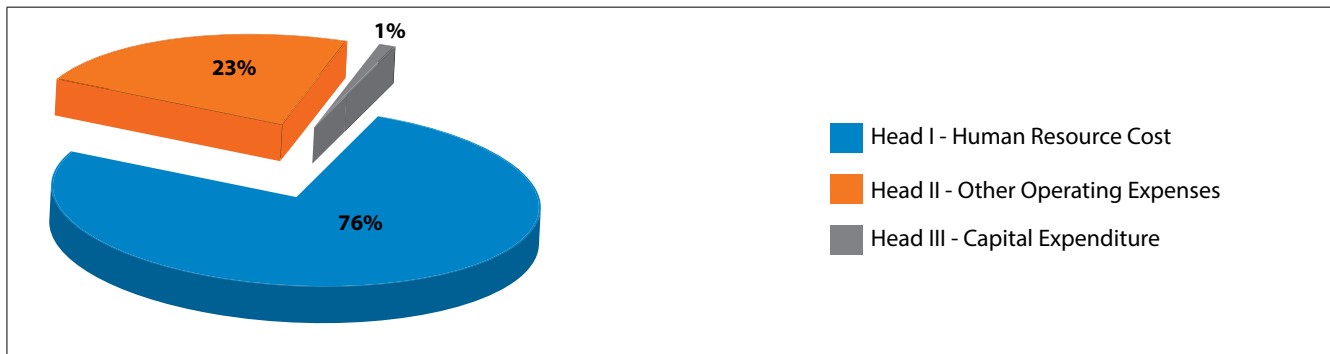


Together with other income of **EC\$1,002,580** (such as from management fees on projects funded by development partners, interest, and gains on the disposal of assets), income for 2015 totalled **EC\$114,882,252**.

A Summary of Member States Assessed Contribution for 2015 is given below (EC\$):

Member State	% of Budget	HQ 2015 Amount	% of Budget	OTN 2015 Amount	Total
Anguilla	0.11	53,647	-	-	53,647
Antigua & Barbuda	1.44	702,284	1.49	81,389	783,673
Barbados	7.86	3,833,302	8.12	443,542	4,276,844
Belize	2.25	1,097,319	2.32	126,727	1,224,046
Bermuda	1.00	487,697	-	-	487,697
British Virgin Islands	0.77	375,527	-	-	375,527
Cayman Islands	1.00	487,697	-	-	487,697
Dominica	0.79	385,281	0.82	44,791	430,072
Grenada	1.44	702,284	1.49	81,389	783,673
Guyana	7.00	3,413,882	7.23	394,928	3,808,810
Haiti	6.00	2,926,185	6.20	338,665	3,264,850
Jamaica	23.15	11,290,197	23.92	1,306,593	12,596,790
Montserrat	0.11	53,647	-	-	53,647
Saint Kitts & Nevis	1.44	702,284	1.49	81,389	783,673
Saint Lucia	1.44	702,284	1.49	81,389	783,673
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	1.44	702,284	1.49	81,389	783,673
Suriname	7.00	3,413,882	7.23	394,928	3,808,810
The Bahamas	11.43	5,574,382	11.81	645,103	6,219,485
Trinidad & Tobago	24.12	11,763,263	24.90	1,360,124	13,123,387
Turks & Caicos Islands	0.21	102,416	-	-	102,416
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48,769,748</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,462,345</b>	<b>54,232,093</b>

## 2015 Approved Budget Expenditure Categories



In 2015, actual expenditure of Member States' resources was **EC\$53,454,172**. The table below provides a summary of expenditure funded from Member States' contributions for 2015:

Expenditure Categories	2015	
	Approved Budget EC\$	Actual Expenditure EC\$
Head I - Human Resource Costs	41,481,334	39,979,957
Head II - Other Operating Expenses	12,530,708	12,999,317
Head III - Capital Expenditure	220,051	474,898
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,232,093</b>	<b>53,454,172</b>

With respect to funding from development partners, the sum of **EC\$51,958,068 (US\$19,124,027)** was expended.

The following development partners contributed to the work of the Secretariat during the year:

- American Health Foundation
- Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID)
- European Union (EU)
- Global Fund
- German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)
- Government of Canada/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Government of Japan
- Government of Mexico
- Government of Spain
- Government of Kazakhstan
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

In January, the Community Council approved the Revised Financial Regulations for the CARICOM Secretariat, in keeping with its responsibility set out in Article 23(7) of the Revised Treaty. These regulations set out the policies and procedures governing budgeting, funding, accounting and financial control.

Commencing in 2014, the Secretariat adopted International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in the preparation of its annual financial statements. Financial statements now have improved consistency in preparation and comparability in reporting from year to year. Internal and external stakeholders have available data and information to better facilitate decision-making.

**The Secretariat received an unqualified opinion on its Financial Statements for 2015 from the External Auditors.**



The  
Caribbean Community  
(CARICOM)



Antigua and



The Bahamas



Barbados



Belize



Dominica



Grenada



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



Montserrat



Saint Lucia



St. Kitts and Nevis



St. Vincent and  
the Grenadines



Suriname



Trinidad and  
Tobago



Anguilla



Bermuda



British Virgin  
Islands



Cayman Islands



Turks and Caicos  
Islands



## **SECTION XI**

# **APPENDICES**



## Appendix I - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) comprises fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. The Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Associate Members are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI).

CARICOM was established on the basis of the (original) Treaty of Chaguaramas, signed on 4 July 1973, in honour of the birthday of Norman Washington Manley, a leading advocate of the West Indies Federation and one of Jamaica's national heroes. The Treaty and its Annex (setting out the details of the Common Market Arrangements) came into effect on 1 August 1973.

In July 2001, the *Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy* was opened for signature at the Twenty-Second Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government held in The Bahamas. The Revised Treaty entered into force on 1 January 2006, following the deposit, with the Secretary-General, of the Twelfth Instrument of Ratification by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on 8 November 2005. Prior to that, it had been provisionally applied.

The Revised Treaty applies to all CARICOM Member States, except The Bahamas and Montserrat. Through a Special Membership Agreement signed in February 2006, The Bahamas maintains its membership and participation in the Community as it existed immediately prior to the entry into force of the Revised Treaty. At the same time, The Bahamas signed a Special Agreement enabling the entry into force of the Revised Treaty.

Montserrat also signed a *Special Membership Agreement*, as it had not at the time, received the requested Entrustment from the Government of the United Kingdom which would have allowed that Member to sign and ratify the Revised Treaty. In 2014, the Government of Montserrat received the Entrustment to enable its accession to the Revised Treaty. While its full accession continues to be pursued, Montserrat participates in some areas of the CARICOM Single Market, including the trade regime and elements of the movement of skills regime. Montserrat has also joined critical Community Institutions, such as CROSQ and CAHFSA.

Haiti was formally accepted as the fifteenth Member State of CARICOM in July 2002 and became a party to the Revised Treaty in 2008. Efforts are being made to fully integrate that Member State into the CSME.

The Community has the following **objectives** as set out in Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas:

- (a) Improved standards of living and work;
- (b) Full employment of labour and other factors of production;
- (c) Accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence;
- (d) Expansion of trade and economic relations with third States;
- (e) Enhanced levels of international competitiveness;
- (f) Organisation for increased production and productivity;
- (g) The achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description;
- (h) Enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and (foreign) economic policies; and
- (i) Enhanced functional cooperation including:
  - (i) More efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its peoples;
  - (ii) Accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of their social, cultural and technological development;
  - (iii) Intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation and telecommunications.

### **The Principal Organs of the Community are:**

- ⌘ The Conference of Heads of Government commonly called 'The Conference'.
- ⌘ The Community Council of Ministers commonly called 'The Community Council'.

**The Conference of Heads of Government** is the Supreme Organ of the Community. It consists of the Heads of Government of the Member States. Its role includes:

- ⌘ Determining and providing policy direction.
- ⌘ Final authority for the conclusion of treaties on behalf of the Community and for entering into relationships between the Community and International Organisations and States.

The Conference is also responsible for making the financial arrangements to meet the expenses of the Community but has delegated this function to the Community Council.

The Conference seeks to arrive at decisions by consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved, the matter may be put to a vote.

**The Bureau of the Conference** consists of the Incumbent Chairperson of the Conference, as Chair, as well as the Incoming and Outgoing Chairpersons of the Conference. The Secretary-General serves on the Bureau as an ex officio member.

The decision to create the Bureau of the Conference was taken at the Special Meeting of Heads of Government in October 1992. It came into operation in December of that year.

The responsibilities of the Bureau are to:

- ⌘ Initiate proposals
- ⌘ Update consensus
- ⌘ Facilitate implementation of Community decisions
- ⌘ Provide guidance to the Secretariat on policy issues

**The Community Council of Ministers** is the second highest Organ of the Community. It consists of Ministers responsible for Community Affairs and any other Minister designated by Member States. It is responsible for:

- ⌘ The development of Community strategic planning and coordination in the areas of economic integration, human and social development, security, and external relations.
- ⌘ Reviewing and approving the work programme and budget of the CARICOM Secretariat.

The Community Council also serves as a preparatory body for the meetings of the Conference.

## Organs and Bodies

The Principal Organs of the Community are assisted by the following Organs (Ministerial Councils) and Bodies:

- ⌘ **The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)** which promotes trade and economic development of the Community including, among other things, overseeing the operation of the CSME.
- ⌘ **The Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)** which promotes human and social development.
- ⌘ **The Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP)** which is responsible for economic policy coordination and financial and monetary integration.
- ⌘ **The Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE)** which is responsible for coordinating the Community's response to security threats, to ensure a safe and stable Community.
- ⌘ **The Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)** which determines relations between the Community and International Organisations and Third States and promotes the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations among Member States.



The Bodies are:

- ⌘ **The Legal Affairs Committee (LAC)**, comprising Ministers responsible for Legal Affairs and/or Attorneys-General of Member States. The LAC is responsible for providing the Organs and Bodies with advice on treaties, international legal issues, the harmonisation of laws of the Community and other legal matters.
- ⌘ **The Budget Committee**, comprising senior officials and responsible for reviewing the draft work programme and budget of the CARICOM Secretariat and for making recommendations to the Community Council.
- ⌘ **The Committee of Central Bank Governors**, comprising the Governors or Heads of the Central Banks or their nominees. The Committee makes recommendations to the COFAP on matters related to monetary cooperation, payments arrangements, free movement of capital, integration of capital markets, monetary union and any other related matters referred to it by the Organs of the Community.
- ⌘ **The CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA)**, comprising the Ambassadors of Member States accredited to the Community. The CCA provides strategic advice, recommendations and support to the Community Council of Ministers in the discharge of its functions. The Committee serves as the nexus between national/Member State needs and the regional agenda. In so doing, it works closely with the Organs and Bodies of the Community, the CARICOM Secretariat and the Community Institutions and Associate Institutions to establish and maintain an efficient system of consultations at the national and regional levels.

## The Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community

The Secretary-General is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Community. He/She is appointed by the Conference of Heads of Government. The Secretary-General serves a five-year term of office which may be renewed, at the discretion of the Conference.

The Secretary-General is also head of the CARICOM Secretariat, the principal administrative organ of the Community.

The Secretary-General provides political, technical and administrative leadership as well as advice and support for the work of the Principal Organs, Organs and Bodies of the Community and to Member States. He/she leads the Executive Management Committee of the CARICOM Secretariat, which includes the Deputy Secretary-General; the General-Counsel; the Assistant Secretaries-General responsible for Trade and Economic Integration, Human and Social Development and Foreign and Community Relations; and the Director-General responsible for Trade Negotiations.

The Secretary-General also serves as the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) - the grouping comprising the independent CARICOM Member States, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Information about CARIFORUM is provided in [Section IX](#).

The current Secretary-General is Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, a national of Dominica. Ambassador LaRocque assumed the Office of Secretary-General in August 2011.

### Past Secretaries-General of CARICOM<sup>1</sup>

NAME	PERIOD OF SERVICE	NATIONALITY
<i>Amb. Lolita Applewhaite (Acting in Position)</i>	<i>1 Jan–14 Aug 2011</i>	<i>Barbados</i>
<i>Hon. Sir Edwin W. Carrington, OCC</i>	<i>1992–2010</i>	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>
<i>Mr Roderick Rainford</i>	<i>1983–1992</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>
<i>Dr Kurleigh King</i>	<i>1979–1983</i>	<i>Barbados</i>
<i>Mr Joseph Tyndall (Acting in Position)</i>	<i>1977–1978</i>	<i>Guyana</i>
<i>Hon. Sir Alister McIntyre, OCC</i>	<i>1974–1977</i>	<i>Grenada</i>
<i>Hon. William G. Demas, OCC</i>	<i>1973–1974</i>	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>

### The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

The CARICOM Secretariat is the principal administrative organ of the Caribbean Community. Its **Mission** is: **To provide dynamic leadership and service in partnership with Community Institutions and groups, toward the attainment of a viable, internationally competitive and sustainable Community, with improved quality of life for all.**

#### Functions of the CARICOM Secretariat:

- (a) Service meetings of the Organs and Bodies of the Community and take appropriate follow-up action to such meetings;
- (b) Initiate, organise and conduct studies on issues for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;
- (c) Provide, on request, services to Member States, on matters relating to the achievement of its objectives;
- (d) Collect, store and disseminate to Member States, information relevant for the achievement of its objectives;

<sup>1</sup> *Mr Fred Cozier, a national of Barbados, was Secretary-General of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), the precursor to CARICOM, during the period 1968–1969. He was succeeded by Hon. William Demas, OCC, who served as Secretary-General of CARIFTA from 1970 and oversaw the transition from CARIFTA to CARICOM.*

- (a) Assist Community Organs in the development and implementation of proposals and programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;
- (b) Coordinate in relation to the Community, the activities of donor agencies, international, regional and national institutions for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;
- (c) Prepare the draft budget of the Community for examination by the Budget Committee;
- (d) Provide, on request, technical assistance to national authorities to facilitate implementation of Community decisions;
- (e) Conduct, as mandated, fact-finding missions to Member States; and
- (f) Initiate or develop proposals for consideration and decision by the Organs to achieve Community objectives.

### Structure of the CARICOM Secretariat

The Secretariat has the following **Offices and Directorates**:

- ☞ Office of the Secretary-General
- ☞ Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
- ☞ Office of the General-Counsel
- ☞ Office of Trade Negotiations
- ☞ Directorate for Trade and Economic Integration
- ☞ Directorate for Human and Social Development
- ☞ Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations
- ☞ CARIFORUM Directorate

### Institutions and Associate Institutions of the Community

The Community has established the following Institutions and Associate Institutions with specialised functions which contribute to the achievement of its objectives:

#### COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

<a href="#">CAHFSA</a>	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)</i>
<a href="#">CARDI</a>	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	<i>As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty</i>
<a href="#">CARICAD</a>	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration	<i>As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty</i>
<a href="#">CARPHA</a>	Caribbean Public Health Agency	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)</i>

<a href="#">CASSOS</a>	Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2008, Antigua and Barbuda)</i>
<a href="#">CCC</a>	CARICOM Competition Commission	<i>As per Articles 171-174 of the Revised Treaty</i>
<a href="#">CCCCC</a>	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	<i>As per Decision of the Thirteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (February 2002, Belize)</i>
<a href="#">CDEMA</a>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	<i>As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty (Formerly CDERA)</i>
<a href="#">CARICOM IMPACS</a>	CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2005, Saint Lucia)</i>
<a href="#">CDF</a>	CARICOM Development Fund	<i>As per Article 158 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement Relating to the Operations of the CDF signed in July 2008</i>
<a href="#">CIMH</a>	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology	<i>As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty (Formerly CMI)</i>
<a href="#">CKLNA</a>	Caribbean Knowledge Learning Network Agency	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)</i>
<a href="#">CMO</a>	Caribbean Meteorological Organisation	<i>As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty</i>
<a href="#">CRFM</a>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	<i>As per Decision of the Twenty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2003, Jamaica)</i>
<a href="#">CROSQ</a>	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality	<i>As per Article 67 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement Establishing CROSQ</i>
<a href="#">CTU</a>	Caribbean Telecommunications Union	<i>Formalised by Decision of the Thirty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2013, Trinidad and Tobago)</i>
<a href="#">CXC</a>	Caribbean Examinations Council	<i>Formalised by Decision of the Twentieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2009, Belize)</i>
<a href="#">CCJ</a>	Caribbean Court of Justice	<i>Pursuant to Article 211 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement establishing the CCJ.</i>

## ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS

<a href="#">CDB</a>	Caribbean Development Bank	<i>As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.</i>
<a href="#">CLI/CLIC</a>	Caribbean Law Institute/Caribbean Law Institute Centre	<i>As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.</i>
<a href="#">OECS Commission</a>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission	<i>As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty. With the signature of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in June 2010 at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OECS Authority, the OECS Secretariat was redesignated the OECS Commission. The Revised Treaty of Basseterre entered into force in January 2011.</i>
<a href="#">UWI</a>	University of the West Indies	<i>As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.</i>
<a href="#">UG</a>	University of Guyana	<i>As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.</i>

The following Institutions have a relationship of functional cooperation with the community:

<a href="#">Caribbean Export</a>	Caribbean Export Development Agency
<a href="#">CLE</a>	Council of Legal Education
<a href="#">CTO</a>	Caribbean Tourism Organisation



## Appendix II - Acronyms

<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>APIS</b>	Advance Passenger Information System
<b>APP</b>	Agricultural Policy Programme
<b>ATT</b>	Arms Trade Treaty
<b>BEEP</b>	Building Energy Efficiency Project
<b>BVI</b>	British Virgin Islands
<b>CABA</b>	Caribbean Agri-Business Association
<b>CAHFSA</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
<b>CAIC</b>	Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce
<b>CAPS</b>	CSME Application Processing System
<b>CARDI</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
<b>CARIBBEAN EXPORT</b>	Caribbean Export Development Agency
<b>CARICAD</b>	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CARICOM IMPACS</b>	CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
<b>CARIFORUM</b>	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
<b>CARIFESTA</b>	Caribbean Festival of Arts
<b>CASME</b>	Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>CARPHA</b>	Caribbean Public Health Agency
<b>CARREX</b>	CARICOM Rapid Alert System for Exchange of Information on Dangerous (non-food) Consumer Goods
<b>CASSOS</b>	Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System
<b>CBU</b>	Caribbean Broadcasting Union
<b>CCA</b>	CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors
<b>CCC</b>	CARICOM Competition Commission
<b>CCCCC</b>	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
<b>CCJ</b>	Caribbean Court of Justice
<b>CCREEE</b>	Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
<b>CCRIF</b>	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility

<b>CCRIF-SPC</b>	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company
<b>CDB</b>	Caribbean Development Bank
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
<b>CDF</b>	CARICOM Development Fund
<b>CEBO</b>	Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity
<b>C-EFE</b>	CARICOM-Education for Employment
<b>CEOM</b>	CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission
<b>CEW</b>	CARICOM Energy Week
<b>CGI</b>	Clinton Global Initiative
<b>CIDA</b>	Canadian International Development Agency
<b>CIMH</b>	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
<b>CKLNA</b>	Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network Agency
<b>CLE</b>	Council of Legal Education
<b>CLI/CLIC</b>	Caribbean Law Institute/Caribbean Law Institute Centre
<b>CMO</b>	Change Management Office
<b>CMO</b>	Caribbean Meteorological Organisation
<b>COFCOR</b>	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
<b>COFAP</b>	Council for Finance and Planning
<b>COHSOD</b>	Council for Human and Social Development
<b>COL</b>	Commonwealth of Learning
<b>CONSLC</b>	Council for National Security and Law Enforcement
<b>COP 21</b>	Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>COTED</b>	Council for Trade and Economic Development
<b>CPA</b>	Caribbean Poultry Association
<b>CPPNB</b>	Community Public Procurement Notice Board
<b>CRC</b>	CARICOM Reparations Commission
<b>CREEEM</b>	Caribbean Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Matrix
<b>CRFM</b>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
<b>CRIP</b>	Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme
<b>CROSQ</b>	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
<b>CRS</b>	Caribbean Regulatory System
<b>CRSF</b>	Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS
<b>CSD</b>	Caribbean Statistics Day
<b>CSM</b>	CARICOM Single Market
<b>CSME</b>	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
<b>CSMDG</b>	Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals

<b>CTCP</b>	CARICOM Trade and Competitiveness Project
<b>CTO</b>	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
<b>CTU</b>	Caribbean Telecommunications Union
<b>CVQ</b>	Caribbean Vocational Qualification
<b>CWD</b>	Caribbean Wellness Day
<b>CXC</b>	Caribbean Examinations Council
<b>ECWECC</b>	Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child
<b>EDF</b>	European Development Fund
<b>EE</b>	Energy Efficiency
<b>EPA</b>	Economic Partnership Agreement
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FRIP</b>	Framework Regional Integration Policy
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GIZ</b>	German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>GTZ</b>	German Technical Cooperation Agency
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>HRD</b>	Human Resource Development
<b>HSD</b>	Human and Social Development
<b>IATA</b>	International Air Transport Association
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technologies
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IDP</b>	International Development Partner
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institution
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>IPSAS</b>	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
<b>ISBN</b>	International Standard Book Number
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>LAC</b>	Legal Affairs Committee
<b>LIAT</b>	Leeward Islands Air Transport Services



<b>MDC</b>	More Developed Country
<b>MFN</b>	Most Favoured Nation
<b>NAARC</b>	National African-American Reparations Commission
<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Disease
<b>OECS</b>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
<b>OTN</b>	Office of Trade Negotiations
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organisation
<b>PANCAP</b>	Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>PSOJ</b>	Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica
<b>PSOP</b>	Procurement Standard Operating Procedure
<b>RE</b>	Renewable Energy
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>REETA</b>	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance
<b>SAMOA Pathway</b>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
<b>SBD</b>	Standard Bidding Document
<b>SCCS</b>	Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SETH</b>	Stop Ebola There and Here
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>SIDS DOCK</b>	Small Island Developing States Energy Initiative
<b>SNE</b>	Special Needs Education
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>TCI</b>	Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>UG</b>	University of Guyana
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund

<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WICB</b>	West Indies Cricket Board
<b>WIRSPA</b>	West Indian Rum and Spirits Association
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation





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