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**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AT THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL LEVEL
TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE
IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(September 1999 to December 2003)

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The Gender and Development Work Programme of the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) has been guided by the Port of Spain Consensus, which was reached at the Third ECLAC/CDCC Ministerial Meeting on Women in the Caribbean. Over the four-year period, ECLAC has undertaken research, technical assistance and functional cooperation in three main areas: violence against women; gender mainstreaming, and gender and macroeconomic policies in the Caribbean.

A. Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

The secretariat convened, and provided substantive servicing, at the following meetings:

(a) **The Third ECLAC/CDCC Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 October 1999.

(b) **Regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming**, St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 2-4 May 2000. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat collaborated to host a three-day training workshop on gender mainstreaming for technical officers from national machineries for women. This workshop, which was facilitated by the Directorate of Gender Affairs, took place at the Royal Antiguan Hotel on 2-4 May 2000, and was attended by 30 participants from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

(c) **Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in the Caribbean**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 October 2000. The meeting examined the impact of macroeconomic policies (both fiscal and monetary aspects) on the goals of gender and social equity and identified the areas for further empirical study. The meeting also considered how gender analysis could be better integrated into the framework for macroeconomic policy formulation as well as the need for economic literacy to strengthen gender mainstreaming in economic planning processes. The participants were economists and economic and social planners from regional institutions, economic planning units from the governmental sector, the University of the West Indies (UWI); the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector; and ECLAC staff from the Economic and Social Affairs Units.

(d) **A Working Group Meeting on the Development of Data Collection Protocols/Information Systems on Domestic Violence**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20 February 2001. This meeting, part of the Netherlands-funded Project NET/00/35, considered the need for data collection systems for the accurate compilation of reports of domestic violence from police records and courts and developed guidelines for the development of a model protocol for consideration by the member States of ECLAC/CDCC.

(e) **ECLAC/CDCC Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to End Violence against Women: Data Collection Systems for Domestic Violence in the Caribbean**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 8-9 November 2001.

(f) **ECLAC/Centre for Gender and Development Studies Workshop on Rethinking Economics: Does Gender Matter**, the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, 5 December 2001.

(g) **ECLAC/CDCC Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Gender Socialization and Violence: Exploring a Research Agenda**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 9-10 December 2002. The focus of this meeting was to develop a research agenda to examine the linkages between gender socialization and violence in the Caribbean. The experts reviewed the existing research on gender socialization in the Caribbean and identified research needs and areas of possible inter-agency collaboration.

(h) **ECLAC/CDCC/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Gender Equality Programme: Regional Conference on Gender-based Violence and the Administration of Justice**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 3-5 February 2003. The objectives of this meeting were twofold, namely, to review the justice system responses to gender-based violence with specific focus on police training and supporting social services; and to develop an integrated plan of action to gender-based violence with particular attention to the justice system. The workshop focused on two main areas: (1) police responses to gender-based violence; and (2) social service support to the justice system, with particular focus on counselling. The participants were persons with responsibility for implementing and monitoring policies and programmes for the eradication of violence against women in the justice system - police, social workers, psychologists, magistrates and representatives of national machineries for women.

(i) **ECLAC/CDCC/FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)/UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) Workshop on Gender and Agricultural Policies and Planning in the Caribbean**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-28 November 2003. The objectives of this meeting were:

- (i) To raise awareness among participants of the main concepts, definitions and methods relating to gender analysis in agricultural policy and planning and the implications for policy formulation and planning; and
- (ii) To discuss and reach common understanding on the crucial factors/areas that need further attention in the formulation of national agricultural policy and programmes, so as to respond more adequately to gender-differentiated needs and potentialities. The workshop was attended by representatives of the national machineries for women and agricultural ministries from nine member states of ECLAC/CDCC.

The secretariat provided substantive servicing at the following meetings:

(a) **Training workshop on “Making CEDAW Work”**, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, February 2000. Hosted by the Women’s Desk, Government of the British Virgin Islands, this workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was attended by representatives of the following non-independent territories: Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla. The secretariat acted as a resource to the workshop. The workshop took technical officers of ECLAC/CDCC member governments through the Convention and the reporting procedure.

(b) **The Thirtieth Meeting of the Board of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean**, February 2000. During the course of the two-day meeting, the secretariat hosted an informal Caribbean caucus to discuss the Caribbean’s representation among the Presiding Officers to be elected at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(c) **The eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, 8-10 February 2000. The eighth session of the Regional conference had wide participation by ECLAC/CDCC member governments. The Port of Spain Consensus, which had been the output of the Third Subregional Ministerial Conference on Women (held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 1999) served as an input for the deliberations of the Conference and for the final Lima Consensus.

(d) **UNDP Regional Strategy on Gender Mainstreaming Workshop**, Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2000.

(e) **The Thirty-First Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, 12-15 September 2000.

(f) **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association Seminar on “Women in Politics and Women’s Economic Rights”**, 4 October 2000.

(g) **CARICOM Women’s Desk: Meeting of Technical Officers with responsibility for Women and Development**, Kingston, Jamaica, 5-8 December 2000.

(h) **Thirty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, San José, Costa Rica, 19-20 April 2001.

(i) **CARICOM meeting of the Gender Mainstreaming Task Force**, Georgetown, Guyana, 24-25 April 2001.

(j) **Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, Government of Saint Lucia: Resource person to a Policy Roundtable on a National Action Plan for Gender-based Violence**, Castries, Saint Lucia, 24 July 2001.

(k) **Thirty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 9-12 October 2001.

(l) **CARICOM Secretariat Ministerial Roundtable on Gender and Development**, Georgetown, Guyana, 2 October 2001.

(m) **ECLAC meeting on "Statistics and gender indicators to measure the frequency of and trends in violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean"**, La Paz, Bolivia, 21-23 November 2001.

(n) **CIDA Annual Caribbean Gender Equality Fund Coordinators Meeting**, Saint George's, Grenada, 11 June 2002.

(o) **Organisation of American States. Inter-American Commission on Women: Meeting of Experts of the Caribbean Subregion Regional Analysis of Violence Against Women**, Georgetown, Guyana, 20-21 June 2002.

(p) **The thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, 4-6 September 2002.

(q) **The thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Santiago, Chile, September 2003.

B. Operational Activities

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has provided advice and technical assistance as follows:

(a) To the governments of the subregion in the implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform for Action (FWCW-P/A) (ongoing).

(b) To the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in its development of a national gender policy and plan of action.

(c) To the Governments of Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the development of strategies and approaches to gender mainstreaming through the ECLAC/Division for the Advancement of Women Democratic Governance and Gender Equality Project.

(d) To the Government of Grenada in the area of gender mainstreaming.

(e) To the Women's Bureau, Government of Dominica, in the execution of a sample survey on the incidence and experience of domestic violence in Dominica, February 2001.

(f) To the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) High Level Retreat on Trade. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat presented a paper on “Gender and Trade”, March 2001.

(g) To the Division of Gender Affairs, Saint Lucia on the development of an integrated plan for dealing with domestic violence, July 2001.

(h) To the OECS: Judicial reform project, August 2001.

(i) To the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on the “Family law and domestic violence legislative reform project. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has undertaken the coordination of the research components of the ECSC project. Additionally, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat prepared a paper on “An Evaluation of the Implementation of Domestic Violence Legislation: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

(j) To the Turks and Caicos Islands on the preparation of a review of the laws relating to domestic violence, December 2002.

(k) To the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis on a social survey of sugar workers.

(l) To the Government of Guyana on the Magistrates’ Conference on “The Domestic Violence Act”, May 2003.

C. Publications

1. The Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (LC/CAR/G.583).
2. Report of the ECLAC/CDCC Third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women: Review and Appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women Platform for Action, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (LC/CAR/G.584).
3. Study on Gender Mainstreaming in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.607).
4. Women and Development Bibliography 1990-2000 (LC/CAR/G.656).
5. Report on the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat/Commonwealth Secretariat Regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.624).
6. Report on the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.626).
7. Briefing Paper on the Status of Research on Family Law in the Eastern Caribbean States (LC/CAR/R.52).

8. An Evaluative Study of the Implementation of Domestic Violence: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (LC/CAR/G.659).
9. Developing Social Policy for Youth with Special Reference to Young Men (LC/CAR/G.667).
10. Advancing Gender Equality in the Caribbean: Legislative Approaches to Sex Discrimination (LC/CAR/G.670).
11. Report of the ECLAC/CDCC Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to End Violence against Women: Data Collection Systems for Domestic Violence in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.674).
12. Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Gender Socialization and Domestic Violence: Developing a Research Agenda (LC/CAR/G.721).
13. Report of the ECLAC/CIDA Regional Conference on Gender-based Violence and the Administration of Justice (LC/CAR G. 744).
14. Data Collection System for Domestic Violence (LC/CAR/G.691).
15. Saint Kitts and Nevis: Social Audit of the Sugar Industry. Part 1: Social Survey of Sugar Workers (conducted at the request of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis) (Restricted LC/CAR/R.66).
16. Domestic Violence and the Law in the Turks and Caicos Islands: Directions for Law Reform, 30 April 2003 (LC/CAR/G.741).
17. Eliminating Gender-based Violence, Ensuring Equality: ECLAC/UNIFEM Regional Assessment of Actions to End Violence against Women in the Caribbean (WP/2003/4REV.1).
18. Gender Dialogue: 12 issues.

D. Activities for 2004-2005

In the next two years, the focus will be placed on the following activities:

- (a) The follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and outputs for the subregional meetings and regional meetings.

(b) HIV/AIDS with particular emphasis on young women. An expert meeting will be convened to identify critical issues for study and follow-up action.

(c) Young women and gender relations.