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Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis  
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DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTATION

BY

MR. RONALD WILLIAMS

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN,

“SUPPORT TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN THE  
CARIBBEAN”



UNITED NATIONS



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

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## **2009 REGIONAL DECOLONIZATION SEMINAR**

**St. Kitts and Nevis  
12-14 May 2009**

**To be delivered  
by  
Ronald Williams, Economic Affairs Officer**

# REPORT ON THE SUPPORT TO ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CDCC

## REPORTING PERIOD 2007- 2009

### A. Overview

1. Of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands have had an active relationship with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean during the biennium. These territories regularly participate in ECLAC-sponsored activities in their capacity as Associate Members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The CDCC was established in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLAC to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances.
2. As associate members of the CDCC, these Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean have been afforded the opportunity to participate in global forums of the United Nations system and in the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In this regard, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean includes information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in much the same way as it does of the independent countries in the subregion. This is dependent on the availability of timely and accessible data from the territories to support our research efforts. In addition, direct support is provided to these countries to attend most meetings and training workshops organized by the ECLAC Port of Spain office.
3. During the period under consideration, eight reports were prepared on development issues in the Associate Member Countries. In addition, Country Notes on the AMCs were included in our 2007-2008 flagship publication, the Economic Survey of the Caribbean.
4. In an attempt to address the concerns of the AMCs in the context of the rapid pace of globalization, the Subregional Headquarters prepared four studies which provided analyses on key issues confronting the territories.
5. The study entitled "The ECLAC Associate Member Countries: Meeting Challenges and New Opportunities of Globalization" (Document No. LC/CAR/L.125, 20/07/07) examined the development challenges and new opportunities arising out of globalization in the tourism and financial services sectors, respectively.
6. Following this, the document entitled "A Plan of Action for the Further Integration of the Associate Member Countries in the United Nations System including its Specialized Agencies in the Economic and Social Sphere" (Document No. LC/CAR/L.152, 14 December 2007) was prepared. It provided information on the priority areas for collective action, the process to facilitate the participation of the AMCs in the wider United Nations system, and the possible benefits of potential assistance from the UN system as a whole. It also offered information on the associate membership criteria of the

UN agencies and outlined a comprehensive plan of action for the further integration of the AMCs in United Nations fora and processes.

7. More recently, the paper entitled “Review of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement – Implications for the British and Dutch Caribbean OCTs” (Document No. LC/CAR/L.176,4/9/08), provided an assessment of the likely implications of the free-trade agreement for the seven British and Dutch Caribbean OCTs in the areas of regional integration, rules of origin, services trade liberalisation, public procurement, market liberalisation and financial services. A secondary objective of the study was to assess the integration options facing the Caribbean British and Dutch OCTs vis-à-vis the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the EU, respectively.
8. Bearing in mind that the Caribbean AMCs are Associate Members of both ECLAC and the CDCC, they were included in the “Report of the CDCC Working Group – Redefining and Revitalizing the Role of the CDCC in Caribbean Regional Development” (Document No. LC/CAR/L.163, 9 April 08), which looked at measures to improve the delivery of the subregional body. The need for the establishment of the working group arose out of the recognition that the CDCC had been handicapped by the following: (a) a loss of its original vision and mission as a result of its changing operational context; (b) institutional overload in the regional institutional architecture as a result of the deepening of CARICOM and the creation of the Association of Caribbean States; (c) difficulties in securing high-level representation at CDCC ministerial and technical-level meetings; and (d) continuing concerns by the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean about their lack of inclusion in the work of the wider ECLAC system.
9. A meeting of the AMCs was convened by ECLAC on 23 August 2007 in Port of Spain to address issues related to these countries. A report of the Meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the CDCC was prepared. (LC/CAR/L.133, 10/9/07).
10. As a means of ensuring that the AMCs were fully benefiting from activities of the Subregional office, an expert group meeting on Migration Data Collection, Management and Sharing in the Caribbean was convened in the Cayman Islands on 9 November 2007. The report contained in Document Number LC/CAR/L.144, 29/11/07 is available on the ECLAC website.
11. To date, both the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands have benefited from the technical services of the ECLAC disaster assessment team following the effects of Hurricane Paloma in the former in 2009, and Tropical Storm Hanna, as well as Hurricane Ike in the latter. These assessments were followed up with training sessions in the use of the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology.

## **B. Technical Cooperation Activities with the AMCs (By Country)**

### **1. Anguilla**

With ECLAC support, Anguilla participated in the Caribbean Information Specialists Expert Meeting and Content Management Workshop convened in Trinidad and Tobago on 29 January to 2 February 2009.

### **2. British Virgin Islands**

(a) Support provided to the BVI to participate at the Subregional Meeting in Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean which convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 22-24 May 2007.

(b) Support provided to the BVI to attend the Meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel in Data-Producing Government Agencies to discuss and implement the ownership and sharing of information held in Port of Spain, 25-26 June 2007.

(c) Support provided to participate in the Information Specialists Expert Meeting and Content Management Workshop held in Port of Spain, February 2009.

(d) Support provided to participate in the Twenty-Second Session of the CDCC held in Port of Spain.

(e) Support provided to attend the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean, Port of Spain.

(f) Support provided to attend the Caribbean Technical Meeting on the Establishment of a Gender Equality Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in Port of Spain.

(g) Support provided to participate in the High Level Advisory Committee Meeting of the Climate Change Project: A Review of the Economics of Climate Change.

### **3. Cayman Islands**

(a) At the request of the Government of the Cayman Islands, provided technical support in the conduct of a macro socio-economic assessment of the damage and losses caused by Hurricane Paloma in 2009 (ECLAC Report No. LC/CAR/L.193 of 2 April 2009). The mission was funded by the Government of the Cayman Islands.

(b) At the request of the Government, ECLAC conducted an assessment of the vital statistics currently used by the Economic and Statistics Office. This exercise involved the provision of training in the construction of life tables from limited data. The training also involved how to perform population projections.

(c) Support provided to participate at the Subregional Meeting in Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 22-24 May 2007.

(d) Support provided to take part at the meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel in Data-Producing Government Agencies to discuss and implement the ownership and sharing of information held in Port of Spain, 25-26 June 2007.

(e) Support provided to attend the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC.

(f) Support provided to attend the Meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the CDCC.

#### **4. Montserrat**

(a) Provided support for Montserrat's participation at the Meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel in Data-Producing Government Agencies to discuss and implement the ownership and sharing of information held in Port of Spain, 25-26 June 2007 Port of Spain.

(b) At the request of the Government of Montserrat, ECLAC continues to provide support to the pre-feasibility study of geothermal potential on the island. Support to this venture is being provided by the Natural Resources Division at ECLAC Headquarters.

(c) Provided support for Montserrat to attend the Caribbean Intergovernmental Conference in Follow-Up to the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development – Focus on Ageing.

(d) Provided support for Montserrat to participate at the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Sixteenth Annual Conference and Exhibition, high-level session number 3.

(e) Provided support for Montserrat to participate at the High Level Advisory Committee meeting of the Climate Change Project: A Review of the Economics of Climate Change.

#### **5. Puerto Rico**

(a) Provided support for participation in meetings of the CDCC Working Group on redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development.

(b) Provided support for participation in the Twenty-Session Session of the CDCC.

## **6. Turks and Caicos Islands**

(a) Provided support for attendance at the Meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel in Data-Producing Government Agencies to discuss and implement the ownership and sharing of information held in Port of Spain, 25-26 June 2007.

(b) Support provided to participate at the Subregional Meeting in Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 22-24 May 2007.

(c) Provided support for participation at the Meeting of Senior Statisticians and Specialized Personnel in Data-Producing Government Agencies to discuss and implement the ownership and sharing of information, held in Port of Spain, 25-26 June 2007.

(d) Provided support for participation at the Expert Group Meeting on Migration Data Collection, Management and Sharing in the Caribbean – Cayman Islands.

(e) Provided support for participation in the Twenty-Session Session of the CDCC.

(f) In-country training workshop in the use of the ECLAC methodology on the conduct of disaster assessments, 14-16 August 2007.

(g) Technical assistance in the conduct of a macro socio-economic assessment of the damage and losses caused by Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike, respectively. (See ECLAC Document No. LC/CAR/L.185, 10 December 2008).

## **7. United States Virgin Islands**

(a) Provided support to participate in the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, 23-24 August 2007.

(b) Provided support to attend the Meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the CDCC, 23 August 2007.

(c) Provided support for participation in the Expert Group Meeting on the Development Account-Supported Project on MDG/IADG monitoring in the Caribbean.

(d) Provided support for participation in the Meeting of the High Level Advisory Committee of the Climate Change Project: A Review of the Economics of Climate Change.

More information on the activities of all member countries of the CDCC can be found in the Development Profiles section of the official website of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean at <http://www.eclacpos.org/KMC/default.asp>