

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2017/CRP.15

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in
the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?**

**Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
16 to 18 May 2017**

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Presentation to C-24 Committee
Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance
to Non-Self-Governing Territories

Stephen O'Malley, RC/RR, Barbados and the OECS

15 May 2017

First, let me begin by thanking the members of the committee for the invitation to be here today. I have consulted with my UN colleagues in the Caribbean and the Pacific and will endeavor to provide a brief overview of our main activities in the non-self-governing territories that are the subject of this meeting. This includes activities in Tokelau in the Pacific, and in Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos. According to our records, the UN does not have significant development programming in the other ten non-self-governing territories

In the Caribbean, UN agencies continue to collaborate with all of the non-self-governing territories with the exception of the USVI. I would add that not every agency works in every territory.

The UN recently launched its Multicountry Sustainable Development Framework for the period 2017-2021 covering 18 countries and territories— a “Caribbean UNDAF” in other words. It has four main priorities: A Healthy Caribbean, A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean, A Cohesive, Safe and Just Caribbean, and An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean. Anguilla, BVI and Montserrat were fully engaged in the development of the MSDF, and will benefit from its programming wherever possible. I should also add that our work with Anguilla, BVI and Montserrat is aided by their membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

The UN is quite active in the Caribbean non-self-governing territories. Let me give some examples of what the UN agencies are doing:

UNICEF has focused on five main areas in its work with Anguilla, BVI, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos.

One, support towards development and implementation of child protection legislation, including new legislation drafted in Montserrat and in Anguilla, a Foster Care Policy and Procedures Manual developed for Montserrat, a comprehensive policy framework on child justice in the BVI, and a comprehensive child justice review in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Two, child and gender sensitive budget analysis and fiscal space studies, including draft reports for the budget Investment and Fiscal Space Study on Social Protection Floor for both Montserrat and BVI.

Three, capacity development of front-line service providers in Anguilla, BVI, and Montserrat in how to identify, refer and care for child abuse victims, and build resilience of children; and assessments of the Child Protection Systems in Anguilla, BVI, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Four, support towards the education sector reform including development of Education Sectoral Plans in TCI and Anguilla; completion of Out-of-School Children study in TCI, the adoption and use of the Child Friendly Schools framework in Anguilla and Montserrat with expansion to TCI and BVI in 2017; and development and implementation of Early Childhood Development policy, plans and standards in Anguilla, Montserrat, BVI, and TCI.

Five, evidence generation, including Reports on Situation Analyses of children for Anguilla, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and BVI, strengthening the child poverty analysis and use of data from the Country Poverty Assessments to identify the most vulnerable groups including poor children in Anguilla, BVI, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos, in-depth thematic and action research such as the study on Migrant Children and Access to Basic Social Services, and administrative data system support including the annual OECS Education Statistical Digest

PAHO/WHO has supported a range of programmes across the Caribbean, and I will note some highlights, based around their three main strategic areas of support:

Promote health and well-being throughout the “life course”

Strengthen health systems governance, organization and management to achieve universal health

Build safe, healthy and resilient environments

In Anguilla, this includes work on the WHO STEPwise approach to Surveillance (STEPS) – a simple, standardized method for collecting, analysing and disseminating data; traveling in EPI info software, supporting the introduction of the HPV Vaccine, and conducting the Global school-based student health survey (GSHS). In addition, PAHCO/WHO has supported the development of a Chemical and Radio-nuclear plan , and a lab strengthening exercise conducted with St. Maarten

In the British Virgin Islands, there has been an assessment of radiation safety in medical practice and draft guidelines developed, support for a universal health care road map, and a draft human resources for health policy, as well as a reassessment of the Port Health system and the development of a Chemical and Radio-nuclear plan

In Bermuda this includes:

Support with procurement of vaccines, and social mobilization, as well as with cold chain management.

Development of policies and plans such as the Mental Health Policy and Plan, the Development of Plan for the Prevention of Obesity in Childhood and Adolescents and technical guidance being provided in development of National Nutrition Policy and National Infant and Young Child Feeding policy

Support for the development of a Health Workforce Strategy.

Support for a joint CARPHA/PAHO table top simulation exercise for public health emergency in 2016, and upcoming work on a Mass Casualty Event, infection prevention and control.

In Cayman Islands, this includes support with the procurement of vaccines, as well as training for health care workers in surveillance for vaccine preventable diseases

On the policy front in the Cayman Islands, the Draft Mental Health Policy and Plan was supported, and there has been a review undertaken of policies, practices, regulations etc. that impact obesity, physical activity and nutrition. Technical guidance in supportive framework for infant and young child feeding and BFHI implementation

In Montserrat, there has been support for the integration of mental health into primary health care and a review and revision of the Infection Control Manual.

In Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), PAHO/WHO support includes accessing high quality and affordable anti-retroviral medication and vaccines, assistance with preparations to introduce HPV vaccine. Technical assistance is being provided to develop a National Tuberculosis manual to strengthen programmatic aspects of handling HIV/TB co-morbidities. Technical support is also being provided on breast feeding practices in May 2017 and to develop a school food policy.

In 2016, UNFPA supported the development of a draft sexual and reproductive health policy for Anguilla, and has been discussing similar support with BVI during 2017.

Also in Anguilla in 2016, UNWOMEN supported training on gender issues for parliamentarians and civil society organizations. UNWOMEN has been discussing with Turks and Caicos support to their Gender Policy in 2017.

In the last few years, UNDP's work in the non-self-governing territories of the Caribbean has focused on Montserrat.

UNDP has supported environmental remediation and protection, on Garibaldi Hill, a key tourism site related to the volcano. In 2016, UNDP supported Post Disaster Needs Assessment workshop which trained 31 people from across government. At present, UNDP is discussing potential support for engagement with the SDGs and to support data gathering for the Country poverty Assessment.

Turning to the Pacific, the UN's work is focused on Tokelau.

In Tokelau, UNDP currently supports the Tokelau Energy Sector Support (TESS) project, with focuses on updating the national energy plan and implementing a demand side energy efficiency project to reduce energy consumption on all three atolls. UNDP also supports Tokelau with another project on governance aimed at improving service delivery at the village levels on the three atolls. The Tokelau Good Governance Initiation Plan (TGG-IP) phase was implemented in 2015-2016 to provide Good

Governance training for the Taupulega (Village Authorities) and communities in Tokelau; to formulate a basic social services delivery project. This will be in line with the development and implementation of Tokelau's Quality of Life Plan.

FAO has supported coastal replanting on Tokelau's atolls, strengthened capacity on food security through food gardening and small livestock production, and looked at ways to strengthen the contribution of Tokelau's inshore fisheries to community resilience.

UNISDR has supported Tokelau's engagement in the global consultation processes for post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the integrated regional strategy for climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific, including supporting travel for the Tokelau delegate to participate in global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction.

WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA have been working together to reduce the effects of non-communicable diseases through a variety of interventions, increase health sector focus on climate change-related risks, develop human health resources for the future to ensure qualified staff, create sustainable policies for the retention and development of health workers to maintain adequate levels of staffing in the health programmes, and assist on linking all health needs based outcomes to the Tokelau National Strategic Plan.