



ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
.....
2021







ANNUAL REPORT

of the Secretary-General

2021

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT
Guyana
2021

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ON OUR COVER:

Top: Volcanic Eruption - St Vincent and Grenadines
CARICOM Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque
CARICOM Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett
Former President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse



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.

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 Centeredness:	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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Letter of Transmittal

July 2021

TO: The Conference of Heads of Government

2021 was a very challenging year for our Community and its Member States. We endured the shocking assassination of a sitting Head of Government, the continuing impact of COVID-19, an earthquake, tropical storms and a distressing volcanic eruption and the disappointing outcome of COP26.

Throughout the year, our immediate concern has been how best to secure lives and livelihoods in our Member States, as the COVID-19 virus' lingering presence slowed the recovery of the economic and social well-being of the people of our community. The primary focus was on acquiring sufficient vaccines and encouraging the population to get vaccinated. With the assistance primarily of the Governments of India, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, as well as our provisions under the COVAX Facility and the highly appreciated accommodation of the African Union through the African Medical Supplies Platform, a significant supply was procured. Our Heads of Government, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the CARICOM Secretariat worked tirelessly to secure an adequate number of doses.

Priority was also accorded to agriculture and tourism, given the adverse impact of the pandemic on those sectors and their critical importance in the economic recovery of the Community. A Special Ministerial Task Force on Food Production and Food Security was established to work closely with the private sector on an Action Plan arising from a strategy put forward by the President of Guyana as Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture.

An Interim Tourism Working Group (ITWG) prepared a Draft Joint Tourism Policy for CARICOM: COVID-19 Emergency Plan for the period October 2021 to December 2022.

The assassination of His Excellency President Jovenel Moise of Haiti stunned our Community. This exacerbated a deteriorating political situation and deepening public anxiety over citizen insecurity. The Community has offered to facilitate a process of national dialogue and negotiation to help the Haitian people, and their institutions, to craft an indigenous solution to the crisis.

Once again, our vulnerability was exposed as natural disasters struck in both Haiti and St Vincent and the Grenadines. More than 2000 people lost their lives when an earthquake triggered catastrophic destruction in the south-west of Haiti causing extensive damage to infrastructure as well.

The eruption of La Soufrière Volcano on St. Vincent and the Grenadines uprooted one-fifth of the population, made one-third of the country uninhabitable and destroyed a significant percentage of its agriculture. Ashfall affected neighbouring islands prompting a temporary shutdown of the Airport in Barbados.

The solidarity of the Community was in evidence as relief supplies and logistics support were provided Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Saint Lucia all offered to accept evacuees from the areas made uninhabitable by the La Soufriere volcano. Assistance was also provided to the victims of Haiti's earthquake.

Our Community was deeply involved in COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland which fell short of our expectations. Much work needs to be done as we continue to advocate for action to reduce global emissions, to ensure that global temperature rise does not exceed 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. COP26 has not provided sufficient time, space or resources to confront what is already occurring in our Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS). We must draw on all our ingenuity, even as we advocate to persuade the developed world of the critical need to honour their pledges both on emissions and funds.

2021 saw us strengthen our relationship with Africa at the historic first ever CARICOM-Africa Summit. We identified areas for common action, including climate change and the design of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index that will allow for the inclusion of more than just GDP-based criteria to assess eligibility for concessionary finance. That criteria also hindered most of our countries, categorised as middle income, from accessing vaccines from the COVAX mechanism on concessional terms.

Regrettably over the past year, the Community lost two giants of the integration movement; Sir Lester Bryant Bird, a former Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Sir James "Son" Mitchell, former Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Their contribution to their countries and to the Region was immense and left an indelible mark.

During the year the Honourable Philip Davis of The Bahamas, the Honourable Philip Pierre of Saint Lucia and the Honourable Washington Misick of the Turks and Caicos Islands all joined the Conference of Heads of Government by virtue of leading their parties to victory in General Elections.

The year also saw my appointment in August as the eighth Secretary-General of the Caribbean

Community, as Ambassador Irwin LaRocque retired after 16 years of service to the Community including six as Assistant Secretary-General, Trade and Economic Integration prior to his two terms as Secretary-General. On behalf of the Community, I thank Ambassador LaRocque for his dedicated efforts to advance the integration movement.

The Community also welcomed a new Deputy Secretary-General in Dr Armstrong Alexis who replaced Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan, who served for seven years. I also thank Ambassador Soeknandan for her commitment to the work of the Community.

Another stalwart of our leadership team, Ambassador Gail Mathurin retired as Director General of the Office of Trade Negotiations after 12 years of exemplary service. I wish Ambassador Mathurin well in her retirement. She has been succeeded by Ambassador Wayne McCook.

Dr. CARLA N. BARNETT
SECRETARY-GENERAL

2021 may have been a tough year for our Community & Member States, but together, we faced numerous challenges head-on. From COVID-19's impact to natural disasters and disappointing outcomes, our focus remained on securing lives & livelihoods. Thanks to global collaborations & vaccine efforts, we made progress. Together, we'll keep striving for a brighter future.
#UnitedCommunity #ResilientTogether





SECTION I

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

*Building Economic Resilience
& Building
Technological Resilience*

CSME

CARICOM SINGLE MARKET & ECONOMY

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.

Haiti has partly implemented the trade regime and efforts continue to integrate that Member State more fully into the CSME arrangements.

Montserrat participates in some areas of the CSM, including the trade regime and elements of the movement of skills regime.

Heads of Government, at their 42nd Regular Meeting in July, approved the St. John's Declaration on Rededication to CSME Implementation. Member States individually and collectively recommitted to take all necessary action to ensure timely and effective implementation of the CSME, especially in light of the challenges of the current challenging environment. They agreed to have regular inclusion of the CSME as an item on the Agenda for Cabinet meetings.



Heads of Government and other Heads of Delegation at the 42nd Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads, held virtually in July

Between February and June, the Secretariat undertook a series of consultations in Member States to make an in-depth assessment of the issues hindering more rapid implementation of the CSME. The consultations took place in Antigua and Barbuda; Belize; Guyana; Saint Lucia; St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and have revealed, inter alia:

- (1) A lack of or weak communication and consultation infrastructure within and across Ministries;
- (2) CSME activities and interventions are seen as additional activities and not necessarily part of the National Agenda or Development Strategy;
- (3) Human capacity constraints, especially with respect to legal drafting and personnel as signed to CSME matters;
- (4) Limited dedicated financial resources assigned to CSME implementation matters;
- (5) Absence of robust consultative mechanisms;
- (6) Public Education activities are not prioritised;
- (7) Insufficient utilisation of systems developed by the Community in support of facilitating implementation.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In February, Member States were exposed to further capacity building in the use of online systems for executing procurement. The virtual training exercise on the Community Public Procurement Notice Board (CPPNB) investigated e-procurement solutions in Member States participating in the CSME. The training was facilitated by the CARICOM Secretariat with assistance from the European Union 11th EDF Programme and focused on development and implementation of strategies that improve efficiency and transparency in procurement including the CSME Public Procurement Regime.

CARICOM Heads of Government have approved the Community Public Procurement Protocol and five Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines, have signed the Protocol and the Declaration of Intent to Provisionally Apply the Protocol. Belize has also ratified the Protocol. Barbados and Belize are the only two Member States so far that have made use of their National Advertising Portal to publish procurement opportunities. The use of the National Advertising Portals was seen as critical at this time, in light of the COVID 19 pandemic where many public officials have been operating remotely.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

As part of the Secretariat's public education programme on the CSME, a pilot project with High School teachers in Belize and Guyana teaching each other's classes was held in May. Mr. Albert Inshanally of Queen's College, Guyana, taught the class of Ms. Stefphoney Grinage of Sacred Heart College in Belize. Approximately 70 students participated in the merged classes with a lesson focusing on regional integration and the CSME. This online pilot was a precursor to a proposed activity for teacher exchanges, where they would travel and be attached to classrooms across CARICOM to observe and share experiences in the host Member State. The original plan to be facilitated with assistance from the European Union, was placed on hold because of the Covid 19 pandemic.



Teachers, Ms. Stefphoney Grinage and Mr. Albert Inshanally

AGRICULTURE

At their Inter-Sessional Meeting in February, CARICOM Heads of Government, approved the appointment of a Special Ministerial Task Force to guide the development and implementation of a regional agri-food systems programme to achieve food and nutrition security and contribute to economic growth and resilience. The Task Force, under the Chairmanship of Guyana's Minister of Agriculture Hon Zulfikar Mustapha, held its first meeting in April.



The CARICOM Special Ministerial Task Force holding its first meeting in April

The Task Force addresses the complete removal of all technical barriers to trade; development of a CARICOM Cross Border Agri-Food Investment Strategy to support production corridors; accelerating the pace of finalising and adopting the CARICOM Investment Code; completion of the reform of the CET suspension and rules of origin regimes to afford protection to regional enterprises and to support the competitiveness of regional firms; implementation of E-Agriculture Strategy; development of measures to promote de-risking of the sector; improvement of transport and logistics; and investment in production, research and development.

An Implementation Plan with 36 broad policy areas has been articulated. Select priority sectors such as poultry, corn/soya bean, rice, beef pork, mutton, coconut, niche vegetables, fruits, and fruit juices, and ginger turmeric have been identified to advance the commercialisation agenda of the regional food system. Private sector production activities in the priority sectors is expected to commence within a three-year window .

Guyana is joined on the Task Force by nine other Member States; Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, The Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. There are also several Regional Institutions; CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The work is being supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA).

CARICOM TRADE POLICY ON ANIMALS

In November, the CARICOM Trade Policy for Animals and Animal Products was adopted by Ministers of Agriculture at the Fifty-Third Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

The Policy, which had been earlier endorsed by the Community's Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), will create an effectively regulated environment for the trade in animals and animal products, guaranteeing the supply of high quality products, as well as enhancing food safety throughout the Region. It will also ensure that CARICOM is compliant with international trade in animal procedures such as those established by the World Trade Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

The COTED also approved nine Standards, recommended by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) for adoption as CARICOM Regional Standards. Member States were urged to quickly adopt and subsequently implement the Standards while simultaneously withdrawing any national Standards which the new standards replace.

The approved Standards were:

Under the 11th EDF – EPA – TBT Project - Specification for Grades of Fresh Agricultural Produce – Bananas

Under the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (R3E) – PTB sponsored Project – ICC Solar Thermal System Standard along with its CARICOM Application Document, and Under the CARPHA-IADB sponsored Tourism and Health II Project;

- o Environmental Management Systems – Requirements
- o Energy Management and Efficiency – Requirements
- o Food safety and Sanitation – Requirements
- o Water Treatment, Management and Efficiency – Requirements
- o Solid Waste Management – Requirements
- o Sewage Treatment and Management – Requirements
- o Integrated Pest Management Systems – Requirements

AGRICULTURE WEEK AND AWARDS

The annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture was held in October under the theme 'Transforming our Food Systems', which reflects the global food systems thrust in response to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some activities of the CWA focused on new ways of propagation, the use of climate smart technologies, new irrigation methods, and a showcase of the use and versatility of the Region's foods.



During the week, Jamaican Citerina Atkins was named the region's first 'Young Farmer of the Year' while Dominican Deles Warrington received the CARICOM Farmer of the Year award.



The Region's first young Farmer of the Year, Jamaican Citerina Atkins expressing appreciation for her award

Atkins, the Co-founder and Managing Director of Gerty's Agro-Produce, left the corporate sector to farm as she recognised the potential of agriculture and the need for more young people to become involved. She grows a variety of crops including Irish and sweet potatoes and scotch bonnet peppers; employs people in her community; and sells her produce locally and internationally. Her aim is to move into agro-processing.

Warrington is a commercial banana farmer in Calibishe, Dominica, who also plants other crops including avocados, root crops such as yams and sweet potatoes, pineapples and onions. Described as a stalwart, resilient banana farmer, Warrington has been involved in several agri-based organisations and is credited with providing technical advice and support to other farmers.



CARICOM Farmer of the Year, Dominican Deles Warrington

The CWA was hosted by main partners: the CARICOM Secretariat, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and CARDI.

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

In preparation for the United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit in September, the Secretariat brought together Agriculture stakeholders in June to discuss ideas, solutions and action plans. The Summit was part of the observance of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Deliberations were held under the thematic areas – food security, climate resilience and financing. Participants determined that prioritising farmers, producing quality food and buying local, continuous and earlier exposure to agricultural science, and serious investment, were among the prerequisites for food security for the Community. They also highlighted the need to reduce the Region's high food import bill.

Farmers and farming organisations, policymakers, representatives of youth, women, the business community, civil society and the health sector, were among the participants. The CARICOM Secretariat organised the forum in partnership with the United Nations Resident Coordinators, the FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), and IICA.

TOURISM

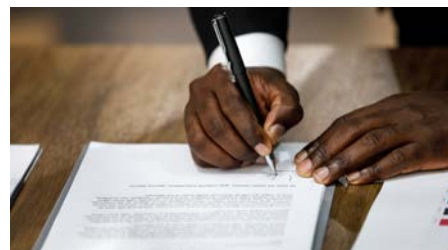
The Interim Tourism Working Group (ITWG), established early in the year, presented its first report on a Draft Joint Tourism Policy for CARICOM: COVID-19 Emergency Plan for the period Q3 2021 to Q4 2022, to the 42nd Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government, held virtually in July.

Heads of Government endorsed the Group's recommendations to build the COVID-19 Health Safety Risk Resilience and enhance CARICOM Destination Capacity. They also agreed to consider proposals to create a regional travel bubble for a pilot of six months, and for further consultations on a harmonised policy for cruise ships.

The Interim Tourism Working Group comprised representatives from the Governments of The Bahamas (Chair), Jamaica, and Saint Lucia; the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO); Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA); the CARICOM Secretariat and the OECS Commission.

TRANSPORTATION

In January, an eighth Member State ratified the revised Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) which came into force during 2020. Antigua and Barbuda joins Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago as the Member States which have submitted instruments of ratification.



Heads of Government had approved the MASA in 2018.

The Agreement focuses on the exchange of route and traffic rights for airlines owned by Community nationals. It seeks to improve connectivity and facilitate increased trade in goods and services, including tourism. As more airlines make use of the Agreement, it will allow

for greater choice of movement throughout the Community and contribute, through competition, to lower airfares. The MASA is registered with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) pursuant to Article 34 of the Agreement.

ENERGY



CARICOM Energy Month was observed in November with highlights including the Seventh Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF) in Barbados, co-organised by the Secretariat, Institutions and Member States.

The Forum provides a platform for key national, regional and international stakeholders, from the public and private sectors and civil society to, among other things, take stock of the present state and realign their outlook in the pursuit of the defined sustainable energy goals and targets at regional and national levels within CARICOM.



CARICOM Energy Achievement Awardee, Mr. James Husbands (c) with, from left, Dr Gary Jackson, Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; Hon Kerrie Symmonds, Minister of Energy, Barbados; CARICOM Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Armstrong Alexis, and Chairman of the CSEF Opening Ceremony, Communications Specialist, CSME Unit, Mr. Salas Hamilton

This year's CARICOM Energy Achievement Award was presented to Barbados Solar Energy Pioneer, Mr James Husbands, recognised for his exemplary entrepreneurial vision and innovative approach towards sustainable energy development.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

In September, a CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force was launched, primarily aimed at:

- Promoting awareness of the importance of digital skills in the region for economic and social development,
- and providing technical guidance on a coordinated approach to mitigating the digital skills challenge, exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the need for digital skills across the full range of the workforce – from entry-level jobs to sophisticated technology roles.

The Launch came in the midst of growing concerns about the pandemic's impact on students whose learning had been interrupted for almost two years.

Lead Head of Government on Science and Technology, Dr the Honourable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, launched the body which will be co-chaired by Mr. Carlton Samuels, former CIO and University Director of IT-UWI, Mona, and Dr Barbara Reynolds, former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Guyana.

It comprises Member States, regional and international entities, including the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA), Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), University of the West Indies (UWI), CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP), Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT), Caribbean Employers Confederation (CEC), CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Digital Skills Working Group of the Single ICT Space, and the CARICOM Secretariat. The Task Force will serve for one year.

The work of the Digital Skills Task Force will contribute to the continued development of the Single ICT Space and the Human Resource Development Strategy 2030. The aim is to ensure access to technology so that all citizens can become digital citizens with the relevant digital skills, enhance digital literacy and help to offer citizens the chance to develop careers and opportunities in the creative and digital economy.

Addressing the Launch, Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett announced that the CARICOM Secretariat will embark on an ICT Sector gap analysis next year across the Community with funding from the 11th European Development Fund. The gap analysis will support the Region's recovery efforts by identifying and quantifying the critical parts of the digital infrastructure and help fast-track digital transformation.

CLOUD TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

As the Community continues to work towards acceleration of the Region's Digital Transformation, the Secretariat partnered with Amazon Web Services in October to conduct a training course on understanding Amazon's cloud technology. Cloud usage and development of a cloud strategy are part of the regional plan to fast-track digital transformation in the context of the CARICOM Single ICT Space.

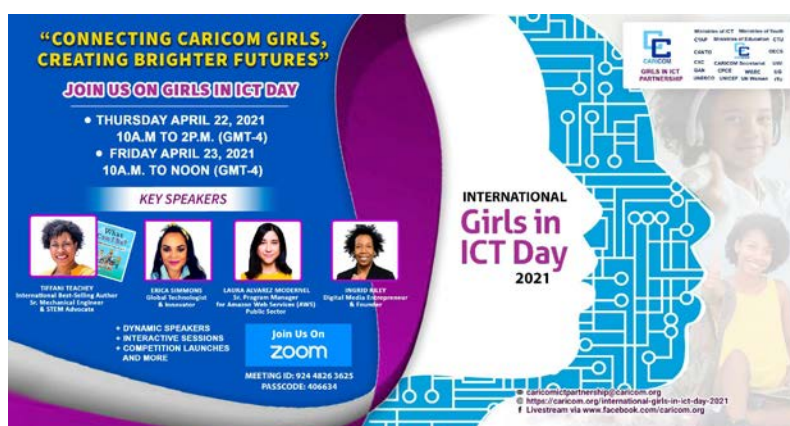
The training was designed to raise awareness of the cloud as a tool to deliver citizen-centric services across the government sector. Member States can use the cloud to protect their data and information assets, in addition to adopting new channels to offer better levels of services to their clients. Cloud solutions are especially important given that the CARICOM region is prone to natural disasters.

More than 100 persons from 13 Member States, Associate Members and regional institutions participated in the training.



GIRLS IN ICT

In April, the Secretariat staged two, well subscribed, interactive, virtual events to observe the annual Girls in ICT Day, adapting the international theme, 'Connecting CARICOM Girls; Creating Brighter Futures'. Trailblazers and influencers in the field of technology encouraged girls and women in the CARICOM region to pursue careers in information and communication technology, and to deepen their footprint in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) fields.







SECTION II

HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Building Social Resilience

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (HRD)

Learning Loss Recovery

The Secretariat partnered with the CDB and the OECS Commission to produce a roadmap for learning recovery and enhancement for schools in the Community struggling to mitigate the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was released at a presentation ceremony in August.



The roadmap titled ‘Let’s Reap: Learning Recovery and Enhancement Programme’ was formally received by the Chair of the Council for Human and Social Development, Honourable Jeffrey Lloyd, the Minister of Education of The Bahamas, at the virtual ceremony attended by Permanent Secretaries, Chief Education Officers, Principals, Teachers and representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The roadmap was developed with support from consulting firm Open Development and Education.

Teaching Standards

Work continued during the year to strengthen national teaching standards in Member States and harmonise them with those articulated in the *CARICOM Standards for Teachers, Educational Leaders and Teacher Educators*.

More than 150 stakeholders participated in three virtual one-day workshops for the Development of National Standards for the Teaching Profession, held in July, with the support of the Government of Japan. The workshop helped to highlight good education practices embedded in Member States while providing a pathway to address the challenges others have in designing and implementing their own national standards.



Part of the virtual audience on Development of National Standards for the Teaching Profession

The CARICOM Standards for the Teaching Profession, approved by COHSOD at its 38th Meeting in 2019, is an aspirational collection of statements of performance and value expectations for members of the teaching profession in the CARICOM region.

Vocational Training

A CARICOM Vocational Qualifications Online Training Programme was launched in April, providing a platform for continuing TVET professional development. CARICOM Vocational Qualifications (CVQs) Assessors, Verifiers, and Instructors can use the online training to enhance their capacity to ensure that artisans attain the occupational standards required for work within the CSME. The Programme was developed through the collaborative efforts of the CARICOM Secretariat, the CDB, the National Training Authorities (NTAs) of Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL).



Participants at the launch of the CARICOM Vocational Qualifications Online Training Programme in April

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In March, the Secretariat continued efforts to build capacity among Teachers and Educators to deliver high quality distance learning experiences for young children. In March, it joined UNESCO and the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of the UWI Open Campus to stage a four-week virtual training workshop in distance learning. Participants explored, among other things, how to help parents support their children during home-based learning; expectations for teachers and children; the appropriate timeframe for children's attention span; and how to keep children engaged during online learning.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Community's Coordinated Covid-response

Throughout the year Member States took a coordinated response to the health and other challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At their 16th Special Emergency Meeting in September called to consider a regional response to a surge in infections, hospitalisations and deaths, the Heads of Government expressed dismay at the low rate of vaccination and significant incidence of vaccine hesitancy.



Heads of Government and Delegation in virtual attendance at the 16th Special Emergency Meeting in September

They strongly urged the people of the Community to get vaccinated, particularly the front-line workers, including nurses, doctors, security personnel and teachers, given their roles in society.

Noting the need for all stakeholders to come together in the interest of the stability of the Member States and the Community, the Heads of Government agreed:

- to consider the harmonisation of travel protocols, including for cruise ships.
- to design a Community Public Relations Strategy to supplement national campaigns to encourage citizens to vaccinate;
- to share excess vaccines, personal protective equipment and test kits, and to approach the COVAX Facility to grant the Community an exemption, which would allow vaccine doses from the Facility to be reallocated among Member States.
- to continue to advocate for vaccine equity and access as well as financing and debt sustainability at the United Nations General Assembly and the United States Global COVID-19 Summit, both scheduled for September.



Part of the US donation of Pfizer vaccines arrives in Guyana in August

Heads of Government also met with representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom to convey the gravity of the regional situation and to specifically request that the US deliver a promised second batch of Pfizer vaccines earlier than originally planned, as well as provide field hospitals and the accompanying equipment to ease the strain on health facilities in Member States. Earlier, in August, the United States Government gifted the Community with 5.5 million doses of Pfizer vaccines.



Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago in a teleconference with US Vice President Kamala Harris in June

That donation was the culmination of efforts initiated by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, who as Chair of CARICOM, had written to President Joseph Biden

of the United States earlier in the year, requesting a supply of vaccines for the Community. President Biden subsequently announced that the US was donating a supply of vaccines to the Region as part of its world-wide distribution of 80 million doses. Extended negotiations followed, involving White House staff, the Secretariat, CARPHA, and Pfizer.

Member States received the much-anticipated Pfizer vaccines, with 1.5 million doses allocated to Haiti and the other 4 million doses distributed among 14 CARICOM countries. The donation from the White House also included 3 million ancillary kits containing needles, syringes, diluent and other supplies.

NCDs

The ongoing prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) received the attention of the Region's Health Ministers at the Forty-first Meeting of COHSOD on Health, held in October, where they agreed to a ***'Whole of the Region Approach'*** to tackling the scourge.

They pledged support to two inter-Governmental Working Groups which were set up to articulate policy recommendations to COHSOD and COTED on how they could harmonise trade and health interventions to address unhealthy diets, obesogenic environments and the harmful use of alcohol.



The COHSOD also addressed revising the standard of labelling pre-packaged foods, including 'Front of Package Labelling' and urged Member States to engage their national standards development processes and regional representatives on the draft standard.

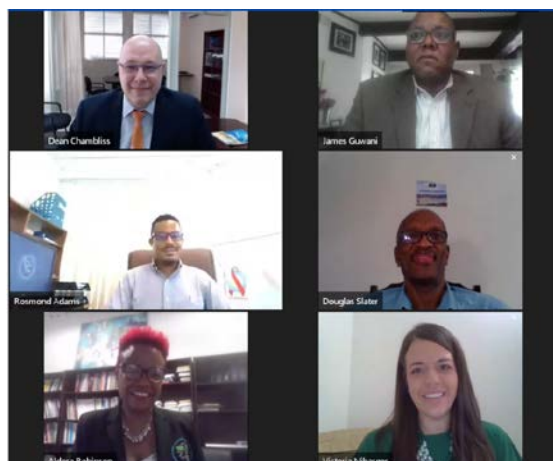
PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HIV AND AIDS (PANCAP)

The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (PANCAP) Coordinating Unit (PCU), continued the pursuit of its main objective, to protect and maintain the gains made in the HIV response as the Region continued to navigate COVID-19.



Graduates of the Clinical Management in HIV course in April

In April, it stepped up its capacity building efforts with a training course in the Clinical Management in HIV for twenty Public Health practitioners working in the Region's HIV Response. The training course at the University of Washington Global Health E-Learning Program provided a global perspective on the diagnoses and clinical management of HIV. Participants learned from experts in the field, who offered real-world examples of diagnosing and treating HIV and STIs in both resource-rich and resource-constrained settings, with a focus on using US-based guidelines.



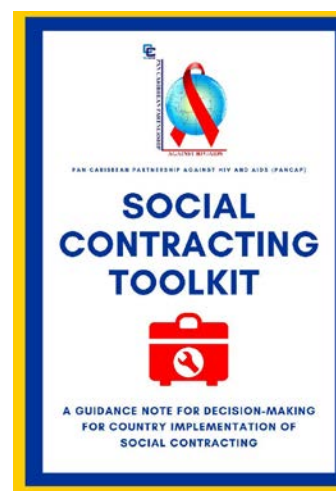
Participants at the second Special Meeting of National Aids Programme

In June, PANCAP held its second Special Meeting of National Aids Programme (NAP) Managers and Key Partners, to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national and regional HIV programmes.

A survey conducted by PANCAP and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) showed that during 2020, facility and community-based HIV testing services dropped by two-thirds (69%) in countries due to COVID-19. The Meeting also discussed how countries were coping and adjusting programme delivery during COVID-19 to ensure sustainability.

In March, PANCAP launched a toolkit for social contracting, a programme that involves governments providing financial support for programmes, interventions and other activities implemented by civil society organisations. This helps prevent reductions and disruptions in targeted services for key and vulnerable populations (in particular) and contributes to more rapidly expanding effective HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria responses.[1]

The toolkit aims to assist regional countries to develop and implement a social contracting mechanism, in partnership between Governments and civil society, with recommended actions set out in a four-stage process and examples of regional and international experiences to guide decision-making.



GENDER

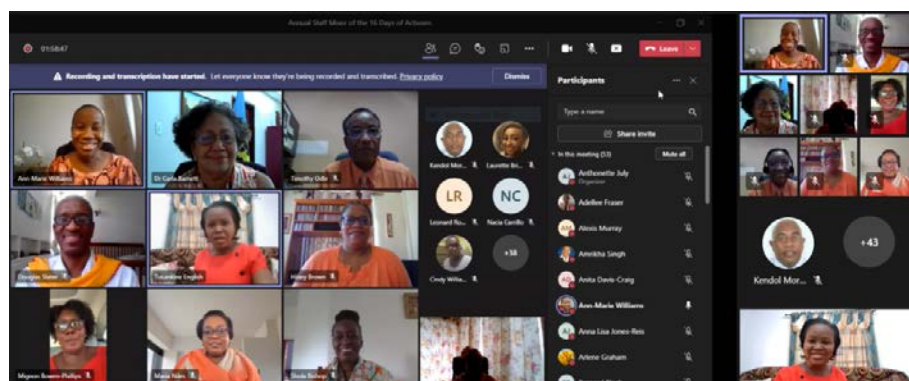
The Community ensured a strong voice at the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America, in March.



In February, the CARICOM Secretariat and the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), University of the West Indies Institute for Gender and Development Studies and ParlAmericas, coordinated a two-day virtual Preparatory Meeting involving Ministers with responsibility for Gender Affairs, Parliamentarians, heads of the National Gender Machineries, representatives of civil society and academia, to adopt a CARICOM Statement.

The focus was on ways to increase the presence, voice and influence of women and girls in governance processes in the Region, in keeping with commitments made by our Member States that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and which are signatories to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held under the theme “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.



CARICOM Secretariat's Staff Mixer in observance of 16 Days of Activism

The Secretariat joined the global observance of 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence with a Staff Mixer in November which featured Professor Emerita of Gender, Social Change and Development of UWI Rhoda Reddock who urged enhanced regional exchanges of good practices. The Annual 16 Days of Activism campaign features several important observances including International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, Human Rights Defenders Day on 29 November; World Aids Day on 1 December; International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development on 5 December; and Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The Secretariat continued its support for the Regional Spotlight Programme titled: Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean. The Regional Programme, part of the wider global partnership by the United Nations and the European Union, complements the six Spotlight country programmes underway in Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Secretariat is partnering with the UNDP to implement the Initiative. The Regional Programme seeks to develop standards for regional institutions for a comprehensive multi-sectoral response to detect, monitor and respond to family violence.

The objectives include:

- Ensuring and facilitating access to services of victims/survivors of family violence.
- Mainstreaming interventions throughout all regional programmes by using agreed inter- institutional working rules and tools.
- Ensuring accountability of involved regional institutions at all levels.
- Ensuring coordinated actions for addressing family violence.
- Improving documentation, reporting, transmitting and data analysis systems.

The Secretariat has been successful in securing a Consultant to work with Member States' Focal Points to roll out the initiative at the national level.

As part of the ongoing work, the Secretariat has been partnering with UNICEF on a mapping exercise to align the draft CARICOM Regional Gender Equality and the Violence against Children and Education Strategies. This will identify the common entry points and synergies between the strategies and policy positions to prevent and address gender-based family violence at home, in schools and by extension, the wider Caribbean community.

TRIENNIAL AWARD FOR WOMEN

The recognition of the contributions of distinguished Caribbean women continued with the naming of the Rt Hon Dame Janet Gwennett Bostwick of the Bahamas as the thirteenth recipient of the CARICOM Triennial Award for Women.

Dame Janet, an attorney and politician, is a champion for the empowerment of women, not only in her native country, but throughout the region and beyond. She recorded several firsts in



The Rt. Hon. Dame Janet Bostwick

her impressive career, including first female Secretary-General of The Bahamas Public Services Union; President of the Bar Association and Chair of the Bar Council; Attorney General; Minister of Foreign Affairs; and the first female to act as Prime Minister of the Bahamas. Throughout her tenure as a Cabinet Minister she has always held Ministerial portfolio for women's affairs.



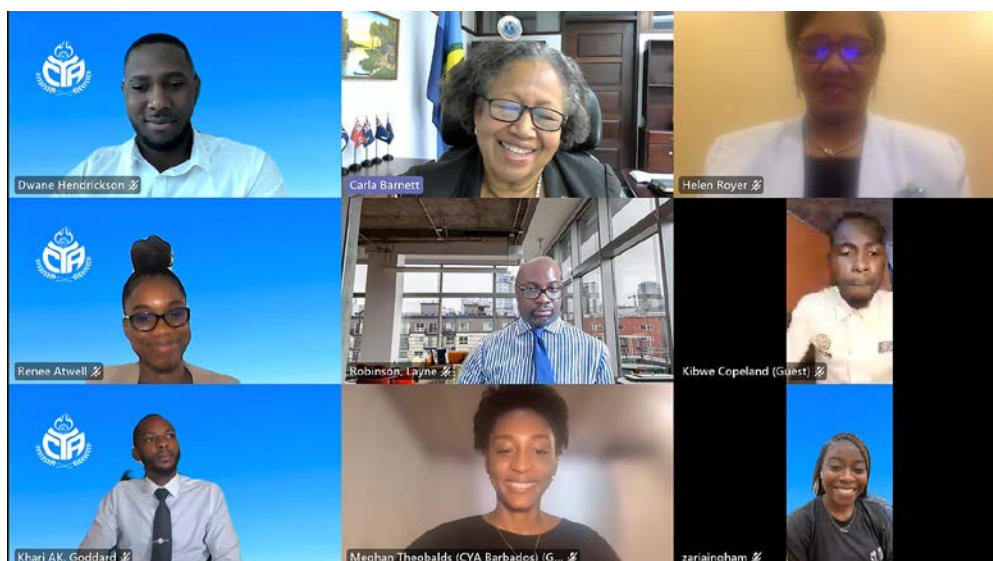
The Conferral of the CARICOM Triennial Award for Women had its genesis in 1983, when Ministers of Women's Affairs proposed the award to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of CARICOM. It was introduced the following year, and since then, CARICOM has recognised women's contributions in the fields of Agriculture, Economics, Law, Politics, Gender and Development to Religion, Public Service and Trade Unionism.

YOUTH

Ten years after its adoption, the process of updating the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (CYDAP) began in November with the launch of a Regional Youth Development Status Survey, to collect data on challenges to youth development; the policies in place to enable youths to thrive; opportunities for a sound education, employment and entrepreneurship; factors supporting health and well-being; and young people's knowledge about climate change and its impact on their sustainable economic development.

The Plan gave practical effect to the landmark Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in CARICOM and the Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development, approved in 2010. The Action Plan was built on six CARICOM Youth Development Goals: Education and Economic Empowerment; Protection, Safety and Security; Health and Well-being; Culture Identity and Citizenship; Policy and Institutional Framework; and Leadership, Participation and Governance.

Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett's first public engagement, two weeks after her installation in August was with the Region's Youth at the Opening Ceremony of a CARICOM Youth Ambassadors' Orientation Programme. The Secretary-General committed to building a strong partnership with the youth and to facilitate dialogue on issues of importance to youth and the Community.



New SG Dr Carla Barnett's early engagement with CARICOM Youth Ambassadors

In February, the Secretariat partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to launch Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) activities for Caribbean youths at a virtual webinar. CSE programmes enable young people to protect their health, well-being and dignity and is a strategic vehicle for promoting gender equality and human rights. The activities are conducted under the Spotlight Regional Programme for the Caribbean.

The interventions are aligned with the hopes for healthy and contributing Caribbean citizens, as outlined in the CARICOM Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy. It also supports the Caribbean Road map for promoting the health and well-being of adolescents and youth, recently launched by PAHO, which received CARICOM support and endorsement.

The Secretariat partnered with the Nestlé Group to co-host the virtual Nestlé Caribbean Youth Summit in October, which provided capacity building in entrepreneurship skills, motivation, networking opportunities and entertainment. The private sector organisations involved have pledged 1,000 jobs to youths across the Region over the next three years. Five CARICOM Youth Ambassadors joined Secretariat staff on the various panels.





Ms Renee Atwell

CARICOM Youth Ambassadors

The *CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP)* is an important conduit for mainstreaming youth involvement in Regional Integration.

Ten Member States and three Associate Members appointed *CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (CYAs)* in 2021. Ms. Reneé Atwell of Trinidad and Tobago was appointed Dean in July.

CARICOM Youth Ambassadors 2021

Antigua and Barbuda	Lyle Jackson	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Shafique Sam
			Rose Ann Richardson
Barbados	Java Sealy	Suriname	Georgette Grootfaam
	Meghan Theobalds		Dwight Prade
Belize	Kris Miller	Trinidad and Tobago	Renee Atwell
	Jenelli Fraser		Keigon Denoon
Grenada	Ja'shon Clarke	Anguilla	Mikeela Skellekie
	Nazinga Smith		Khari Goddard
Haiti	Abischamma Grand Jean	Cayman Islands	Jorel Bellafonte
	Adma Admeson		Zoe Conolly Basdeo
Saint Lucia	Yakub Nestor	Turks and Caicos Islands	Wellington Williams
	Raejean Montoute		Zarla Ingham
St. Kitts and Nevis	Dwayne Hendrickson		
	Denaula LapLage		

CULTURE AND THE CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS (CARIFESTA)

The staging of CARIFESTA XV, which was scheduled for 2021 in Antigua and Barbuda, was not held due to the continued adverse effects of the pandemic on the economies of Member States and limitations on staging events with large numbers of patrons. The Secretariat, Directors of Culture and members of the Interim Festival Directorate will hold a special meeting next year to discuss and make proposals for the future of the Festival.

Recovery of Cultural and Creative Industries from the COVID-19 pandemic was addressed at the 29th Meeting of the Regional Cultural Committee (RCC) in December. Directors of Culture were joined by the CDB's Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIFF), Caribbean Export, the UWI, UNESCO and the CARICOM Secretariat.



Part of the virtual audience at the 29th Meeting of the Regional Cultural Committee in December

The RCC proposed the convening of a caucus of CARICOM Ministers of Culture to prepare for a Latin American and Caribbean consultation scheduled for next February. That consultation will set the stage for participation in 'Mondiacult 2022', the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies, scheduled for Mexico next September. The meeting also agreed to reactivate Working Groups to advance the implementation of the Draft Regional Development Strategy for the Creative Industries in CARICOM (2012), and the Cultural and Entertainment Services Strategy (2017).

Creative Caribbean



A new major cultural project, "Creative Caribbean: An Ecosystem of 'Play' for Growth and Development", on which the Secretariat collaborated with UNESCO, UWI, the OECS Commission and the CDB, entered its start-up phase in January.

The Creative Caribbean project aims to

foster economic, human and social development of the Caribbean region by stimulating inclusive, diversified and sustainable growth of the cultural economy through:

- (1) creation of jobs for women, men and youth within a decent work framework;
- (2) creation, production and distribution of cultural and creative goods and services;
- (3) improved market access; and
- (4) support of regional and national policies and measures.

Creative Caribbean will provide grant support to the creative sector for industry, enabling environment and training initiatives. Creative Caribbean is being implemented in fourteen (14) CARICOM Member States, namely Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, from January 2021 to April 2024.

The project received grant funding of EUR 3.000.000 under the 11th EDF ACP-EU programme: *'Towards a viable cultural industry'*.

SPORTS

CARICOM FIFA MOU

CARICOM and FIFA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June to strengthen their collaboration, with the aim of promoting sports integrity and social responsibility, while furthering the development of football in the Region. The Agreement was signed by CARICOM Secretary General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and the FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino at a virtual ceremony attended by the presidents of the national football associations of CARICOM countries, Ministers of Government and Representatives of the countries, as well as Concacaf President Victor Montagliani.



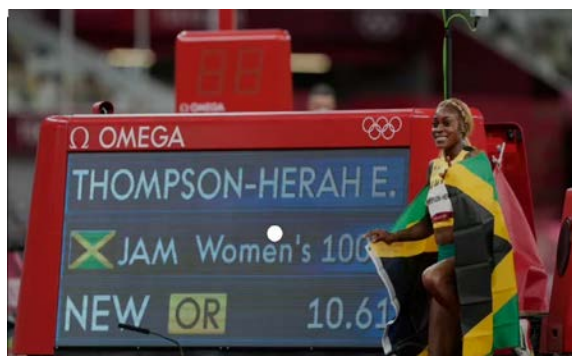
CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque and FIFA President Gianni Infantino show the signed CARICOM-FIFA MOU

The MoU focuses on implementing a football programme in the physical education curricula in primary schools in the CARICOM Region. FIFA, together with its member associations, will provide support to develop football training, competitions and the training of football coaches, officials and administrators along with physical education teachers. It also focuses on measures to protect children and vulnerable adults involved in football activities, the fight against match manipulation and promotion of sports

integrity and social responsibility.

Olympic Performances

The Caribbean Community, through its Chair, Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, commended regional athletes for outstanding performances in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics . in August. Among the outstanding performers were Jamaican athletes Elaine Thompson Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson, who swept the 100-metre sprint event. In winning gold, Thompson Herah defended her Olympic title and erased a 33 year old Olympic record. Ms. Flora Duffy of Bermuda recorded the spectacular achievement of winning a gold medal in the arduous women's Triathlon, making her island the smallest population to win an Olympic gold medal. More than 150 Caribbean athletes took part in the Olympics.



Elaine Thompson-Herah poses with the flash time of her new Olympic record



Olympic triathlon gold medalist Flora Duffy of Bermuda

REPARATIONS FOR NATIVE GENOCIDE AND SLAVERY

After a gap of several years, the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Reparations met in February via videoconference with the Honourable Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados as Chair. The Sub-Committee made several recommendations, which were adopted at the Thirty-Second Intersessional Meeting of Heads of Government in February.



These included:

- a strategic alliance should be developed with the African Union, seeking their collaboration to co- sponsor a proposed Summit on reparations with European Heads of Government;
- strategically, the UN, the SDGs and the International Decade for People of African Descent provide opportunities to engage the international community and advance the reparations claim.
- the Community should explore and determine the appropriate modalities to establish a multi-donor International Development Fund for reparations, possibly under the auspices of the CDB. The IDF would receive payments from governments, private corporations and academic institutions that had benefitted from slavery.

In July, the CARICOM Reparations Commission reiterated its calls to European States that colonized the Region to immediately begin reparations negotiations with CARICOM. The Commission in a Statement said it was encouraged by the recent developments in the movement for reparatory justice, especially in the Caribbean and across the United States, and the wide media coverage of the movement in the aftermath of the globalisation of the Black Lives Matter campaign.

[CARICOM Reparations Commission Statement](https://today.caricom.org/2021/07/19/the-global-reparations-movement-the-greatest-political-tide-of-the-21st-century/)
<https://today.caricom.org/2021/07/19/the-global-reparations-movement-the-greatest-political-tide-of-the-21st-century/>

The CARICOM Reparations Commission has been actively pursuing reparations for Native Genocide and African Enslavement, from the former colonising nations of Europe, namely the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The Caribbean Community maintains that there is an unpaid and outstanding debt for over 200 years of free labour, that fueled two industrial revolutions and a quantum leap in development in Europe, while simultaneously under-developing the nations of the Caribbean and relegating most of its Indigenous people and those of African descent to persistent, inter-generational poverty.

AfCar

As part of the growing and deepening ties between the Caribbean and Africa, the AfCar Group, with 68 CARICOM and African Member Countries, was established and delivered a historic first joint statement at the United Nations on 6 April.

The occasion was the meeting of the UN General Assembly “to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,” which was held under the theme, “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice.” The AfCAR statement was delivered by Guyana’s



Her Excellency Ambassador Carolyn Birkett of Guyana delivered the AfCAR Statement to the UNGA

Ambassador to the UN, Her Excellency Carolyn Birkett, who noted that, “the horror of slavery separated 12 million Africans from the motherland and created a diaspora in the Caribbean.





SECTION III

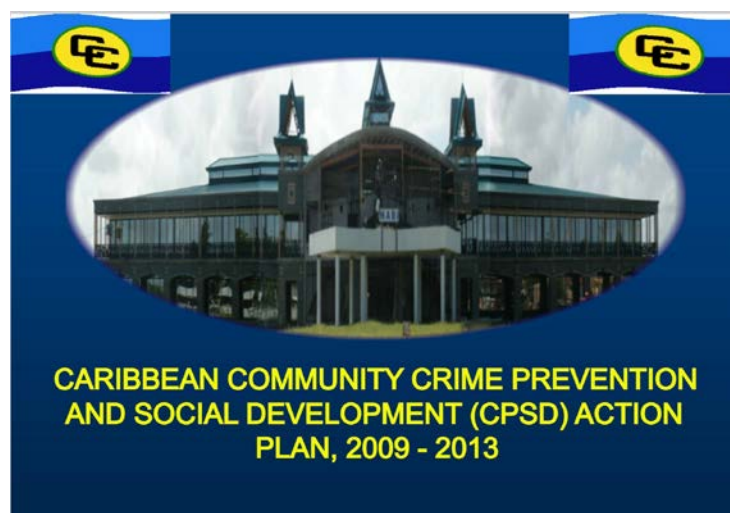
SECURITY COOPERATION

Building Social Resilience

SECURITY COOPERATION

Building Social Resilience

During the year the Secretariat continued implementing the ‘CARICOM Action Plan for Social Development and Crime Prevention’ to support Member States strategies for preventing and reducing crime and violence. Much effort was placed on preparatory work to strengthen access to microfinancing, and create alternatives to imprisonment for minor infractions.



Efforts also focused on strengthening the intersectoral partnerships critical to alleviating challenges that lead to crime and violence such as poverty; unemployment, which produces feelings of relative deprivation; inequality, which produces the feeling of being treated unfairly; and alienation. Work had started with the Trade and Labour Sectors on developing a joint position paper to support this activity and this is expected to be completed next year.

As efforts continued to address migration flows, the 21st Meeting of the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) held in January, considered an analysis of the Gaps in Member States' Legislations as well as recommendations from a commissioned Report on Human Trafficking.



**Spotlight
Initiative**





SECTION IV

DISASTER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

DISASTER MITIGATION

During the year, the Community pulled together in response to natural disasters, such as the eruption of La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in April, which also caused heavy ashfall in neighbouring Barbados; and the earthquake in Haiti in August.



Heads of Government and Institutions attending the Special Emergency Session in April

Heads of Government met in a Special Emergency Session on 15 April following the volcanic eruption and pledged solidarity with St. Vincent and the Grenadines as it strived to cope with the disaster. Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, reported that the immediate disaster area covered approximately one third of the island forcing the evacuation of more than 10,000 people who were being housed in shelters and at homes of family and friends. Ash and pyroclastic flows had decimated crops and vegetation and compromised water sources.



La Soufriere volcano in action



Vincetian Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves in conversation with some evacuees

Member States provided financial, technical and material support, in particular food and water. Security assistance and accommodation for evacuees were also offered.

The Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Mottley, alerted the Meeting that the unprecedented heavy ashfall across the island had resulted in major disruptions, including the closure of the Grantley Adams International Airport, with adverse effects on the tourism sector and the wider economy. Barbados received technical assistance from Member States to treat with this significant challenge.



Barbados received heavy ashfall from La Soufriere eruption

Several Regional Institutions; the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC), which conducted round the clock monitoring of the volcano; CDEMA, which activated its regional support operation, providing technical assistance with evacuation and logistics planning; the Regional Security System (RSS), CARPHA and IMPACS also assisted the country.

The Community also rendered support to Haiti following the earthquake in the south of the country which resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and extensive damage to property and infrastructure.



The earthquake caused significant damage to property and infrastructure

CLIMATE CHANGE

CARICOM had an active and prominent presence in the run-up to, and during negotiations at the United Nations (UN)



Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados addressed the Opening of COP26

Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland in November.



Going into Glasgow, the Community sounded the alarm in a CARICOM Declaration on Climate Change titled: “1.5°C: Ambition to Defend the Most Vulnerable” which emphasized that the Region faces a climate emergency and demanded action. The Declaration made an urgent call for unswerving global solidarity to deliver ambition, timely action, and support for a just transition during this decade, with the aim of limiting global warming to well

below 1.5°C.

Climate Fund

Ahead of COP26, Heads of Government met with the Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Mr Yannick Glemarec, where they called for a simplification of the process to access funds under the GCF as well as for an increase in the percentage allocated to adaptation to climate change. They also urged Mr Glemarec to establish a GCF Office in the Region to enhance interaction between the Fund and the Community



CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, with host Prime Minister of COP26, Boris Johnson, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

COP 26

In Glasgow, the Community’s high-level presence comprised nine Heads of Government led by the CARICOM Chairman, Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and including Hon.

Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, who addressed the Opening Ceremony of the Conference; Hon. Phillip Davis, Prime Minister of the Bahamas; Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize; H.E. Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana; Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Hon. Phillip Pierre, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia; H.E. Chandrikaprasad Santokhi, President of Suriname and Dr the Hon. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. The CARICOM Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett.



Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett makes a point to regional officials at COP26

The Community viewed COP26 as failing to deliver on what was expected and observed that much work needed to be done to advocate for the Region's concerns, including for actions to reduce CO₂ emissions to a level that would keep global temperatures below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to improve access to funding to respond to the impact of climate change. There was concern that funding support from the international community had not been forthcoming to meet the increasing costs associated with loss and damage, mitigation and adaption.



VIDEO INSERT: Secretary-General addresses Community's Climate Change concerns

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH



In October, the Secretariat participated in a virtual conference on Climate Change and Health in Small Island and low-lying coastal Developing States with a focus on the Caribbean. The Conference was held under the “European Union (EU)/Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems Project in the Caribbean”, which is being coordinated by PAHO, in accordance with One-health Approach and with the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Phase IV (CCH IV) Framework.

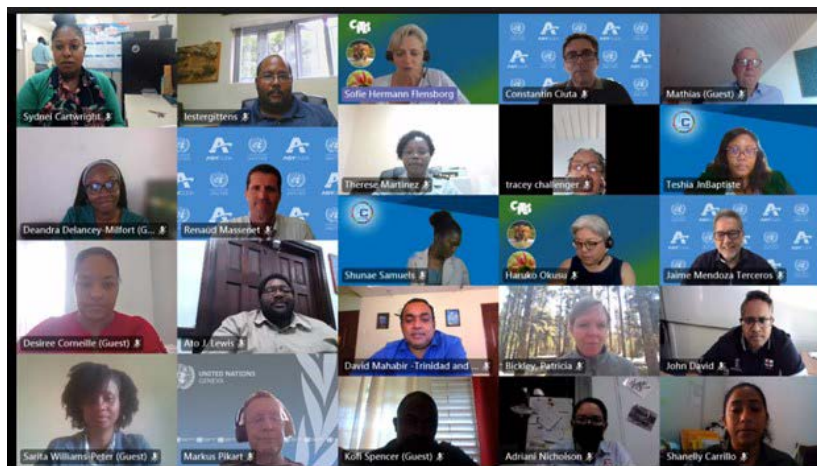


Signing the MOU in support of Caribbean Climate Action. (Clockwise from right with signed MOU) – Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre; Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director (Ag.), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency; Dr. David Farrell, Principal, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology; Mr. Clinton White, USAID Regional Representative for the Eastern and Southern Caribbean; CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; H.E. Sarah-Ann Lynch, U.S. Ambassador to Guyana and CARICOM;

In June, Secretary-General LaRocque joined US Ambassador to CARICOM Her Excellency Sarah-Ann Lynch to witness the signing of an MOU by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), CDEMA, CIMH, and USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean, which reaffirmed their longstanding partnership, while recognising the urgent need for Climate Action in the Caribbean.

The signing took place at the start of a series of USAID-supported Climate Change symposia, which also involved the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors. Participants were reminded that six Caribbean States were ranked in the top ten most disaster-prone countries in the world and all were in the top 50; disasters cost the Region at least 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) every year; and several economic sectors continue to remain under threat from slow-onset climate impacts.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Participant at the CITES workshop in June

In June, the CARICOM Secretariat teamed up with its counterpart at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to support Member States' efforts to improve wildlife trade controls.

They held a joint workshop on eCITES Permit Management to support implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean Region through increased awareness of the potential benefits of automated permitting systems, the increased transparency and control they can bring to the supply chain and the role they can play to develop electronic risk management systems. CARICOM has 15 Member States that are Parties to CITES and the Caribbean region is extremely biodiverse and home to numerous species that are listed in the CITES Appendices. Delegates of eight CARICOM Member States – Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago attended the workshop, along with representatives of CITES Management Authorities, Customs, forestry, fisheries and environment agencies.

The Secretariat also continued its advocacy on safeguarding the Environment and natural resources, with a statement backing the global rallying cry to heal the world around celebrations for:

- International Day for Biological Diversity (May 21)
- World Environment Day (June 5) and
- World Oceans Day (June 8)

The Secretariat continues to work with Member States to develop common environment protection strategies via the European Union funded Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP MEAs Project). It is also working towards completing the Caribbean Community Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework

and Action Plan, which seeks to provide an enabling template for environmental and natural resources management in the Community.





SECTION V

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ***STRENGTHENING THE CARICOM IDENTITY*** ***AND SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY***

HAITI

CARICOM Heads of Government met in a Special Emergency Session in July following the assassination of the President of Haiti, His Excellency Jovenel Moise, and strongly condemned the ‘abhorrent and reprehensible act’.



Assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moise

Heads of Government issued a statement, which noted that the Community, in accordance with its values as expressed in its Charter of Civil Society, does not settle its differences by violence which undermines democracy and the rule of law, but peacefully, through dialogue and recourse to democratic institutions.

The Heads of Government stated that in light of Haiti’s membership of CARICOM and the family ties that bind the people of Haiti and CARICOM, CARICOM was willing to play a lead role to facilitate a process of national dialogue and negotiations to help the Haitian people and their institutions craft an indigenous solution to the crisis.

As a mark of respect, the national flags of Member States and the CARICOM Standard were flown at half-mast for three days, from the date of the assassination and on the day of the funeral.



CARICOM Standard being flown at half-mast as a mark of respect for the passing of Haiti’s President Jovenel Moise

Jovenel Moïse, 53, had been in power since February 2017, after his predecessor, Michel Martelly stepped down.

Heads of Government had earlier, through a Statement issued in February, expressed their deep concern over the deteriorating political situation and the deepening public anxiety over citizen security in Haiti. They called on the political actors to engage in dialogue to reach consensus on the way forward and establish an enabling environment for the conduct of the elections, as quickly as possible, to renew the lapsed Legislative and Local Government Institutions. They also hoped for free and fair Presidential Elections, in accordance with the constitution of Haiti.

In December, the CARICOM Secretariat, joined several countries and international organisations invited by the US Administration to an International Partners Meeting on Haiti, which sought to gain a sense of what support could be provided to get the country out of its multifaceted crisis. The Secretariat informed the meeting about CARICOM's previous commitment to assist the Haitian government in areas, including good offices to bring the contending parties together to help end the political impasse, capacity building, in particular for the electoral process, justice and law enforcement, and public administration. The importance of a long-term socio- economic development plan was also underlined.



Special virtual Meeting of the Bureau of CARICOM Heads on Haiti held in August

The political and humanitarian situation in Haiti was discussed at a Special Meeting of the Bureau of CARICOM Heads held virtually in August. Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, presided over the Meeting, which included the other two members of the Bureau: Belize, represented by Prime Minister Briceño, and Trinidad and Tobago, represented by Senator Dr Amery Browne, the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Prime Ministers Mottley of Barbados and Holness of Jamaica, and the Premier of Montserrat, Honourable Joseph Farrell, as well as the Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Suriname, also attended.

Providing an update on the situation in Haiti, Prime Minister of Haiti, the Honourable Ariel Henry said the government was dealing with three priorities simultaneously;

- relief and reconstruction following the devastating 14 August earthquake, which caused more than two-thousand deaths, followed by the passage of Tropical Storm Grace on 16 August which affected the entire southern peninsular,
- the need for credible and transparent elections, and
- delivering justice through the complex investigation into the assassination of President Jovenel Moise

The Bureau offered the Community's assistance in those areas in which Member States had expertise, such as the elections process, judicial and investigative support into the death of President Moise and the restoration of democratic institutions. Support was also offered to curb crime and violence in the country. Several Member States pledged financial donations to address the country's immediate needs and there was agreement on the need for a sustained development effort over the long term to give Haiti a fresh start. Prime Minister Henry commended CARICOM for its early moral and material support.

ELECTIONS OBSERVATION

Election observation continues to be an essential element of CARICOM's efforts to promote and maintain its democratic values. It builds the public's confidence in the electoral process, assures them that the process is transparent and that the rights of the participants are protected.

During the review period, the Community mounted Observation Missions to Elections in Saint Lucia, The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In all three cases, the Missions concluded that the Elections were conducted without intimidation or fear and that the results reflected the will of the people. The Missions also applauded the efforts to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols.



CARICOM Election Observers to the July Elections in Saint Lucia

In July, a ten-member CARICOM Observation Mission observed Saint Lucia's General Elections, The Mission, led by Ms. Fern Narcis-Scope, Chief Elections Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Elections and Boundaries Commission, included representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.



CARICOM Election Observers to the General Elections in The Bahamas in September

The Bahamas Elections in September was monitored by a six-member Observation Mission, led by Mr Ian Hughes of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, and including representatives from Dominica, Jamaica and Suriname.



CARICOM Election Observers monitored the February Elections in our Associate Member State, Turks and Caicos Islands

A three-member team, led by Dr. Stephen Surujbally of Guyana, and including representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica observed the February General Elections in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Staff from the CARICOM Secretariat accompanied the Missions, providing logistical and other support. Congratulations Republic of Barbados.

Congratulations Republic of Barbados



The Community congratulated Barbados on its transition to Republican status during its Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of Independence on 30 November. The ceremony, attended by several Heads of Government and the CARICOM Secretary-General, was held under the theme “Rebuilding and Nation, Embracing Our Heritage”.

Attack on Vincentian Prime Minister

In August, the Community strongly condemned the violent attack on Prime Minister Gonsalves of St Vincent and the Grenadines. The Community, in a public statement said the reprehensible act was an affront to democratic principles and practices. Dr Gonsalves was struck in his head while walking to Parliament through a group of protestors. The statement said while the conduct of peaceful protest is a fundamental civil and political right that represents a healthy element of our democracy, its degeneration into violence and physical assault must be denounced unreservedly.

SCLAN



The Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) elected Mrs Rossana Briceno, spouse of the Prime Minister of Belize and Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, as its new Chairperson in October. She succeeded Mrs Patricia Minnis, spouse of the former Prime Minister of The Bahamas.

The October meeting reviewed the work of SCLAN in the Region and agreed on the way forward for the next five years guided by the recently completed 2021 Strategic Plan, which seeks to ensure continued advancement to safeguard the health and wellbeing of women and children in the Caribbean.

SCLAN was formally established in 2017 with the overarching goal of providing a framework where First Spouses could coordinate their efforts and use their platforms to advocate for and implement activities geared towards addressing areas of critical importance including HIV-AIDS, gender-based violence, adolescent pregnancy, cervical cancer and mental health.



SECTION VI

FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

***RELATIONS WITH THIRD STATES, GROUPS
OF STATES AND ORGANISATIONS***

The Community and the Secretariat engage a range of Third States and other development partners to advance the interests of the Region. Some of the engagements in 2021 are highlighted below.

CARICOM-AFRICA SUMMIT



The historic first ever *CARICOM Africa Summit* was held in September under the theme “Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportunities for Deepening Integration” and ended with a commitment by the Leaders of the two Regions to strengthen collaboration and unity and to foster increased trade, investment and people to people engagement. There was also a mandate for the institutionalisation of cooperation between the CARICOM Secretariat and the African Union Commission.



CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda addressing the Summit



CARICOM Secretary-General
Dr Carla Barnett addressing the Summit

CARICOM Chair, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda proposed that September 7th be celebrated as “Africa-CARICOM Day” with a Summit held annually on that date. He also proposed the creation of a Forum of African and Caribbean Territories and States (FACTS), the codifying of a Founding Charter and a Memorandum of Operation of the Forum, a multi-lateral air services agreement, and an investment protection and double taxation agreement between CARICOM and African States.

President of Kenya and Chair of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, cited the blue economy, climate change, health and COVID-19, debt sustainability and technology as areas on which the Regions could work together.



President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta presided over the Summit

CANADA

The inaugural meeting of the CARICOM-Canada Foreign Ministers Group was held in February with a strong focus on coordinated action to manage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

The Ministers also deliberated on promoting resilient and sustainable growth and finding innovative solutions to the impact of climate change. CARICOM Ministers urged Canada to continue to use its membership in the United Nations framework to advocate for debt relief for small and vulnerable states and for reform of the criteria for accessing finance that takes account of states' unique vulnerabilities.



Chair of COFCOR, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Belize, Eamon Courtenay (r) and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marc Garneau

The Meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belize and Chair of the CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), Hon Eamon Courtenay and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Hon Marc Garneau.

The Second Meeting of Senior Officials of the Dialogue between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Canada was held in December and examined the COVID-19 pandemic, Climate Resilience, and Multilateral Engagement and Regional Security, as well as challenges facing Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS) in terms of recovery from the pandemic and access to concessional financing.

CELAC

Several Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers attended the Sixth Summit of CELAC in Mexico City in September, where discussions focused on, among other things, promoting self-sustainability in regional health mechanisms. Discussions were also held regarding upcoming Pro Tempore Presidencies of the grouping – Argentina in 2022 and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2023. St Vincent and the Grenadines would also be a candidate to Chair the CELAC Disaster Fund operated by ECLAC.



Participants at the 6th CELAC Summit in Mexico in September

CHILE

Representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat and the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation met in October and agreed on a programme for the next year aimed at further strengthening technical cooperation. The Meeting agreed the programme would fall under the existing overarching CARICOM-Chile Cooperation Framework, with more effective and direct interactions between the Parties and the activities would include a Mid-Term Review of the framework and convening the Third Meeting of the CARICOM-Chile Joint Commission.



CARICOM Secretariat and Chilean teams agree on programme to strengthen technical cooperation

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Community's solidarity with Cuba continued in January when it denounced the unilateral declaration by the outgoing United States Administration to designate Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. The Community in a Statement said Cuba's international conduct did not in any way, warrant that designation, and this further attack was another misguided action in addition to the unproductive, unnecessary and illegal financial and economic embargo already imposed on that Caribbean nation by the United States. The Community called for the immediate review and reversal of the 'unjustified actions' and said it looked forward to the United States moving towards normalising relations with Cuba.

In July, the Community issued a call for cessation of violence and vandalism in Cuba and for a return to calm and peaceful assembly and dialogue, following protests brought about by socio-economic challenges, further exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of natural hazards.



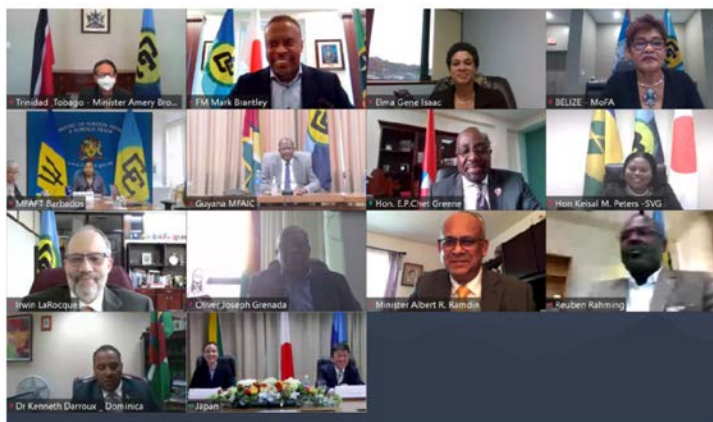
Celebrating CARICOM-Cuba Day

CARICOM-Cuba Day, was observed on 8 December, with the CARICOM Chair, Prime Minister Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, reiterating CARICOM's unwavering commitment to further strengthen and enhance the bonds of friendship, cooperation and solidarity. He praised the Cuban Government's provision of public health personnel to CARICOM Member States to help address the public health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a vivid example of Cuba's solidarity, despite its own challenges.

CARICOM Cuba Day commemorates the anniversary of the historic 1972 establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

JAPAN

The seventh Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference was held virtually in July with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr Motegi Toshimitsu and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, Honourable E.P. Chet Greene as Co-Chairs. CARICOM Ministers expressed gratitude to Japan for its continuing support, including against COVID-19 and Climate Change, and its response to the volcanic eruption in St Vincent and the Grenadines.



Participants at the 7th Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-level Conference.
Minister Motegi Toshimitsu of Japan is bottom right.

ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Foreign Ministers welcomed a CARICOM Framework Strategy entitled Vulnerability to Resilience put in place by the OAS Secretary-General with the assistance of the CARICOM Caucus. Ministers expressed concern over the limited resources allocated to areas identified as priority to CARICOM and agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that adequate resources are allotted to those areas.

UNITED NATIONS

CARICOM Ministers of Foreign Affairs held their traditional Special Meeting of COFCOR in September in preparation for the High-Level segment of the United Nations General Assembly. The Meeting also allowed Ministers to prepare for their engagements with non-CARICOM States which take place on the margins of the General Assembly. The issues of particular interest to the Community included Climate Change and coordination of positions for COP26; the economic and public health concerns related to COVID-19; vaccine discrimination and financing for development issues including access to concessional financing to facilitate the recovery of the debilitated Community economies.



The 11th General Meeting between CARICOM, its associated institutions and the UN system, July

The Eleventh General Meeting of the Caribbean Community, its Associated Institutions and the UN System was convened in July, with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Secretary-General LaRocque in attendance. The deliberations covered four strategic priorities of the Community; Enhancing Economic Recovery, Promoting Social Resilience and Advancing Citizen Wellbeing, Promoting Green Recovery and Building Environmental Resilience, and Safe Societies and Good Governance.

The Meeting agreed to hold smaller, focused follow-up meetings in the two years before the next meeting, to allow for identification of more specific goals and associated actions.

UNITED KINGDOM



The Tenth United Kingdom-Caribbean Ministerial Forum was held in March with both sides reaffirming their commitment to the Forum as an important vehicle for dialogue, partnership and cooperation, reflecting the special relationship that exists among the UK, Caribbean States and the British Overseas Territories. An Action Plan was agreed to allow for a strategic and sustained approach to the relationship, based on

what they regarded as ambitious, yet focused and realistic commitments. The Plan will be a standing agenda for review at quarterly meetings between Caribbean High Commissioners based in London and the Minister for the Caribbean at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Specific areas identified for joint action included recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral and regional cooperation, trade and commercial relations, cooperation against economic and organised crime, values and international cooperation, and climate change.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

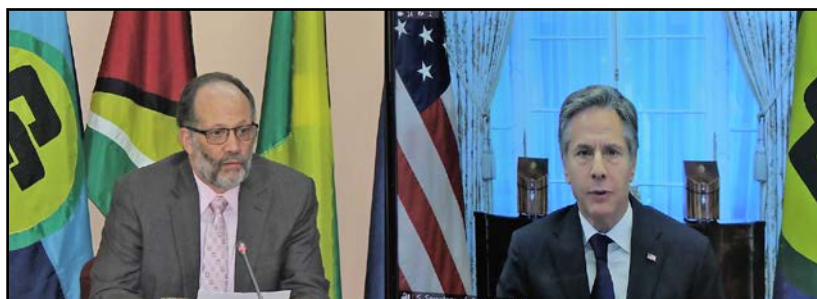
Foreign Ministers welcomed the reset of CARICOM-US relations as they engaged US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and National Security Advisor Mr Jake Sullivan in March and April respectively.

The March round-table with the Secretary of State agreed on the need to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination, and Mr Blinken stated that he would engage his colleague US Cabinet Secretaries on the issues of mutual interest raised by the CARICOM Ministers.

The deliberations, co-chaired by Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Eamon Courtenay, focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and its health and economic fallout, recovery of the regional economy, climate change and democracy, human rights and security. The CARICOM Ministers took the opportunity to urge the US to assist with access to much needed vaccines, which they said was an imperative for the region to emerge from the economic devastation caused by the pandemic.



CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting
US National Security Advisor
Mr Jake Sullivan in May



CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque in the Meeting with
US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in March

At the April meeting, Ministers emphasised the need for the relationship to be placed in an institutional framework to facilitate a regular and patterned schedule of meetings. Mr. Sullivan proposed regular high-level meetings including a Summit between CARICOM Heads of Government and the US President.

Discussions at the meeting also focused on the Covid 19 pandemic and its economic effects, access to vaccines, and economic recovery financing. Matters relating to security and climate change were also discussed.



CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in March

The Region's Foreign Ministers also advocated for COVID-19 vaccine supplies and other key regional concerns at a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, in September, on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

The Ministers stressed the urgency of the delivery of a promised second tranche of donations of the Pfizer vaccines from the US following a first shipment in August, for which they expressed deep appreciation. They said maintaining the delivery schedule was important given the spike in COVID-19 infections at the time, in many Member States.

The Ministers also pressed the case for increased climate ambition and financing for adaptation as well as acceptance of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as the main criterion for access to concessional development financing.

Stating that a problem for one was a problem for all, the two sides expressed the importance of solidarity with regard to the difficult situation in Haiti and of its people.

UNCTAD

The Secretariat participated in UNCTAD XV, which was co-hosted by Barbados and Geneva in October under the theme 'From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for all'. Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett participated in a panel discussion during the World Leaders Summit Dialogue on Inequality and stated that an effective response to the post COVID-19 economic situation must include significant and broad debt reduction for all developing countries, including vulnerable middle to high income states. Dr Barnett also urged that debt reduction should specifically address debts built up due to COVID-19 expenditures and climate change adaptation.



Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett addresses UNCTAD XV in Barbados

VENEZUELA

In September, the Community issued a Statement taking note of the negotiations between the Venezuelan Government and Opposition, hosted by Mexico and mediated by Norway, which sought to bring an end to the protracted multidimensional crisis afflicting the country. Note was also taken of the two initial agreements reached on the Social Protection of the Venezuelan people and the Ratification and Defence of Venezuelan Sovereignty over the Guyana Essequibo.

With regard to the latter, the Community reiterated its firm and unwavering support for the maintenance and preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana. It also reaffirmed its support for the ongoing judicial process of the International Court of Justice that is intended to bring a peaceful and definitive end to the long-standing controversy between the two countries, and urged Venezuela to participate in the process.

PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRD STATES ACCREDITED TO CARICOM

During the year, Kenya, Ireland, and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations with the Community, accrediting their first Plenipotentiary Representatives. This brings the number of Third Countries accredited to CARICOM to forty-nine.

The Community also strengthened existing ties with some other Third States as Secretaries General, Ambassador LaRocque and Dr Barnett, accredited new Plenipotentiary Representatives from Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Holy See, The Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Brazil, Chile, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. A new Representative was also accredited from one Organisation, The European Union.

(PHOTOS OF ACCREDITATION CEREMONIES)



Secretary-General and Ambassador Anthony Muchiri of Kenya



Secretary-General and Ambassador Sean Hoy of Ireland



Secretary-General and Ambassador Elkhan Polukhov of Azerbaijan



Secretary-General and Ambassador Carlos Nuno Almeida de Sousa Amaro of Portugal



Secretary-General and Ambassador Hugo Verbist of Belgium



Secretary-General and Ambassador Mark Berman of Canada



Secretary-General and Ambassador Georgina María Guillén Grillo of Costa Rica



Secretary-General and Ambassador Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu of the Holy See



Secretary-General and Ambassador Raphaël Varga of The Netherlands



Secretary-General and Ambassador Marko Djurić of Serbia



Secretary-General and Ambassador Tone Kajzer of Slovenia



Secretary-General and Ambassador Jürg Sprecher of Switzerland



Secretary-General and Ambassador Fernando Nogales Alvarez of Spain



Secretary-General and Ambassador Juan Pino of Chile



Secretary-General and Ambassador Bengü Yiğitgüden of Turkey



Secretary-General and Ambassador Maria Clara Duclos Carisio of Brazil



Secretary-General and Ambassador Jane Miller of the United Kingdom





SECTION VII

GOVERNANCE ***STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE***

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2030

Work continued to develop the Strategic Plan 2022–2030, the successor to the Community’s first Strategic Plan 2015–2019. The process involved an evaluation of the 2015–2019 Plan, the conduct of environmental and horizon scans to research and analyse current and projected developments and trends, and national and regional consultations with the Implementing Partners: Member States, Regional Institutions, and the Secretariat.

On the basis of the evaluation and the environmental and horizon scans, an Issues Paper was prepared for use in the consultations. The Commonwealth Secretariat is supporting the process.

The consultations with Member States brought together stakeholders from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors, including the youth, media, labour organisations, and non-governmental and faith-based organisations. Consultations were also held with stakeholders in several sectors, including agriculture, education, health, ICT, services, and tourism. The consultations sought to ensure inclusivity and stakeholder engagement to guarantee that the major priorities of all the Implementing Partners were reflected in the Community Strategic Plan.

The consultations were also used to continue to build awareness and sensitise Community stakeholders about the I AM CARICOM campaign. The campaign seeks to expand understanding of CARICOM and its impact on the lives of its people. It highlights CARICOM’s people, geography, institutions, governance structure, policies, and plans. Strategic initiatives have been developed, which Member States and Associate Members will incorporate in their national I AM CARICOM sensitisation, education, and promotional activities.

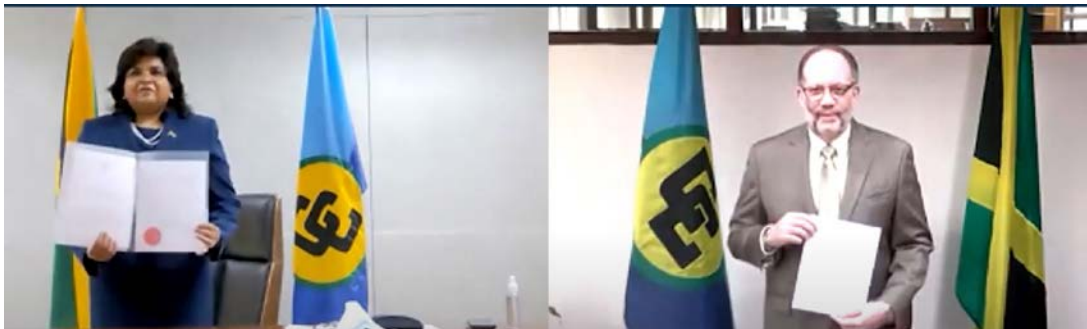


CARICOM COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS (CCA)

The CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors continued to support the work of the Community Council. During the year, the CCA welcomed three new members with the accreditation in January of H.E. Ms. Frances Seignoret of Trinidad and Tobago, in April, H.E. Mr George Talbot of Guyana, and in June, H.E. Ms. Janice Avonne Miller of Jamaica.



Secretary-General and Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana



Secretary-General and Ambassador Janice Avonne Miller of Jamaica



Ambassador Frances Signoret of Trinidad and Tobago



AGREEMENTS SIGNED/RATIFIED

The following Instruments which had been opened for signature prior to 2018 were signed and/or ratified by Member States as indicated:

Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA): (Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, 27 February 2018)

Ratified by Antigua and Barbuda (11 January 2021)

Acceded to by Grenada (2 June 2021)

Protocol on Contingent Rights, (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 July 2018)

Ratified by St. Kitts and Nevis (electronic copy received on 15 December 2021)

Protocol to Amend Article 32 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy

Signed by Barbados electronically at the Virtual Forty-Second Heads of Government on 6 July 2021





SECTION VIII

STATISTICS

LAUNCH OF THE DELAYED 2020 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

In August, the Secretariat organised and hosted the regional launch of the delayed 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census, with five Member States and one Associate Member – Barbados, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Cayman Islands – signalling their intention to conduct the exercise during the year. This Round of Census should have begun last year, but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Science and Technology, Prime Minister



Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell of Grenada addressing the Census launch

Dr the Hon. Keith Mitchell of Grenada, who addressed the launch, commended the innovative use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to conduct Censuses. The countries agreed to use three methods: Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI); Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI); and via the internet, Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI).

The regional approach adheres to the principles of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS), including cooperation in solving common challenges, pooling of statistical skills, and producing harmonised Census data, so that the Community can develop transparent, evidenced-based regional policy.

The Government of Canada has been supporting the development of Statistics in CARICOM, including the Census, under a Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean. Other support came from the IDB, the CDB, the Government of Italy and a number of UN organisations and specialised agencies.



Regional Statisticians met virtually for the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee in October and identified several actions including:

- how to treat with multi-modal approaches in data collection;
- incorporating risks and disaster recovery in the planning stages;
- good practices in the conduct of virtual training of interviewers, and
- sharing protocols and guidance notes on data collection during the pandemic.

GOVERNANCE

The Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) was also held in October, and for the first time, Gender Statistics, which had been previously subsumed under Social Statistics, was treated separately. Member States were requested to provide dedicated resources to the development of Gender Statistics, which would help in core policy areas such as violence against women and girls and the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work.

The Standing Committee also:

- gave its backing to Agriculture Statistics, highlighting the developmental work put in place with the support of the Government of Italy;
- approved training to facilitate conformity of statistics to regional and international standards in areas that include indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in quality assurance.

The CARICOM Model Statistics Bill that was developed in 2009/2010 was reviewed by the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics and the recommendations were submitted to the Office of the General Counsel for drafting a revised Bill.

STANDARDS AND HARMONISATION

Efforts were made to harmonise statistics across CARICOM by attempting a second assessment of the degree of compliance of countries to the common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP). An assessment questionnaire was sent out to those countries that did not respond on the first occasion and for those that previously responded, their completed questionnaires were submitted to them for review and updating.

INTEGRATED STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

Updating of Databases

During the year, the Secretariat's Databases were updated in areas including Demographic and Social and Economic Statistics, and preparations were completed for a new round of data collection on Environment and Climate Change Statistics.

Strategic Drivers

The Regional Statistics Programme continued its efforts to develop its IT Infrastructure. Work has started on revamping the statistics website and it is expected that the new website will be launched in 2022. The Programme also developed an online platform, Caribbean Institute for Statistical Training and Research (e-CISTAR), that comprises an e-learning facility, an online knowledge base facility and an online statistical research facility. The content development of this platform will be funded by the 11th EDF and it is expected that the consultancy will be launched in 2022.

Some past guidelines and manuals that have been developed under funding supported by various partners, have been uploaded to the knowledge base. In addition, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Secretariat in collaboration with the University of Technology, (UTECH) Jamaica, was able, under a pilot activity, to migrate some digitised training courses to the e-CISTAR) platform.

STATISTICS DAY

On 15 October, the Community observed the 13th Caribbean Statistics Day under the theme "Leave No One Behind – Everyone Counts", with Prime Minister Mitchell of Grenada stressing the importance of sound statistics in the Region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its role in providing data to inform emergency regulations, access donor funding, resolve development challenges brought on by the pandemic, and for budgetary planning in prioritising scarce resources.

The Secretary-General in her Statistics Day message also stressed the need for statistical agencies to be adequately resourced. She highlighted the education sector where collaboration between CARICOM Statisticians and the Secretariat's Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) programme has been leading to the development of ICT Indicators, such as the physical resources that individuals and families possess, including smartphones and desktop/laptop computers, the use made of digital technologies and the number of educational programmes for schools/youths delivered through ICT.

DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS

During the year, data on key Social and Economic statistics and Indicators were compiled and disseminated. In collaboration with ECLAC, a survey on statistical literacy was undertaken and the results were discussed at a webinar held in December.

In addition, the following publications were produced during 2021:

- National Accounts Digest: 2012-2019;
- CARICOM Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics-2012-2018 (Fourth publication)
- Special topic COVID-19 Statistical Bulletins- with summary of status of the disease by countries;
- Special Topic Bulletin to Analyse the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic





SECTION IX

THE CARIBBEAN FORUM OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES (CARIFORUM)



The Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) was established in 1992. CARIFORUM comprises all 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 Caribbean Regional Indicative Programmes (CRIPs), financed by the European Development Fund (EDF). 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 Directorate is located administratively within the CARICOM Secretariat, which provides services including human resource management, administrative, legal, and procurement. There is close collaboration between the CARIFORUM Directorate and other technical directorates in the Secretariat.

In December, the CARIFORUM Directorate and the CARIFORUM Intellectual Property and Innovation Project, CarIPI, launched a new consultation tool called 'Caribbean TMClass, which will help potential trade mark applicants and examiners search for and verify the correct classification of the terms for Goods and Services when applying for trade mark protection.

In addition to modernising practices of Intellectual Property offices in CARIFORUM Member States and creating a more user-friendly environment, the tool, which is available publicly online, will continue to enhance the transparency, predictability and accessibility of intellectual property and further the integration of CARIFORUM in the world economy.

Eight CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Offices – Antigua and Barbuda (ABIPCO), Belize (BELIPO), Cuba (COPI), Dominican Republic (ONAPI), St. Kitts and Nevis (IPOSKN), Saint Lucia (ROCIP), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (CIPO), and Trinidad and Tobago (TTIPO) have joined and are using TMClass, while others are expected to join soon.

In October the CARIFORUM- United Kingdom Economic Partnership Agreement's (EPA) Trade and Development Committee held its first meeting via videoconference, with the two parties noting with satisfaction, that the EPA had secured continuity of a trading relationship with £2.9 billion in 2020.

The CARIFORUM Council of Ministers. in November publicly stated the Region's concerns with 'findings' of a study commissioned by the European Commission, titled the "Ex-post Evaluation of the EPA between the EU and its Member States and the CARIFORUM Member States".

The Council in its Statement said, while the Report claimed that the evaluation was to determine the extent to which the CARIFORUM-EU-EPA had been implemented, and that it reflected equally, the state of implementation by both CARIFORUM and the EU, in reality, the analysis used was not equally robust for both parties, resulting in glaring weaknesses in the evaluation itself.

The Council said the evaluation showed scant regard for CARIFORUM's concerns, including those regarding procedural and regulatory barriers to the EU market, such as the EU visa requirements, which continue to impact effective mode 4 access to the EU market, especially for cultural and professional services.





SECTION X

OPERATIONS OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT *PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGAN*

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 CCJ; and supporting the work of the Organs and Bodies of the Community. In the process, the Secretariat works collaboratively with Member States (at the governmental and sectoral levels), Community Institutions, and development partners.

The Secretariat's Work Programme for 2021 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.

NEW CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL

New CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr Carla Barnett, took up Office on 16 August, pledging to serve to the best of her ability and rallying the entire Caribbean Community to help find solutions to the challenges confronting the Region. In a brief virtual ceremony anchored at the Secretariat, Dr Barnett, an economist, created history, becoming the first female and the first Belizean to be installed as Secretary-General of CARICOM.



New Secretary-General
Dr Carla Barnett
on her first day in office

Stating she had no misapprehensions about the severity of the Region's challenges, the Secretary-General identified the thrust to build resilience against the existential threat of climate change and recovery from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as key areas demanding continued, focused energy.

She also highlighted youth unemployment, a troubling rise in crime, strengthening food security and effectively addressing blacklisting and correspondent banking as some of the other challenges affecting lives and livelihoods in the Community. She also drew attention to the need to close the implementation gap, and to reach out on a regular basis to all stakeholders 'to explain, to exhort, to inform, to educate so that all will feel a part of the whole that constitutes CARICOM.



CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda addresses the welcome ceremony for the new Secretary-General

CARICOM Chair, Prime Minister Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, welcomed the new Secretary-General and noted that her previous experience as Deputy Secretary-General placed her in a position to 'hit the ground running'.

OUTGOING SECRETARY-GENERAL



Outgoing CARICOM Secretary-General
Ambassador Irwin LaRocque

Outgoing Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque demitted office on 15 August and Prime Minister Browne and new Secretary-General Barnett led the tributes. Prime Minister Browne lauded his unflappable spirit and quiet tenacity which he said served the Region well ‘especially most recently in the COVID times when some decision makers succumbed to panic and indecision. Dr Barnett thanked him for his devotion to the task of making integration work for the benefit of the people of the Community and said she was certain the Community would find an appropriate way to honour his contribution.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

A new Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Armstrong Alexis of Saint Lucia, took up Office from 1 November. Dr Alexis was previously at the UNDP where he served in the Caribbean, the Pacific and Africa rising to the level of Deputy Resident Representative in Namibia. He also served with the Commonwealth Secretariat and at a high level in the public service of his native Saint Lucia.



New CARICOM Deputy-Secretary-General

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT CHANGES



Ambassador Wayne McCook

Ambassador Donna Forde

In December, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of two new Members of the Secretariat’s Executive Management Committee. They are Ambassador Donna Forde, a national of Barbados, who will replace Ambassador Colin Granderson as Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations, in February next year, and Ambassador Wayne McCook, a national of Jamaica, who will replace Ambassador Gail Mathurin as Director-General of the Office of Trade Negotiations, in January.

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

In August the out-going Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque joined the Prime Minister of Guyana Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips for a sod turning ceremony for an official residence for the CARICOM Secretary-General in Georgetown Guyana.



Outgoing CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin La Rocque (left) and Prime Minister of Guyana Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at sod turning ceremony

COVID-19 MEASURES

In October, the Secretariat instituted measures with respect to access to its offices across the Region in order to provide a safe working environment for its staff, in keeping with the COVID-19 restrictions. The measures included proof of vaccination for staff members and all persons seeking to enter the Secretariat's offices to do business. Staff members and members of the public who were not vaccinated required a PCR test no older than seven days to enter the offices.

Staff at the Secretariat benefitted from the provision of 100 early doses of AstraZeneca vaccine provided by the Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon Mia Mottley, in February. Barbados also made donations to Guyana and other CARICOM neighbours from its supply of 100,000 doses received from India while Dominica which received 70,000 also shared with Eastern Caribbean territories, which demonstrated 'the strong solidarity that existed within CARICOM'. The Ministry of Health in Guyana provided the vaccination services for the Secretariat Staff.

Throughout the year, Staff were provided with weekly information tips aimed at promoting safety protocols at the workplace and their other areas of operation



Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque thanked the Barbados Prime Minister for the early provision of Covid-19 vaccines to Secretariat Staff in February



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (HRM)

Work continued on development of an enhanced Performance Management System. It is anticipated that assessment of Staff under the revised system will begin in the new year, after training in the new measures have been completed.

SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

Work resumed this year on the Solar Energy project at the Secretariat following its suspension last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project, which is to become operational next year, is expected to provide the Secretariat with all of its energy from solar-based sources on a majority of operating days. The work undertaken this year involved mounting more than 1500 solar panels, setting up servers and batteries, building a car port, installing panels and other equipment in the building, and allotting space for educational/recreational activities. CARICOM Secretariat technical and information technology staff members were also trained in the use of the equipment and system.



The 400-kw solar photovoltaic power generation system is being funded by a US\$17.8M grant agreement between the Governments of Guyana and Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

CONFERENCE SERVICES

During the year, the Secretariat continued to support the process of consultation and decision-making within CARICOM through the provision of conference services for Community meetings including preparation and dissemination of documentation, meeting administration and logistics, rapporteurial support as well as unofficial translations for short documents. Approximately 115 meetings were serviced in 2020.

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, and will provide Member States with access to meeting documentation and other administrative information.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

The Secretariat continued to support its staff working from home by providing secure remote access to office-based network resources and productivity software through its cloud service platforms. Virtual meetings and events continued to play a major part in the operations of the organization, and security was strengthened for the videoconferencing systems.

Technical support was expanded for the enterprise software applications, especially the Finance and HR systems, to allow electronic bank transfers and online recruiting. The development of the Secretariat's new Intranet platform commenced and will facilitate sharing and management of content and knowledge to boost teamwork and collaboration across the organization.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The pandemic, which resulted in work from home arrangements, staff rotation, challenges in accessing requested information and restrictions on travel, affected the delivery of audit services during the year as only seventy-one per cent of planned activities were completed.

During the year, a successor external auditor was appointed and commenced a five-year term with the audit of the Secretariat's Financial Statements for the year 31 December 2021.



Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett switches on the Christmas Tree light

EXHIBITIONS AND TOURS

During the year the Secretariat mounted a reduced number of house exhibitions highlighting issues and milestones. These included information about reparations, Girls In ICT, International Women's Day and CARICOM Day. School tours were suspended during the year due to the pandemic.



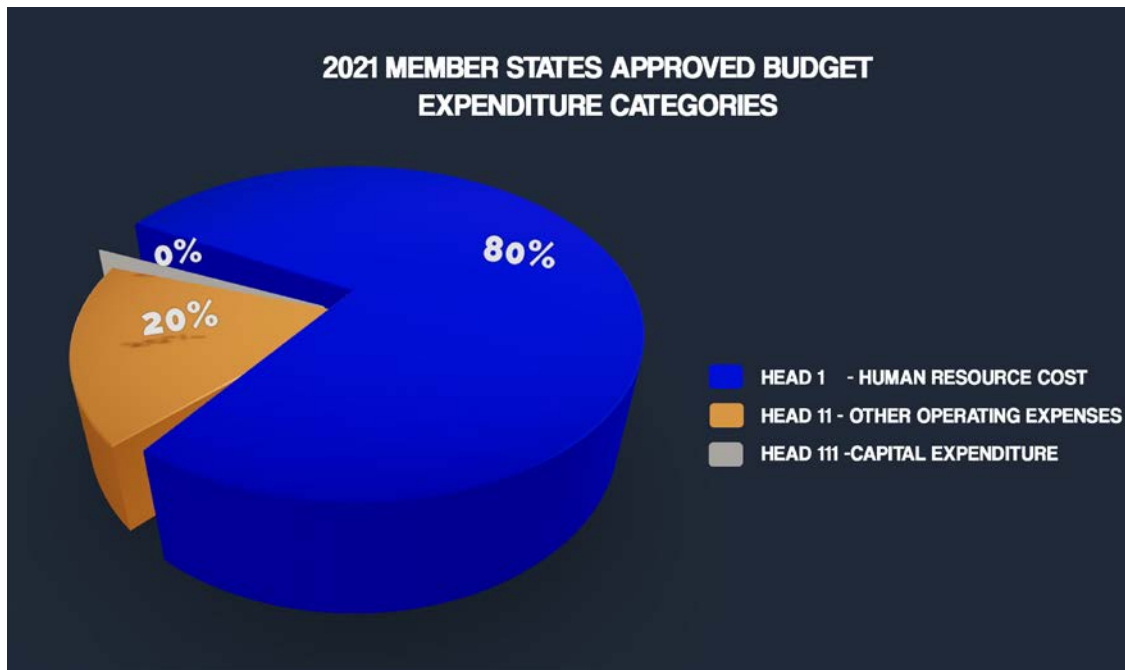
Staff group performing at the ceremony

FINANCE AND BUDGET

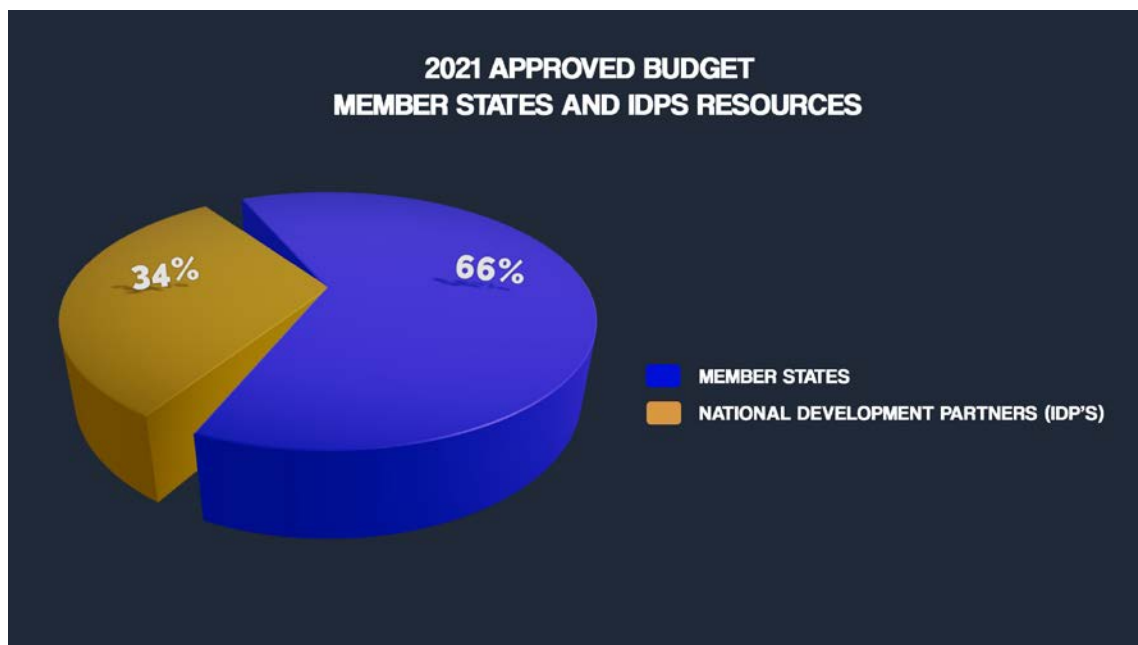
In 2021, the Community Council approved a Budget of EC\$56,502,329 for the CARICOM Secretariat funded by Member States contributions as set out below:

EC Dollars

	HQ	HQ	OTN	OTN	TOTAL
	2021	%	2021	%	2021
MEMBER STATES	EC\$		EC\$		EC\$
Anguilla	83,121	0.16	-		83,121
Antigua & Barbuda	1,028,617	1.98	96,957	2.13	1,125,574
Barbados	3,636,524	7.00	318,639	7.00	3,955,163
Belize	1,293,563	2.49	121,925	2.68	1,415,557
Bermuda	519,503	1.00	-	-	519,503
British Virgin Islands	316,897	0.61	-	-	316,897
Cayman Islands	519,503	1.00	-	-	519,503
Dominica	410,408	0.79	38,259	0.84	448,645
Grenada	742,890	1.43	70,060	1.54	812,990
Guyana	3,636,524	7.00	318,639	7.00	3,955,163
Haiti	3,117,020	6.00	273,119	6.00	3,390,140
Jamaica	10,416,043	20.05	980,534	21.54	11,396,541
Montserrat	46,755	0.09	-	-	46,755
Saint Kitts & Nevis	685,744	1.32	64,229	1.41	749,928
Saint Lucia	1,262,393	2.43	119,048	2.62	1,381,655
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	571,454	1.10	53,845	1.18	625,167
Suriname	3,636,523	7.00	318,639	7.00	3,955,163
The Bahamas	6,800,299	13.09	640,101	14.06	7,440,309
Trinidad & Tobago	12,987,585	25.00	1,137,997	25.00	14,125,582
Turks & Caicos Islands	238,972	0.46	-	-	238,972
TOTAL	51,950,338	100.00	4,551,991	100.00	56,502,329



The Secretariat also received other income of EC\$754,454 (such as from management fees on projects funded by development partners, interests, and gains from the disposal of assets). Additionally, the Secretariat received EC\$10,415,828 (US\$3,833,718) from development partners.



Actual expenditure of Member States' resources was EC\$47,946,304.

The table below provides a summary of expenditure funded from Member States' contributions for the year 2021:

Expenditure Categories	2021	
	Approved Budget - EC\$	Actual Expenditure - EC\$
Head I - Human Resource Costs	45,109,752	37,806,602
Head II - Other Operating Expenses	11,190,426	9,977,589
Head III - Capital Expenditure	202,151	162,113
Total	56,502,329	47,946,304

With respect to funding from IDPs, the sum of EC\$12,665,388 (US\$4,661,705) was expended.

The Secretariat received an unqualified opinion on its Financial Statements for 2021 from the External Auditors.





SECTION XI

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - 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 including the Establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) 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 Entrustments 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 the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).

The Republic of Haiti was formally accepted as the fifteenth Member State of CARICOM in July 2002 and became a party to the Revised Treaty in 2008. Haiti has partly implemented the trade regime and efforts continue to fully integrate that country into the CSME arrangements.

The Community has the following objectives as set out in Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, signed in July 2001:

- 
- 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. 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;
 - 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; and
 - (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'; and
- 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; and
- 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.

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

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 the Heads of Government in October 1992. It came into operation in December 1992.

The responsibilities of the Bureau are to:

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

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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; and
- 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 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; and
- 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, 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 matter
- 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; and
- The Committee of Central Bank Governors, comprising the Governors or Heads of the Central Banks or their nominees and responsible for making 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 Ambassadors of Member States accredited to CARICOM, serves as the nexus between national/Member States needs and the regional agenda and, in so doing, works closely with the Organs and Bodies of the Community, the CARICOM Secretariat and Community 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 of the Community. He/She is appointed by the Conference of Heads of Government. The Secretary-General serves a five-year term of office. In 2016, in the context of the ongoing reform process, the Conference agreed that there would be a limit of two terms for the Secretaries-General.

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 is supported by an Executive Management Team within the CARICOM Secretariat comprising 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 (ACP) States (CARIFORUM) - the grouping comprising the independent CARICOM Member States, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Information about CARIFORUM is provided at Appendix II. The current Secretary-General is Dr Carla Barnett, a national of Belize. Dr Barnett assumed the Office of Secretary-General in August 2021.

Past Secretaries-General of CARICOM

NAME	PERIOD OF SERVICE	NATIONALITY
<i>Amb. Irwin LaRocque</i>	14 Aug 2011-2021	<i>Dominica</i>
<i>Amb. Lolita Applewhaite</i> (Acting in Position)	1 Jan-14 Aug 2011	<i>Barbados</i>
<i>Hon. Sir Edwin W. Carrington, OCC</i>	1992-2010	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>
<i>Mr Roderick Rainford</i>	1983-1992	<i>Jamaica</i>
<i>Dr Kurleigh King</i>	1979-1983	<i>Barbados</i>
<i>Mr Joseph Tyndall</i> (Acting in Position)	1977-1978	<i>Guyana</i>
<i>Hon. Sir Alister McIntyre, OCC</i>	1974-1977	<i>Grenada</i>
<i>Hon. William G. Demas, OCC</i>	1973-1974	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>

Mr. Fred Cozier, a national of Barbados, was Secretary-General of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), the predecessor 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.

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;
- (e) Assist Community Organs in the development and implementation of proposals and programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;
- (f) 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;
- (g) Prepare the draft budget of the Community for examination by the Budget Committee;
- (h) Provide, on request, technical assistance to national authorities to facilitate implementation of Community decisions;
- (i) Conduct, as mandated, fact-finding missions to Member States; and
- (j) 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; and
- Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations

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

Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)

<https://cahfsa.org/>

As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

<http://www.cardi.org/>

As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty

Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)

<https://www.caricad.net/>

As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty

Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

<https://www.carpha.org/>

As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)

Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS)

<http://cassos.org/>

As per Decision of the Twenty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2008, Antigua and Barbuda)

CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC)

<http://www.caricomcompetitioncommission.com/>

As per Articles 171-174 of the Revised Treaty

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

<http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/>

As per Decision of the Thirteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (February 2002, Belize)

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

<https://www.cdema.org/>

As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty (Formerly CDERA)

CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

<https://www.caricomimpacs.org/>

As per Decision of the Twenty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2005, Saint Lucia)

CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)

<https://caricomdevelopmentfund.org/>

As per Article 158 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement Relating to the Operations of the CDF signed in July 2008

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)

<http://www.cimh.edu.bb/>

As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty (Formerly CMI)

Caribbean Knowledge Learning Network Agency (CKLNA)

www.ckln.org

As per Decision of the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2010, Dominica)

Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO)

<http://www.cmo.org.tt/>

As per Article 21 of the Revised Treaty

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

<http://crfm.net/>

As per Decision of the Twenty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2003, Jamaica)

CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

<https://website.crosq.org/>

As per Article 67 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement Establishing CROSQ

Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

<https://www.ctu.int/>

Formalised by Decision of the Thirty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2013, Trinidad and Tobago)

Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)

<https://www.cxc.org/>

Formalised by Decision of the Twentieth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (March 2009, Belize)

Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)

<https://www.ccj.org/>

Pursuant to Article 211 of the Revised Treaty and the Agreement establishing the CCJ.

ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

<https://www.caribank.org/>

As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.

Caribbean Law Institute/Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLI/CLIC)

<https://caricom.org/institutions/caribbean-law-institute-cli-caribbean-law-institute-centre-clic/>

As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission

<https://www.oecs.org/>

As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.

With the signature of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in June 2010 at the 51st Meeting of the OECS Authority, the OECS Secretariat was redesignated the OECS Commission. The Revised Treaty of Basseterre entered into force in January 2011.

University of the West Indies (UWI)

<http://www.uwi.edu/index.asp>

As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.

University of Guyana (UG)

<https://www.uog.edu.gy/>

As per Article 22 of the Revised Treaty.

THE COMMUNITY ALSO HAS A FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION:

Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)

<https://www.carib-export.com/>

Council of Legal Education (CLE)

<http://www.clecaribbean.com/>

Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)

<https://www.onecaribbean.org/>

APPENDIX II – ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
BREXIT	Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CAHFA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARDI	Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute
CARIBBEAN EXPORT	Caribbean Export Development Agency
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARICOM IMPACS	CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CARIFESTA	Caribbean Festival of Arts
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CASSOS	Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System
CBSI	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
CBU	Caribbean Broadcasting Union
CCA	CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCC	CARICOM Competition Commission
CCH	Caribbean Cooperation in Health
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDF	CARICOM Development Fund
CEM	CARICOM Energy Month

CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CLE	Council of Legal Education
CLI/CLIC	Caribbean Law Institute/Caribbean Law Institute Centre
CMO	Caribbean Meteorological Organisation
COFCOR	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
COFAP	Council for Finance and Planning
COHSOD	Council for Human and Social Development
CONSLE	Council for National Security and Law Enforcement
COP	(United Nations) Conference of the Parties
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRC	CARICOM Reparations Commission
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CRIP	Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
C-SERMS	Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CTU	Caribbean Telecommunications Union
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council
CYA	CARICOM Youth Ambassador
CYAP	CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme
CYDAP	CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan
EDF	European Development Fund
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LAC	Legal Affairs Committee

MASA	Multilateral Air Services Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
OAS	Organisation of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation
PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS
PMSC	Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee
RBM	Results-based Management
RSS	Regional Security System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TCI	Turks and Caicos Islands
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UG	University of Guyana
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation



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