



Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development
Georgetown, Guyana, 24 to 26 July

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and Rationale

The Lisbon Declaration was a landmark statement of the international community's commitment to youth policy and programming. Since its adoption, youth programming in the Caribbean has been coordinated first through the CARICOM Regional Strategy for Youth Development (2001-2009) and subsequently the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2012 – 2022). Just as important as this intergovernmental collaboration has been the establishment and growth of youth representative organizations and networks such as the Caribbean regional and national youth councils, CARICOM youth ambassadors and the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) youth advocates.

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in 2013, is the regional agreement on the further implementation of the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994). It addresses youth issues, population ageing, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health; international migration and more. A regional review of the Montevideo Consensus will be carried out at the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean taking place in Peru from 7-9 August 2018. This review is being led by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with the support of UNFPA and will contribute to a global review of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development both address development challenges which continue to be highly relevant to Caribbean countries. In light of this, the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) with the collaboration of the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps (CYAs), the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and the University of the West Indies' Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (UWI STAT) are convening a Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development to take stock of the progress which has been achieved, and to chart the way forward. In addition, the Caribbean forum will seek to promote greater attention to the concerns of youth, and youth participation, within wider development frameworks, specifically the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development will explore synergies between these two important processes in the subregion. It will provide a timely opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of youth policies and programmes within the framework of the Lisbon Declaration and other youth agreements in the Caribbean, including the World Programme of Action on Youth and the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan (2012-2022). The participation of a wide range of stakeholders will serve to ensure that the regional agenda for youth development programming is cohesive and inclusive, and that programmatic objectives are agreed with the full and effective participation of Caribbean youth. To achieve this, web conferences called "youth dialogues" involving more than 50 youth representatives have already been held. These dialogue sessions, facilitated by ECLAC, were designed to elicit innovative ideas from

Caribbean youth representatives to inform the review of national youth policies and related frameworks, and youth participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Caribbean forum will also review the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean. This review will address a wider range of population issues, while continuing to pay particular attention to the way in which issues such as sexual and reproductive health and migration are relevant to young people. In this way, the forum will serve to prepare Caribbean member States for their participation in the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Objectives

The Caribbean forum will contribute to creating synergies between youth policies and broader development frameworks, including the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the SAMOA Pathway, the SDGs as well as sectoral plans at national level. It will give young people an opportunity to engage directly with public policy making and put youth perspectives at the centre of the social policy dialogue. Meeting participants will identify actions to ensure greater attention to youth issues, and youth participation, in sectoral policies and international development frameworks.

Background Documents

There will be two background documents for the meeting, prepared by ECLAC:

- Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes;
- Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: a review of the period 2013 – 2018.

Expected outputs

The Caribbean forum will identify actions to promote greater attention to youth, and youth participation, within the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of two important development frameworks: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In respect of the SDGs, it will afford the multiple stakeholders involved in supporting the planning, implementation and monitoring of youth-related SDGs in the Caribbean with an opportunity to design a Caribbean Youth Platform for the SDGs, in order to support member States and youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Meeting participants will also identify actions to further the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in the Caribbean with a particular focus on the way in which population and development issues impact upon youth. The recommendations from the Caribbean forum will be presented at the Third Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and will guide the further implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

Participation

The Caribbean forum will bring together senior government officials from the Caribbean in the areas of population, youth and development, representatives of Caribbean youth, international organisations, civil society and academia.