

Subregional Action Plan for the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** in the Caribbean

Prioritizing subregional challenges
and opportunities

2016-2036



MINURVI

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Subregional Action Plan for the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** in the Caribbean

Prioritizing subregional challenges
and opportunities

2016-2036



This document was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), within the framework of collaboration for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and the preparation of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The process was coordinated by the Human Settlements Unit of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), led by Ricardo Jordán, Katherine Indvik, Lucy Winchester and Sophie Devine, in cooperation with ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, led by Diane Quarless with the support of Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Omar Bello, and Michael Hendrickson, and with the collaboration of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) of UN-Habitat, represented by Elkin Velásquez, with the support of Sergio Blanco and Sohel Rana of UN-Habitat.

The authors are grateful to the following members of the Caribbean Working Group and other individuals who have provided support and feedback throughout the process of document development:

Derek Alleyne, Urban Development Commission; Terry Bascombe, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development (Barbados); Clement Behzair, Housing and Public Buildings Construction Unit, Haiti; Darrel Bradley, Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA); Mark Cummins, Town and Country Development Planning Office, Barbados; Montgomery Daniel, Ministry of Housing, Land and Surveys, Physical Planning and Informal Human Settlement, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Michael Donovan, Inter-American Development Bank; Clifton Forde, Town and Country Development Planning Office, Barbados; Sharon Griffith, Caribbean Development Bank; Kelly Hunte, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development (Barbados); Nicole Johnson, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development (Barbados); Alies Jordan, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development (Barbados); Dennis Kellman, Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development (Barbados); Michelle Mycoo, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; Paula Parkes, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica; Tracy Polius, Department of Housing, Urban Renewal and Telecommunications, Saint Lucia; Robin Rajack, Inter-American Development Bank; Samuel Carlos Rodiles Planas, Instituto de Planificación Física, Cuba; Frank Téllez Alonso, Instituto de Planificación Física, Cuba; Carolyn Trench Sandiford, Caribbean Planners Association.

The coordinating team expresses special gratitude to Asad Mohammed of the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) and the University of the West Indies for his commitment and contributions to the preparation of this document.

This working document is intended for presentation, discussion and dissemination during the Cities Conference, to be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago in October 2017.

The views expressed in this document, which has been reproduced without formal editing, are the sole responsibility of the authors and may not coincide with those of the Organization.

United Nations publication
LC/TS.2017/78
Distribution: Limited
Copyright © United Nations, October 2017. All rights reserved
Printed at United Nations, Santiago
S.17-00845

Applications for authorization to reproduce this work in whole or in part should be sent to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Publications and Web Services Division, publicaciones@cepal.org. Member States and their governmental institutions may reproduce this work without prior authorization, but are requested to mention the source and to inform ECLAC of such reproduction.

Contents

A. Introduction.....	5
I. The New Urban Agenda and the Global Action Framework for Implementation	5
II. The Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean	6
III. Subregional Action Plans for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda	6
IV. The Subregional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean	7
B. A Strategic Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean	9
I. Relevant global, regional and subregional goals and agendas	9
II. A subregional vision for sustainable development	10
III. Guiding principles and key strategic outcomes for the Regional Action Plan and the Subregional Action Plan	11
1. Guiding principles of the Regional Action Plan and Caribbean priorities	11
2. A guiding principle for the Subregional Action Plan	11
3. Guiding Principle 5: Resilient communities, cities and territories	12
C. Caribbean Priorities for Sustainable Urban Development	13
I. National Urban Policies	13
II. Urban legal frameworks	14
III. Urban and territorial planning and design.....	15
IV. Financing urbanization	16
V. Local implementation	16
VI. Monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms.....	17

D. Caribbean-specific objectives and priorities for implementation of the New Urban Agenda	19
I. Action Area 1: National Urban Policies	20
II. Action Area 2: Urban legal framework:	21
III. Action Area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design	22
IV. Action Area 4: Financing urbanization	23
V. Action Area 5: Local implementation.....	24
VI. Action Area 6: Monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms	25
E. Framework for implementation, monitoring and assessment	27
Bibliography	29
Annexes	31
Annex 1 Caribbean member countries	32
Annex 2 The Caribbean Urban Agenda	33
Annex 3 Caribbean Country Strategies	34

A. Introduction

I. The New Urban Agenda and the Global Action Framework for Implementation

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, took place in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016. The third in the Habitat series, it aimed to strengthen global commitments for sustainable urban development. The conference focused on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the new mandate for the development of cities and human settlements over the next 20 years. The main outcome of Habitat III was the official adoption of the final NUA document by member states of the United Nations.

The New Urban Agenda is comprised of 175 paragraphs and seeks to guide sustainable urban development over the next 20 years. The NUA contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly but not limited to Goal 11 of creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

The Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA), prepared by UN-Habitat and adopted in April of 2017, defines five categories of actions to support NUA implementation:

1. National Urban Policies
2. Urban legal frameworks
3. Urban planning and design
4. Urban economies
5. Local implementation

The Framework seeks to “outline the basic ingredients for the implementation of the NUA, who should lead each, how they might be measured and how they link to the provisions of the NUA” (AFINUA, 2017). The document defines key items for action within each of the five categories and establishes core principles and values related to inclusion, innovation and integration, making explicit links to the Sustainable Development Goals and the indicators already developed to evaluate progress toward implementation.

The Action Framework, therefore, represents an important step toward implementation of the New Urban Agenda around the globe. Nevertheless, the adaptation of these contents to regional and subregional realities is required in order to ensure successful implementation processes within national and subnational contexts.

II. The Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAP) seeks to be the regional expression of the New Urban Agenda, setting out potential actions and interventions as well as relevant and priority policy guidance for all Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in order to achieve sustainable urban development. The RAP seeks to leverage the key role of cities and human settlements as drivers of sustainable development in an increasingly urbanized world, and to foster cooperation and closer ties among member countries of the Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI). As a results-based document, the Plan serves as the key regional policy framework and governance tool for implementing the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and for achieving sustainable urbanization and inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, by providing a platform to propose and support relevant interventions and policies for countries throughout the region.

The RAP is a plan for governments and diverse urban actors in the region, created jointly by members of civil society, the private sector and governments at all levels. The Plan integrates the five key categories defined by the global Action Framework and proposes the inclusion of a sixth area of particular relevance and priority for the LAC region:

6. Monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms

For each action area, the Regional Action Plan establishes a set of the elements required for advancing regional implementation of the international commitments expressed in the New Urban Agenda, identifying measures for implementation at multiple levels. The Regional Action Plan serves as a starting point for a region-wide discussion of options for empowering cities and human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean towards a better future and the necessary actions and roles and responsibilities required by a diverse group of multisector and multilevel actors in order to meet the challenges of sustainable urban development in the region. The document seeks to maintain relevance for the entire LAC region, recognizing that specific priorities for action will vary between each LAC territory and scale of intervention.

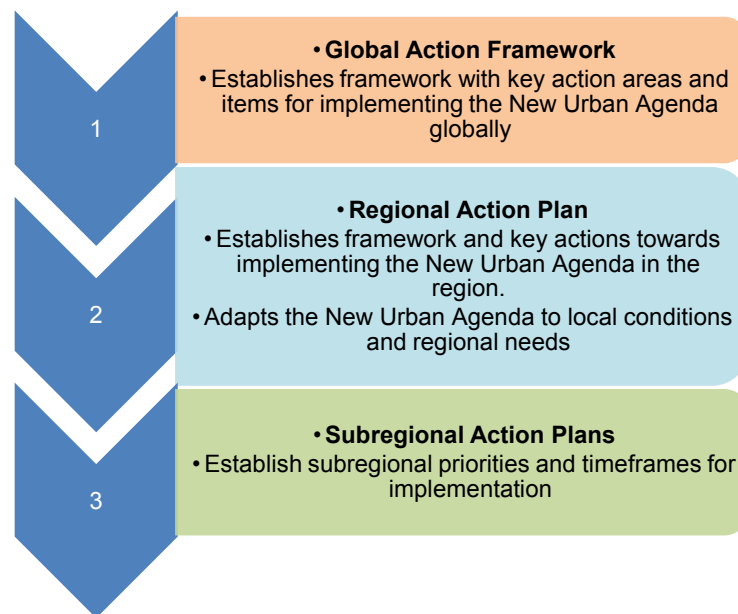
III. Subregional Action Plans for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

In this context, the development of subregional action plans represents an important step in addressing the challenges and opportunities specific to each subregional reality. Subregional Action Plans adapt global commitments and the contents proposed by the Regional Action Plan to each subregional context (in the case of LAC: Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, and South America). These plans perform a critical review and analysis of the contents of the Regional Action Plan, identifying key factors for sustainable development and for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda within each subregion, and seeking to deliver a useful and contextually relevant planning tool to national and subnational governments. Subregional action plans establish priorities for action within the framework

of the Regional Action Plan, outlining key objectives for implementation within the subregion and guiding the identification of relevant actors and their roles.

In this way, subregional action plans seek to provide concrete guidance to orient and coordinate national and subnational planning instruments (including National Action Plans and city development strategies and plans) by establishing priorities for intervention and, eventually, specific timelines for action. These plans therefore seek to integrate national and subnational goals, commitments, deadlines, and public policy within the framework of the New Urban Agenda in order to facilitate alignment with international agendas and maximize support and cooperation for national and subnational development processes within the subregion.

Figure 1.
Framework of action of implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the global, regional and subregional levels



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

IV. The Subregional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean

The Subregional Action Plan (Sub-RAP) for the Caribbean acknowledges that “global approaches have not been suitably adapted to Caribbean realities and do not address critical issues and governance approaches specific to the region” (Verrest et al., 2011). The development of the Sub-RAP responds to a combination of factors, including historic requests for specific attention to the Caribbean subregion, relevant policy and technical advances (including the drafting of a Caribbean Urban Agenda), recognition by MINURVI, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) throughout the preparatory process and negotiations during Habitat III of the need for Caribbean-specific support for urban development planning from UN agencies. Specifically, the need for a Subregional Action Plan for the Caribbean emerged from a mandate of the MINURVI General Assembly in 2016. ECLAC responded to MINURVI’s mandate by establishing a working group of multisectoral Caribbean urban sector

experts (the Caribbean Working Group, or CWG) and coordinating a series of discussions and activities to collect input and develop the contents of the present document.

The Sub-RAP builds upon the base structure defined by the AFINUA and the RAP, and proposes the integration of Caribbean-specific elements and prioritizations in order to provide a useful tool for orienting national and subnational sustainable urban development within the subregion. Specifically, the Sub-RAP proposes a Caribbean-specific guiding principle relating to resilience building in the face of climate change and other subregional vulnerabilities, defines a Caribbean-specific objective for each action area and the necessary components required to achieve these goals, and establishes a prioritization of the objectives presented by the Regional Action Plan based on territorial context.

In the long-term, the Subregional Action Plan seeks to support the mobilization and direction of national and global resources and attention to specific priorities for sustainable development within the Caribbean.

B. A Strategic Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean

I. Relevant global, regional and subregional goals and agendas

The Regional Action Plan seeks to be a key strategic and reference policy framework and governance tool for promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, steering national and subnational development. It is intended as a regional guide, both adaptable to local conditions and needs and capable of building synergies with existing global agreements and agendas, including: the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway).

In this same way, the Subregional Action Plan proposes a structure for approaching Caribbean NUA implementation, taking into account progress to date in terms of Caribbean urban development and planning as well as national and subregional agendas and agreements for sustainable development. Multiple programs, projects and agencies in addition to national, municipal and regional policies together determine a set of critical urban issues for the Caribbean.

The 1994 Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) affirmed the guiding principles and commitments of the Caribbean subregion to working toward sustainable development, as defined by the Agenda 21, and outlined specific policies, actions and measures for implementation at the national, regional and international levels. In this sense, the BPOA established the foundation for future instruments, including the SAMOA Pathway outcome document adopted in 2014.

Caribbean countries and Small Island Developing States outside the region have increasingly worked to share best practices for responding to urban challenges in the context of extreme vulnerabilities to natural disasters, given the multiple social, economic and environmental characteristics common to these territories. The Pacific Urban Agenda defines four priorities for

action: social equity, comprehensive addressing of environment, resilience and urbanization, harnessing of urban economy, and strengthening of urban governance.

The Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF) has been held annually since 2011 and brings together relevant policy makers, academics, municipal managers and other urban professionals to provide a space for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and training (Mohammed & Polar, 2016). The Caribbean Urban Agenda (CUA, see Annex 2) represents the result of consultation with multiple subregional actors regarding development priorities and defines five “higher priorities”: local economic development and poverty alleviation, enabling mechanisms for government and professionals, governance, informal sector, natural hazards and disaster management, and four “lower priorities”: physical human security, physical living conditions, inequality, climate change (contribution to), while recognizing vulnerability to climate change and sustainable planning as cross-cutting issues. The establishment of the annual Caribbean Urban Forum and the creation of the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) have increased dialogue and exchange throughout the subregion on urban issues.

In the context of preparations for Habitat III, ECLAC prepared a Regional Report on Latin America and the Caribbean; in December 2015, an expert group meeting was held in Bridgetown, Barbados to collect subregional specific contributions to this report. National Habitat Reports, presented by several Caribbean countries in the framework of Habitat III, also outline key challenges and ongoing initiatives relating to governance, housing, urban planning and disaster risk reduction within each territory. On 7-8 March 2017, a Regional Urban Policy Stakeholders Workshop was hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in Barbados to discuss and advance in the definition of urban policy for the Caribbean. The 2017 Caribbean Urban Forum was held in Belize City during May and included a plenary discussion focused on the opportunities and challenges for NUA implementation within the subregion, where multisectoral stakeholders reaffirmed the commitments to achieving sustainable development in the subregion. During the MINURVI General Assembly of June 2017, a meeting of Caribbean ministers fostered further discussion on Caribbean priorities for sustainable urban development. The discussions and exchanges during each of these events served to orient and inform the preparation of the present document.

II. A subregional vision for sustainable development

The New Urban Agenda establishes “a shared vision of cities for all” and describes social, economic and environmental functions of the city as well as issues of democratic governance. The Regional Action Plan establishes the following vision for sustainable development in LAC:

Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements of Latin America and the Caribbean, created for and by their inhabitants and ensuring equal rights, opportunities, prosperity and quality of life for all while maintaining a sustainable relationship with their environment and cultural and natural heritage.

The Subregional Action Plan proposes the following adaptation of this vision in order to address Caribbean priorities:

Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, **territories and island systems**, created for and by their inhabitants and ensuring **sustainable growth**, equal rights, opportunities, quality of life and prosperity for all, while maintaining sustainable **urban-rural linkages** and the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and **reducing vulnerabilities to climate change and natural and other disasters**.

III. Guiding principles and key strategic outcomes for the Regional Action Plan and the Subregional Action Plan

1. Guiding principles of the Regional Action Plan and Caribbean priorities

The strategic framework of the Regional Action Plan establishes four guiding principles. The first three of these (inclusive cities, sustainable and inclusive urban economies, and urban environmental sustainability) are adopted from the New Urban Agenda and adapted to reflect the conditions and explicit objectives of the LAC region. The fourth principle (effective and democratic governance) is included as a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development in the LAC region. Table 1 identifies Caribbean priorities related to each of the RAP's guiding principles.

Table 1
Regional guiding principles and Caribbean priorities

Guiding principles of the Regional Action Plan	Caribbean priorities
<p>Principle 1: Inclusive cities Cities and human settlements that leave no one behind; are free of poverty and inequality in all its forms and dimensions; that eliminate socio-spatial segregation and exclusion; and that guarantee equality of rights, opportunities and safe and inclusive access to the city.</p>	<p>Fulfillment of the rights of all by addressing poverty gaps, basic urban infrastructure and open space security.</p> <p>Social inclusion to promote access to opportunities for quality political, economic, and social participation.</p>
<p>Principle 2: Sustainable and inclusive urban economies Well-planned and financed urbanization processes that ensure decent work and equal access to opportunities and resources for all inhabitants; the social function of land in the regulation and production of the city; and the positive contribution of urban economies to national development.</p>	<p>Sustainable expansion of tourism and related industries with attention to cultural values and traditions to ensure social and economic resilience.</p>
<p>Principle 3: Urban environmental sustainability Planning processes, urban development patterns and urbanization that promote the protection, and the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystems and their services, increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters.</p>	<p>Planning processes that address and ameliorate the high percentage of low density, coastal and informal development in Caribbean human settlements; reduced vulnerability to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.</p>
<p>Principle 4: Effective and democratic governance Inclusive and transparent decision-making processes and public policies, capable of responding to the challenges facing territories and guaranteeing the fulfillment of the rights of all in the city.</p>	<p>Effective government and citizen response in the face of security challenges to ensure the universal exercise of fundamental rights.</p> <p>Increased confidence in public systems and increased sense of belonging and shared ownership and responsibility for the city and territory.</p>

Source: ECLAC based on the New Urban Agenda and the AFINUA.

2. A guiding principle for the Subregional Action Plan

The Latin American and Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to extreme events, and the vulnerability of cities and countries depends on a combination of physical, environmental, social, economic, demographic, cultural, institutional and governance factors that are site-specific. Within the LAC region, losses resulting from environmental disasters are concentrated within cities and

exacerbated by socio-spatial inequalities and inadequate urban planning and development (UN-Habitat, 2012). Caribbean territories face particular vulnerability to natural disasters, and climate change will continue to increase the frequency and intensity of these events. While Caribbean greenhouse gas emissions represent less than one percent of global emissions, projections indicate that Caribbean islands and territories will be the first and most impacted by climate change (Donovan & McHardy, 2016). Caribbean human populations and assets are some of the most highly exposed to natural disasters on the planet (Sanchez-Reaza et al., 2013), with all six Eastern Caribbean states ranking among the ten most disaster prone countries in the world (Rasmussen, 2006). Projections for future events and their impacts have intense economic, social and environmental implications.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)'s Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2011-2021) defines strategic elements related to: 1) mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies into the sustainable development agendas of CARICOM states; 2) promoting the implementation of specific adaptation measures to address key vulnerabilities in the region; 3) promoting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through fossil fuel reduction and conservation, and switching to renewable and cleaner energy sources; 4) encouraging action to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems in CARICOM countries to the impacts of a changing climate; and 5) promoting action to derive social, economic, and environmental benefits through the prudent management of standing forests in CARICOM countries.

Within this context of vulnerability to climate and other stressors and recognizing the relevance of climate change and natural disasters to sustainable development processes within the Caribbean subregion, a fifth guiding principle is proposed for the Subregional Action Plan.

3. Guiding Principle 5: Resilient communities, cities and territories

Resilient communities, cities and territories: Caribbean communities, cities, and territories that minimize vulnerability and disaster risk, respond effectively and efficiently in the face of natural hazards and climate change, and achieve resilient social and economic development for all.

Strategic outcomes:

- Comprehensive and relevant understanding of disaster risk and climate change impacts, with open exchange of data and information to inform decision-making.
- Shared responsibilities for disaster risk reduction and response between relevant authorities, sectors and stakeholders, with effective coordination mechanisms.
- Disaster risk management policies, programs and plans oriented toward safeguarding human lives, rights and quality of life, including health, property, livelihood, and cultural and environmental heritage and resources.
- New development and retrofitting of existing development for sustainable management of ecosystems and their services.
- Promotion of context-specific, relevant and appropriate adaptation measures, including retreat, accommodation and protection as appropriate (Mycoo & Donovan, 2017).
- Housing and other design, siting and construction informed by coastal hazard risk assessments, including setback requirements for new development.
- Empowered local authorities and communities, with dedicated resources, incentives and responsibilities for decision-making.
- Public and private investments and development informed by medium to long term projections for disaster risk and climate change.
- Development of subregional support mechanisms to build national capacities through regional organizations (such as CARICOM, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, and the University of the West Indies).
- Fulfillment of international development assistance commitments and improved dialogue and exchange to inform future international cooperation.

C. Caribbean Priorities for Sustainable Urban Development

The Caribbean subregion presents a number of specific challenges and contextual factors not common to the LAC region as a whole. These differences relate to the subregion's unique social and economic development, political structure, extreme environmental vulnerabilities, as well as global trends and realities determining development. In recent years, the subregion has increasingly faced challenges related to the multiple dimensions of development, along with pressure to adapt to changes in global systems of production and trade, to manage and recover from financial deficits, and to build resilience in the face of climate change and more frequent and intense natural disasters (ECLAC, 2014).

The numerous social, environmental, political and economic challenges and opportunities facing the region and priorities for intervention can be understood through multiple lenses. In an effort to support the effective and appropriate adaptation of the six action areas proposed by the AFINUA and the Regional Action Plan, a brief diagnostic focusing on Caribbean-specific challenges and priorities for each action area is presented in the following sections. These elements and priorities for intervention emerged primarily from a combination of Caribbean Working Group discussions and literature review.

I. National Urban Policies

One key challenge for sustainable urban development in the Caribbean relates to the fragmentation of responsibilities and functions between sectors and communities, and a resulting lack of policy coherence. Sustainable development has not been sufficiently integrated within decision-making processes in the Caribbean, particularly within the finance and trade policy domains, and the predominance of unidisciplinary approaches to development challenges limits response effectiveness. Specifically, disconnection is often observed between Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Finance and Development Planning (ECLAC, 2014). Effective National Urban Policies (NUPs)

address the need for multidisciplinary, multisector, multilevel, coordinated responses in order to promote informed decision making within the context of strategic planning guided by long-term vision for sustainable development.

The need for coordination between the multiple sectors and agencies overseeing land governance will only increase in the context of growing population and expanding urban development within the subregion (Sanjak and Donovan, 2016). Although many relevant programs and projects have been or are being implemented, these initiatives are rarely framed within broader urban policy, due in many cases to the non-existence of such policies and to a lack of multisector cooperation and communication.

At the same time, the relatively oversized role of national governments in Caribbean presents a particular challenge to urban development policies. Traditional solutions oriented toward rapid decentralization in favor of increased local autonomy may not be the logical next step given the size and other characteristics of subregional territories, including insufficient local capacities for effective management. Within this context, the role of NUPs is key to ensuring centrally coordinated responses capable of addressing the particularities of subnational contexts and appropriately assigning local responsibilities for planning and management.

Finally, Caribbean governments recognize the importance of climate change and natural disasters but are often faced with the pressure to prioritize the more immediately pressing needs of their citizens, such as demands related to basic infrastructure and services, food security, housing, and violence. National Urban Policies can assume the critical role of establishing explicit linkages between these short-term demands and longer-term, strategic development priorities. Additionally, the alignment of national and subnational plans, programs and projects with global agreements and commitments has the potential to leverage increased support from international cooperation.

II. Urban legal frameworks

Many Caribbean states possess relatively weak legislation and regulations for managing and developing the urban and surrounding environment. Key areas requiring improvement in the subregion relate to the efficiency of government spending, transparency in policy making, and the bureaucratic processes surrounding land title registration and transference (ECLAC, 2014). In the context of often-limited human, technical and financial capacities, robust legal frameworks are essential to ensuring innovative and locally relevant planning and development processes that effectively respond to the challenges faced by Caribbean territories.

Updated legal frameworks are also required throughout the subregion to improve the development processes surrounding commerce and land tenure, while simultaneously establishing mechanisms to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities and confront the challenges to development posed by climate change. A review of existing regulations should seek to ensure that these instruments effectively target required protections without unnecessarily encumbering government agencies. Such a review should also seek to maximize the harmonization of legal requirements and procedural steps, drafting legislation to minimize compliance costs while increasing legal capacity within existing institutional structures and promoting cooperation and dialogue between institutions.

Tenure security and public land management are critical issues within the Caribbean subregion, especially in countries like Trinidad and Tobago and St Kitts/Nevis, where state-owned land comprises a substantial portion of total land area (Rajack, 2009). Throughout the Caribbean, the relatively dominant role of individual households in constructing the built environment and in this way defining urban form in Caribbean cities contrasts with the large-scale private development model more common throughout Latin America. This dispersion of development actors within Caribbean

context presents specific challenges and opportunities for sustainable development and requires a specialized approach.

Many Caribbean territories face significant housing deficits, and existing legal frameworks do not effectively address challenges related to informality, socio-spatial segregation, or issues of low density and urban sprawl. One related challenge surrounds the ongoing need to critically assess options for addressing conflicts with private sector interests and real estate speculation. At the same time, social housing initiatives must incorporate allocation and access criteria, address the need to target specific socio-economic groups, and incorporate additional affordability criteria and options for tenure security (Rajack, 2009).

Finally, multiple Caribbean countries have made significant progress in terms of policy, institutional and legal frameworks to orient and regulate environmental and sustainable development, including the ratification of international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the presentation of Nationally Determined Contributions, outlining specific commitments to mitigation and adaptation measures. Nevertheless, there is a need to simultaneously work within and build upon existing institutional frameworks toward a long-term vision for climate resilient, sustainable development.

III. Urban and territorial planning and design

The LAC region as a whole faces an immense challenge related to urban inequality in its multiple forms and dimensions. Multisector and multilevel responses and coordination are required in order to effectively implement new and existing urban policies, improve urban and territorial planning processes, and effectively respond to the specific demands of urban areas and their surrounding territories.

Within this context, efficient, accessible and quality infrastructure is key to supporting sustainable and inclusive growth. Infrastructure quality is heterogeneous throughout the Caribbean subregion, with many Caribbean governments facing significant challenges related to infrastructure, service delivery and connectivity (Smith, 2015). The subregion faces high energy, transport and other logistics costs, and public spending on infrastructure is lacking in terms of both investment quantity and quality (Smith, 2015; World Bank, 2014). Small Island Developing States (SIDS) raise additional challenges related to urban-rural linkages. As described by Sietchiping & Kago (2016), “many SIDS have a range of small and intermediate towns that play a critical role in strengthening the systems of cities and human settlements because they provide more accessible and connected territories and also act as a bridge between rural populations and large cities”. Nevertheless, Caribbean SIDS face the challenge of enhancing these urban-rural linkages in the context of challenges such as climate change, food security, mobility and migration, product and service flows, etc. (Sietchiping & Kago, 2016). The enhancement of urban-rural linkages supports equitable and sustainable development by addressing challenges from a more holistic perspective and allowing the development of appropriate, integrative solutions.

At the same time, new urbanization and urban growth beyond existing city limits will affect the environment and increase the demand for service and infrastructure provision and, therefore, the need for intermunicipal collaboration for the development and implementation of housing policy, transportation systems, waste management, sanitation, and other services (Rajack, 2009). Specific frameworks are required to identify and incentivize strategic interventions within the public space to improve connectivity and reduce inter-urban and urban-rural disparities in infrastructure and service provision.

An additional challenge to achieving integrated urban and territorial planning relates to the lack of trained urban planning professionals and in particular a lack of programs with integrated focus on multisector and multilevel planning processes for sustainable development. This deficiency creates

a subsequent lack in research and information related to planning and design options within the subregional context.

IV. Financing urbanization

All Caribbean countries, with the exception of Haiti, are defined by the World Bank as high or middle income and rank relatively high on the Human Development Index. Most Caribbean economies are heavily service-based and have experienced significant growth volatility over recent decades (Smith, 2015). Many Caribbean nations face challenges related to high debt to GDP ratios, resulting in part from a lack of competitiveness and long-term fiscal imbalances; high levels of accumulated debt in turn limit economic growth and result in the diversion of key financial resources away from health, education, infrastructure, social protection and other key drivers of human, social, economic and environmental development. At the same time, issues of financing for urban infrastructure are exacerbated by institutional issues such as weak property taxation and limited urban data and monitoring to enforce taxation and maximize the potential for local revenue generation.

The Caribbean subregion has faced decreasing assignment of concessional development resources in recent years (Smith, 2015). Multiple factors have limited development assistance, including financial crises, shifts in global markets, and a redirection of international cooperation and aid toward developing states elsewhere in the world. Despite severe variations in income distributions, the absolute level of GNP per capita has graduated some countries from external foreign assistance. Nevertheless, the Caribbean as a whole continues to present enormous funding gaps and requirements for support from the international community in the form of development assistance and foreign direct investment in order to support ongoing and emerging development initiatives (ECLAC, 2014).

Within this context, sustainable development requires economic diversification and innovation to successfully expand Caribbean economies, increasing the efficiency of traditional economic activities such as agriculture, and safeguarding the tourism industry against environmental and other threats to ensure its sustainability over time (ECLAC 2014). New and affordable external development financing, together with greater public fiscal responsibility and improved debt management, is required to escape current growth trajectories. Yet fiscal consolidation and debt management alone are not sufficient; achieving sustainable growth in the subregion requires a review and reengineering of the financial system to simultaneously address economic growth, poverty reduction, development, and structural gaps (ECLAC, 2016b).

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) emerge as another tool for promoting sustainable growth within the subregion. Leveraging these arrangements is key to shifting dependency away from public and concessional funding. Gallina & Giannozi (2014) describe four requirements for developing robust PPP programs in the Caribbean: governance, institutionality, capacity building, and financial platforms, and indicate the need for a subregional framework to orient and improve PPPs and effectively leverage existing capacities and resources.

V. Local implementation

Traditionally, subnational governments are assigned three key responsibilities for strengthening urban economies: developing local capacities and comparative advantages; collecting and maintaining up-to-date and high quality local data to guide the prioritization of urban issues and policy development and improve connectivity; and strengthening labor markets and exchange. Given their small size, many Caribbean countries have no formal local or municipal government; these responsibilities therefore fall directly upon national administrations that often struggle to respond to the diverse challenges and priorities presented by each urban area and surrounding territories.

Education and awareness building foster local human capital and a sense of place, ownership and civic responsibility. These processes are key to facilitating the transfer of appropriate responsibilities and autonomy to subnational authorities for the management of administrative processes related to land use and other development processes (building permits, taxation, etc.). Networks and coordination systems between local authorities and with other levels of governance are required to ensure the efficient, consistent and coherent application of relevant policies and regulations and build trust between public officials and other stakeholders. Innovative administrative and institutional structures are required to assess and address the limitations of subnational capacities within the subregion, maintaining an appropriate level of national coordination and direction while engaging with local actors to promote inclusive and subnationally relevant initiatives.

VI. Monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms

Effective monitoring and review provides relevant information, guidelines, and tools to support national and local governments in their planning and development processes. A lack of quality urban and development data and analysis capacity represents a key challenge for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA within the Caribbean. Existing information is often available only in mixed formats and dispersed between multiple locations, creating additional obstacles for effective collection and analysis by policy-makers.

The Caribbean subregion needs to significantly strengthen data collection and processing capacities in order to provide quality, timely and accessible data at both national and subnational levels (Smith, 2015) and multiple resources, initiatives and multisector actors at the regional and global level offer guidance and support in this process. Nevertheless, data and monitoring solutions must be developed and implemented with careful consideration of the Caribbean subregional context. A review of proposed regional and international monitoring frameworks is required to ensure that Caribbean resources are effectively directed to maximize existing capacities and to address subregional priorities. Effective subregional monitoring frameworks and indicators must be both feasible in terms of collection and analysis processes and of true relevance to subregional policy-making and development. Existing information systems should be reformed when possible and rebuilt when necessary in order to create coherent and effective subregional, national and subnational networks for information exchange.

Specifically, the Caribbean lacks a set of basic, common definitions surrounding development processes; for example, estimates of urban population in the subregion vary significantly, given a lack of a uniform definition of 'urban' (Donovan and McHardy, 2016). Caribbean housing officials have also noted key research gaps in the regional housing debate, and in particular a lack of: updated public information about housing costs and prices in primary and secondary markets; information on land supply for housing production; and reliable data on housing deficits.

At the same time, regionally coordinated efforts are required to ensure the production of specific parameters of assessment, which may be compared and monitored on a regional and international scale. A critical analysis should be performed to identify synergies between existing data collection and capacities, Caribbean priorities for monitoring, and regional and international standards and requirements in order to maximize available resources for these processes. The coordination of subregional monitoring processes with regional and international initiatives provides the opportunity to leverage technical and financial support from regional and international actors to promote these processes in the Caribbean and for the exchange of experiences, best practices, peer learning and capacity building processes.

D. Caribbean-specific objectives and priorities for implementation of the New Urban Agenda

The Regional Action Plan adopts its first five action areas from UN-Habitat's Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A strategic objective and a set of specific objectives suitable to regional realities and development goals are proposed for each action area. A sixth action area is incorporated to target monitoring and evaluation, a priority challenge for the LAC region.

The following tables outline the proposed contents of the Subregional Action Plan for the Caribbean. A Caribbean-specific objective and several key components are proposed for each action area. The specific objectives proposed by the RAP are then assigned priority based for Caribbean implementation, based on the territorial division proposed by Verrest et al. (2011) between small Caribbean islands, large Caribbean islands, and coastal states and territories, recognizing that not all Caribbean territories experience the same challenges or share the same set of priorities for action¹.

The contents proposed in the following sections represent an initial proposal emerging from a combination of document review and discussions by the Caribbean Working Group and are intended for review, discussion and adaptation.

¹ These priorities for implementation are currently undefined and should be assigned during joint discussion between Caribbean policy-makers and multisector actors.

I. Action Area 1: National Urban Policies

Caribbean-specific objective: Integrate and build synergies between explicit and implicit climate change and disaster management policies and other sectoral policies with relevance for long-term sustainable urban and territorial development.

Caribbean-specific key components

Mobilization and integration of urban planners within national policy dialogues and national planning processes

Inter-institutional coordination and communication regarding urban and land management for climate change and disaster resilience, and increased solidarity among housing officials

Mechanisms for coordination between housing and other urban sectors responsible for service provision in order to reduce informality and address issues of food and energy security in the context of climate change

Regional Action Plan

		Priorities for implementation			
		Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
<i>Regional strategic objective: Design and implement solid and results-based National Urban Policies that strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-scale coordination.</i>					
Enabling conditions	Develop medium and long term projections with an integrated focus and geographic disaggregation in order to inform NUP development based on the analysis of current and past urban trends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strengthen the institutional framework for guiding and coordinating the NUP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Establish or strengthen national urban legal frameworks for sustainable urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Essentials of a solid and resilient NUP	Establish specific goals and prioritize action for sustainable urban development in response to local needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Optimize multisector and multilevel coordination and coherence within a national spatial framework for sustainable urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Reduce urban and territorial disparities within cities, between rural and urban areas, and between cities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strengthen democratic governance and the role of citizens as protagonists in decision-making for inclusive urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Establish mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, review and accountability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

II. Action Area 2: Urban legal frameworks

Caribbean-specific objective: Enhance regulatory frameworks to clarify institutional roles and responsibilities for urban and territorial development.

Caribbean-specific key components

Effective institutional coordination to increase efficiency and transfer appropriate planning and management autonomy to subnational levels

Legal reforms to facilitate the growth of affordable housing stock using traditional and emerging alternatives for urban financing

Regional Action Plan

		Priorities for implementation			
		Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
<i>Regional strategic objective: Establish robust and transparent urban legal frameworks that guarantee compliance and enforcement capacity, accountability, and citizen participation in urban planning and development.</i>					
Enabling conditions	Introduce or strengthen a legal framework to guarantee the right to the city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Establish a legal framework to guarantee participatory, transparent and accountable governance , with binding instruments and mechanisms for the urban sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Adopt effective legal frameworks that strengthen government capacities at all levels, with fiscal, political, and administrative decentralization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Essentials of a robust and transparent urban legal framework	Install a legal framework with clearly established definitions of urban and non-urban land and associated rights and responsibilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Establish or strengthen the legal basis supporting development plans, strategic urban plans , and associated planning instruments and mechanisms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strengthen regulatory instruments and corresponding territorial planning and management processes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Design and enact effective national and local legislation to guarantee adequate public space and its protection (including green spaces and parks, roads, streets and intersections, transport corridors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Establish minimum national standards for universal access to basic services and urban infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Develop and strengthen normative instruments and institutional frameworks for the profit recovery from public land, property and other investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

III. Action Area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design

Caribbean-specific objective: Increase capacity for urban and territorial planning, and ensure the integration of diverse stakeholders in planning processes.

Caribbean-specific key components				
Assessment of existing capacities and mechanisms for urban planning and design				
Accessible education and training for planners in sustainable urban development and relevant global instruments				
Partnerships between social actors within the urban sector to identify existing and projected spatial inequalities within cities and territories				
Regional Action Plan				
<i>Regional strategic objective: Integrate forward-thinking urban and territorial planning and design with participative instruments and mechanisms capable of addressing the challenges of current and future urban systems.</i>	Priorities for implementation			
	Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
Develop evidence-based, strategic and binding urban plans at all levels: territorial, metropolitan, city, and local, in order to guide sustainable urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create integrated urban and territorial planning and design tools and mechanisms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure transparent, collaborative and participatory planning and design processes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect and conserve natural ecosystems and cultural heritage with urban and territorial planning and design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create compact, connected, integrated, safe and inclusive urban space with tools and instruments for urban and territorial planning and design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure equitable access to public goods and urban services with coherent and coordinated urban and territorial management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote adequate and affordable housing and access to urban land as a fundamental element of urban planning and design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop urban strategies and interventions that improve and integrate informal and precarious settlements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop urban strategies and interventions that promote inclusive and sustainable urban mobility and a system of safe, affordable and accessible public transport for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plan for urban and climate resilience with urban and territorial planning and design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

IV.Action Area 4: Financing urbanization

Caribbean-specific objective: Develop local financial systems for urbanization that effectively integrate a combination of grants, concessionary funding, borrowing, and emerging financing alternatives.

Caribbean-specific key components					
Established criteria for partnerships and support systems to coordinate and align public and private investment to finance urbanization processes					
Joint definition of feasibility criteria for sustainable development initiatives -and their implementation and follow up- between development banks, public sector actors, and other stakeholders					
Local fiscal systems oriented toward responsible and sustainable harnessing of subregional biodiversity to prompt innovation, spur economic growth, and explore the potential of alternative financing mechanisms such as debt for climate adaptation swaps					
Regional Action Plan					
		Priorities for implementation			
		Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
<i>Regional strategic objective: Strengthen municipal finances, local fiscal systems, instruments and capacities for innovation and development of new and improved financing mechanisms for urban investment, and to foster local urban economies.</i>					
Enabling conditions of sustainable urban financing	Establish intergovernmental fiscal systems to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure at the subnational level and promote inclusive and sustainable urban development	○	○	○	○
	Establish or strengthen urban governance systems in order to maximize the sustainable mobilization of resources to finance urbanization (in particular, public urban infrastructure and services)	○	○	○	○
	Promote effective local fiscal regimes that strengthen inclusive and sustainable municipal finances and take into account institutional size and government capacities to effectively and efficiently exercise assigned functions and to support capacity building	○	○	○	○
Critical elements for financing urbanization and developing of robust urban economies legal framework	Strengthen or support the design and implementation of an efficient and effective local fiscal-financial and economic framework for sustainable urban development	○	○	○	○
	Improve and increase sources of urban investment, using new and improved tools and mechanisms for local financial production	○	○	○	○
	Create and implement new and diversified instruments at all levels, to improve access to adequate housing	○	○	○	○

V. Action Area 5: Local implementation

Caribbean-specific objective: Position local leaders as champions of change for sustainable urban development and appropriately strengthen the autonomy of subnational authorities.

Caribbean-specific key components

Programs, regulations, incentives and other mechanisms for cooperation to increase communication and transparency within and between subnational and national governments

Permanent platforms for regional integration and exchange and peer-to-peer learning (such as the Caribbean Urban Forum), to lend continuity to planning and development processes and leverage partnerships for development assistance

Regional Action Plan

Regional strategic objective: Improve capacities and local instruments to guide urbanization and urban development and promote solid partnerships between the diverse actors and sectors involved in sustainable urban development.

Priorities for implementation

	Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
Create local communities that play an integral and leading role in civil society and sustainable urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish and strengthen cooperation between different levels of government and other actors , including metropolitan systems, to guide and coordinate sustainable urban development at the subnational level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen the continuity of medium- and long- term planning and implementation processes for sustainable urban development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plan for new urbanization with an integrated, city-based approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote recovery, re-development and infill development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve the existing urban fabric to promote efficiency, equity, and safety of the city and the city's use of resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide basic urban services, equipment and social infrastructure in an integrated, efficient and equitable manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transfer the benefits of public investment to the inhabitants of the city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

VI. Action Area 6: Monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms

Caribbean-specific objective: Establish a Caribbean-specific platform to support the collection, processing and analysis of subregionally relevant data and information within the framework of the development of the LAC Urban and Cities Platform and additional regional and international support systems.

Caribbean-specific key components

Consolidated set of subregional sustainable development terminology (including a functional definition of “urban” for the Caribbean) to support common understanding and effective monitoring and assessment processes

Subregionally relevant and realistic methodologies for data collection, identifying areas where clean data sets are not available and defining an approved set of proxies for use as Caribbean indicators when necessary

Improved data collection and processing on subregional housing issues, specifically:

- Updated public information about housing costs and prices in primary and secondary markets
- Information on land supply for housing production
- Reliable data on housing deficits

Regional Action Plan

		Priorities for implementation			
		Small islands	Large islands	Coastal states	N/A
<i>Regional strategic objective: Reinforce human, technical and financial capacities in all sectors in order to monitor advances towards sustainable urban development and for the monitoring, reporting and revision of related policies, programs, plans and projects.</i>					
Enabling conditions for monitoring, reporting and revision	Establish coordinated statistical and geographical information systems to measure and assess urban development	○	○	○	○
	Build capacities for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of urban development data and information	○	○	○	○
Characteristics of an effective framework for monitoring, reporting and revision	Define a monitoring framework to analyze and guide urban development and respond to urban and territorial needs	○	○	○	○
	Establish explicit roles and responsibilities for collecting, managing, analyzing and disseminating multi-stakeholder and multi-level information	○	○	○	○
	Establish mechanisms for the coordination of statistical and geographical urban development data and information	○	○	○	○
	Identify and apply a set of urban development indicators that are relevant to the national and subnational context	○	○	○	○
	Establish a reporting system to inform national and subnational decision-making processes with the results of urban development review, reporting and monitoring	○	○	○	○

E. Framework for implementation, monitoring and assessment

The effective and long-term implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean will depend on the ongoing commitment and coordination of a diverse group of actors. These actors are considered key to the successful implementation of the NUA in the Caribbean. Over coming years, the implementation and monitoring support structure should be expanded to include emerging actors and should be circulated for review and discussion between relevant stakeholder in order to promote accountability and maximize coordination and synergies between sectors and levels of intervention.

At the MINURVI General Assembly in June 2017, Cuba and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were appointed as subregional representatives, assuming a commitment to support the development of a subregional monitoring and assessment mechanism to determine progress on sustainable development and specifically NUA implementation within the Caribbean. **MINURVI** plays an important role in providing space and opportunities for subregional and regional dialogue and exchange, bringing together urban public sector representatives and promoting coordinated, concrete development commitments from national and subnational actors. In the same way, **UN-Habitat** will support national and local governments in the development and implementation of effective National Urban Policies, providing urban expertise and facilitating exchanges between governments and other actors at all levels.

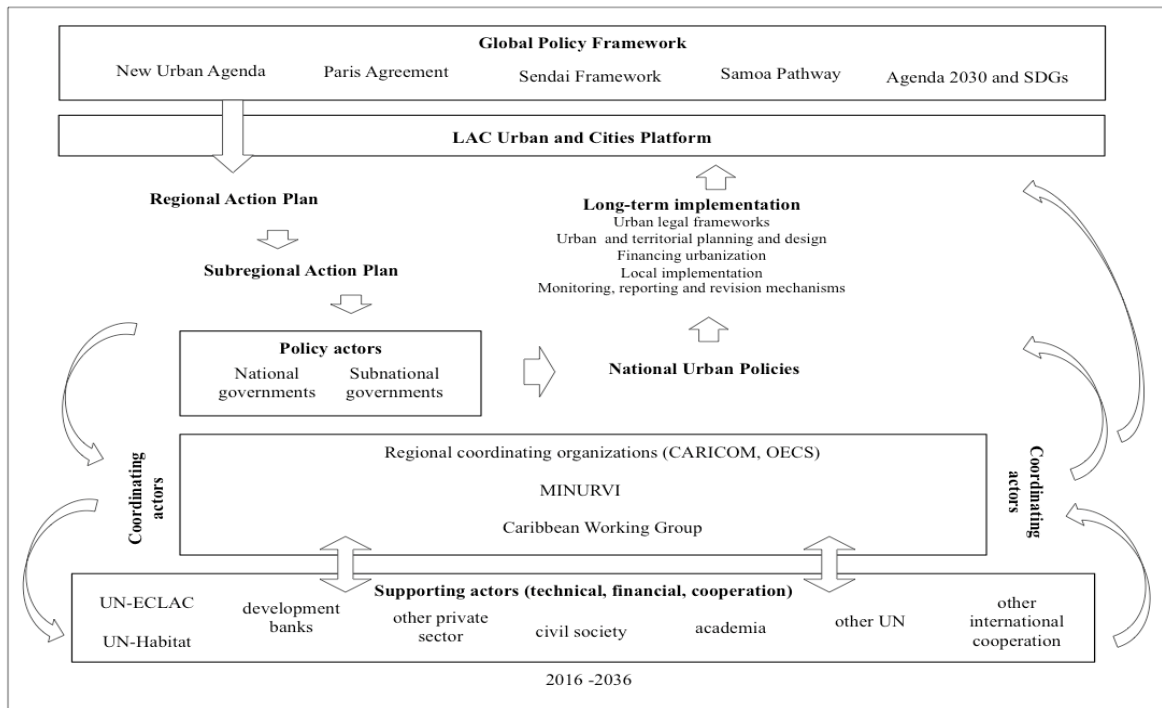
ECLAC regional and subregional headquarters will also play an important role in updating the present document and supporting ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress toward NUA, RAP and Sub-RAP implementation. The establishment of the **LAC Urban and Cities Platform** will respond to the need to collect and maintain an updated and centralized set of information on urban development throughout the LAC region. It will provide an objective tool for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and Regional and Subregional Action Plans. Alignment with this initiative will maximize the regional and international support provided to Caribbean countries for data collection and analysis, and will promote the effective incorporation of Caribbean-specific data and information to inform regional and international investigation, planning, and decision-making processes.

The **Caribbean Working Group** (CWG) is a group of international experts in Caribbean development representing multiple sectors. The group works to address the specific development

challenges and opportunities presented by the Caribbean, to align ongoing and future sustainable development initiatives in the subregion and adapt global agendas for their effective implementation. The CWG will act as a key coordinating body for ongoing discussion, support and review of NUA implementation in the Caribbean subregion. A core CWG composed of key institutional representatives and experts will seek endorsement by CARICOM and will in turn facilitate dialogue with a wider set of actors to promote sustainable development throughout the Caribbean subregion.

An initial structure to support NUA, RAP and Sub-RAP implementation within the Caribbean is proposed in Figure 2.

Figure 2
Implementation support structure for the Subregional Action Plan



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Bibliography

- Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) (1994), Outcome document of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, UN General Assembly resolution 47/189.
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (2011), Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, 2011-2021.
- Donovan, M. G., & McHardy, P. (2016), The State of Social Housing in Six Caribbean Countries. IDB Institutions for Development Sector. Fiscal and Municipal Management Division.
- ECLAC (2017), Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ECLAC & UN-Habitat (2016), Informe Regional América Latina y el Caribe. Presentado en HABITAT III, Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo Sostenible y Vivienda.
- ECLAC (2016b), The debt overhang: Balancing adjustment with LC/CAR/L.492, Sustainable development in the Caribbean. Fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.
- ECLAC, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (2014), Caribbean forum: Shaping a sustainable development agenda to address the Caribbean reality in the twenty-first century. Studies and Perspectives.
- Gallina, A. & Giannozzi, S. (Eds.) (2014), Making reforms work in the Caribbean: A collective action approach to growth. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank.
- MINURVI, ECLAC & UN-Habitat (2016), América Latina y el Caribe: Desafíos, dilemas y compromisos hacia una agenda urbana común. Preparado para la Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Vivienda y el Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible (Habitat III).
- Mohammed, A. & Polar, P. (Eds.) (2016), The gap between rhetoric and reality: A critical review of presentations from the Caribbean Urban Forum 2016, Suriname. Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management. ISBN: 978-976-620-292-7
- Mycoo, M. & Donovan, M. (2017), A blue urban agenda: adapting to climate change in the coastal cities of Caribbean and Pacific small island developing states. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- Rajack, R. (2009), Does Public Ownership and Management of Land Matter for Land Market Outcomes? Urban land markets: Improving land management for successful urbanization.
- Rasmussen, T. (2006), Natural Disasters and their Macroeconomic Implications in the Caribbean from Vulnerability to Sustained Growth, IMF.
- Sanchez-Reaza, J. & Carletto, A. (2013), Resilient coastal cities: the economic, social and environmental dimensions of risk. LAC opportunities for all; no. 14. Washington DC; World Bank.

- Sanjak, J. & Donovan, M. G. (2016), A Methodological Framework for Comparative Land Governance Research in Latin America and the Caribbean. Inter-American Development Bank.
- Sietchiping, R. & Kago, J. (2016), The Role of Urban-Rural Linkages in enhancing Sustainable Urbanization in Small Islands States. In: Mohammed, A. & Polar, P. (Eds.) (2016), The gap between rhetoric and reality: A critical review of presentations from the Caribbean Urban Forum 2016, Suriname.
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014), Outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 September 2014, Samoa.
- Smith, R. (2015), The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda, Studies and Perspectives - ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.
- UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Program) (2017), Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, April, Nairobi (Adopted: 19 April 2017, New York).
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), (2007), Pacific Urban Agenda.
- United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) (2012), Estado de las Ciudades de América Latina y el Caribe. Rumbo a una nueva transición urbana, Nairobi.
- Verrest H.V., Mohammed, A. & Moorcroft, S. (2011), Towards a Caribbean Urban Agenda. Discussion paper presented at Establishing a Policy and Research Agenda for the Urban Sector in the Caribbean, Georgetown, Guyana, 6-9 April 2011.
- World Bank (Martin, H., Sirtaine, S., Briceno-Garmendia, C.) (2014), Caribbean Infrastructure PPP Roadmap. Board Report.

Annexes

Annex 1 Caribbean member countries



Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Caribbean member countries²:

Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Associate members:

Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands

² Member countries served by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

Annex 2

The Caribbean Urban Agenda

Priorities for a Caribbean Urban Agenda			
	Theme	Issues	
Cross – cutting themes: Vulnerability to climate change Lower Elevation Coastal Zone (LE CZ), adaptation at local community level	Sustainable Urban Planning Coastal zone settlement planning, land management/use, rural/urban integrated planning	Higher priorities	
		Local economic development and poverty alleviation	
		Enabling mechanisms for government and professionals	Unemployment
			Strengthening diversified local populations
			Opportunities for economic development
			Provision of housing and basic services
		Governance	Research
			Communications
			Training
			Education
			Financing
			Implementation
		Informal Sector	Communication
			Legislation
			Municipal co-governance
			Inclusivity
			Partnership coordination
		Natural hazards and disaster management	Tenure security
			Informal settlements
			Informal economy
		Lower priorities	Climate change
			Environmental resilience
			Response capacity
Physical human security	Crime		
	Safety		
	Freedom from fear		
Physical living conditions	Housing		
	Basic services (water, sanitation, energy use, transportation, etc.)		
Inequality	Social inequality		
	Economic		
	Based on age		
Climate change (contribution to)	Based on gender		
	Energy, emissions		
	Transportation		
	Green economy		

Source: Economic Verrest et al. 2011.

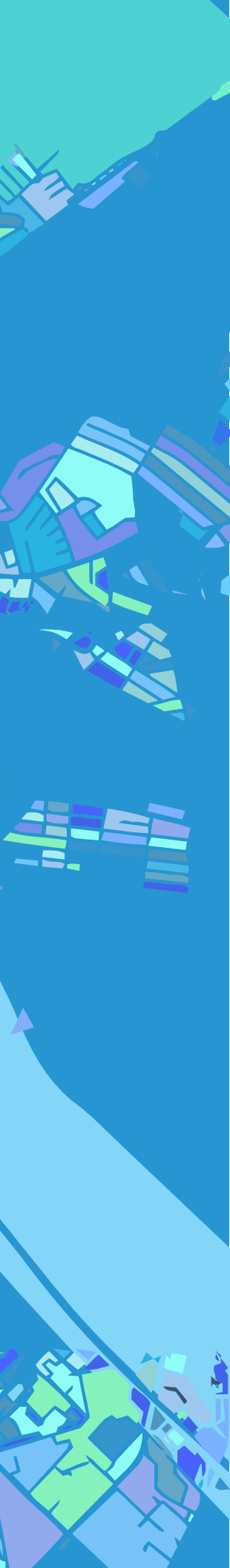
Annex 3 Caribbean Country Strategies

Country Strategies have been developed for multiple Caribbean territories with the ongoing support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and represent an important national planning tool guiding urban development in the Caribbean. IDB provides support throughout the preparation, implementation and monitoring of these strategies. These and other instruments, including the Urban Sector Policy Strategy developed by the Caribbean Development Bank, will be useful tools for maximizing synergies between ongoing processes and actors supporting sustainable development within the subregion. Effective planning and implementation processes will identify priorities and opportunities for intervention based on an evaluation of existing and developing national and subnational policies and planning instruments.

**Table 1
Caribbean IDB Country Strategies and priority sectors**

Country	Period		Priority sectors (IDB)													
	Start	End	Education	Tourism	Transport	Energy	Integrated coastal management and CC	Use of country systems	Trade and taxation	Water and sanitation	Citizen security	Health	Housing and Urban Development	Reform/ Modernization of state	Private sector development	Agriculture / Natural resources
Antigua and Barbuda	N/A															
The Bahamas	2013	2017			•	•		•		•						•
Barbados	2015	2018		•	•	•	•	•								
Belize	2013	2017	•	•	•					•						
Cuba	N/A															
Dominica	N/A															
Dominican Republic	2013	2016	•			•					•	•				•
Grenada	N/A															
Guyana	2012	2016				•				•				•	•	•
Haiti	2011	2015	•		•	•				•					•	•
Jamaica	2016	2021	•			•			•			•			•	•
Saint Kitts and Nevis	N/A															
Saint Lucia	N/A															
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	N/A															
Suriname	2016	2020	•						•	•		•		•	•	•
Trinidad and Tobago	2016	2020	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Source: ECLAC based on information provided by the International Development Bank (IDB).



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org