

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY
FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND
THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
AND
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
SECRETARIAT

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
AND
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (hereinafter "UN-Women"), and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (hereinafter "CARICOM Secretariat"), hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Participants".

WHEREAS, UN-Women is the United Nations organisation devoted to gender equality and the empowerment of women and is also responsible for mobilising efforts by the United Nations to promote gender equality, increase opportunities and combat discrimination throughout the world;

WHEREAS, UN-Women serves in many respects as the operational arm of the United Nations at the country level and works with partners in numerous countries to promote sustainable development, eradication of poverty, advancement of women, good governance and the rule of law;

WHEREAS, UN-Women is interested in enhancing its development activities in support of the CARICOM Regional Gender Programme and the work of the CARICOM Regional Statistics Programme;

AND WHEREAS, the Participants share similar missions and wish to cooperate in areas of mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Participants agree to cooperate as follows:

**Article I
Purpose**

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration between the Participants, on a non-exclusive basis, in areas of common interest, and as outlined in **Annex I - Partnership Arrangements between CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean (January 2017 – December 2018)** which forms an integral part of this MOU.

Article II

Areas of Cooperation

The Participants agree to cooperate in the following areas of activity:

Under the framework of supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter "SDGs") and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (hereinafter "SAMOA Pathway") in the Caribbean, the CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women MOU will focus on undertaking the activities outlined in Annex I and, in particular, on achieving the following objectives:

- Enhanced Caribbean-wide data, statistics and analysis on the implementation of the gender dimensions of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway, including the area of citizen security, the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan for CARICOM and the Action Plan for Statistics recently endorsed in 2016.
- CARICOM-wide voice in the normative processes shaping national level sustainable development as it relates to gender equality.
- Deepened capacities of CARICOM Member States to implement international, regional and national commitments to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through access to regionally relevant tools (such as gender-responsive budgeting, model legislation) and sharing of best practices.
- Enhanced leadership of CARICOM Secretariat in realizing the above three priorities.

Article III

Consultation and Exchange of Information

3.1 The Participants will, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to lead to mutual collaboration.

3.2 Consultation and exchange of information and documents under this Article will be without prejudice to arrangements which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents. Such arrangements will survive the discontinuance of this MOU and any agreements signed by the Participants within the scope of this MOU.

3.3 The Participants will, at such intervals as deemed appropriate, convene meetings to review the progress of activities being carried out under this MOU and to plan future activities.

3.4 The Participants may invite each other to send observers to meetings or conferences convened by them or under their auspices in which, in the opinion of either Participant, the other may have an interest. Invitations will be subject to the procedures applicable to such meetings or conferences.

Article IV Implementation of the MOU

4.1 In order to implement the specific activities envisioned hereunder, the Participants will conclude cost-sharing agreements in accordance with the applicable UN-Women regulations, rules and procedures, which will specify the costs or expenses relating to the activity and how they are to be borne by the Participants. The cost-sharing agreements will also include a provision incorporating by reference this MOU, which is applicable to the cost-sharing agreements and the projects/programmes financed therefrom.

4.2 All activities under this MOU will be carried out on the basis of project documents agreed between UN-Women and the respective CARICOM Member States, and in accordance with the applicable UN-Women regulations, rules and directives.

4.3 The costs of public relations activities relating to this MOU, that are not otherwise addressed by a specific cost-sharing agreement concluded hereunder, will be the responsibility of CARICOM Secretariat.

4.4 Neither Participant will be an agent, representative or joint partner of the other Participant. Neither Participant will enter into any contract or commitment on behalf of the other Participant and will be solely responsible for making all payments to and on behalf of its own account, as provided under this MOU and under cost-sharing agreements concluded hereunder.

4.5 Each Participant will be responsible for its acts and omissions in connection with this MOU and its implementation.

Article V Visibility

5.1 The Participants recognize that the cooperative arrangements under this MOU should be publicized and therefore agree to acknowledge the role and contribution of each Participant in all public information documentation relating to instances of such cooperation and use each Participant's name and emblem in documentation related to the cooperation in accordance with the current policies of each Participant and subject to prior written agreement of the relevant Participant.

Article VI
Term, Amendment and Discontinuance

6.1 The proposed cooperation under this MOU is non-exclusive and shall have an initial term of two years commencing on 9 January 2017 and ending on 31st December 2018, unless discontinued earlier by either party further to Article 6.2. The Parties may agree to extend this MOU in writing for subsequent periods of two additional years.

6.2 The Participants may discontinue this MOU at any time by unanimous written consent. Alternatively, a Participant that wishes to discontinue its participation in this MOU should provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other Participant.

6.3 In the event of discontinuance of the MOU, any cost-sharing or project cooperation agreements, and any project documents concluded pursuant to this MOU, may also be terminated in accordance with the termination provision contained in such agreements. In such case, the Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the activities carried out under the MOU, the cost-sharing agreements, and project documents are brought to a prompt and orderly conclusion.

6.4 Cooperation under this MOU may commence upon the date of signature by the Participants and continue for a period of two (2) years from the date thereof, unless discontinued by any Participant in accordance with Article 6.2.

6.5 This MOU may be amended only by mutual written agreement of the Participants.

Article VII
Notices and Addresses

Any notice or request required or permitted to be given or made under this MOU will be in writing. Such notice or request will be deemed to have been duly given or made when it will have been delivered by hand, certified mail, overnight courier, telex, or cable to the Participant to which it is required to be given or made at the address specified below or such other address as will be hereafter notified.

For UN-Women:	Tonni Ann Brodber Representative a.i. UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean UN House, Marine Gardens Hastings, Christ Church Barbados
---------------	--

For CARICOM Secretariat:	Irwin LaRocque Secretary-General Caribbean Community CARICOM Secretariat Turkeyen Greater Georgetown GUYANA
--------------------------	---

**Article VIII
Miscellaneous**

8.1 The Participants acknowledge that this MOU does not create any obligation under public or private international law. It is an administrative arrangement between Participants.

8.2 This MOU and any related co-financing agreements and project documents comprise the complete understanding of the Participants in respect of the subject matter in this MOU and supersede all prior agreements relating to the same subject matter. Failure by either Participant to enforce a provision of this MOU will not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision of this MOU. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this MOU will not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of the MOU.

**Article IX
Privileges and Immunities**

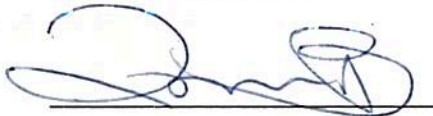
9.1. Nothing in or relating to this MOU will be deemed a waiver, express, or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the CARICOM Secretariat or the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

**Article X
Dispute Settlement**

10.1 The Participants should endeavor to amicably settle through negotiation any differences or disputes arising out of or in connection with the implementation of this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Participants affix their signatures below.

FOR UN-Women:



Tonni Ann Brodber

Representative a.i.

Title

JAN 9 - 2017

Date

FOR CARICOM Secretariat:



Irwin LaRocque

Secretary-General

Title

JAN 9 - 2017

Date

Terms of Reference

Partnership Arrangements between CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women

Multi-Country Office - Caribbean

(January 2017 – December 2018)

Background

The CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women have had an active financial and technical collaboration for over twenty years. While working primarily with the CARICOM Directorate of Human and Social Development and the Regional Statistics Programme, UN Women has also supported the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).

CARICOM and UN Women's most recent MOU (2010-2013) focused on: i) supporting the functioning of the CARICOM Advocate for Gender Justice; ii) supporting CARICOM Secretariat in capacity development of gender bureaus of CARICOM Member States and mobilizing around a common position among the member states on relevant normative agendas impacting gender equality and the empowerment of women; and iii) providing technical support to gender mainstreaming, with particular focus around ensuring gender equality priorities of the Caribbean Community were reflected in the then emerging Post 2015 and SIDS Agendas;

With UN Women's support, CARICOM undertook a gender audit in 2008. That Audit acknowledged that the CARICOM Secretariat had attempted to integrate gender into its programme for the last three decades. However, the Audit noted that "despite several policy documents which speak to the mainstreaming of gender, there seems not to be a comprehensive over-arching strategy or framework within which concerns of gender and social inequity can be addressed". The Audit called for the allocation of resources within the Secretariat - including technical expertise - to ensure that the policy documents on issues of gender and development are implemented.

Following on the above, and with the support of the Government of Canada and technical experts in the region, CARICOM Secretariat has developed a draft Gender Strategy, now under formal review by senior management. It is envisioned that with the adoption of the Gender Strategy, and the strengthened human resources within the Secretariat to give life to its objectives, the region will see a deepening of the Secretariat's technical support to Member States in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The full implementation of the Gender Strategy will provide CARICOM Secretariat with the much-needed resources to take a greater leading role in

convening and coordinating the work of Member States in advancing gender equality in the Caribbean.

The CARICOM Gender Strategy comes at a time of great opportunity. In 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted not only the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals but also the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. These two global frameworks were shaped by CARICOM priorities, and underpinning these priorities was the recognition that development can only come through the elimination of all forms of inequity, leaving no one behind.

Under the principles and objectives of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway, and with a view to supporting the implementation of the CARICOM Secretariat Gender Strategy, it is proposed that the CARICOM Secretariat and the UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding.

This MOU would fall under the framework of the emerging UN Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (2017-2021) and the partnership priorities as outlined under the DPA/UNDG/CARICOM convened 8th General Meeting of the CARICOM and Associated Institutions and the United Nations System.

Scope of Partnership

Human Security:

Since its establishment in the Caribbean in the 1990s, UN Women's portfolio has prioritized the elimination of gender-based violence, an issue which is seen as a national priority in all CARICOM Member States and Associated States. In 2011, UN Women provided financial and technical resources to the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate the launch of a public campaign in support of the Secretary General's Campaign UNITE to End Violence against Women. Within this framework, UN Women is also supporting the CARICOM Gender Advocate on Gender Justice. With UN Women support, the CARICOM Advocate undertook a thematic report on *Youth, Masculinities, and Violence* which has provided CARICOM with much needed evidence to evolve its programming around masculinities as a key strategy for the eradication of gender-based violence.

Under this MOU, CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women will continue to provide joint policy and capacity support to Member States in ensuring that national and regional dialogues on citizen security squarely factor in the equal challenges that public and private insecurity poses to development; and to ensure a gender-responsive citizen security approach wherever possible. Work will focus on deepening Model legislation; regionally-specific tools to address behavior change and to tackle the root causes of GBV; and in ensuring strong, evidenced-based advocacy. UN Women will provide

technical support to the CARICOM Secretariat team so as to deepen their capacities to integrated gender concerns into the broader programmes on Citizen Security.

Statistics

CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators: In October 2015, the CARICOM Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians endorsed the CARICOM GE Indicators Model, which were developed in partnership with UN Women, and consultation with the broader development system. The main goal of the GE Indicators is to develop a set of indicators which ensure monitoring of the gender equality commitments in the SDGs – and as per the UN Global Set of Minimum Gender Indicators¹ to identify, assess, measure and track the persistent gender equality concerns and disparities across the CARICOM Region, in accordance with the newly adopted SDGs. Under this list of indicators, the single largest area of “data gap” is prevalence data on gender-based violence. The CARICOM Model Prevalence Survey being rolled out in a number of countries in the coming years will aim to fill this gap and further strengthens the evidence-based needed to monitor progress on gender equality commitments. The CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators are now being piloted in four countries in the region, with UN Women and CARICOM Secretariat’s support: Suriname, Dominica, Grenada and Jamaica.

CARICOM Prevalence Survey Model on Gender-based Violence: Despite notable efforts by authorities, service providers and academia to record and track the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) in the Caribbean, lack of comprehensive, systematic, nationally-owned data remains a serious bottleneck in responding to and preventing GBV, including its most prevalent form – that of violence against women. Subsequently, Caribbean Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations have requested the UN’s support in strengthening data collection so as to guide and sustain a robust national response to GBV. As such, UN Women is supporting CARICOM in the adaptation and national piloting of a Prevalence Survey Model on Gender-based Violence, drawing on the WHO global model. CARICOM, with UN Women, the Government of Canada and UNDP’s support convened a regional group of experts in April 2014 to review the proposed model and agree to the strategy for piloting the Model in two countries. Further to this, the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) of May 2014 agreed to the Piloting of this Model survey. Piloting has begun in Jamaica, and is planned for Trinidad and Tobago, and in Grenada. Once the piloting is completed, UN Women and CARICOM Regional Statistics Programme will review and revise the Model based on experiences in country, and this will then go to the relevant CARICOM Organs.

The above work of CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women is also supported through partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank. In multiple countries, IDB and UN Women are jointly supporting the Governments to implement the Survey.

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), through a technical and financial partnership with UN Women, will support the implementation of the CARICOM Prevalence Survey Model in Grenada. Additionally, CDB and UN Women will jointly partner with the CARICOM Regional Statistics Programme to develop a Regional Cadre of experts on the CARICOM Survey Model proposed.

Alignment between the above work and the Action Plan for Statistics for CARICOM, recently endorsed in 2016, will be prioritized. Furthermore, support to integrating gender into Action Plan for Statistics will be undertaken.

The above statistical work will be implemented in partnership with the CARICOM Regional Statistics Programme National Statistical Offices, Ministries responsible for gender equality; CDB, IDB; UNDP OECS/Barbados; PAHO/WHO (global and regional).

Institutional Strengthening

Following on a 2008, UN Women supported Gender Audit of the CARICOM Secretariat, and in the lead up to the Post 2015 Agenda, SIDS and Beijing +20, UN Women has supported CARICOM Secretariat in mobilizing CARICOM Gender Bureaus to both ensure Caribbean priorities are reflected in the global frameworks; as well as to ensure the institutional mechanisms on the ground are well positioned to advance gender equality and women's empowerment under these emerging contexts. Building on the *Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality in the Post 2015 and SIDS Agenda*, UN Women, CDB and others continue to support CARICOM Secretariat in holding annual meetings of the Gender Bureaus, NGOs and key staff of a number of the Permanent missions to the UN with a view to preparing a common voice in the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); as well as ensuring a common understanding among CARICOM Member States about key commitments taken in the normative international agreements.

In continuance of the above, UN Women and CARICOM Secretariat will partner in:

- a) Building common positions among CARICOM Member States on the normative agendas shaping the advancement of gender equality, both regionally and globally;
- b) Building capacities among CARICOM Member States to implement and monitor the gender equality commitments taken at the national, regional and global level around gender equality and the empowerment of women. This includes building the capacity and strengthened remit of the government departments takes with advancing gender equality;

- c) To achieve the above, UN Women will support CARICOM Secretariat in deepening its in-house expertise around gender equality principles, including capacities and tools to integrate gender equality perspectives into the programmes under CARICOM, as outlined in the Draft CARICOM Gender Strategy;

Objectives

Under the framework of supporting the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean, the CARICOM Secretariat/UN Women MOU will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Enhanced Caribbean-wide data, statistics and analysis on the implementation of the gender dimensions of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway, including the area of citizen security;
- CARICOM-wide voice in the normative processes shaping national level sustainable development as it relates to gender equality;
- Deepened capacities of CARICOM Member States to implement international, regional and national commitments to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through access to regionally relevant tools (such as gender-responsive budgeting, model legislation) and sharing of best practices;
- Enhanced leadership of CARICOM Secretariat in realizing the above three priorities.

Institutional Arrangements and Partnerships

Under the MOU, each year the CARICOM Secretariat and UN Women MCO-Caribbean will develop clear annual work plans showing actions, division of labour, and indicative costs as well as source of funds for each action.

Where ever possible, UN Women and CARICOM will seek to co-finance all actions, through parallel funding. This means that UN Women will pay for services and goods directly on behalf CARICOM Secretariat. When financing CARICOM Secretariat directly, UN Women and CARICOM Secretariat will enter into a time-bound, budgeted Letter of Agreement under the framework of this MOU.

The MOU will be implemented in partnership with other international and regional development partners, wherever appropriate. This includes but is not limited to the emerging partnership between the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), UN Women MCO-Caribbean, and the CARICOM Secretariat in implementation of the CARICOM Model National Prevalence Surveys on Gender-Based Violence.