

ENHANCING SIDS INTER- AND INTRA- REGIONAL COOPERATION

A presentation to the Third Technical Meeting of the GCCA
Intra-ACP Programme
25-26 April, 2016
Port Louis , Mauritius

AMRIKHA SINGH
CARICOM SECRETARIAT

Characteristics of SIDS

- majority of CARICOM SIDS have been graduated
- facing a number of external constraints:
 - High levels of debt
 - Low levels of growth
 - Unequal Terms for trade in goods
 - Increasing levels of climate vulnerabilities
- Inadequate access to technology
- Lack of adequate statistical infrastructure

Historical Context

- first articulated at the Rio Conference
 - Agenda 21 in Chapter 17 (1) (g) Oceans and Seas : Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources .
- followed by SIDS Conference and their outcomes (the Barbados Plan of Action (1994); the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA (2005);
- In 2012 at Rio + 20, the international community reaffirmed that SIDS were “a special case for sustainable development”
- The Third International Conference on Sustainable Development in 2014 WHICH produced the SIDS accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

The SIDS Collectivity

- It should be noted that the Prime Minister of Barbados as host of the SIDS Intra-Regional Meeting ahead of the Samoa Conference made a call for enhanced intra and inter-regional cooperation amongst the three SIDS Regions.
- This was reiterated in Samoa WHERE HE FURTHER called for an effective “**SIDS Collectivity**” which would allow all SIDS to act as a united group to ensure greater coherence and coordination among the various international mechanisms facilitating the development and implementation of programmes addressing environment, science and technology, trade and financing.
- He underscored the need for a “*commitment to the establishment of inter- and intra-regional SIDS inter-governmental mechanisms in the three SIDS regions*” In this regard, he called on the UN Secretary General and the international community to give serious consideration to this proposal and offered Barbados as a “*hub for inter- and inter-regional SIDS cooperation and collaboration*”.

Examples of SIDS Intra-Regional Cooperation

- SIDS Consortium of Universities was established coming out of Barbados:SPREP, UWI and University of Malta collaborated on development of Sustainable Development Indicators and vulnerability indicies
- the development of the 10 year strategic plan for statistics development 2011-2020. CARICOM shared with SPC
- CIMH Suport to the Pacific Region
- The CARICOM First High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics which was held in 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago saw participation by the SPC Director of Statistics
- SIDS DOCK

Examples of SIDS Intra-Regional Cooperation

- CARICOM-Pacific AIMS -SIDS encounter (s)relative to the development of the Vulnerability Resilience Profile guide/analytical tool which brought together CARICOM (ECLAC and the Secretariat) and the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific SIDS as well as other countries and agencies
- there were expert group meetings in Mauritius and Fiji to develop the VRP and also there was a meeting in New York to look at the challenges and best practices in implementing the VRP in the Indian Ocean.
- FACILITATED BY UNDESA

Examples of SIDS Intra-Regional Cooperation

- The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
- established by the United Nations, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank AND promotes the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world.
- Since its establishment in 1999, PARIS21 has successfully developed a worldwide network of statisticians, policy makers, analysts, and development practitioners committed to evidence-based decision making.

Examples of SIDS Intra-Regional Cooperation

- In 2009 PARIS21 hosted a side meeting during the 40th UNSC meeting on “Strategic Planning for Small Island Developing States”
- A PARIS21 meeting was held in 2012 (side meeting during the 43rd UNSC)- bringing together SID in the context of the Busan Action Plan (Aid Effectiveness Forum in South Korea). SPC and the CCS presented on behalf of SIDS;
- The regions continue to share experiences whenever THEY meet E.G- there was a recent PARIS21 Board Meeting in this regard and there is a forthcoming meeting focusing on SIDS/SDGs and statistics.

Intra-regional cooperation with Africa

- EUROTRACE (trade data processing software) workshop sponsored by Eurostat bringing together CARICOM, ECOWAS, COMESA etc. to come up with common solutions to trade data quality and processing.
- PARIS21 meeting in Dakar Senegal led to the Dakar Declaration on statistics recognizing the need for efficient and effective national statistical systems which are essential to good governance and in the context of the Millennium Declaration.

The Current approach

There is the need for a more strategic approach taken by key institutions such as the ACP Secretariat in facilitating the conditions for the enabling environment, cooperation and dialogue to address the structural deficits at the Member States level in a comprehensive manner.

Proposals on improving inter and intra-regional Cooperation

- Advocacy- a role for the ACP to promote the SIDS designation as a special case for sustainable development
- Cooperation and partnership platform among sids intergovernmental organisations.

Proposals on improving inter and intra-regional Cooperation

- targeted effort to promote sids partnership initiatives at the UN High Level Political Forum,
- Enabling mechanisms for effective south-south cooperation -TECHINCAL COOPERATION FUND; SIDS TAP/ THE “HUB”/ ANNUAL SIDS DIALOGUE AT THE GA/ SIDS DATA AND STATISTICS INITIATIVE