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STUDY

Cooperation between Ibero-America and the non Ibero-American Caribbean

Identifying challenges and opportunities
for South-South Cooperation and Triangular
Cooperation between regions



IBERO-AMERICAN PROGRAMME
FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF
**SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION**



WD/17

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WORKING DOCUMENTS SERIES



The aim of the Series of documents of the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) is to contribute to the heritage of knowledge in Ibero-America and encourage debate on the different subjects addressed for South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation strengthening.

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Acronyms

ACE	Association of Caribbean States
ACEID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ALBA	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America
BNTF	Basic Needs Trust Fund
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFTA	Caribbean Free Trade Association
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CIDI	Inter-American Council for Integral Development
CNIB	Non Ibero-American Caribbean
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	UK Department for International Development
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTCI	Working-group of International Cooperation
HDI	Human Development Index
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDM	Integral Disaster Management

J-CCCP	Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PIFCSS	Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
RMTA	Resource Mobilization and Technical Assistance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEGIB	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SELA	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TrC	Triangular Cooperation
UIT	International Telecommunication Union
UN	United Nations
UN MSDF	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAN	Union of South American Nations
UWI	West Indies University
WO	World Bank

Preface

Since the beginning of its activities in 2010, the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) has been working with its member countries to consolidate and strengthen the South-South cooperation and the triangular cooperation among Ibero American countries.

During this time, through institutional strengthening and national capacities of the institutions responsible for the negotiation, coordination and management of the cooperation of its member countries, much progress has been achieved in building methodology proposals, researches, knowledge management mechanisms and the promotion of structured experiences exchanges, among others.

As PIFCSS has grown stronger in the region as an outstanding platform for promoting and strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, the interest in sharing this working model and formalizing an approach to other regions has become more evident. In this sense, the Non Ibero-American Caribbean (CNib) appears as a natural and priority sector due to its geographical proximity to share different multilateral regional spaces where Ibero-American countries participate (for example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean –ECLAC–, the Association of Caribbean States–ACE–, among others) and due to the fact that many of the Ibero-American countries already have strategies or South-South and triangular cooperation programmes with this region.

This is how in 2014 and 2016, the PIFCSS made concrete actions in the Caribbean (in Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis respectively) with the purpose of promoting the report methodology of South-South Cooperation and triangular initiatives included in the South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America Report released annually by the American General Secretariat (SEGIB) with the support of the PIFCSS.

The present study takes the same approach and aims to enhance the knowledge between Ibero-America and the Non Ibero-American Caribbean and it is framed in the PIFCSS Strategic Goal 4, which aims to foster alliances with other development actors for SSC and TrC strengthening.

We believe that broader knowledge on development priorities, cooperation strategies and CNib countries institutionality, among other issues, is essential for addressing the challenges and opportunities of establishing cooperation programmes between Ibero-American countries and said region, as well as for defining PIFCSS potential lines in this regard.

We would like to thank the collaboration of those institutions responsible for the Ibero-American countries cooperation and CNib, as well as the regional organizations willing to share valuable information that enabled this study. Similarly, we would like to thank the SEGIB support, in particular Mr. Fernando Nivia-Ruiz, Leading Research Consultant.

We trust this study will prove to be a useful tool for taking decision by those institutions responsible for the cooperation among the twenty-one member countries of the Program and the Non Ibero-American Caribbean countries, as well as a reference for researchers and other Ibero-American institutions and the international community in general, interested in the Non Ibero-American Caribbean work.

Daniel Castillo Carniglia

Technical Secretary

Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation

Introduction

For the purpose of this study, , the **Non Ibero-American Caribbean (CNib)** refers to the following fourteen countries: **Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.** This group of nations has achieved significant progress in terms of development, and even though they share common features, they also have some distinguishing realities and features.

CNib countries form a much younger independent region, with the exception of Haiti, when compared to the rest of the Ibero-American countries, and despite sharing an apparent geographical proximity with the latter; both regions are still widely unacquainted and poorly related to each other, at least in terms of international cooperation.

During years, the CNib seems to have prioritized many of its actions and efforts towards other latitudes, as surely the Ibero-American community has done to certain extent. It is evident that this Caribbean region has been involved in different development agendas after 2015, such as the commitments of 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Samoa Pathway of Small Island Developing States, the COP 21, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other engagements such as blue economy; all important in terms of priorities and involvement with a view to consolidating CNib in the short to medium term.

The existing asymmetries between the CNib and Ibero-American countries are evident, which, undoubtedly, must be considered in the efforts to approach and build partnerships between both regions. Notwithstanding, both regions have been establishing ties for years in various fields and with different levels of success, where surely it will be necessary to deepen the institutionalization, with the intention of encouraging broader and better South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC).

In this sense, **the purpose of the present study is to identify the main facts, challenges and opportunities for the SSC and the TrC between regions, contributing to strengthening and fostering relationships with the CNib based on their main realities, capacities, and at the same time, the strengths and limitations existing in Ibero-America as well as in the CNib.** Based on the aforesaid, this document is organized in four chapters with clearly stated objectives.

The first chapter sets an up-to-date approach to the CNib region reality, where in addition to portraying the main common and differentiating features of the region development, presents an up-to-date overview of the international cooperation in this region, based on the facts, figures and most recent on-going initiatives, highlighting the main topics, partners, priorities, etc. In addition, it presents a detailed profile of each of the fourteen countries in terms of their institutionality, development priorities, cooperation architecture, and the most relevant facts for SSC and TrC in each; as well as a first relation of those good practices in some of the CNib countries.

The second chapter aims to identify and characterize the main organizations and instances relevant to SSC and TrC with the CNib at regional level, particularly emphasizing the regional integration and agreement mechanisms inherent in the Caribbean, where many spaces, possibilities, encounters and coincidental working areas, with different scenarios which encourage to reflect upon how to continue strengthening the approach and partnership with the CNib. In addition, it characterizes other Caribbean intergovernmental organizations, where there are also several spaces and cooperation experiences. The chapter concludes with a brief general overview of the functioning and presence of the United Nation System in the CNib.

In the third chapter it is possible to identify the main facts, antecedents, figures, tendencies and SSC and TrC modalities between Ibero-America and the CNib. Particularly emphasis is placed in the cooperation between both regions from 2011 to 2017, the last year for which figures are available, also attempting to see their alignment with the SDG. In addition to this, the main policies, strategies and most recent actions implemented by some Ibero-American countries in their SSC and TrC with the CNib are presented.

Lastly, chapter four offers a more consolidated analysis of the main figures, facts, tendencies and potential work sectors, etc. of the CNib countries, the integration mechanisms at regional level, as well as the mechanisms and intergovernmental organizations. It allows to identify the main development priorities of these countries, their SSC and TrC needs and thematic demands (seven of these countries), as well as

the acting areas prioritized by the CNib regional mechanisms; systematized on the basis of their response to an instrument of capture of information directly addressed by the Caribbean actors.

In summary, **this study hopes to contribute with useful elements to consolidate a more institutionalized and, above all, pragmatic approach and partnership with the CNib**, taking into consideration the distinctive features of both regions, the different multilateral spaces, and the needs in terms of Caribbean cooperation at bilateral, regional and/or triangular level.

01

Approach to Non Ibero-American Caribbean countries: Institutionality, Cooperation and Development

1.1. NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN BRIEF PROFILE

All CNib countries achieved their independency during the second half of XX century, starting with Trinidad and Tobago in 1962, being Saint Kitts and Nevis the last one in 1983; except for Haiti which is an independent country since 1804.

All the CNib countries together represent an extension of a little over 30,000 km² and a population close to 19 million, considering that Haiti stands for the 60% of the total amount. From Bahamas in the north to Guyana in the south, with the rest of the CNib countries, they are all nations with distinctive features, beginning with their insularity condition, excluding Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

A good part of these countries is member of the Commonwealth of Nations due to being a United Kingdom colony in the past (except for Guyana, Haiti, Suriname y Trinidad and Tobago), their political organization is mainly parliamentary and their development challenges are similar. Their economies, with small domestic net food-importing markets (aside from Belize and Guyana), oriented towards the service sector, received a little over US\$ 3 billion for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2018, where tourism continues to be the most important source of this type of investments. Bahamas, Jamaica and Guyana were the main tourist destiny in 2018, in contrast with Trinidad and Tobago, which has experienced negative figures for three consecutive years.

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the main challenges facing these region countries are associated to the three dimensions of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. Firstly, these countries continue experiencing low levels of development since 2008 crisis, which is essentially related to the burden of their external debt, one of the highest in the world in relation to the extension of their economies¹;

¹ By 2015, 4 of the 25 countries most indebted in the world were Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Jamaica. The total debt burden was US\$ 52 billion and the payments of the total debt service were 70% of the GDP region. Despite of the subregion highly leverage, this is relatively insignificant compared to the rest of the world according to the ECLAC.

together with underlying problems such as lack of competitiveness, low level of market and product diversification, and high level of emigration.

Similarly, due to their middle and upper-middle income, these countries have limited access to bilateral, multilateral subsidies and other concessional funds². As a result of their small and vulnerable economies, they struggle to access international capital markets, which leads them to fall into onerous debt. In view of this, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) calls for the need of introducing changes in the access to concessional fund criteria for small, vulnerable and middle-income States.

In social terms, even though most of the Caribbean countries are above the Human Development Index (HDI), during the last years they have descended in this development index³. Additionally, phenomena such as the increasing poverty, youth unemployment, genre inequities and insecurity pose important challenges for this group of countries.

Lastly, adapting to climate change and disaster impact reduction by means of preparation, recovery and sustainable rebuilding are challenges to face in the environmental area. While small insular developing countries produce lower amounts of carbon, they experience the most severe effects of the climate change. The Caribbean has registered over 385 disasters since 1990, and since 2000, suffered at least 8 disasters with an annual costs ranging between 33% and 200% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the affected countries⁴.

In conclusion, as a region, the CNib has some similar patterns and challenges regarding development. Though differences between the CNib countries exist, many of them face common challenges in light of their economy structures and sizes, their prevailing condition as upper-middle income countries, their geographical location, their recurrent vulnerability in the face of disasters (mainly tropical storms), and their still more noticeable gaps in different national development sectors.

² Countries such as Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago are no longer ODA recipients of ODA from the OECD DAC. Antigua and Barbuda would also be a CNib country which ceased to be recipient based on its income level.

³ According to the 2017 HDI, the 14 CNib countries studied herein, 2 had a very high human development index, 10 had high index, 1 medium (Guyana) and only one had low index (Haiti). While 8 countries descended at least two positions in the ranking when compared to 2012, 2 kept the same position and only 2 countries succeeded in improving their position (Antigua and Barbuda and Suriname).

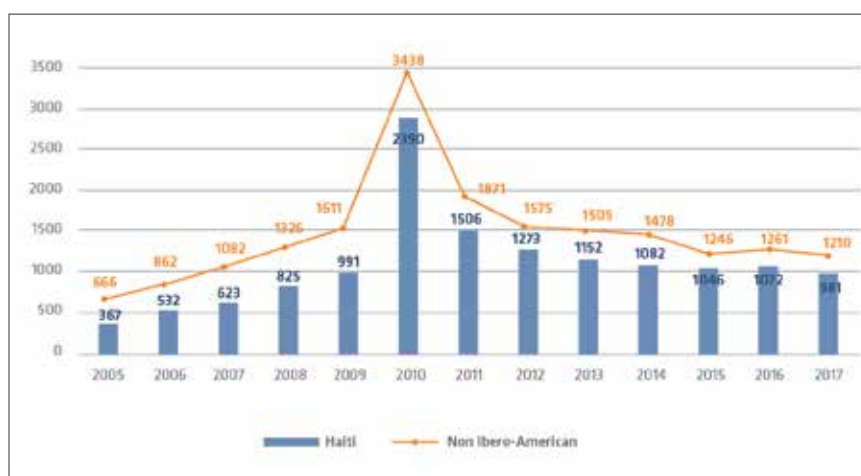
⁴ In 2016, the estimated the average annual loss in the Caribbean only due to tropical cyclones to be USD 835 million.

These countries, as a good part of the developing world, continue facing challenges that go beyond the aggregate economic sustainability as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) correctly indicates⁵.

1.2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN: RECENT FACTS

The Official development assistance (ODA) in the CNib⁶ mounted to US\$ 1.2 billion in 2017, 75% of which was allocated to Haiti, followed far behind by Jamaica (5%), Guyana (4%) and Suriname (1,5%). In the region, the ODA amounts kept a rate of growth during the last years, and reached a peak in 2010 (at the time of Haiti earthquake), followed by a permanent reduction in the assistance (except in 2016). **Figure 1** shows the total of ODA in the CNib in recent years, and the importance of Haiti as a recipient thereof.

FIGURE 1. ODA total in the Non Ibero-American Caribbean. 2005-2017 (Mill. US\$).



Source: Own elaboration, 2019 from OECD Query Wizard for International Development Statistics.

⁵ The UNDP's 2016 Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean puts forward the multidimensional progress -beyond the income- in different CNib countries regarding a set of indicators (health, education, environment, etc.).

⁶ It should be considered that some countries are no longer in the OECD- DAC recipient list, therefore there is no available data thereof.

In addition to assistance reduction, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) details how its goals have also changed, from an approach based on poverty reduction, health and education framed in the Millennium Goals, to mainly adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

North America ODA represents a very significant amount of resources allocated to CNib countries. By 2018, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the region received a total of US\$ 406,909,718 from this country, where Haiti represented the 86%, followed by Jamaica with 9%, while the remaining 5% was divided among the rest of the countries studied herein. On the other hand, Canada relies on the Canadian-Caribbean Fund for disaster risk management since 2008.

In the case of The European Union (EU), it has the 11th European Development Fund - Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme 2014-2020 which establishes an allocation of € 346 million intended to three areas: **1) Regional economic cooperation and integration; 2) Climate change, environment, disaster management and sustainable energy; 3) Crime and security**⁷. Other countries such as Germany or the United Kingdom also provide assistance to the region; in the case of the latter, the largest allocation during the 2018-2019 period was supplied by the United Kingdom-Caribbean Infrastructure Fund with resources of over £80 million, according to The Department for International Development (DFID).

Other extra-regional partners also improve cooperation processes with the Caribbean region, increasing noticeably after the 2008 crisis. China and Taiwan stand out as cooperation partners with the different CNib countries that acknowledge one or another government⁸, turning out to be the only extra-regional partner with diplomatic representatives in the fourteen CNib countries. In the case of China, it implements a mechanism for biennial consults with the region Foreign Affair Ministers, where joint cooperative efforts are agreed and fostered. The seventh and most recent meeting took place in Beijing in February, 2019.

Additionally, nations such as Japan have the Japan-Caribbean Partnership for Climate Change. In 2019, South Korea held the IX Korea-Caribbean Forum, and the United Arab Emirate besides holding the United States-Caribbean Forum (November, 2018), implemented a Renewal Energy Fund for the Caribbean of US\$ 50 million⁹.

⁷ These resources are allocated mainly by regional organizations such as CARICOM, OECS, UWI, among others.

⁸ People's Republic of China is recognized by: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; while Belize, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

⁹ This Fund delivered in 2019 the first three projects in Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Furthermore, countries such as Guyana and Suriname are included as beneficiaries of the cooperation initiatives of the Islamic Development Bank. This is just to name other cooperation cases in the region¹⁰.

There are other actors such as India, which has just held the I India-CARICOM Meeting in the frame of the 74th session of the United Nations Organization General Assembly in 2019 (UN) when a donation of US\$ 14 million was announced, together with a line of credit of additional US\$ 150 million intended to projects on climate change, solar and renewal energy projects. This joins the 2019 announcement made by the India Ambassador before the CARICOM regarding a new allocation from this country to the CARICOM Development Fund.

Despite the foregoing, the CDB indicates that the region capability to access an international funding is still restricted by its scarce technical ability for identification and execution of projects, situation which Ibero-America should consider in its future SSC/TrC partnerships with the CNib.

On the other hand, in the SSC own dynamics among the CNib countries, it stands out as main channel the technical exchange held through numerous regional meetings for discussion, agreement, exchange of experiences between the CNib countries. This generally occurs in the frame of their own subregional organizations and mechanisms (CARICOM, ACE, OECS), or jointly with the United Nation System agencies present in the region, and not through bilateral initiatives which are much usual in Ibero-America.

Recently, when Hurricane Dorian struck Bahamas in September, 2019, many CNib countries in addition to contributing with financial resources, also sent their own experts to support in the risk management and energy restoration in said country. Antigua and Barbuda deployed 2 experts, Jamaica 5, and Trinidad and Tobago 7 more. So did the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), which deployed 2 Rapid Needs Assessment Teams with the financial support of the United Kingdom.

In like form, there are additional technical assistance initiatives among CNib countries funded by international organizations. This is the case of the exchange carried out by officials from the Jamaica Ministry of Education in 2019 supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who visited their peers at Grenada and trained 50 teachers for the implementation of practical improvements in the Health and Family

¹⁰ Chapter 2 expands on the United Nations System case.

Life Education (HFLE) programme, which is considered one of the most advanced programme in the region.

Likewise, it could be related to the case of the exchange between Barbados, Jamaica and Grenada intended to establishing an inspection and organic certification system in the Caribbean in 2017¹¹; or the case of the UNFPA Subregional Office which deployed a Caribbean official to provide assistance as operation expert in the Mozambican communities affected by the landfall of the Kenneth cyclone.

In conclusion, the CNib interacts with different cooperation partners from several regions of the world. The traditional and historically present partners in the region such as the United States, United Kingdom, Japan or the EU are joined by new countries with initiatives in the region like India, China, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, to name a few, nevertheless their cooperation information is not always available. In addition, aid flows have become concentrated on a few Caribbean countries¹², where Haiti has been and will continue being the main recipient.

Chapter 3 deals with the particular case of the SSC and TrC among CNib countries and the Ibero-American community.

1.3. NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PROFILES: INSTITUTIONALITY, DEVELOPMENT Y COOPERATION

As mentioned above, the partnering processes with the CNib are not long-standing as opposed to partnering among Ibero-American countries themselves. The CNib has a not so extensive independent life; moreover, this region has been focusing on its colonial past mainly and on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) group rather than on the Ibero-American countries.

The always recurring language barrier, limited information, and consequently, the scarce knowledge on the CNib, are some elements that mark the current liaison with this group of countries, where Haiti stands out mainly due to its asymmetric income and development level compared to the rest of the CNib countries.

¹¹ This experience is part of the South-South Galaxy global Knowledge Exchange Platform, which provides South-South development solution.

¹² Recent figures confirm this situation, since the beginning of the century the UNDP has warned about the CNib cooperation in its report *Financing for Development Challenges in Caribbean SIDS a case for review of eligibility criteria for access to concessional financing*

Considering the above, this section intends to present an overview of each of the fourteen CNib countries, without aiming to be definitive. In some cases, the countries themselves contributed with information that enriched the present study¹³.

1.3.1. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda is an independent state since 1981, member of the Commonwealth of Nations, whose capital is Saint John. The population number is 103,000, its GDP per capita is US\$ 15,629¹⁴ and, according to the UNDP, it reached a High HDI: 0,780. The economic activities with the highest value added of the GDP are trade (23.7%), financial intermediation (20.6%) and public administration (19.3%); in fact, it was Antigua and Bermuda the country that experienced the second highest economic growth rate in the Caribbean in 2018, according to the CDB.

At regional level, **Antigua and Barbuda is member of dialogue and political discussion mechanisms like the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).** At subregional level, it is a member state of the CARICOM, the Association of Caribbean States (ACE), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and organizations such as the CDB and, with five other countries, it is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). In terms of domestic planning, this country implements the Medium-Term Development Strategy 2016-2020 by means of which it sets its emblematic and development priorities regarding infrastructure, tourism, sea space, energy security and housing.

As regards ODA, Antigua and Barbuda received US\$ 9.9 million in 2017 from Japan and the EU mostly, 58% of which was allocated to humanitarian assistance¹⁵, 15% to multi-sectoral issues and 14% manufacturing. According to the OECD, this country could be the following in this region to be graduated in the next revision of the DAC-OECD list in 2020 considering its income per capita.

¹³ During the development of the present study, an information capture instrument was sent to each of the fourteen CNib countries, only Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines replied, thanks to which it was possible to obtain more detailed information put forward herein. For the rest of the countries, each profile was built based on secondary information sources, mainly from these countries themselves. The present study did not provide for CNib countries field work.

¹⁴ This data refers to 2018 for this and all countries, obtained based on ECLAC's figures database (<https://estadisticas.eclac.org>).

¹⁵ Due to the damage caused by hurricane Irma in 2017 mainly on the Barbuda Island, international assistance was primarily focused on it in this emergency.

In its institutional architecture, although not having a unit, department or agency responsible for international cooperation management, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade underlines the importance of being the first contact¹⁶ point with the country and for such purpose, it deploys 6 to 10 officials considering that due to the country extension and the cooperation project reach, officials are appointed by the ministerial advisor.

The country acknowledges that its main SSC/TrC needs and demands to tackle jointly with Ibero-America are related to the social area (health, education and water sectors) and the economic area (energy, science and technology and employment sectors)¹⁷. In terms of 2030 Agenda, the country is interested in being in line with the development of future cooperative initiatives with Ibero-America with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 10 and 11. Lastly, it expresses particular interest in strengthening SSC/TrC relationships with Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Currently, the country does not have a report or review to consolidate the international cooperation figures; however, it owns a general system that records these actions, but not SSC specifically. The Ministry indicates they are presently establishing initiatives with Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela; nonetheless, it reveals that no information regarding ongoing TrC initiatives is available. In relation to regional integration mechanisms, ECLAC and CELAC are seen as spaces that could allow strengthening the cooperation between the CNib and Ibero-America.

Cooperation with the later is considered significant since it contributes with its national development goals as well as allows partner diversification beyond the traditional donor paradigm. At the same time, lacking an international cooperation unit turns out to be a major drawback, together with the language barrier, shortage of personnel and financial resources.

¹⁶ The first priority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the technical and financial cooperation for the 2018-2019 period.

¹⁷ For this country and onwards, the activity areas and the sectors mentioned correspond to those acknowledged by the Ibero-American space.

1.3.2. BAHAMAS

The **Commonwealth of the Bahamas**, whose capital city is Nassau, consists of more than seven hundred islands encompassing 13,880 km² with a population of 399,000. Bahamas became independent in 1973 and is part of the Commonwealth of Nations; together with Barbados, it has a very High HDI: 0.807. Its economy based on tourism and financial services led to a GDP per capita of US\$ 31,117, the highest of the fourteen CNIB countries studied herein. To its current employment, public education and health problems, vulnerability to climate change can be added, as it became evident after hurricane Dorian struck in 2019.

The country is a member of OAS and CELAC. At subregional level, it is a member of CARICOM and ACE, as well as of the CDB. The government has established a National Development Plan Vision 2040 for its six development priority areas: **1) transparency, accountability and government efficiency; 2) healthy and productive workforce; 3) citizenship security; 4) community revitalization; 5) inclusive economic growth; and 6) resilient and sustainable environment**¹⁸. Additionally, it has an Economic Development and Planning Unit dependent of the Office of the Prime Minister, which has grown to be the centre of strategic planning for all governmental ministries.

Regarding current institutionalality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a Department of Foreign Affairs with an Economy, Trade and Sustainable Development Division devoted to international cooperation. Approximately 10 persons are in charge of these matters, and 2 specifically of SSC (one person from this Division and another in the Americas Division).

This Ministry also records all agreements, associations and cooperation offers in a chart, even though the Ministry itself reveals that not all cooperation is channelled therein. In addition, it is the Ministry of Finance who gathers and reports international cooperation information the country receives. Its main cooperation partners are China, the OAS and the UN, according to the Bahamas.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers that in sectoral terms, its main SSC/TrC needs/demands are associated to the social area (education and health sectors), the productive area (agriculture and energy) and environment (disaster management). This allows pinpointing the priorities of the country for addressing future SSC and TrC scenarios with the Ibero-American region.

¹⁸ Last public available version is a second work draft.

In addition, considering Bahamas income level, it was the first CNib country to be removed from the OECD-DAC lists of aid recipient countries. As regards SSC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reveals that during the last year over 10 initiatives have been launched; nonetheless, according to the Ibero-American General Secretariat's (SEGIB) figures for 2017 (last figures available), Bahamas only participated in one bilateral project (with Cuba), in a regional joint action with the rest of the CNib countries regarding hydrographic matters and in a triangular action with Mexico and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on environmental statistics.

After hurricane Dorian struck, several partners, including some CNib ones have mobilized their efforts and resources to international assistance¹⁹. So is the case of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which granted US\$ 1 million to the population of the Abaco and Gran Bahama Island. In this sense, with a view to coordinating all these actions, during the last UN General Assembly, Bahamas announced the creation of the Ministry Of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction of the country.

Bahamas is one of the five CNib countries that has presented the SDG Voluntary National Review Report, where it acknowledges the absence of a framework that would allow a more efficient coordination and search for cooperation to move towards the implementation of SDG 17, for which reason it has coordinated efforts between the Ministry of Finance, the Economic Development and Planning Unit and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform the international community about their main development needs, which has been translated into tangible assistance.

Currently, none of the United Nation System agencies has resident offices in this country. In addition, only Brazil and Cuba have resident Embassies in Bahamas, while other region countries such as Chile, Colombia and Ecuador, among others, only have their honorary consulates there. Regarding Ibero-American countries, the only Bahamas accredited Embassy is in Cuba and honorary consulates in five other countries.

1.3.3. BARBADOS

Barbados is one the first CNib nations in gaining its independency, in 1966. It encompasses 430 km² and a population of 286,000, being Bridgetown its capital city. The country's GDP per capita is US\$ 17,762, and together with Bahamas, is one CNib countries with Very High HDI: 0.800. Regarding economy, Barbados was the only country to register a GDP contraction in 2018 (-0.6%) due to revenue issues and a drop in the building industry, as per the CDB.

¹⁹ Según According to the USAID, United States contribution has been US\$ 33.7 million after Dorian struck.

Barbados is member of OAS, CELAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) at regional level. Subregionally, it is member of CARICOM, ACE and the CDB. Considering its income level, Barbados was also excluded from the OECD-DAC lists of aid recipient countries since 2011, which narrows down its financing potential in terms of grants. At present, Barbados maintains diplomatic relations with partners such as the People's Republic of China, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019 aimed at enhancing cooperation opportunities related to advanced agriculture, renewable energy, blue economy, etc.

At national level, the country implemented the Mid-term Growth and Development Strategy 2013-2020, which has four guidelines related to the sustainable economic growth, the necessary economic reforms, social and human development, and environmental sustainability. At the same time, this document highlights SSC as a promoter of regional cooperation that can lead to new partnerships with key actors and relevant sectors for the country, regarding the technical assistance that different partners can provide as relevant for the country's development.

Barbados' Strategy for Development is the one that includes international cooperation the most, and specifically, SSC in the CNib countries studied herein. This document also presents a financial strategy that fosters the identification and achievement of greater technical and financial assistance, aimed at achieving the national development goals.

At the institutional level, Barbados' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade is responsible for the country's foreign policy and acknowledges Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and Venezuela, among others, as its main partners in the region. In fact, it was this Ministry who leaded a session in 2019, the third and most recent joint commission with its peer Suriname where the agricultural area appears as the most alluring in the cooperation actions proposed by both countries. This common practice of joint commissions in Ibero-America is particularly scarce in the CNib countries.

Its SSC with countries from the region in 2017 was characterized by two initiatives where Barbados participated as recipient with Mexico and Colombia, also by three SSC Regional initiatives with Chile and Mexico regarding phytosanitary systems and hydrographic capacities. The country did not participate in TrC actions with Ibero-American countries during said year.

Barbados' case stands out in the CNib as the country where the United Nation System locates the largest number of resident offices. So is the case of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, PAHO, UNWOMEN, FAO and the UIT; furthermore, several of these offices are

multi-country or encompassing the Caribbean Eastern region. This institutional presence should be considered when assessing SSC prospect initiatives and mainly, TrC by the Ibero-American community.

1.3.4. BELIZE

This nation achieved its independence in 1981 and is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It has an extension of 22,970 km², a population of 382,000 and its capital is Belmopan. The GDP per capita is US\$ 5,033 and has a High HDI: 0.708. In 2018, its economy grew 3% mainly due to the agricultural and air transportation behaviour, which stimulated tourist arrivals. Nevertheless, its debt levels are still high and barely dropped below the 90% of the GDP.

Belize is a member of OAS, SELA and CELAC at regional level; subregionally, of CARICOM, ACE, the CDB, Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Mesoamerica Integration and Development Project. According to the OECD, the ODA Belize received was US\$ 34,1 million in 2017, being the EU community institutions its main partner. In contrast with CNIB, humanitarian assistance received by Belize was barely 2% of the total ODA, while the multisectoral area (34%) and health and population (26%) were the most important sectors in said period.

As regards planning, Belize has set a short-term Sustainable Growth and Development Strategy 2016-2019, aligned with a broader planning framework known as **Belize Horizon 2030, which sets indicators and long-term development goals for the country.** This instrument defined four pillars for Belize development which are: Democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development; Education for development; Economic resilience and Healthy people and Healthy Environment.

Belize Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates international cooperation and leads said actions by means of the Cooperation Unit, where at least 3 officials manage cooperation initiatives, regardless their modality, kind or origin. In addition, Mexico stands out as one of the three Belize's main cooperation partners, together with EU and Taiwan.

In terms of information, the country relies on the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP), administered by the Ministry of Economic Development, which comprises received donation and loan projects. Also, all international cooperation information, regardless the modality, is collected in a database of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Notwithstanding the above, development good practices are not consolidated in a document or portfolio, even with Belize is considering two experiences to be shared at cooperation initiatives with Ibero-America and is unfamiliar with Ibero-American good practice portfolios.

Pursuant to this Ministry, in 2018 the country implemented SSC initiatives with other countries from Latin America, CNib, Asia, Middle East and Oceania. With Ibero-America it states to be engaged in ongoing cooperation actions with all its country members (with the exception of Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay); regarding TrC, initiatives with Colombia (on security), Brazil and Chile (on education) have been launched.

Belize highlights from the cooperation with Ibero-America, the project execution flexibility in contrast with North-South Cooperation, and values the exchange of similar development experiences that lead to a better adaptation and comprehension of the country's development challenges. Concurrently, Belize acknowledges language barrier, personnel shortage and scarce financial resources as the main drawbacks for strengthening SSC and TrC with Ibero-America.

In the medium-term, Belize prioritizes the definition of prospect SSC and TrC initiatives with the region, the economic area (enterprising, employment, industry and fishery sectors). Regarding 2030 Agenda²⁰, it prioritizes SDG 1 and 9 for strengthening cooperation initiatives with Ibero-America. Lastly, Belize has a particular interest in deepening cooperation relationships with Brazil and Mexico.

At regional level, Belize considers CARICOM and ECLAC the main regional mechanisms for strengthening cooperation relationships between Ibero-America and the CNib, given that that it has enough means and experience to foster this bounds and South-South channels. Regarding the Caribbean community, it highlights how dynamic and active the mechanism proves to be for Belize and the rest of the CNib countries.

1.3.5. DOMINICA

As member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Dominica is an independent nation since 1978, its most ancient city and capital is Roseau. With an extension of 750 km² and a population of 74,000 (the smallest of the CNib countries), Dominica has a GDP per capita of US\$ 7,410, being tourism and related activities, as well as construction, its mains economic activities in 2018.

²⁰ Belize presented a SDG Voluntary National Review in 2017.

The country reached a 0.715 HDI, which despite of being High, it had the CNIB greatest negative variation in 2012-2017. Also, Dominica suffered an impact equivalent to 226% of its GDP due to hurricane Maria (Category 5) struck in 2017. This phenomenon affected 100% of the population as well as all Dominica's economic sectors.

Dominica is member of OAS and CELAC. At subregional level, of CARICOM, ACE and OECS, as well as of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), the CDB and ECCB which lays down the monetary policy for six of the countries from the region. Pursuant to OECD's figures, in 2017 Dominica received US\$ 18.7 million, mainly from EU, allocated mostly to humanitarian assistance (87%), followed far behind by education with a scarcely 9%.

In addition, the People's Republic of China became an important cooperation partner for Dominica, assisting mainly in infrastructure, education, health and agricultural sectors, and having provided financial resources after hurricane Maria struck (firstly, US\$ 800,000 and later, US\$ 3 million intended for a roof restoration project).

Regarding planning, the country developed a Growth and Social Protection Strategy 2014-2018, which highlights the significance of international support in resilient construction and reduction of the main vulnerabilities of the country. Currently, pursuant to its manifestation of becoming the first fully climate resilient nation, Dominica has formulated the 2030 National Resilience Development Strategy, which sets a long-term horizon and becomes the first effective mechanism to implement SDG and national priorities²¹.

This strategy prioritizes social development (social protection, poverty reduction), environment and economic development (revenue and macroeconomic policies) as strategic sectoral issues; it also states that every four years the strategy will be revised and updated in accordance with their respective progress. The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has the responsibility of formulating and implementing the foreign policies with only one Political Affairs Division and a Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit.

In terms of SSC, as indicated by the SEGIB report, Dominica undertook the greatest number of ongoing bilateral initiatives with the Ibero-America community in 2014-2015, being Argentina its main cooperation partner; regarding 2017, it participated in four bilateral projects (with Colombia and Cuba), and in two bilateral actions (with Mexico and

²¹ After hurricane Maria struck, Law 16/2018 was draft to set the new Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica whose role is, among other matters, to support Ministries and Agencies to enable them to develop capacities to meet donor conditions for a more efficient management of drawdown of funds.

Colombia) being social area the most relevant aspect of this cooperation. At regional level, Dominica developed three more initiatives, where Chile and Mexico were the offeror countries regarding interventions intended to several CNib countries.

Presently, the United Nation System has no resident offices in the country, while, in Ibero-America, Dominica it established an Embassy in Cuba and an Honorary Consulate in Dominican Republic. On the other hand, only Cuba and Venezuela have diplomatic representation there and Nicaragua has appointed an ambassador who will present his credentials soon.

1.3.6. GRENADA

The country achieved its independency in 1974 and established Saint George as its capital. With a population of 108,000 and 340 km², it is the CNib second smallest country. Still a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Grenada reached a GDP per capita of US\$ 10,787 and a High HDI of 0.772. In 2018, Grenada economy growth was the highest of all the CNib countries, explained mainly by tourist arrival increment (10%), building and manufacturing.

At regional level, Grenada is a member of OAS, CELAC and ALBA- Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-PTT). Subregionally, it is member of CARICOM, ACE, OECS, the CDB and ECCB. Regarding national planning, the country established in 2015 the Strategic Development Plan 2030, which six strategic priorities: **1) Governance, 2) Innovation, 3) Infrastructure, environment and ecology, 4) Competitiveness, 5) Caring society, 6) Climate change and disaster management**²².

In 2017, the ODA reached US\$ 5.8 million, derived from multilateral actors. In terms of bi-lateral cooperation, Japan and Germany were the main assistant partners for the country; also, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development stands out for proving assistance for several years, recently approving a donation of US\$ 450,000 in April, 2019.

In institutional terms, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the entity responsible for promoting dialogue and cooperation between the country and the international community.

²² Currently, the Ministry of Finance is leading a process of public and sectoral consultation for the approval of a Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035.

For this aim, within its structure, it counts on the Department of Policy and Research charged with the responsibility of bilateral and multilateral commitments, where international cooperation is managed, in the head of three professionals who handle Ibero-American issues. Also, their internal record and filing system serves as information system, as well as instrument for consolidating cooperation data within the country.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Grenada implemented over 10 SSC initiatives during 2018, being Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Cuba its main Ibero-American partners. The country also highlights the execution of actions articulated with the CNIB itself, as well as with regions particularly Asia (surely due to China) and even Middle East and Oceania.

As to the future, Grenada recognizes that its main SSC and TrC needs and demands are focused mainly on two fields of action, the economic and the environment, where disaster management area is found. In addition, it acknowledges ECLAC and CARICOM as the main regional mechanisms for strengthening cooperation between the regions, as well as it sees in the language barrier and financial resource shortage as the main restrictions for deepening SSC and TrC ties with Ibero-America.

1.3.7. GUYANA

Independent state since 1966, it is the largest CNIB country with a territory of 214,970 km², being Georgetown its capital. With a population of 782,000, it has a GDP per capita of US\$ 4,709, the second lowest of the CNIB region. According to the UNDP, has a Medium HDI: 0.654, thus being with Haiti the only countries that did not reach a High or Very High HDI. In 2018, Guyana was the third economy with the highest growth in the region, due to its building sector development, which can lead to a greater economy growth.

Guyana is a member state of OAS, CELAC, SELA and the Union of South American Nations (USAN); in the Caribbean, it is a member of CARICOM and ACE as well as of the CDB. Its planning since 2019 is framed by the **Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, based on three key elements: managing natural resource wealth, economic resilience and building human capital and institutional capacity.** This strategy underlines the emergence of innovative financial sources that will lead to new possibilities and resources for its implementations

ODA in the country has decreased during the last years in absolute and relative terms. During the 1990-2010 period, it always represented at least 5% of its GDP, but decreased lower than 3% afterwards. As per OECD figures, the ODA reached in Guyana US\$ 51,1 million in 2017, being the third largest recipient following Haiti and Jamaica. Education is the main area to receive assistance (69%), while France, Holland and Belgium are Guyana's main bilateral partners. In addition, in 2019, Kuwait wrote off a debt almost of the same amount as the ODA received in 2017 (US\$ 50,7 million).

The Department of the Americas, reporting to the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, is responsible for foreign policies with other countries in the hemisphere, except for Venezuela and Suriname, as well as promoting the country participation in the main regional forums such as OAS, MERCOSUR, ECLAC, CELAC, among others. In cooperation terms, the Department of International Cooperation is in charge of coordinating said matters within the country.

As per the information provided by the Ibero-American countries, in 2017, Guyana took part in 10 Bilateral SSC initiatives, mainly social-related (health and education sectors), being Cuba, Chile and Mexico the main offeror partners. Also, it participated as recipient in three initiatives of a more regional nature together with Chile (twice) and Mexico (once only).

Guyana in addition to counting on different representations from the United Nation System Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, PAHO, among others), it is key in the CNib every time the country holds the Chairman post of CARICOM, the most long-standing dialogue and discussion mechanism in the region, where all fourteen countries studied herein participate. Additionally, it stands out for being one the CNib countries with the largest number of Ibero-American embassies accredited there (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela).

1.3.8. HAITI

In 1801, Haiti became the first independent state of Latin America. It has the largest CNib population, 11,176,000 inhabitants, 2 million of which are estimated to live in Port-au-Prince, its capital, and the metropolitan area. With a territory of 27,750 km², it is the only CNib insular country with land frontiers, sharing Hispaniola with its neighbouring country the Dominican Republic.

Haiti is the only nation in the region with a Low HDI: 0.498 and with the lowest GDP per capita in the hemisphere (US\$ 733).

In 2018, its economy grew 1.5% on account of agriculture, building and trade, in a country where politic stability continues being an important challenge. Together **with the constant vulnerability to the climate changes, the country was affected by an earthquake in 2010 with a death toll estimated in 200,000 and severe damage and loss**, also affected by hurricane Mathew (2016) and Irma (2017) to a lesser extent.

At regional level, Haiti participates in political dialogue and discussion mechanisms such as OAS, SELA and CELAC. At subregional level, it is a member of CARICOM since 2002, ACE and the CDB; the latter opened an office in Haiti in 2018 and has contributed through its Development Fund Bank with more than US\$ 134 million in non refundable resources since 2007.

In view of this development scenario, the international cooperation has always focused its attention on Haiti, even more so after the 2010 earthquake. In ODA terms, the country has received US\$ 980 million in 2017, what makes it the largest recipient country of the entire region, being the United States its main source of resources (43%). The UN has a strong presence in the country, as well as Ibero-American countries, the latter have been implementing cooperation initiatives with Haiti for some years.²³

At present, **with the aim to becoming an emerging country in the 2030 horizon, Haiti targets its development priorities by framing them to the Strategic Development Plan 2030**, which, in its planning and programming framework, establishes as main priorities the territorial, economic, social and institutional reconstruction which will enable the country's rebuilding and development. Even though said document does not delve into the international community role, it deems necessary to establish solid coordination mechanisms for the assistance provided to the country.

In its institutional architecture, Haiti's Department of Economic Affairs and Cooperation, dependent on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cults, is responsible for the country's international bilateral and multilateral, financial and technical cooperation. In the same way, since 1989, Haiti has the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, leading the Coordination of External Assistance for Development (CADRE for its acronym in French), which has a Technical Secretary. At the same time, the country employs more than 10 officials responsible for the international cooperation and two specifically in charge of Ibero-American cooperation.

²³ The first SEGIB SSC report already warned how some Ibero-American countries provide technical assistance to this Caribbean nation, mainly in the infrastructure and social services area. In 2006 SSC was registered from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela with Haiti.

By means of a management of external assistance module and a technological system, the country is able to record georeferentially the assistance flows (according to programmes and projects), and is testing a new specific module adapted to SSC. In this sense, The Ministry of Planning reports on SSC initiatives with CNIB countries namely Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, where this cooperation is recognized due to being closely related to Haiti problems and without conditionality. In addition, the Ministry underlines Cuba, Brazil and Venezuela as the country's main TrC partners, and mentions that SSC is mainly implemented with Ibero-America, CNIB itself and in some occasions with African partners.

In terms of SSC/TrC main demands and needs to work with Ibero-America, Haiti prioritized the social area (health and water sanitation) and the economic area (energy, agriculture and tourism sector); it also intends to align future cooperation initiatives with SDG 2 and 3. Also, it recognizes that organizations namely CARICOM, CELAC and ECLAC can contribute in narrowing information gap between both regions and in meeting potential cooperation proposal of interest to both parties.

In relation to the cooperation with the Ibero-American community in 2017 (further elaborated in Chapter 3), Haiti proves to be an important partner. At bilateral level, the country had the highest involvement of the CNIB with almost 20% of the total ongoing initiatives in said year, while in triangular interventions a 50% involvement was achieved. At bilateral level, Haiti stands out for its action in the social area (education, health and social policies sector), also at TrC level. In terms of regional SSC, it had a lower participation, restricted to three actions in 2017 with Chile and Mexico as offeror partners.

The UN has a strong presence in this country through its several agencies such as the UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, OCHA, PAHO, UNWOMEN and FAO. Also, different countries of the region have diplomatic representation in Haiti through their Embassies (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) or Consulates, in some cases honorary, e.g. Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, etc.

1.3.9. JAMAICA

Jamaica has been an independent nation since 1962, though it is still member of the Commonwealth of Nations, with a territorial extension of 10,990 km², and 2,899,000 inhabitants, being Kingston its capital. It has a GDP per capita of US\$ 5.511 and a High HDI: 0.732. In 2018, its economy reached the highest growth rate since 2006, 1.9% mainly owed to mining, building and agriculture.

Together with other countries of the region, in 2019, Jamaica banned the import and manufacturing of single-use plastic bags, as part of blue economy dynamics.

Jamaica is member of the OAS, SELA and CELAC at regional level. Subregionally, it is member of CARICOM, ACE and the CDB. According to the OECD's figures, the ODA Jamaica received was US\$ 58.8 million in 2017, being the United States, the EU and the United Kingdom its main partners. In contrast with the rest of the CNib countries, humanitarian assistance barely rated 13% of the total assistances received by Jamaica, while social infrastructure (23%), and economic infrastructure (20%) were the most important sectors in 2017.

Vision 2030 Jamaica is a current development plan instrument intended to contribute to such purpose by means of medium and long term politics and programmes. To this end, it outlines four national goals regarding economic prosperity, environment, social cohesion and justice and society empowerment. This framework points out the need for cooperation, which together with economic competence, should foster the efficient use and exchange of natural resources, technologies, knowledge and capital.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) are responsible for the institutionality of international cooperation. The Caribbean and Americas Department is an arm of the former, in charge of fostering integration, development and technical cooperation. While the Institute articulates cooperation at national level through the External Cooperation Management Division, with 10 officials but none exclusively assigned to SSC matters. In terms of information, the PIOJ publishes annually the Social and Economic Survey²⁴, where the main cooperation figures in the country are reported.

Furthermore, according to information provided by the Institute, its current SSC relationships are established only with English-speaking Caribbean countries and the Ibero-American community, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, acknowledging how social and economic similarities foster simple SSC processes as well as reaching joint resolutions easily adaptable to both countries, even when ignoring Ibero-American cooperation is recognized as a drawback. The country does not report any TrC current initiatives.

²⁴ Pursuant to the most recent report, the new ODA approved in the country it reached US\$ 220 million in 2018.

Jamaica identifies its major needs and, at the same time, prioritizes the economic area (agriculture and fishing sectors specifically) and the economic area (enterprises and science and technology) in a bid to implement SSC and TrC initiatives with Ibero-America, which puts the country in line with SDG 1 and 7²⁵. PIOJ also expresses interest in deepening cooperation relationships with countries such as Mexico and Chile

Lastly, the Institute considered OAS and ECLAC regional mechanisms relevant for strengthening cooperation relationships between Ibero-America and the CNib, considering the reach and geographical extension of the former, as well as the contributions regarding specific development investigation of the latter.

1.3.10. SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

It is the smallest nation of the fourteen CNib countries studied herein and the last one to be independent in 1983. Member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Saint Kitts and Nevis territory is 260 km², a population of 56,000 and its capital is Basseterre, the largest settlement. Its HDI is High (0.778), while its GDP per capita is US\$ 17,550 (the second highest of the region following Bahamas). Tourism is the activity that most contributes to the economy, followed by transportation and communications. Its debt (though steady since 2028) represents the 58.2% of the nation GDP.

The country is a member of OAS, CELAC, ALBA-PTT, and at subregional level, of CARICOM, ACS, OECS, the CDB and ECCB that conducts the monetary policy of seven countries of the region. In terms of ODA, Saint Kitts and Nevis is not in the OECD-DAC list of recipient countries since it was excluded in 2014, therefore the country is not eligible for this kind of assistance.

At national level, the national government submits budget annually, as regards 2019, it prioritizes resilience construction in sectors related to agriculture, transportation, energy and water and by means of which intends to contribute and advance in nine SDG. Currently, the country is making efforts to obtain technical assistance in a bid to formulate a new National Development Plan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation is responsible for implementing foreign policies and promoting and protecting its strategic interests. Similar to Ibero-American structures, its personnel is divided by countries and organizations in accordance with the world

²⁵ Jamaica presented its SDG National Review Report in 2018.

regions, where Latin-American matters are handled by two officials despite of not having a specialized cooperation area.

In addition, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, through the Department of Economic Affairs, coordinates the international cooperation in the country, with more than ten officials appointed to cooperation matters, one being designated as focal point with the PIFCSS. This entity devised a medium-term chart to record capital initiatives and medium-term financial sources. Currently, it acknowledges the EU, Taiwan and the CDB as its main cooperation partners.

This Ministry defines and prioritizes the main SSC/TrC demands and needs in the social area (health and drinking water sectors) and economic area (agriculture and trade sectors) and aligns them with SDG 3 and 13; this envisaging potential approaches to and cooperation with the Ibero-American region. Also, it acknowledges that mechanisms such as CARICOM and OECS can serve as regional information centre or databases for successful SSC initiatives between the CNib and Ibero-America, with a more active role in promoting SSC and replicating fruitful initiatives in the entire CNib.

Regarding Saint Kitts and Nevis SSC in 2018, the country manifests having implemented initiatives with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, despite of lacking information on TrC; the most valuable assets from said cooperation are claimed to be human resources and institutional capacity that enable technical assistance, otherwise, having access to them would bear costs. At the same time, it indicates that although the language barrier and the country's lack of knowledge on the region cooperation, Saint Kitts and Nevis has received various Ibero-American cooperation proposals, however, without enough time for replying or submitting a proposal, considering the limited human resource.

The United Nation System does not have any resident office²⁶ in Saint Kitts and Nevis and regarding the Ibero-American community, only Cuba and Venezuela have resident Embassies, while the country has only one accredited Embassy in Cuba, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

²⁶ Nicaragua has a resident Embassy from Managua.

1.3.11. SAINT LUCIA

Saint Lucia became independent in 1979. Its land area is 620 km² with a population of 180,000 and its capital is Castries. The country reached a GDP per capita of US\$ 10,536 and a High HDI: 0.7474. His economy was registered with the lowest growth of the CNIB in 2018 (except for Barbados, whose economy shrunk), being tourism-related activities the most important one on the island.

Saint Lucia is a member of OEAS and CELAC at regional level, while in the Caribbean, is a member of CARICOM, ACE and OECS, as well as the CDB and ECCB, being the latter its highest monetary authority. At national level, **its planning framework is set by the Medium-Term Development strategy 2019-2022, drafted in 2018 and includes national priorities for the social area** (health, education and citizen security) **and the economic area** (tourism, agriculture and infrastructure).

Regarding ODA, according to OECD, the country received US\$ 12,6 million during 2017, allocated to humanitarian assistance (72%) mostly, and followed far behind by the education area with a 7% from the total of the resources, originated mainly from EU and Japan. In the same manner, Taiwan is considered a significant cooperation partner for this country, primarily in areas such as education, health, agriculture (banana cropping).

In this country, the Prime Minister is simultaneously the Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service and he is responsible for implementing the country's foreign policies and managing international relationships, among other matters. The organization oversees and coordinates both planning and management of financial resources including those deriving from foreign sources. During the latest session of the UN General Assembly, Saint Lucia urged on the need to count with urgent access to SIDS funding as well as being supported by new partners enabling motoring resources for the resilience.

Even though no national reports or reviews on international cooperation received or offered by the country are available, its annual budget establishes the financial contributions funded by the country from the Department of Foreign Affairs, for the 2018-2019 period, these amount to US\$ 10 million, mainly with OECS, whose headquarters are in Saint Lucia.

Similarly, according to its Voluntary National Review Report SDG presented in 2019, the country recognized the pressing need for developing strategies that will enable to identify and quantify the financial gap the country is facing in a bid to comply with its national

priorities. As stated by this report, the SDG implementation in the country has been funded mainly by international partners through grants, donations and technical assistance, where the greatest difficulty is linked to the lack of reliable statistic data for reporting indicators and selected SDGs.

In SSC terms, as per the information reported by Ibero-American countries, Saint Lucia took part of eight bilateral initiatives in 2017 as recipient with Mexico, Cuba, Argentina and Colombia regarding social issues mainly (health and education). Likewise, it participated in three SSC regional initiatives with Chile and Mexico and in one triangular project regarding public health research (with Mexico and Singapore).

1.3.12. SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is an independent state since 1979, member of the Commonwealth of Nations, with a territory of 390 km², being Kingstown its capital. Its population is 110,000 and a GDP per capita of US\$ 7,362. Pursuant to the UNDP, it has a High HDI: 0.723. Having political and economic stability, it had a GDP economic growth of 2.2% in 2018 mainly due to tourism reaction to the opening of the Argyle international airport in 2017 and the manufacturing industry growth.

The country is a member of OAS and CELAC. At subregional level, it is part of CARICOM, ACE and OECS, as well as the CDB and ECCB, the latter responsible for setting the monetary policies in this country and in other six the region. As per OECD figures, the ODA received was US\$ 7.3 million in 2017, mainly from the EU and Japan as main partners, allocate to humanitarian assistance (34%) as the second most important area, preceded by multi-sectoral areas (43%).

Its National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025, framework for the received international cooperation, is anchored on five strategic goals: 1) Re-engineering economic growth; 2) human and social development; 3) promoting good governance and effectiveness of public administration; 4) physical infrastructure, environment and resilience to climate change; and 5) Identity and culture.

In terms of international cooperation, and pursuant to the information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this organization is in charge of coordinating the country cooperation within the country itself, by means of a Department of Foreign Policy and Investigation, where at least two officials are responsible for managing cooperation issues with Ibero-American countries.

Notwithstanding this, the country does not count with any political instruments to guide or frame the main cooperation guidelines, or any report or information system that enables to consolidate and monitor the received cooperation, including SSC and TrC.

Its Ministry mentions that EU, Taiwan and Venezuela as the three main cooperation partners during 2018, and in the same year implemented under their coordination no more than ten SSC cooperation initiatives with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia among others, which served to strengthen its development capacities in the public and private sectors, as well as strengthening diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with partner countries. In terms of TrC, CARICOM and OECS are considered relevant partners; yet, it has been pointed out that the country does not have information on its TrC initiatives with Ibero-America in 2018.

As to prospect SSC and TrC initiatives with the Ibero-American community, the country acknowledges as priority and necessary to work in the social area (education and health mainly) and in the economic area (trade and industry); simultaneously, the language barrier and the lack of financial resources are the two main restrictions to continue strengthening its cooperation relationships with Ibero-American countries. Also, the country is most interested in anchoring SSC with Mexico and Argentina.

At present, the United Nation Systems does not have resident offices in this territory and looks forward to the country's first Voluntary National Review Report on SDG in 2020. Regarding Ibero-America, only Cuba and Venezuela have resident Embassies there²⁷, while Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has only one Honorary Consulate in Chile and Dominican Republic in the Ibero-American region.

1.3.13. SURINAME

It is a nation that gained independence from the Netherlands in 1975 and has a territorial extension of 163,820 km² (the second largest of the fourteen countries studied herein, preceded by Guyana). Its population is 568,000 and its capital is Paramaribo. Suriname GDP per capita is US\$ 6,322 and has a High HDI: 0,720. Its recent economy growth (2% in 2018) is explained by extraction activities.

Suriname is a member of OAS, SEA and CELAC. At subregional level, it is member of USAN, ALBA-PTT, CARICOM and ACE, as well as the CDB. According to OECD, the ODA received was US\$ 20.1 million in 2017, being the EU, France and the Netherlands its main

²⁷ Nicaragua has a resident Embassy from Managua.

partners. Sectorally, Suriname is the CNib country whose resources were mostly allocated to the education area (69%) and humanitarian assistance only 5% in contrast with the majority of the insular CNib countries.

At national level, **the country adopted the National Policy Development Plan²⁸ 2017-2021**, and soon expects to conclude the elaboration of its long-term strategy Suriname 2035. The current plan is based on four pillars: strengthening development capacity, economic growth and diversification, social progress and utilization and protection of the environment. Together with Barbados', its planning framework is the development plan tackles the most the importance of international cooperation, and sets a wide financing strategy even when its perspective is aimed mainly to North-South assistance.

In cooperation terms, Suriname has a Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a Permanent Secretary Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation, and simultaneously, a sub-secretary with two areas: an international cooperation area, responsible for coordinating relationships at bilateral and multilateral level except for relationships with international financing institutions, and an international trade area.

The Suriname-Barbados relationship represents an interesting SSC experience in the CNib, since they entered a cooperation agreement 2005 under which three joint commission meetings have already been held, the most recent in July 2019. In addition, both Heads of State have already signed in 2018 the Brokopondo Programme for Cooperation 2018-2021 to further strengthen the bilateral relationships between both countries. In the case of Bahamas, Suriname's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a contribution of US\$ 100,000 as emergency assistance after hurricane Dorian struck.

With the Ibero-American region, Suriname implemented seven bilateral SSC initiatives in 2017 with partners such as Mexico, Colombia, Cuba and Argentina, being the social area the most relevant. Regarding TrC, the country participated as recipient in a project with Chile and Brazil aimed at improving its agricultural health system, and three other regional SSC initiatives with Chile and Mexico.

In October 2019, Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, partook in the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, where she emphasized on the importance of SSC between the country members of the Movement, with the purpose of achieving sustainable development.

²⁸ Article 40 of Suriname's Constitution prescribes that with due observance of the social and economic goals of the State, a Development Plan must be adopted by law.

1.3.14. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Being independent since 1962, with a territory of 5,130 km², it is the fourth largest of all the insular countries studied herein, and its capital is Port of Spain. It has a population of 1,373,000 and a GDP per capita of US\$ 17,034. As informed by the UNDP, the country reached a High HDI: 0,784²⁹. In contrast with the rest of the CNib, the most important area in its economy is the energy area (gas and oil), which has a public sector debt valued in 62.4% of the GDP by the end of 2018.

At regional level, Trinidad and Tobago is part of OAS, SELA and CELAC, in the Caribbean is part of CARICOM and ACE, as well as the CDB. In terms of national planning, **the country frames its development since 2015 in the Vision 2030 National Development Strategy**, aimed at providing a long-term socio-economic development framework.

This document for strategic planning **sets the government's priorities to the following thematic areas: good governance, productivity** (improving quality infrastructure and transportation), **global competitiveness and environment**. Furthermore, this strategy claims that international development partners will not only provide financial resources but also technical assistance in the complete implementation of Vision 2030. Similarly, the country is expected to submit before the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development its SDG Voluntary National Review Report in 2020.

In terms of international cooperation, it must be considered that Trinidad and Tobago was excluded from the OECD-DAC lists in 2011, as other CNib nations e.g. Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Notwithstanding this, countries such as China – with who celebrated forty-five years of diplomatic relations in 2019- turn out to be vital in terms of assistance for the country.

Within its institutional architecture, Trinidad and Tobago has a Department of the Americas responsible for the country's matters with North America, Central America and South America, reporting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM, which also participates in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with countries of the same hemisphere. Trinidad and Tobago claims cooperation with Latin America to be one of the four pillars of its foreign policies.

²⁹ Despite of this, it is the third CNib most descending country when compared to 2012, by losing seven positions.

Additionally, the Ministry of Planning and Development through the Technical Cooperation Unit is part of the country's institutional responsibility for international cooperation management. By 2020, the country plans to move forward in the creation of the International Cooperative Development Division, thus creating a focal point that will enable to efficiently manage the country cooperation³⁰.

Despite of being one of the vastest CNib countries and with the largest institutional responsibility, Ibero-American SSC and TrC are scarce. In 2017, Trinidad and Tobago was involved in only two bilateral SSC initiatives with Mexico and Cuba and three regional SSC actions with Chile and Mexico concerning transportation and agriculture; and in a single triangular project aimed at training several countries of the region on diseases transmitted by arthropods.

1.4. GOOD PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN

By considering the institutional responsibility of the CNib countries and the absence of guidelines, catalogues or portfolios that consolidate their cooperation offer, as is the case of a significant number of Ibero-American nations, this section presents those good practices identified by the countries as such during this document draft, as well as the case studies or experience systematization that have been recently registered in the region and that can serve as potential input for the matters and practices herein related.

In the first case, **Table 1** relates those experiences reported by CNib countries and organizations considered to be good practices and that have been shared, or that have the potential to be shared, with Ibero-American countries.

TABLE 1. Good practices identified by CNib countries to be implemented in SSC initiatives with Ibero-America.

Country	Good Practice	Leader Entity	Comments
Antigua and Barbuda	Fishing management deriving from population depletion	Antigua and Barbuda Government	----
Antigua and Barbuda	Banning of plastic to fight sea pollution	Antigua and Barbuda Government	First country in the region introducing this ban (2016)

³⁰ In 2016, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago made an experience exchange with the AGCID from Chile to know about the institutional experience of the country in the management, functioning and the structure of an international cooperation agency.

Country	Good Practice	Leader Entity	Comments
Belize	Shrimp farming	Belize Shrimp Growers Association	Recognized by IDB as the most ethical and sustainable in the world
Belize	Coral cay protection and restoration	Belize Government	Co-leader of the Commonwealth Blue Charter Group where good practices are shared
Jamaica	Health and Family Life Education	Ministry of Education, Youth & Information	Shared with Grenada in the CNIB
Jamaica	Programme of Adolescent Mothers	Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation	Identified by the Planning Institute of Jamaica
Jamaica	Community Development Project	Social Development Commission	Identified by the Planning Institute of Jamaica
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Revenue and Debt Management	Ministry of Finance	First Eastern Caribbean country to align its debt to the international reference
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Primary and secondary universal Healthcare	Ministry of Health	Achievements registered in the National Adaptation Strategy
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Teaching English as second language	West Indies University	Implemented with Ecuadorian teachers and diplomats
OECS countries	Grouped procurement and pharmaceuticals management	OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service	Reported by OECS

Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

Additionally, there are experiences that have been registered or systematized (called good practices, case studies or success case studies) that, in most occasions, derive from processes implemented previously with regional partners, cooperant partners, or international organizations; cases presented in the countries' SDG Voluntary National Review Reports as successful experiences are also registered. It should be noted the differences that may exist between some cases, considering that these having been registered or

systematized by different actors, they may not share the same information or structure. **Table 2** depicts the scenario identified in the present study.

TABLE 2. Good practices, case studies or success case studies recently presented or registered in the CNIB.

Country	Initiative	Partner national entity	Cooperation area	Initiative source
Grenada	Early Childhood Policies Design	Grenada Government	Strengthening public institutions and policies	Published by the CDB and UNICEF ³¹
Grenada	Designing early childhood standards	Grenada Government	Strengthening public institutions and policies	
Saint Lucia	Early identification of development challenges	Saint Lucia Government	Strengthening public institutions and policies	
Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis	Early stimulation for children 0-3 years	Both countries government	Health	
Grenada	Preschool curricula	Grenada Government	Education	
Guyana	Learning environment design	Guyana Government	Education	
Grenada	Teacher and practicing teachers training	Grenada Government	Education	Project supported by Japan and UNDP ³²
Saint Lucia	Communication campaign Let's A.C.T. (Adapt. Change.	Department of Sustainable Development	Environment	

³¹ Both organizations published good practice guidance for the Caribbean regarding early childhood development to be shared in the Ministries, personnel responsible for public policies, regional officials, etc. In each case, it addresses the intervention design, their implementation challenges, their main benefits and obtained results, as well as their relationship with the SDG.

³² The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership provided the referenced case studies, which accounts for its mandate being oriented to strengthening the knowledge network for fostering SSC by means of the exchange of experiences, good practices and relevant lessons.

Country	Initiative	Partner national entity	Cooperation area	Initiative source
Saint Lucia	National Adaptation Plan	Saint Lucia Government	Strengthening public institutions and policies	Project supported by Japan and UNDP ³²
Suriname	Community-Based Communication Initiative	National Institute for Environment and Development	Environment	
Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Caribbean	Amazon Conservation Team (Suriname) and Ministry of Agriculture (Saint Vincent)	Energy	
Grenada	Nawasa Community Water Storage	National Disaster Management Agency	Disaster management	Project supported by the EU
Guyana	Strengthening emergency preparation and response in Moraikobai	Civil Defence Commission. Morakobai Council	Disaster management	
Barbados	Organic certification system	The Organic Growers and Consumers Association	Environment	Project funded by UNDP
Guyana	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation	REED+Guyana	Environment	Voluntary review and report SDG 2019

Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

02

Characterization of the main intergovernmental organizations and (sub) regional dialogue and integration mechanisms relevant to the cooperation with the Non Ibero-American Caribbean

Even when the traditional scenario for international cooperation has been for years such where countries participate bilaterally in agreements, programme or mutual assistance initiatives, it is also true that as decades past by, dialogue discussion and integration mechanisms, organizations including international organizations, have opened up more spaces and possibilities to the cooperation processes at regional and subregional level.

In this sense, it seems opportune to identify the main organizations and mechanisms, mainly those subregional ones Caribbean-specific, where there are various levels of incorporation of cooperation and specifically, spaces and opportunities of their own for strengthening cooperation with the CNib.

This section does not aim to be an analysis on the region multilateralism, or to cover all the current integration types, but seeks to offer an overview of those spaces where particular emphasis is laid on cooperation issues, and in some cases, particular reference to the CNib.

2.1. CHARACTERIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL SPACES

At regional level, there is a group of forums that enables integration, dialogue and at the same time, cooperation processes. Latin American countries, Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Caribbean rely on scenarios that have offered these possibilities for years, with cooperation dynamics of their own and diverse. Some of these spaces are described hereafter, where also the CNib countries participate in cooperation issues, particularly for the latter.

2.1.1. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Created in 1948, the ECLAC is one of the five UN regional commissions, to which CNib countries have joined gradually. It aims at contributing in the economic development of the region as well as promoting economic relationships between member countries and the rest of the world.

At the head of the organization is the Executive Secretary, followed by divisions, units, as well as by several subsidiary bodies.

Technical cooperation has been present since the Commission began, and by means of which an important number of initiatives, programmes and assisting programmes are implemented, with a broad participation of international organizations and other partners, who enhance their responsiveness in the form of cooperation services. According to most recent figures, the Commission implemented technical cooperation projects for US\$ 29.5 million allocated to a wide range of matters, and managed to mobilize additional resources to its regular budget for US\$ 20.6 million during the 2016-2017 biennium.

During said period, all CNib countries, except for Dominica, were listed together with those nations where cooperation missions are held, such as strengthening capacity activities, knowledge diffusion, counselling and cooperation, or economic, social or sustainable development. Furthermore, the Commission put forward its initiative Caribbean First, during the XXXVII sessions in 2018, with the aim of tackling the main vulnerabilities of the region.

In institutionality terms, the Commission encompasses several mechanisms where CNib countries participate to discuss regional cooperation matters, as well as forums that seek to address particularly development issues, and cooperation for the Caribbean region.

In the first place, the South-South Cooperation Committee must be mentioned, which is ECLAC subsidiary body holding sessions every two years. The mandate of this subsidiary body derives from General Assembly resolution 58/220, targeted to strengthen international cooperation. In this Committee member countries participate, so can extra regional and multilateral partners³³. The Committee presidency for 2018-2020 period is chaired by Cuba, who reaffirmed the importance of the Caribbean complete integration in accordance with ECLAC politic and strategic vision. Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay chair the Committee vice-presidency.

The last Committee was held in May 2018 in the framework of the XXXVII period session of the Commission, where access to resources under favourable conditions and to former trading conditions was reaffirmed as a pending task for the Caribbean. Similarly, it was further highlighted for Caribbean countries the need to consider the degree of vulnerability in the face of natural disasters when measuring development, notwithstanding these are considered high-income countries.

³³ In the 2018 Committee meeting, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the European Commission, Spain, Germany, South Korea; organizations such as IFAD and South-Centre.

Additionally, the Board of South-South Cooperation Committee has been conducting sessions since 2012. The ninth and most recent meeting was held last April in the frame of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2019. In this meeting, it was emphasized once more, the importance of cooperating with Caribbean countries, which are significantly affected by natural disasters and the over-indebtedness, restricting their chances for development.

On the other hand, the ECLAC also encompasses the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which was established in 1975 as a specific response to the Caribbean needs in the light of its particular history, geography and culture. Among its objectives, it can be mentioned to foster and strengthen economic and social cooperation and integration, to exchange information and experiences, to foster common positions and strategies among Caribbean nations and their relationships with third countries.

The committee holds a Ministry session every two years, preceded by a meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation, which are called annually. In 2018, the Committee held its XXVII session in Saint Lucia (currently chair thereof), where the work programme for the biennium 2018-2019 was introduced;³⁴ while the Monitoring Committee held its XIX meeting in May 2019. At present, all fourteen CNib countries are members of this subsidiary body of the Commission.

Also, in Resolution 73 passed on during the XXIII session period of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, key actors were invited to lead, together with the ECLAC, a Caribbean Roundtable on development, as additional mechanism for the promotion of the region development. The first meeting was held in 2011 and the most recent -the V meeting- in 2018, dealt with climate resilience through ecologic investment (or “green investment”), the risk-reduction impact and the encouragement of a sustainable economic growth

Lastly, also oriented towards this region, the ECLAC has set up a group work regarding the debt swap of the Caribbean countries, in a bid to transform said debt in an investment source regarding issues such as resilience; and it is constituted by Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. This group was suggested by the Caribbean Roundtable on development 2016 and on the following year, it held its first meeting in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), where other organization from the region also participated, namely CARICOM, ACE, ECCB, among others. In February 2018, the second meeting has held.

³⁴ Complete plan available at: [LC/CDCC.27/DDR/3](#)

According to the ECLAC, it has been considered the need to develop a portfolio of projects and green strategies in a bid to capitalize the Caribbean Resilience Fund that should serve as funding source in the future. Further meetings have taken place to continue developing this debt swap initiative in return for climate change adaptation; the most recent held between the ECLAC Executive Secretary and the Prime Minister of de Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the context of the LXXIV session of the UN General Assembly in 2019.

All these actions are complemented by the efforts led by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarter for the Caribbean, opened in 1966, which identifies as main challenges faced by the Caribbean the economic growth expectations reduction and ODA and FDI reduction, among others. By the same token, it considers SSC and TrC as part of the necessary associations to attend those key cross-cutting matters in the Caribbean. This office provides care to insular Caribbean countries, Belize, Guyana and Suriname and currently, Mrs. Diane Quarless is the Chief of this subregional headquarters.

2.1.2. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

The OAS came into being in 1948 with the signature of the Charter of the Organization of American States in Bogotá (Colombia), which came into force in December 1951, and of which all fourteen CNIB countries under study herein are members. The EU and sixty-nine other States have observer status. Its creation Charter includes as its main pillars, together with peace, security and democracy purposes, the cooperative action for the promotion of economic, social and cultural development.

With the entry into force of the Managua Protocol in 1996, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) was created as main political body responsible for formulating, promoting and developing guidelines for the technical cooperation at ministerial level in the hemisphere. At present, Guatemala acts as its President, while Mexico acts as Vice-President. CIDI is formed by all Organization State Members, has an Executive Secretary, and holds ordinary, extraordinary, special and/or sectoral meetings.

One of these special sessions is the Specialized Meeting of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation, which held a second and most recent meeting in September 2018 and focused on the strengthening of capacity of building resilience to disasters.

This meeting gathered the member countries of the Organization,³⁵ and invited as well international organizations, private sector, academy, etc. In its action recommendations, it pressed on the need to define focal point of the cooperation national agencies and relevant authorities, who are involved in all the international cooperation activities in the region.

Also, as part of the CIDI, the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development is another subsidiary organ whose principal purpose is to foster, coordinate, manage and facilitate the planning and execution of programmes, projects, and supportive cooperation within the scope of the Organization. The Agency has a Management Board consisting of nine members,³⁶ being Mexico the current Chair of the Board.

In addition to the above, cooperation at the OAS has additional mechanisms to enhance its promotion in the hemisphere. Firstly, the OAS Development Cooperation Fund, established in 1997 and restructured in 2014,³⁷ which became a non-refundable technical cooperation instrument fostering SSC, TrC and other horizontal forms of cooperation.

At present, the Fund is implementing its second programming cycle 2017-2021, being education the prioritized area. It counts on three specific topics where the participation of the CNlb countries is evidenced, Guyana participates in the area of inclusive and equitable quality education; Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis in the area of enhancing teaching profession; and lastly, Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia y Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the area of early childhood integral attention³⁸.

Secondly, the OAS counts on **CooperaNet, an online resource seeking to become a hub for cooperation development and alliances**, where the needs of the Organization member states could find solutions provided by other countries or development actors. It aims at building and optimizing different kinds of alliances, providing access to technical assistance, and having training, debates and good practices in real time.

³⁵ From CNlb all countries participated other than Belize, Dominica and Suriname. The delegation accredited mainly their permanent missions before the OAS; other Ministers (Granada and Saint Lucia), and for the rest of the cases, they participated with authorities responsible for risk management (Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia).

³⁶ Bahamas is the only CNlb current member of the Board. The eight remaining member countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Mexico and Panama.

³⁷ Before, Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI).

³⁸ 18 Member countries from the OAS are eligible to participate in the programming cycle 2017-2019 of de Fund. From them, half belong to CNlb: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia y Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. .

On the other hand, the Organization leads the strengthening of multisectoral alliances enabling the participation of diverse actors, and matching needs with opportunities. Similarly, it fosters specialized inter-American networks that facilitate connections and improve communication, alliances and develop experience and knowledge exchange. Some of these nets are focused on subjects such as competitiveness (RIAC), work (RIAL), education (ITEN), to name some. Scholarships³⁹, particularly the Special English-speaking Caribbean Scholarships Program, established in 1983, is another additional scenario engaging the CNib countries.

In conclusion, the Organization provides diverse spaces for dialogue, mechanisms and cooperation programmes. It is important to consider that all CNib countries have permanent accredited missions before the OAS, also before the Organization headquarters, which gains more relevance if it is considered the scarce number of resident missions of CNib countries abroad, situation that becomes evident in most of the Ibero-American countries except for Cuba.

2.1.3. COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

The CELAC, founded during the Heads of State and Government Summit in December 2011, by means of the Caracas Declaration, underlined the need to move towards Latino-American and Caribbean cooperation, which would consider the economic complementarities and SSC as the unifying concept and an instrument for asymmetry reduction. Its main characteristic is being an intergovernmental dialogue and discussion mechanism, where Latino-American countries of the region participate, including the fourteen CNib countries under study herein.

CELAC is organized based on a pro tempore presidency that rotates annually assisted by a troika, which was enlarged during the I CELAC Summit (Chile, 2013) to incorporate CARICOM as permanent member. In view of this, the enlarged troika (quartet) is formed by the State holding Chair pro tempore, its predecessor, its successor plus a CARICOM State Member, represented by CARICOM presidency pro tempore.

In this Summit Chile 2013, the **Working-group of International Cooperation (WGIC)** was formed with a view to enhancing cooperation as an articulating mechanism between Latin-America and the Caribbean, with significant opportunities for the exchange of experiences, knowledge, expert, etc. at bilateral, triangular and regional level. SSC was thought as a complementary tool for the economies and regional integration.

³⁹ Last October, Chile and OAS agreed to extend until 2020 the scholarship offer for CARICOM member states on climate change, disaster risk management and building resilience.

The WGIC held its fifth and last meeting in December 2017 (San Salvador) where representatives from the CNib countries participated. This was a space that enabled dialogue between those responsible for Ibero-America and CNib country cooperation, but up to the present, it has not met again.

Most recently, in January 2018 in Santiago (Chile), the II CELAC-CHINA Forum took place, where a Joint Plan of Actions was signed regarding the following priority areas: politics and security, infrastructure and transportation, trade, investments and finance, agriculture, industry, science and technology, environment and culture. This plan does not delve into the mechanisms, terms or resources for its implementation, even though, it underlines that it will give duly consideration, among others, to SIDS' challenges and needs, in clear reference to the CNib countries.

Furthermore, in September 2018, the XV CELAC Meeting of Chancellors of the CELAC was held in New York (United States), where El Salvador presidency pro tempore concluded. The last CELAC Heads of State and Government Summit was held in 2017. At present, Bolivia holds presidency pro tempore.

2.1.4. LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)

This intergovernmental organization was established on October 17, 1975 by the Panama Convention and encompasses 26 member countries, 8 of which are CNib countries, namely: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname y Trinidad and Tobago. According to SELA, the organization aims at promoting a system of consultation and coordination to adopt common positions and strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean, on economic issues, before countries, groups of countries, forums and international organizations, and at fostering cooperation and integration among the Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Its structure is based on the Latin American Council as its highest decision-making body, a Permanent Secretariat as the technical administrative organ, and several Action Committees which meet when at least two Member States voice specific interests. Currently, the three work areas are: Intra-Regional Relations, Extra-Regional Relations, and Economic and Technical Cooperation.

In terms of regional cooperation, SELA has held an historic role. In 1987, it created the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors of Latin America for the Caribbean, where each year a specific topic is addressed, conducive to foster greater cooperation processes between the member countries.

This space has served for years as a meeting point for cooperation focal points between Latin American countries with those CNlb members. The XXX Meeting of Directors, and most recent one, was held in Panama in April 2019, where the main topic was the coordination and efficiency of cooperation for disaster risk, a vital issue for the CNlb.

Even when those responsible for cooperation may not always participate in these meetings, but delegates on their behalf, diplomats accredited in the organizing country, or country's representative depending on the specific topic of the meeting, it is intended to encourage and exchange experiences that may foster future cooperative initiatives.

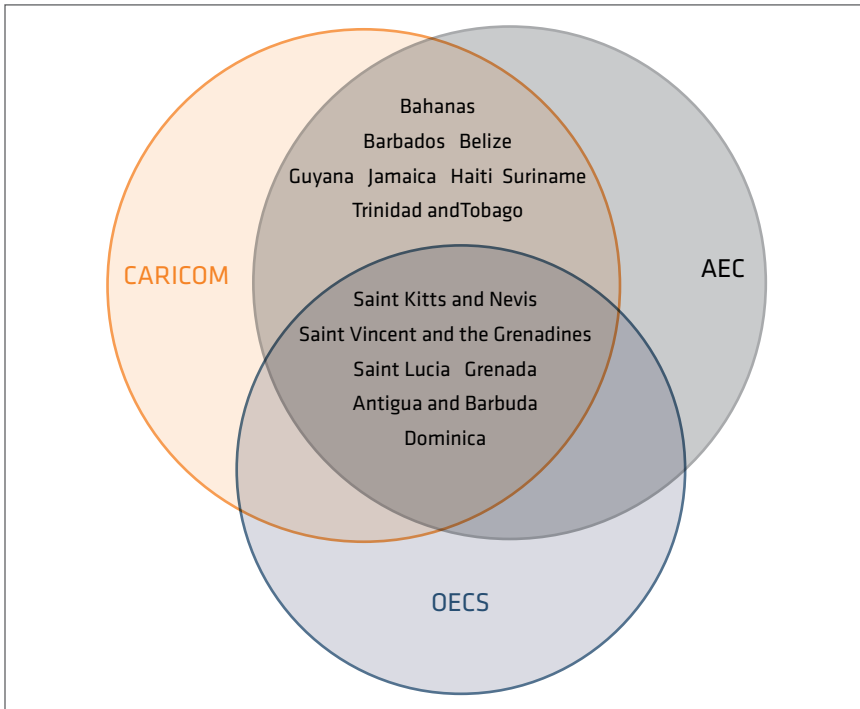
2.2. CHARACTERIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SUBREGIONAL SPACES

Subregional integration processes have two main antecedents. The first one is, **in 1958 with the experience of the Federation of the West Indies**, which lasted less than five years, breaking up as consequence of the independence of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in 1962.

The second one, **in 1965 when the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA)** was created, which would frame the creation of the CDB years later, and which will set the basis for the creation of CARICOM, still in force.

In this sense, this section characterizes first, the three main organizations and dialogue and discussion mechanisms of the Caribbean subregion, where the CNlb countries participate as shown in **Figure 2**, and subsequently, it presents a general profile of other subregional spaces and platforms of interest and with particular international cooperation dynamics.

FIGURE 2. CNib countries participation in the main sub regional integration mechanisms



Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

2.2.1. CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

The organization's main antecedents are the Federation of the West Indies in 1954 and the CARIFTA, which lasted from 1965 to 1972. Afterwards, it was established in 1973 by four countries (Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) through the Treaty of Chaguaramas that came into force in August 1973; it was revised in 2001 to establish the Social Market and Economy that came into force in January 2006.

CARICOM has different goals such as improving people's life conditions, accelerate coordinated and sustainable economic development, expanding trade and relationships with third states and among others, improve functional cooperation. At present time, the fourteen CNib countries studied herein are members of the Community, together with other region members with observer status.

The main CARICOM organs are the Conference of Heads of Government and the Ministerial Councils, in hierarchical order. They are assisted by the Council for Finance and Planning, the Council for Foreign and Community Relations, the Council for Human and Social Development, the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement and the Council for Trade and Economic Development. At administrative level, the Secretariat is the principal organ of the Community, and its General Secretariat is at the same time its Executive Manager. In the same manner, CARICOM has a series of institutions in diverse sectoral issues, as well as associated institutions, most prominent of which are the CDB, the WIU, the University of Guyana, to name a few.

Currently, **CARICOM is implementing a Strategic Plan 2015-2019 that focuses the Community on a set of practical and reachable goals in terms of region development.**

This plan is centred in six strategic priorities integrated in a resilience model for the Community. **The first priorities, considered core values, are strengthening Community governance and unity; the remaining four are related to building economic, social, environmental and technological resilience.** Also, it highlights as critical facilitators for the strategy success to maintain and strengthen cooperation relations with traditional partners, to strengthen cooperation with third countries, and to mobilize external resources for address priorities, among other aspects.

In this sense, the Secretary-General is responsible for the Resource Mobilization and Technical Assistance which, precisely, intends to mobilize technical and financial resources to support the implementation of Community projects. No more than five officials working there are in charge of international cooperation matters, even though, none of them is assigned particularly to SSC or TrC matters.

As CARICOM indicated the Organization has an information system that provides data regarding donors, priorities, alignment with CARICOM strategic plan, and counts on a separate mechanism able to track down financial projects by donors and information thereof. However, it was also indicated that up to the present, CARICOM does not have a report that enables to consolidate the main figures of the Organization international cooperation, though it has been explained that the United States, EU and Germany are its main international cooperation partners.

Regarding 2018, CARICOM indicates having launched more than 20 SSC initiatives with other regions as the CNIB has done, namely, Asia, Middle East and Ibero-America. In the case of the latter, cooperation initiatives have been registered with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Dominican Republic. In addition, it highlights its ex-

perience in negotiating agreements between the Community and southern countries as well as with southern and northern countries, as in the case of TrC.

Sectorally, CARICOM identifies as its main SSC/TrC demands/needs to be in the social area (education and health sector), as well as the economic area (science and technology and transportation) to work in the short-term and medium-term with the Ibero-American region; together they are challenges still to beat off, namely, the language barrier and lack of financial resources for said initiatives.

CARICOM is an organization that has persistently emphasized the need to obtain funding for climate change resilience; otherwise, it claims that the countries' debt levels will be exacerbated. Even when they are mostly medium-high income nations, they permanently suffer the climate change impact⁴⁰, as a consequence, the Organization stresses on the need to incorporate changes in the criteria that would determine the financial access for small and vulnerable countries, and to advocate of extraordinary solutions for the region, which is undergoing extraordinary circumstances.

In this sense, CARICOM established in 2008 the Community Development Fund with a capital contribution of US\$ 60 million, whose mandate is to provide assistance to countries, regions and less favoured sectors from the Community through Country Assistance Programs. Currently, the Fund is implementing the Strategic Plan 2015-2020 whose main thematic concerns are related to narrowing regional asymmetries, improve competitiveness and business development, and investment promotion. The Fund receives resources from extra-regional partners, namely the EU, United Kingdom and Australia; in January 2019 the Government of India entered a contribution agreement of US\$ 1 million. The Fund is located in Barbados and its current Chief Executive Officer is Mr. Rodinald Soomer.

Similarly, concerning cooperation matters, last June, the Community held the First CARICOM-Colombia Ministerial Meeting, where the latter submitted its cooperation offer before the Community Member States to share its good practices and agreed to hold the I CARICOM-Colombia joint Council during the first 2020 semester. It occurred similarly during the I CARICOM-India Summit (September 2019) where the Community reached significant financial and technical cooperation agreements from its Asian ally, and most recently (October 2019) CARICOM started off the execution of a donation from the Global Fund allocated to HIV matters in eight CNib countries, estimated to take up three years.

⁴⁰ Only Bahamas suffered loss and damages amounting to US\$ 678 million between 2015 and 2017 after hurricane Dorian struck in 2019; the American company Karen Clark & Company estimated in US\$ 7,000 million in loss suffered mainly in Abaco, Gran Bahama and Nueva Providencia.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that CARICOM held its XL Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2019, where country members approved the Saint Lucia Call regarding commitment and collective action on sustainable development, where the Community expressed their support for international cooperation to continue tackling these topics, including climate change. The current Presidency of the Community Conference is held by Saint Lucia; Ambassador Irwin LaRocque is the current Secretary-General, and its headquarters are in Georgetown (Guyana).

2.2.2. ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACE)

The Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was signed on 24 July 1994 in Cartagena de Indias, creating the Association of Caribbean States as a counselling, discussion and cooperation organization whose purpose is to identify and encourage policies instrumentation and programmes oriented to sustainable development, to develop the Caribbean Sea potential, create an enhanced economic space for trade and investments with cooperation opportunities and discussion mainly. Currently, the fourteen CNIB countries studied herein are members of the ACE, as well as some Ibero-American countries⁴¹.

Its organization is based on the Ministerial Council (its main organ) with five Special Committees: Trade Development and External Economic Relations; Transportation; Sustainable Tourism; Disaster Risk Reduction and Budget and Administration. In line with the foregoing, the Association has identified the following areas as its key priorities: **1) Sustainable tourism, 2) Trade and economic external relations, 3) Transportation, 4) Disaster Risk Reduction and 5) Caribbean Sea Commission.** The Action Plan 2019-2021, approved during the last ACE Summit in March 2019 is based on these focal areas.

As regards international cooperation, the ACE has a Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Unit, formed by a team of five people in charge of cooperation matters in general terms, and not SSC specifically; it is currently working on a new resource mobilization strategy. The Organization has also its own information system and cooperation record, where South Korea, Mexico the Netherlands stand out as its main international partners. Similarly, it is in the process of elaborating a portfolio of international cooperation offers.

The Organization indicated that it is currently implementing SSC initiatives with Ibero-American countries, namely Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic, among others, and launched in 2018 approximately 10 initiatives with TrC

⁴¹ Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. Other observant members of ACE are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, España, Peru and Uruguay.

partners such as South Korea, Mexico and the OAS. For the ACE, cooperation with Ibero-America is valuable since it supports its members, as well as integrates Latin America with the Caribbean region. Similarly, it considers appropriate to move forward to solving the lack of information regarding forms of operation in instances such as the PIFCSS, as well as to strengthen relationships between regions through a better dialogue, and to establish a joint working mechanism.

The Organization considers that the main demands and needs in terms of SSC/TrC, to address regionally with Ibero-America, are focused on the social area (health and education sectors), as well as the economic area (science and technology and transportation). Similarly, it considers that future cooperative and relationship initiatives between both regions should also be aligned with SDG 8, 13, 14 and 17.

The ACE also has a Special Fund, whose main objectives are funding technical cooperation programmes and researches in accordance with the Association goals and functions, enhancing cooperation between ACE members, observers and social actors⁴². At the time, one of the Fund's priority was the net organization of focal points of International Cooperation in the Greater Caribbean⁴³. The Fund receives contributions from ACE members and non-members, which has a Council of National Representatives formed by five members.

Since 2017, the organization has been holding the Annual Cooperation Meeting, where besides its member countries, observer countries, extra regional partners, agencies, international organization, among others, also participate. This Annual Meeting aims at divulging the status of the cooperation implementation carried out by the Association, and at the same time, contributing to managing resources for ongoing projects or for proposed ones in accordance with the focus areas. The next meeting is scheduled for the first 2020 semester, and the ACE looks forward to the participation of instances such as the PIFCSS.

Lastly, in 2019, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the VIII ACE Summit was held, whose closing speech acknowledged the importance of ODA and other types of funding for sustainable development, including and highlighting SSC as complementary, with clear principles, but not substitute for North-South Cooperation. During said Summit, Barbados took the chair of ACE Ministerial Council for the 2019-2020 period. Currently, ACE's headquarters are in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), being Dr. June Soomer the Secretary General.

⁴² ACE. Agreement No. 9/07.

⁴³ The ACE together with the Government of Mexico organized a first meeting with this purpose in the City of Mexico on April 11 and 12, 2002 and it was financed by the Mexican Institute for the International Cooperation.

2.2.3. ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)

OECS came into being on June 18, 1981, with the Treaty of Basseterre⁴⁴, as an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the economic harmonization and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean. The CNIB countries studied herein that are members thereof are: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which share the same currency.

The Authority of Heads of Government of the Member States is the Organization's ultimate authority in the decision taking. It counts on the Council of Ministers, an Assembly that comprises representatives from the Parliament of each Full Member State, the Economic Affairs Council whose function is to foster and to facilitate closer economic and social relations among Protocol Member States, and a Commission that is the administrative body of the Organization⁴⁵.

As stated by the Organization, it is currently on the second year of its 2018-2020 Triennium Plan, whose strategic priority anchored on international cooperation is to support the alignment of the Member States' foreign policy with the development needs of the OECS⁴⁶. Through this strategic priority, a greater strengthening of the cooperation capacity is expected, in support to the Organization development agenda.

The Organization has a Development Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation Unit responsible for coordinating development alignments with member states (traditional and non-traditional) with the aim to achieving a higher level of programmatic, institutional and funding sustainability, where, despite of this, no personnel is exclusively assigned to SSC or TrC.

According to this Unit, the OECS implements SSC initiatives with region countries such as Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, while its main TrC partners are Germany, the UNDP, and the World Bank, with which it launched jointly no more than 10 initiatives in 2018, though with no participation of Ibero-American partners.

⁴⁴ The treaty was revised in 2010 and since then, seven States established the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union, which establishes a space where people, goods and capitals move freely.

⁴⁵ The following are OECS subsidiary autonomous institutions: Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority and the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

⁴⁶ The Development Strategy 2019-2028 is still in its draft version: *Shaping our shared prosperity*, which describes the three priority working pillars of the organization: 1) Economic Growth; 2) Human and social wellbeing promotion; 3) Sustainable use of natural resources.

Similarly to other mentioned cases, the language barrier, lack of financial resources and a broader institutional collaboration are identified by the OECS as the main restrictions for strengthening SSC/TrC with Ibero-America.

The OECS further mentions that the annual working programme is the instrument where international cooperation information is consolidated; by the same token, the Cooperation Unit is the instance that has a database on all its development partners, including SSC and TrC, detailing contact information, representatives, cooperation areas, association frameworks, etc.

Similarly, the Cooperation Unit prioritizes the development of SSC/TrC initiatives with Ibero-America **on the social area** (health and education sectors) and **the economic area** (science, technology and transportation sectors), where, it is acknowledged that the Ibero-American cooperation, apart from becoming an opportunity that allows resource mobilization, contributes to overcoming problems, enhances southern countries' good practices learning and even, fosters the improvement of collective negotiation capacities at international forums.

The Organization is currently planning an International Conference for Development Partners called Sustainable Development Movement 2020, which will gather all members (already identified and prospect ones) in a single space with a view to broaden opportunities for mutual collaboration and cooperation on key areas such as energy, artificial intelligence, climate change, among others.

The OECS has its headquarters in Castries (Saint Lucia), and the Conference Presidency is chaired by Antigua and Barbuda while Dr. Didacus Jules is the Director-General.

2.3. CHARACTERIZATION OF OTHER SPACES AND PLATFORMS

Lastly, some additional scenarios that stand out due to their relevancy, which some of the CNIB countries under studied herein are members of, are briefly portrayed hereunder.

2.3.1. CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB)

It was created by an Agreement signed in Jamaica in 1969. It is committed to contribute to the harmonic economic growth and development as well as to foster economic cooperation and integration of its member countries ⁴⁷.

⁴⁷ Also Ibero-American countries are members of the Bank Colombia, Mexico and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as extra regional partners namely Germany, Canada, China and Italia.

The fourteen CNib countries under studied herein are members thereof; and according to the UNDP, it is the main funding source for its borrowing member countries.

In terms of grants, the CDB approved an amount close to US\$ 300 million in 2018, being Barbados (39%) and Belize (17%) its main beneficiaries; while US\$ 38 million were disbursed as grant in the same year. In sectoral terms, the main areas concentrating CDB credit operations were: transportation and communications; environmental sustainability disaster risk reduction; energy; water and sanitization; and infrastructure and social services.

An additional CDB funding mechanism is the Special Development Fund, which approved US\$ 33.5 million in 2018, mainly allocated to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), resilient infrastructure (SDG 9) and strengthening the means of implementation of the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17). In order, Haiti, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre were the main beneficiaries of the approved resources.

Recently, the CDB opened new headquarters in Haiti (2018), the first one located in Barbados, which would become the focal point for implementation of its country strategy for the 2017-2021 period. The Fund recognized that technical assistance resources are required to transform the region economies, in addition to significant funding resources.

Additionally, the Bank administrates the United Kingdom-Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund, created in 2015 when Prime Minister announced that the UK government would grant £300 million to invest in infrastructure projects of eight countries in the Caribbean⁴⁸. In August 2018, the CDB and the UK DFID entered an agreement adding £30 additional to that amount.

In addition, jointly with the Government of Guyana, the Bank also finances the Basic Need Trust Fund with the aim to improving access to basic public services in a sustainable manner and with gender perspective, and it has impacted over 2 million of inhabitants in over 35 years of implementation. It has become the Bank's flagship programme in terms of poverty reduction. The Fund is opened to governmental, nongovernmental and community organizations of eight of the CNib countries studied herein⁴⁹.

The CDB has a Technological Consultancy Service, focal point of the organization, which leads the Bank efforts to develop capacities, knowledge mobilization and the strengthening

⁴⁸ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

⁴⁹ Belize, Dominica, Grenada y Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

of its borrowing member countries' institutions. Currently, the CDB's President is Dr. William Warren Smith and its headquarter is located in Barbados.

2.3.2 EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK (ECCB)

This bank was established in 1983 and is currently the monetary authority in eight of the CNib countries under studied herein, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In 2017, acknowledging its mandate in terms of financial stability and economic development, the Bank formulated its Strategic Plan 2017-2021 defining **five strategic goals oriented to: maintaining a strong and stable currency (EC Dollar), ensuring a strong, diversified and resilient financial sector, being the advisor of choice to governments regarding fiscal and debt sustainability, actively fostering the economic development and enhancing organizational effectiveness.** In some cases, ECCB technical assistance is added to achieve said goals. Currently, the ECCB President is Mr, Timothy N. J. Antoine and its headquarters are located in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

2.3.3. CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)

It is a regional inter-governmental agency established in 1991, for CARICOM, presently comprises 18 participating states, including the fourteen CNib countries under studied herein. It has a role of facilitator, driver, coordinator for the promotion and engineering of **Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in all participating states.** Its strategy and results framework 2014-2021 are based in three main priorities: knowledge management and learning on CDM; CDM integration to sectoral levels; and strengthening community resilience.

Together with other organizations, the Agency is part of the Canada-Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund, which finances projects for governmental, nongovernmental organizations, voluntary and community-based organizations of CARICOM member states, between CAD\$ 25,000 and CAD\$ 70,000. Additionally, it leads diverse international cooperation processes regarding disaster management matters for the region⁵⁰.

⁵⁰ Recently CDEMA subscribed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office (April 2019) to face vulnerable communities challenges, especially children in disaster or emergency situation. Also, the Agency received Romania's International Development Cooperation Agency (RoAid) in September 2019, with the aim to discussing a second phase training programme on disaster risk reduction and the management of emergencies in force from March to December 2019.

Within its workframe, CDMEA counts with the Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS), as well as the Regional Training Center (RTC) for member countries. It makes available a great number of knowledge product and useful tools, e.g. plans, manuals, proceeding, etc., for those countries affected by emergency situations. Its headquarters are in Barbados.

2.3.4. INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y DESARROLLO AGRÍCOLA DEL CARIBE (CARDI)

Established in 1975 and part of CARICOM, its purpose is to contribute to the agricultural development of the region by means of research providing appropriate technological tools to growers. At present, its Strategic Plan 2018-2022 seeks to prioritize institutional strengthening programmes, value chain services, policies and promotion, as well as associations and strategic alliances. Its headquarters are in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) and has offices in twelve of the fourteen CNlb countries under studied herein (except for Haiti and Tobago).

2.3.5. WEST INDIES UNIVERSITY (UWI)

It is the largest, most longstanding university in the English-speaking Caribbean and it was established in 1948; after having a single campus in Jamaica, it has extended itself to the region and currently encompasses campuses in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Antigua and Barbuda. It is the most important higher education centre of the region and has participated in various international cooperation processes with traditional partners, and even in experiences with Ibero-American countries, namely Colombia (agriculture), Argentina (sports) and Chile (education). The University strategic plan 2017-2021 includes in its goals the concept of integral internalization for which intends to establish physical presence on all continents.

Within its structure, since 2016, the University has an Office of Global Affairs which formulates and coordinates policies and strategies of international outreach with other international educational institutions as well as other organizations and funding agencies. It also has the Latin-American-Caribbean Centre, where exchange and bilingualism have been relevant topics in its cooperation agenda. The Office of Global Affairs headquarters are in the Barbados and Jamaica campuses while the Latin-American-Caribbean Centre has only one Jamaica.

2.3.6. INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

Agency established in 1942, it became the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System due to the OAS creation in 1948. 34 countries are members of IICA, including the fourteen CNIB countries under study herein. Its headquarters are in San José (Costa Rica), though it must be underlined that it has offices in each of the CNIB nations.

The IICA is by definition an institution that carries out SSC for the development of its initiatives. At present, it is implementing its Medium-term Plan 2018-2022 which envisages the following strategic objectives: increase the contributions of the agriculture sector to economic growth and sustainable development; contribute to the well-being of all rural dwellers; improve international and regional trade for countries in the region; and increase the resilience of rural areas and agrifood systems to extreme events.

This organization has identified one opportunity for agriculture in the Caribbean, based on the fact that in great part of these countries' economies, the tourism sector has a high relevancy in their GDP. Consequently, a potential strategy to follow could be to supply food to this sector's demand, based on the local agricultural production development, within the subregion, or between this and Central American and South American countries as well.

Finally, on **Table 3**, some CARICOM additional organizations (named institutions) are related which enables to complete the scenario of the main CNIB organizations, where, to a greater or lesser extent, cooperation processes and initiatives are implemented and/or projects on experiences exchange.

TABLE 3. Other CARICOM regional institutions.

Name	Year of creation	Headquarters	Member countries	Priority areas
The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)	1989	Barbados	fourteen CNIB countries	Tourism
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	2011	Trinidad and Tobago (HQ) Saint Lucia and Jamaica	fourteen CNIB countries	Health

Name	Year of creation	Headquarters	Member countries	Priority areas
Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC)	2005	Belize	fourteen CNib countries	Environment Disaster management
Caribbean Centre of Renewable Energy and Energetic Efficiency (CCREEE)	2015	Barbados	fourteen CNib countries	Energy

Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

In conclusion, there are an important number of organizations and mechanisms with field of action in the CNib. In this section, some of them have been profiled with the aim of finding new spaces, areas and opportunities that enable analyzing the Ibero-American community, the best approach and establishing potential cooperation synergies in the future. Figure 3 represents the geographic location of these mechanisms, being Barbados the country with largest presence in these organization territories.

FIGURE 3. Headquarters of the main organization and mechanisms in the Non Ibero-American Caribbean.



Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

2.4. THE UNITED NATION SYSTEM IN THE NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN

At present, the UN actions in the Caribbean are oriented by the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework 2017-2021 which encompasses 18 countries and territories from the region, including the CNIB countries under study herein, except for Haiti⁵¹. This action framework has four priority areas and eight expected results as shown in **Table 4**. It is aligned with the SDG and contributes with the fulfilment of CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019, and the Samoa Pathway⁵², where the importance of the information and data is highlighted as transversal priority.

TABLE 4. United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean 2017 – 2021 (UN-MSDF).

Priority areas	Results	Funds	
		(US\$ Mill.)	%
Inclusive equitable and prosperous Caribbean	Alincrease in the education access to improve employment and sustainable economic development	44.016.795	22,24
	Access to systems of equitable social protection and improvement in the service quality and sustainable economic opportunities		
Healthy Caribbean	Universal access to quality health systems	10.650.989	5,38
	Enforcement of laws, policies and systems supportive to healthy lifestyles		

⁵¹ In this country the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021 is in force and has five priority areas: poverty reduction and employment, social services, resilience, genre equality and protection, and governance.

⁵² It is known as "Samoa Pathway", and represents the modalities of Accelerated Action for SDIs, agreed upon on the 3rd International Conference held in Apia (Samoa) from the 1 to 4 September 2014; which for their implementation, urge to strengthen North-South international cooperation, South-South and Triangular, acknowledging partnership with said insular states as an instrument for mobilizing human, financial, technological resources, knowledge among other aspect (A/RES/69/15).

Priority areas	Results	Funds	
		(US\$ Mill.)	%
Fair, safe and cohesive Caribbean	Strengthening of public policies capacities, State institutions and community-based organizations	38.162.309	19,28
	Equitable access to justice, protection and citizen safety		
Resilient and sustainable Caribbean	Policies and programmes aimed at the adaptation to climate change, risk disaster reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energies	105.113.851	53,1
	Adoption of inclusive and sustainable solutions for the conservation, restoration, use of eco-systems and natural resources		

Source: UN-MSDF, 2017.

Similarly, the UN is present in the region through different agencies and programmes as shown in Figure 4, where UNDP, PAHO/WHO and UNFPA stand out for having the largest presence in the CNIB countries. Also, Barbados, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago are the countries with the largest number of agencies in their territories, apart from assisting other countries of the region. In the case of Haiti, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which was created in 2004, worked there and several officials from various countries of the region participated in the mission⁵³.

⁵³ In 2017, the UN Security Council established the mission to maintain peace in Haiti for justice support (MINUJUSTH), which ended in 2019.

FIGURE 4. Headquarters of the main United Nation System organizations in the Non Ibero-American Caribbean.



Source: Own elaboration 2019, from <http://caribbeanun.org/>

Barbados is a particular case since this country became the platform or entrance towards the Eastern Caribbean for the case of UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, UNWOMEN and for the UIT in all the subregion; as regards in five CNib countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) UN organization representation is not registered, however, this does not mean that there are no interventions there.

Furthermore, the CNib countries have developed, or are in the process of, integral frames aimed at achieving sustainable development, as defined by the ECLAC in 2018; even some have progressed in establishing institutional mechanisms specific to SDG coordination as is the case of Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

This institutional progress is evidenced also in the CNib countries that have already submitted their Voluntary National Review Report before the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Belize was the first to do so (2017), followed by Bahamas (2018), Jamaica (2018), Guyana (2019) and Saint Lucia (2019). It is expected that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines⁵⁴ y Trinidad and Tobago will do so in 2020.

Regarding territorialization 2030 Agenda, the ECLAC reports that in the case of the CNib countries on which information is available, the most recurrent situation is that they have progressed on one of the seven modalities identified to such purpose, usually socialization or training. Such is the case of Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, where initiatives oriented to socialization and space for dialogue on the 2030 Agenda, with different actors and social officials, have been identified. In the case of Jamaica, it also stands out the implementation of instruments or tools for the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda to local plans.

Lastly, in this brief section on the United Nations, it is worth underlying the strategic role of ECLAC regional headquarters in the Caribbean, located in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), through which a significant number of regional meetings between government officials are held to address the most diverse subjects of interest to the region; there, many statistics and reports on different development areas of these countries are produced and gathered⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ After 2020 this country will be one of the ten non permanent members of the UN Security Council. It will substitute Peru in the Latin America and the Caribbean seat. The country has become historically the smallest one to participate in such body.

⁵⁵ The ECLAC developed the Caribbean Development Portal where it is possible to find basic statistic and institutional information, on the CNib countries, as well as recent and namely reports and publication of ECLAC or other international organizations regarding this region, which can be accessed at: <http://www.caribbean.ECLAC.org>. Also, ECLAC publishes digitally *The Hummingbird* with the main project, publications, technical assistance mission or researches carried out by the Commission, it also publishes the *Focus Magazine* of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

03

The South-South and Triangular Cooperation between Ibero-America and Non Ibero-American Caribbean countries

3.1. MAIN ANTECEDENTS IN THE IBERO-AMERICAN COOPERATION IBERO-AMERICAN WITH NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Even though there are evident historic, geographical, cultural, political organization differences between the CNib and the Ibero-American countries, as years passed by, **South-South exchange processes between both regions have been built gradually.** From its beginning, this relation has been characterized by its low levels of mutual knowledge, also consequence of being recent; while some Latin American countries are reaching two hundred years of independency, CNib countries, in the best scenario, have reached half a century, with the exception of Haiti which gained independence on the XIX century.

In general terms, the antecedents of cooperation relations between the two regions date back in the sixties or the eighties. Some Ibero-American countries started implementing Caribbean policies that cooperation initiatives succeeded in executing. Such is the case of Cuba with technical, cultural and sport cooperation actions, Brazil with a Joint Commission with Trinidad and Tobago (1971), Mexico with the Joint Commission with CARICOM (1974), Venezuela with actions from the Programme for the Caribbean - PRO-CA (1976), the subsequent Pact of San José⁵⁶ (1980) or Colombia's Cooperation Fund for Central America and the Caribbean (1982), these are just some examples of those first cooperation actions with the CNib.

During the nineties, in a context of economy globalization, CARICOM relations started to consolidate through the entering of different instruments such as the Multilateral Principles Pact with Venezuela (1993), the Basic Agreement with the Permanent Secretary of the General Treaty for Economic Integration in Central America (1993), a bilateral cooperation agreement with Colombia (1994), Chile (1996), Argentina (1998), among others. As relevant event during these years, the ACE creation stands out, which allowed broadening the CNib integration structures towards Spanish-speaking countries.

⁵⁶ CNib beneficiary countries were: Barbados, Belize, Haiti and Jamaica.

The beginning of the XXI century brought new dynamics for the Latin America and Caribbean discussion and integration, where the CNib countries had a stronger presence in scenarios such as ALBA (2004), Petrocaribe (2005), USAN for Guyana and Suriname (2010), and the CELAC (2010), thus encouraging new integration and cooperation processes between both regions.

Similarly, as from SEGIB report on SSC in 2007, it is possible to pinpoint those Ibero-American countries implementing cooperation initiatives with the CNib (particularly Haiti), e.g. Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, Brazil and Cuba.

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Ibero-American countries provided cooperation in response to the emergency, and, since then, cooperation efforts were aimed to rebuild, and at the same time, to return to the development path as the SEGIB points out. According to this source, a total of 6 Ibero-American countries implemented SSC bilateral projects with Haiti, mainly in the productive area (33%) and social area (29%). To this it must be added the emergency help that almost the entire region provided to the country.

3.2. EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH AND IBERO-AMERICAN TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WITH THE CNIB DURING THE 2011-2016 PERIOD

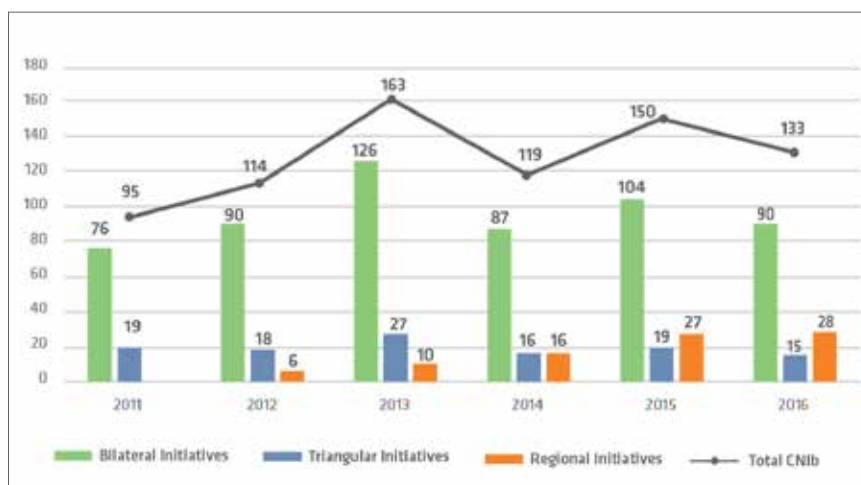
Based on the figures of the SEGIB report on SSC for the 2011-2016 period, it is possible to trace the evolution and some tendencies of the Bilateral, Triangular and Regional SSC, with very few exceptions⁵⁷, between the Ibero-American countries and the CNib.

As shown in **Figure 5**, the SSC evolution including CNib, the ongoing initiatives per year exceeded the hundred, with the exception of 2011, and continue growing until 2013, after this, figures varied each year in the different cooperation modalities. The bilateral SSC accounted for almost 75% of its ongoing interventions; the TrC close to 15%, while regional⁵⁸ initiatives less than 10%.

⁵⁷ In the mentioned period, SSC regional information is the one most recently incorporated to SEGIB SSC report, for which reason cannot be traced in the same manner as for bilateral or triangular SSC with CNib. Also it groups programmes as well as regional projects.

⁵⁸ For 2011, no data is available on regional SSC with CNib countries since the SEGIB report 2012 introduced a focus change due to the persistency of the conceptual and systematization problems.

FIGURE 5. Evolution of the initiatives South-South Ibero-American ongoing cooperations with at least one CNIB partner. 2011-2016



Source: Own elaboration, 2019 Based on SEGIB 2012-2018 data.

The SSC with the CNIB can be explained, to some extent, due to the bilateral exchanges - a very similar dynamic to that in the Ibero-American cooperation- and it materializes into projects more repeatedly, rather than in cooperation actions. During the 2011-2016 period, these projects have been executed in diverse areas, being the social the most frequent in the Bilateral SSC with the CNIB (health, education, and other services and social policies).

Even when Haiti continues being the main SSC partner in this region, the fourteen CNIB countries have taken part in some SSC initiative during the 2011-2016 period. Clearly, the SSC relation with this region is framed in a wide offer tendency from Ibero-America towards the CNIB. Only in 2016, a bilateral action can be found where Jamaica took the offeror partner role, in education-related matters with Colombia.

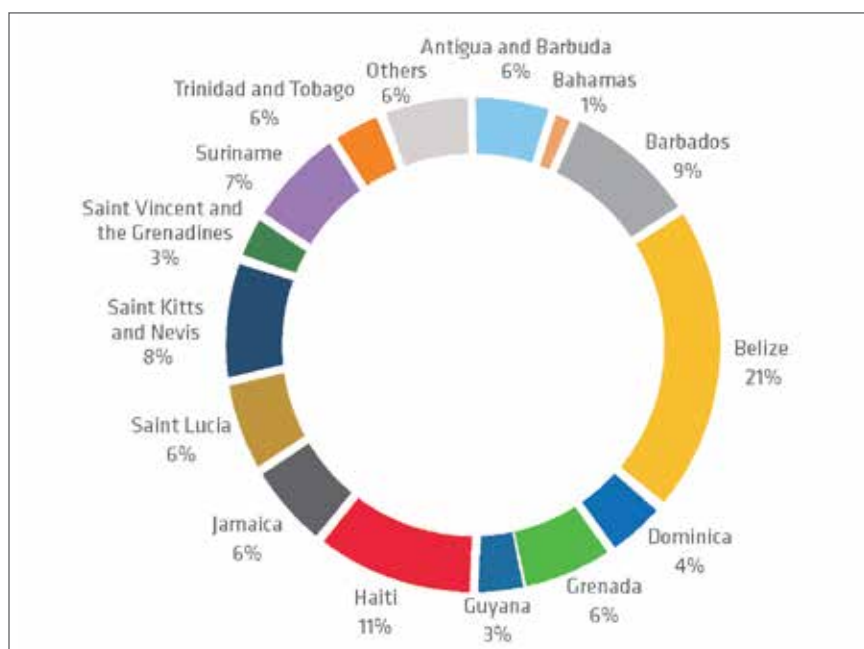
Regarding the bilateral projects executed with the CNIB between 2011 and 2016, 8 Ibero-American countries have been offerors in said cooperation, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela⁵⁹. If these bilateral actions during the same period are analyzed, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay also took the offeror role in SSC with the CNIB.

⁵⁹ This country is recorded as offeror only in one project with Haiti in the construction area in 2016.

Haiti has always been the main partner in bilateral SSC projects, representing at least 20% and reaching almost 50% from the total of ongoing initiatives in a year in the CNib. Also countries such as Belize, Guyana and Jamaica have also had an outstanding participation along this period. Bahamas is the country with lower participation even though it registers cooperation initiatives with Cuba related to health matters.

Regarding bilateral actions with the SSC, all the CNib countries participated in at least two interventions, being Belize the country with the largest number together with Haiti, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis, as Figure 6 shows for the 2012-2016 period⁶⁰. In this cooperation modality, the Ibero-American countries' actions (seminars or workshops), in some cases, are offered with several CNib countries simultaneously, and this implies a more punctual and restricted execution time than the bilateral projects before mentioned.

FIGURE 6. Distribution of the participation of CNib countries in Bilateral SSC actions executed. 2012-2016.



Source: Own elaboration, 2019 based on SEGIB data 2013-2018.

⁶⁰ SEGIB SSC report only specifies bilateral SSC at project levels for 2011. After 2012, when the information is specified in terms of projects and bilateral actions.

Regarding TrC recipients, again Haiti and Belize were the countries with the largest ongoing initiatives during the 2011-2016 period. Other nations participated in at least one initiative with TrC like Suriname (with Chile), Trinidad and Tobago (with Peru), Saint Lucia (with Argentina and México), or Guyana (with Brazil). The only case where a CNib country had the role of first offeror during an action was Jamaica, together with the IDB, with Peru in 2014. It is worth mentioning that the TrC with the CNib is executed mostly through projects and actions where several CNib countries participate simultaneously.

Finally, regarding the projects and programmes of Regional SSC with the CNib, Haiti and Belize, as individual partners, stand out from the rest of the Caribbean nations. Notwithstanding, since this precisely refers to a regional cooperation, in the vast majority of the occasions, it is a dynamic of permanent meeting between the Ibero-American countries and the CNib countries. In the particular case of Belize, it is generally included in Mesoamerican activities, together with other Centro-American countries and the Dominican Republic.

In general terms, SSC with the CNib is still limited to a small group of Ibero-American countries, which have found in this bilateral modality, the main way to implement their interventions with said countries. Moreover, in almost all cases, Haiti is the main recipient partner, together with Belize (where its condition of Mesoamerican country influences), Jamaica and most recently, other partners like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines or Saint Lucia.

From the total number of initiatives reported by Ibero-American countries in the report on SSC of the SEGIB, the cooperation with the CNib (at least with one country) has always been found between 8% and 13% from the total of ongoing interventions per year, as shown in Figure 8. This is not a minor number considering the challenges and restrictions implied in the cooperation action implementation with CNib countries, as well as the possible sub registration of information that may exist, every time this is reported only by Ibero-American countries.

Similarly, as emphasized hereinabove, bilateral SSC with this region is mainly oriented to the social area, and specific activity sectors like health, education and other social policies (in 2016 it represented over 60%), surely accounted by the relevant role of Haiti as recipient partner of the Ibero-American Bilateral SSC. However, it is worth emphasizing how crucial matters for the CNib development like environment and disaster risk management have scarce participation in bilateral SSC between both regions (barely 2.6% in each case for 2016).

FIGURE 8. CNib participation in ongoing Ibero-American SSC initiatives. 2011-2016.

Source: Own elaboration, 2019 based on SEGIB data 2012-2018.

3.3. MAIN IBERO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE AND LIAISON EXPERIENCES FOR COOPERATION WITH THE NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN⁶¹

As part of the analysis on liaison with the CNib, it is possible to identify different recurring elements. Firstly, it is clear that in terms of government, these countries rely on limited infrastructures, which are responsible for managing, simultaneously, several aspects of the national development; this situation exacerbates, due to evident reasons, in smaller countries in size and population.

Secondly, even though CNib countries have planning frameworks for their development clearly formulated in the medium and long term, which becomes essential when approaching and analyzing their sustainable development priorities and alignments, the availability and management of figures and data in different aspects of the national development, continues representing an important challenge for the CNib⁶². This is acknowledged, by the countries themselves, in their SDG Voluntary National Review Reports.

⁶¹ During the elaboration of the study, cooperation authorities in several Ibero-American countries were reached, and a reply from three only (Argentina, Colombia and Chile) was achieved, in which cases it was possible to have more detailed information for this section.

⁶² In its report: "Financing for development challenges in Caribbean SIDS a case for review of eligibility criteria for access to concessional financing" the PNUD, in 2015, pointed out as critic weakness the absence of statistic data in some of the CNib countries regarding many aspects of the economy and society, as consequence of the inadequate capacities of most statistics systems of in these countries.

Furthermore, it is important to take into account the CNlb countries' low levels of presence and diplomatic representation in the world, and more specifically, in the region. The cases of Haiti, Jamaica, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago can be highlighted as the most CNlb representative, even though the majority of their representations in Ibero-American countries are Honorary Consulates, and in some minor cases, Embassies, as **Table 5** shows.

Additionally, except for Cuba, Brazil and Venezuela, who have Embassies in over half of the CNlb countries, the rest of the Ibero-American countries hold fewer resident missions in said countries; and their representation is ensured by Honorary Consulates mainly, or by Embassies to a lesser extent -some with consulate sections- which are non-resident for different Caribbean nations. Recently, the Ambassadors from Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Cuba or Mexico have presented their credentials before CARICOM.

TABLA 5. Resident representation of the CNlb countries in Ibero-America and of Ibero-America in the CNlb.

CNlb Country	Missions in Ibero-American countries	Misiones of Ibero-American countries
Antigua and Barbuda	Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC)	Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Mexico (HC), Nicaragua (E), Dominican Republic (E), Venezuela (E)
Bahamas	Argentina (HC), Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Paraguay (HC), Dominican Republic (HC)	Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Colombia (HC), Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), Méico (HC), Nicaragua (HC), Panamá (HC), Dominican Republic (HC), Uruguay (HC)
Barbados	Barbados (HC), Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Colombia (HC), Costa Rica (HC), Cuba (E), Guatemala (HC), Panamá (E), Dominican Republic (HC)	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC), Uruguay (HC), Venezuela (E)
Belize	Argentina (HC), Brazil (HC), Chile (HC), Costa Rica, Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), El Salvador (E), Guatemala (E), Honduras (E), Mexico (E), Nicaragua (HC), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (HC)	Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Costa Rica (E), Cuba (E), El Salvador (E), Guatemala (E), Honduras (E), Mexico (E), Nicaragua (E), Panamá (E), Paraguay (HC), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E)

CNIb Country	Missions in Ibero-American countries	Misiones of Ibero-American countries
Dominica	Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC)	Cuba (E), Nicaragua (E), Venezuela (E)
Grenada	Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E)	Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Mexico (HC), Nicaragua (E), Venezuela (E)
Guyana	Brazil (E), Cuba (E), Peru (HC), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E)	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (E), Cuba (E), Mexico (E), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E)D
Haiti	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (E), Colombia (E), Costa Rica (HC), Cuba (E), Ecuador (E), Guatemala (E), Mexico (E), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (HC)	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (E), Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), Mexico (E), Nicaragua (HC), Panamá (E), Paraguay (HC), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (C), Venezuela (E)
Jamaica	Argentina (HC), Brazil (E), Chile (C), Colombia (E), Costa Rica (HC), Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), El Salvador (HC), Guatemala (HC), Honduras (HC), Mexico (E), Nicaragua (HC), Panamá (HC), Paraguay (HC), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (HC)	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (E), Colombia (E), Costa Rica (E), Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), Mexico (E), Nicaragua (E), Panamá (E), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (C), Venezuela (E)
Saint Lucia	Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC)	Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Mexico (E), Venezuela (E)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Brazil (HC), Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC)	Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Mexico (HC), Nicaragua (E), Uruguay (HC), Venezuela (E)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Dominican Republic (HC).	Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Mexico (HC), Nicaragua (E), Venezuela (E)
Suriname	Brazil (E), Cuba (E), Nicaragua (E), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E), Uruguay (HC)	Brazil (E), Chile (HC), Cuba (E), Nicaragua (HC), Venezuela (E)

CNIB Country	Missions in Ibero-American countries	Misiones of Ibero-American countries
Trinidad and Tobago	Brazil (E), Costa Rica (E), Cuba (E), Ecuador (HC), Guatemala (E), Panamá (E), Paraguay (HC), Peru (HC), Dominican Republic (HC), Venezuela (E)	Argentina (E), Brazil (E), Chile (E), Colombia (E), Cuba (E), El Salvador (E), Guatemala (E), México (E), Nicaragua (E), Panamá (E), Peru (E), Dominican Republic (E), Uruguay (HC), Venezuela (E)

(E) Embassy * (C) Consulate (HC) Honorary Consulate**

* In some occasions, when Ibero-American countries accredit an Embassy, this has a consular section. Also, this table includes only resident Embassies in the respective countries, which are non-resident at the same time, for several CNIB countries, non residencies which are not detailed herein for lack of space.

** There is a Consulate yet not an Embassy in the respective country.

Source: Own elaboration 2019, based on public information available at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 33 related countries.

In line with the above, the mechanisms for cooperation negotiation with the CNIB countries are also limited. Bilateral SSC between Ibero-American countries that is generally agreed upon at joint cooperation commissions with a clear initiative programme, an estimate cost distribution, agreed execution deadlines and settled follow-up mechanisms. This is not generally the case for the CNIB. Cooperation framework agreements with the CNIB are neither available, in the same amount as available with the Ibero-American countries.

For this reason, **it is frequent that Heads of State or Government, or high-ranked official visits from the respective governments turn out to be the main source of initiatives, or at least, of cooperation demands that CNIB countries put forward to the Ibero-American community.** This requires a subsequent technical exercise for their materialization, generally led by the governing entities of the cooperation between the Ibero-American countries, where the responsiveness of the Caribbean counterparties does not turn out to be expeditious.

In this sense, some countries of the region have moved forward with more proactive strategic actions of dialogue and liaison to complete the scenario depicted hereinabove, with the aim of materializing cooperation actions with the CNIB that can be considered as corresponding to the political order while others to the technical level.

Within the first group of actions, it is possible to identify some negotiation processes with the CNib at regional level, such as CARICOM summit, or in the case of Mexico, that began this process in 2010, hosting the fourth and last summit in 2017 (Belize city); Brazil also held the I Summit with CARICOM in 2010 (Brasilia); Cuba, for its part, hosted the I Ministerial Summit with CARICOM in 2002, and the VI, in 2019 (Georgetown); similarly, Colombia called the I Ministerial Summit with CARICOM in 2019 (Cartagena).

These kinds of negotiations, at the technical level, allow the materialization of cooperation initiatives through the already known joint cooperation commissions. Some of these countries experiences can be named, namely, Mexico that hosted its first joint commission with CARICOM in 1990 and at present, is implementing the seventh cooperation programme with CARICOM 2017-2019; it is also the case of Cuba, which held its joint commission with CARICOM in 1993. Chile, on its part, held its first joint commission with CARICOM in 2003 and in 2012, the most recent one, and also implemented the cooperation programme with CARICOM 2015-2019; while Colombia during the I Summit in 2019, agreed to hold its first joint commission with CARICOM during the first 2020 trimester. However, a restriction in this type of mechanisms is the lack of regularity and frequency with which are held, which hinders moving forward with more sustainable cooperation processes with the CNib⁶³.

In this sense, some countries have also designed their own strategies to approach CNib aimed at invigorating the cooperation processes with these countries. One strategy has been to send diagnostic missions, formed by sectoral experts on the areas demanded by the CNib countries, as a means to specify SSC solicitudes with these countries (as in the case of Chile).

Furthermore, promoting dialogue and encounter with various CNib countries and with headquarters in one of them has allowed (in the case of Argentina) the identification and direct prioritization of regional projects, in specific areas with their own Caribbean counterparties, which aims at raising the execution level of the prioritized initiatives. The same form, design and implementation of regional SSC strategies (such is the case of Colombia with the Caribbean Strategy), allow the country to accomplish a regional approach with these countries, with more defined cooperation areas, and that seeks to, as in the preceding cases, improving the implementation of cooperation initiatives with the CNib.

⁶³ Less frequently bilateral joint commissions with CNib countries are created; such is the case of Mexico-Jamaica (2019), Colombia-Jamaica (2016).

In a complementary manner, there are other mechanisms that allow enhancing cooperation relations with the CNib. So is the case of the Chile's Fund against Poverty and Hunger, established in 2011, where initiatives with Belize have been implemented (agricultural sector), with Haiti (agriculture, education, social policies, etc.), Guyana (mining), CARICOM (environment), Barbados y Trinidad and Tobago (disaster risk management) to name some, with the participation of Chilean community-based organizations⁶⁴.

By the same token, experiences such as the Fund created by Mexico and the FAO in 2018 for the adaptation and climate change in the Caribbean aim at financing said initiatives that succeed in transforming the agriculture, food systems and CNib rurality⁶⁵.

Furthermore, the different initiatives on academic education (scholarships) offered by the countries of the region to the CNib citizens, together with the teaching processes of Spanish as a second language (in the case of Colombia, Chile and Mexico) complement this frame of possibilities by means of cooperation with the CNib, where the major financial effort is made by the Ibero-American partner.

In regional terms, the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) has also approached CNib. In the first place, it held a meeting attended by nine countries of the region, in order to foster an approach between both regions and coordinate actions enablers of reporting SSC data of said countries for the SEGIB SSC annual report. The workshop held in CARICOM headquarters in 2014 revealed that these countries' considerable weakness is their institutional architecture as well as the lack of information and registering systems in terms of SSC.

Subsequently, and **as a result of this first exercise, a diagnostic visit was undertaken in Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2016, where topics related to the SEGIB report on SSC and the PIFCSS role as support in data collection were discussed once more.** As main conclusions from both meetings, the CNib countries difficulty in generating data and reports on SSC can be highlighted, and the 2016 mission clearly evidenced how an approach based only on data collection for the SSC report not necessarily represents an effective incentive to achieve a fruitful partnership with these countries, on the contrary, it could also hinder said process.

⁶⁴ The Fund has also contributed with funding resources during emergency situations in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Haiti in 2017, and preceding years.

⁶⁵ Mechanism derived from the IV Mexico-CARICOM Summit in 2017.

Undoubtedly, there is a well-trodden path by some Ibero-American countries, which with different degrees of depth, and based on their capacities and possibilities, has allowed to build cooperation relationships with the CNib, despite the evident challenges and difficulties to overcome in this region, ranging from political matters to scarce technical mechanisms for following up on the cooperation with Caribbean partners, to the size and organization differences among the Caribbean governmental structures, to the most operative issues such as limited funding, language barriers or even, access impediment to CNib countries

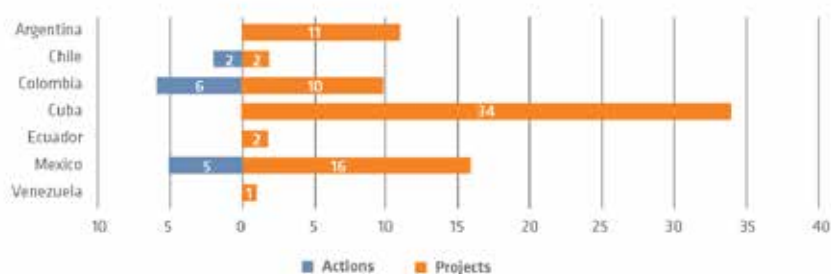
3.4. MOST RECENT IBERO-AMERICAN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WITH THE NON IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN: ONGOING INITIATIVES IN 2017

Last figures reported by the Ibero-American countries to the SEGIB corresponding to the cooperation initiatives in force in 2017 allow presenting a more recent overview of the SSC and TrC with CNib countries, which keeps a very similar tendency to that of the cooperation between both regions during the last years.

The SSC (Bilateral, Regional and Triangular) kept stable above a hundred ongoing initiatives, with an invariable behaviour with exception of a couple of projects at regional level (33 in 2017 in comparison with 28 in 2016). Figures at bilateral and triangular level in terms of projects were the same as in 2016, with 90 bilateral initiatives and 15 triangular, ongoing or concluded in 2017.

At bilateral level, 89 initiatives were materialized in cooperation offers to CNib countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, México and Venezuela), as shown in **Figure 9**. Here, 85% corresponded to SSC projects, the remaining 15% were SSC actions carried out with more than one CNib country simultaneously. Once more, an event was registered where Jamaica had an offeror role.

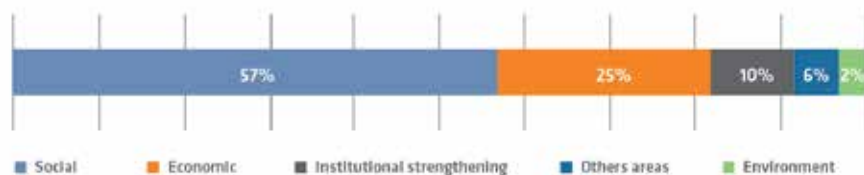
FIGURE 9. Bilateral CSS initiatives offered to CNIB as per Ibero-American country. 2017.



Source: Own elaboration 2019, based on SEGIB data.

Bilateral cooperation with the CNIB is distributed among the different action areas established in the Ibero-American space, as depicted in Figure 10. The social area stood out as the most significant one with 57% of the initiatives; within this area, education and health were the most dynamic activity sectors. The Economic area explains the 16% of the exchanges, mainly due to implementation of initiatives in the agricultural sector. Lastly, it must be pointed out that only one project was executed in the risk management area (belonging to the environment area) between Argentina and Jamaica.

FIGURE 10. Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives per scope of action. 2017.



Source: Elaboración propia 2019, con datos SEGIB.

Regarding TrC, 15 projects were implemented during 2017, whose first offeror was Mexico in seven occasions, followed by Chile (5), Chile and El Salvador jointly (1), and Argentina and El Salvador jointly in one more occasion, each. In the role of second offeror, together with bilateral and multilateral partners in traditional cooperation, Brazil, Chile (with PAHO jointly) and El Salvador stand out, who have also participated in one initiative in said role, respectively. In terms of recipient countries, Haiti was the main beneficiary with less than 50% initiatives, followed by Belize with 27%.

The regional SSC, in 2017, suffered a slight rise in the initiatives amount compared to 2016. Under this modality, the CNib countries that participated in 33 programmes or projects are Ibero-American partners, namely México, Colombia and Chile. Furthermore, different regional organizations such as SICA, ECLAC, SEGIB, ILO, among others, participated in said initiatives. Sectorally, even when the social area, together with the economic, continues being the most relevant (24.5%), the environmental area also suffered a rise (21%).

Lastly, **Figure 11** depicts the general overview of a potential alignment or contribution of SSC initiatives with a main SDG between both regions in 2017, according to their implementation modality. It is possible to evidence how at the bilateral level, SDG 4 (education) has been the most relevant, followed by SDG 3 (health) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). While in terms of TrC, SDG 16 stands out, followed by SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); and there is a similar distribution between SDG 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12. In SSC at regional level, SDG 16 again is the most significant, followed by SDG 8, 4, and 3 mainly.

This analysis aims to be the first contribution, which will enable to define, prioritize, align, adjust or delve sectorally on the SSC relationships with the CNib, in terms of their contributions to the 2030 Agenda fulfilment, and the priorities that CNib countries also have based on their own progress and challenges with said global development agenda.

FIGURE 11. Distribution of SSC initiatives between Ibero-America and the CNlb according to their potential contribution to a main SDG. 2017.



Source: Own elaboration, 2019. Based on SEGIB data.

04

Final considerations and analysis

The CNib is a group of countries with characteristic features in terms of development, as well as in terms of liaison with the world. These nations face significant challenges in terms of development, always marked by the considerable impacts exerted by natural disasters in their territories.

Moreover, their governmental structures are much smaller in size and limited in responsiveness when compared to a good part of the Ibero-American community; not to mention the weaknesses still palpable in terms of their public management information and data, as well as their scarce diplomatic representation abroad. **Table 6** shows a consolidated synthesis of the main variables of cooperation in the CNib institutional and architecture, which allows analyzing the Ibero-American community, at bilateral and regional level, the cooperation possibilities with these countries and subregional dialogue and discussion mechanisms.

TABLE 6. Institutional and cooperation mechanisms in CNib countries

Institutionality and Cooperation in CNib (Subregional countries and mechanisms)	CARICOM	ACE	OECS	Antigua and Barbuda	Bahamas	Belize	Grenada	Haiti	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Barbados	Dominica	Guyana	Saint Lucia	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
Cooperation Coordination institution				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Department or cooperation focal point	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	•	✓	•	✓	✓
Cooperation information system/register	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
Voluntary National Review Report	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
Personnel assigned to SSC/TrC	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•

Institutionality and Cooperation in CNib (Subregional countries and mechanisms)	CARICOM	ACE	OECS	Antigua and Barbuda	Bahamas	Belize	Grenada	Haiti	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Barbados	Dominica	Guyana	Saint Lucia	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
SSC/TrC initiatives with Ibero-America	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSC/TrC identified area matters with Ibero-America	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	.	.	.	.	.
Identified Good practices	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	.
Knowledge on SSC Ibero-American offer	X	✓	✓	X	.	X	.	✓	X	✓	✓	.	.	.	.	.	.
Knowledge on SEGIB report on SSC	.	X	✓	X	.	x	.	X	X	✓	X	.	.	.	.	.	.

✓ Having X Not Having . No information

Source: Own elaboration 2019, based on information made available by CARICOM, ACE, OECS, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis y Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The information regarding the remaining countries was elaborated based on secondary sources.

In addition to the above, there are some considerations worth taking into account when deepening the approach and liaison with the CNib, at bilateral and regional level. Firstly, it is key to know the planning process that these countries make through medium and long term guiding instruments, based on which it would be possible to identify their main priorities and intentions development for the upcoming years. It may appear trivial, yet, knowing their development plans, strategic and goals should be the first step before approaching the region.

For this reason, **Table 7** offers a first overview interrelating development areas prioritized by the CNib countries, in their current planning instruments, with the activity sector and cooperation areas agreed upon at the Ibero-American space, where the coincidence of countries is evident in areas such as social policies, institutional strengthening, public financial management and environment, the latter associated mainly to climate change and resilience matters.

TABLE 7. Current thematic priorities of development plans and strategic in CNib countries, according to activity sector.

Scope of action and activity sectors prioritized in Development Plans and Strategies of CNib		Antigua and Barbuda	Bahamas	Barbados	Belize	Dominica	Grenada	Guyana	Haiti	Jamaica	Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad y Tobago
Social	Education				✓						✓				
	Health				✓						✓				
	Population and Reproductive Health		✓					✓							
	Other services and social policies	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Economic	Energy	✓													
	Agriculture										✓				
	Construction	✓									✓				
	Tourism	✓									✓				
Institutional strengthening	Institution strengthening and public policies		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	Public Financial Management		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	Peace, public and national security and defence		✓								✓				
Environment	Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Others		✓							✓			✓			

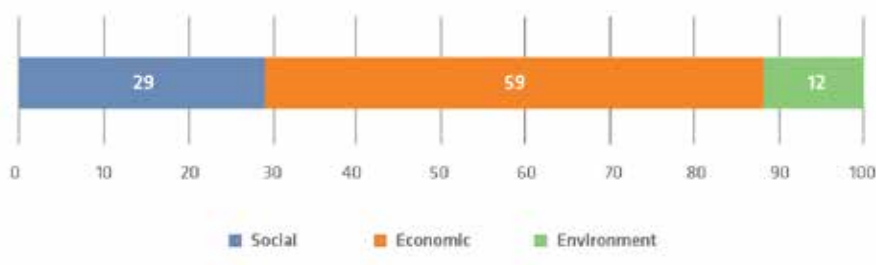
Source: Elaboración propia, 2019 a partir de los planes y estrategias de desarrollo de los países relacionados.

Even at bilateral level, some CNib countries, as detailed in Chapter 1, identified specific areas where they consider their main SSC/TrC needs and demands lay, which could be approached with the Ibero-American community countries. A total of 8 countries pointed out the economic area as priority, associated to several sectors such as energy, agriculture, enterprises, etc. Also, the social area turns out to be the second most important, emphasizing education and health as priority.

The environmental area appears to a lesser extent (Bahamas and Grenada), while none of the countries prioritized the employment area associated to institutional strengthening.

This information should prove useful when examining to which extent the current SSC and TrC areas are aligned with those areas the CNib countries claimed to be priority for themselves. Moreover, it could become an input for new Ibero-American countries interested in broadening their cooperation dynamics towards the CNib. Figure 12 consolidates a first sectoral priority exercise in relation to those countries providing said information for the present study.

FIGURE 12. Main areas identified by CNib countries for strengthening SSC/TrC relationship with Ibero-America.



Source: Own elaboration 2019, based on information provided by Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Haiti Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In addition to the sectoral information, at this bilateral level, it is also considered important to be able to foster dialogue and exchange between those Ibero-American countries that have been implementing SSC/TrC actions with the CNib. As evidenced in Chapter 3, there are several instruments, mechanisms and political tools, and above all, techniques these countries implement and which could achieve certain purposes, if they were socialized.

First, exchanging learnt lessons on their cooperation with the CNib among the countries themselves. Second, avoiding action duplicities taking into consideration how restricted CNib human, technical and financing capacity responsiveness could be; and third, showing a path for the Ibero-American countries interested in initiating their approach and liaison with the CNib.

In this sense, it the role that the respective Ibero-American countries Embassies play in this kind of complex scenarios becomes essential. Participation, support, diffusion and interlocution that could lead in the respective CNib countries will serve to fill in information gaps and lack of knowledge existing in said countries regarding the cooperation and the dynamics of the Ibero-American countries. Their dialogue capacity with the cooperation authorities in this region will prove important to start building gradually solid relationships as the ones already existing in Ibero-America.

At regional level, the universe of actors and potential counterparties in the CNib seems to be broader than at bilateral level. As described in Chapter 2, together with the regional mechanisms such as ECLAC, OAS, CELAC, SELA, etc., the Caribbean has in important level of organization in terms of political dialogue and discussion, being CARICOM and ACE its main exponents. Additionally, there are a great number of specialized organizations and mechanisms with experience in cooperation dynamics, by mean of which TrC processes could be strengthen.

The ECLAC turns out to be a space with abundant work and with very valuable information on the Caribbean - with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago- that leads several initiatives in the interest of its own development, and even suggests innovative funding mechanisms. At the same time, it is a scenario where all Ibero-American countries converge, including the fourteen CNib countries, and where Cuba, Caribbean country member of the PIFCSS, currently holds the presidency of the SSC Committee.

Together with the ECLAC, the OAS represents a space for dialogue that implements diverse mechanisms that encourage cooperation; it also convenes the dialogue forum among the high cooperation authorities from both regions where the CNib has participated with different levels of representation. Besides, the OAS is located, together with ECLAC, in the country with the highest level of diplomatic representation CNib countries have.

By the same token, there are numerous regional organizations in the CNib, detailed in Chapter 2, which can serve as cooperation partners for the Ibero-American countries at regional or triangular level. In fact, together with these ones, or by means thereof, cooperation initiatives between Ibero-America and the CNib have already been implemented.

Action areas and activity sectors in Ibero-American		Dialogue, discussion, integration mechanisms/organizations (and others)												
		Dialogue and discussion mechanisms			Other subregional mechanisms/organizations									
		CARICOM	AEC	OECS	CARICOM (Development Fund)	CDEMA	CARDI	CTO	CARPHA	CCCCC	CCREEE	BDC	BDC (Development Fund)	BCCO
Institutional Strengthening	Institutional and political strengthening	✓				✓	✓							
	Public Finance Management													✓
Environment	Environment	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓		
	Disaster management		✓			✓				✓		✓		
Others		✓			✓		✓							

Source: Own elaboration, 2019.

In perspective, CARICOM and ACE, by including the fourteen members of CNIB in the present study, appear as the most relevant countries with which a broader liaison between both regions could be considered. In both mechanisms it is possible to find cooperation units, technical assistance of resource mobilization (even in the OECS), as well as strategies for regional planning, where there is a sectoral prioritization to work in said mechanisms. The three organizations also identified the priority areas for the SSC/TrC with Ibero-America, which reveal very similar results to those presented by the countries themselves at bilateral level. Figure 13 shows the prioritization area of CARICOM, ACE and OECS to move forward, at regional level, in terms of regional cooperation with Ibero-America.

FIGURE 13. Main actions areas identified by CNib dialogue mechanisms for strengthening relations with the Regional SSC with Ibero-America.



Source: Own elaboration 2019, based on information provided by ACE, CARICOM y OECS.

In this sense, consistent with the findings of the present study, it is considered that ACE could facilitate a first approach with the CNib, based on the following considerations. Initially, the member countries of ACE include the fourteen CNib countries (members also of PIFCSS), which is not the case of CARICOM or the OECS.

Furthermore, **ACE is the only subregional organization which, for the time being, has a space similar to the Annual Cooperation Meeting, useful for exploring possibilities of additional approaches, where the Organization manifests its interest in the participation of the Ibero-American community represented by the PIFCSS.** Lastly, more operational matters, namely bilingualism, incorporated by the ACE, could facilitate the liaison between both regions.

The before mentioned does not imply that it is not important to also explore with CARICOM and OECS spaces for dialogue that could allow strengthening SSC and TrC between both regions. Similarly, in all the cases, and with all the Caribbean organizations, it will be convenient to share the progresses, documents, SEGIB reports on SSC, and all pertinent information that will become useful to close the information gap between both regions. Taking into consideration that the present study succeeded in identifying directors and responsible officials from the cooperation units of the three first organizations, this initial approach would be worth keeping.

These sectoral analyses allow having a clearer overview of the thematic priorities the CNib has in terms of development, and in some cases, specifically on cooperation.

Similarly, it serves to underline the coincidences and at the same time, the new topics incorporated to a more regional agenda, and which can guide the Ibero-American community in its future cooperation decision with the region.

Furthermore, it can serve to continue bringing both regions together and to consider the Ibero-American participation in regional spaces already available in the CNIB, which can strengthen this approach. Also, the PIFCSS could evaluate the possibility of opening some of its own spaces of technical level to the participation of some countries, or CNIB mechanisms, at least for them to become acquainted with the broad work that as a region, has been gathered during ten years of working in the Programme, as well as the diversity of resources it counts on.

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ANNEX

Profiles of the fourteen non Ibero-American Caribbean countries





Capital
Saint John

Territory
440 km²

GDP per capita
US\$ 15.629 (2018)

Population
103.000 inhabitants

Independency
1981

HDI
0.780 (High)



National Planning Instruments

Mid-term Development Strategy 2016-2020

- Priorities: Infrastructure, tourism, sea space, energy security and housing



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade

- No cooperation unit
- 6-10 officials for cooperation
- No cooperation report
- Cooperation Registering System

Development Assistance Committee (DAC), US\$ 9.9 million (2017) Graduation 2020



Main cooperation partners:

Main Area: Humanitarian assistance



Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country

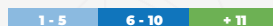
Social Area (Health, education and water sectors)

Economic Area (Energy, science and technology and employment sectors)

MAIN BILATERAL SSC PARTNERS
RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country



◆ Colombia 1 ◆ Mexico 1 ◆ Cuba 3



Good practices

- Fishing Management
- Plastic Ban

**Capital**

Bridgetown

Territory430 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 17.762 (2018)

Population

286.000 inhabitants

Independency

1966

HDI

0.800 (High)

**National Planning Instruments**

Mid-term Growth and Development Strategy 2013-2020

- Priorities: sustainable economic growth, necessary economic reforms, social and human development, and environmental sustainability
- It includes financing strategy
- High cooperative incorporation. SSC outstanding role

MEMBER**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Joint Commission Suriname - Barbados 2019

- Not DAC recipient (OECD-DAC) since 2011
- Largest number of UN offices in the CNIB

**United Nations in Barbados**

UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, PAHO, UNWOMEN, FAO, UIT

MAIN SSC PARTNERS (Bilateral, Regional) RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

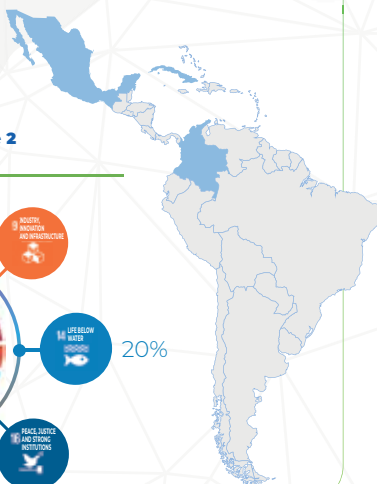
1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

◆ Colombia 1 ◆ Mexico 1 ◆ Chile 2

Good practices*

- Organic certification system

* Source: South-South Galaxy



**Capital**

Nassau

Territory13.880 Km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 31.117 (2018)

Population

399.000 inhabitants

Independency

1973

HDI

0.807 (High)

**National Planning Instruments**

National Development Plan Vision 2040

- Priorities: Transparency, accountability and government efficiency; healthy and productive workforce; citizenship security; community revitalization; inclusive economic growth; resilient and sustainable environment.

MEMBER**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Planning Unit (Office of Prime Minister)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Economy, Trade and Sustainable Development Division)

- 6-10 officials in charge of cooperation
- Cooperation Offer Registering System

- Ministry of Finance consolidates cooperation information

- Not DAC recipient (OECD-DAC) since 1996

**Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country**

- Social area (education and health sectors)
- Productive area (agriculture and energy)
- Environment area (disaster management)

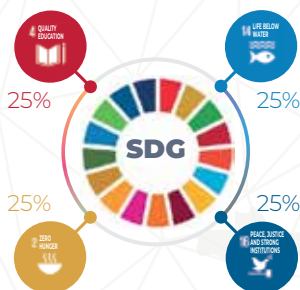
MAIN SSC PARTNERS (Bilateral, Regional, Triangular) RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

♦ Cuba 1 ♦ Mexico 1 ♦ Chile 2

**Hurricane Dorian (2019)**

- USAID: US\$ 33,7 millones
- CERF: US\$ 1 millón
- CNIB countries' experts sent
- Creation of the Ministry Of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction announced



**BELIZE****Capital**

Belmopan

Territory22.970 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 5.033 (2018)

Population

382.000 inhabitants

Independency

1981

HDI

0.708 (High)

National Planning Instruments

Sustainable Growth and Development Strategy 2016-2019

Belize Horizon 2030

Voluntary National Review Report SDG (2017)

MEMBER**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Cooperation Unit
- Cooperation database
- 3 officials in charge of cooperation

Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) administered by the Ministry of Economic Development

ODA US\$ 34,1 million
Main cooperant partners:

Main area: Multisectoral (34%)

Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country

Economic area (enterprising, employment, industry and fishery sectors)

Alignment to SDG 1 and 9

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country****Good practices**

- Shrimp farming
- Coral cay protection and restoration



Capital

Roseau

Territory

750 km²

GDP per capita

US\$ 31.117 (2018)

Population

74.000 inhabitants

Independency

1978

HDI

0.715 (High)



National Planning Instruments

- 2030 National Resilience Development Strategy
- Manifestation of becoming the first fully climate resilient nation

MEMBER



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign and
CARICOM Affairs
(Political Affairs Division)



ODA US\$ 18,7 million (2017)

Main cooperant partner:

Main area: Humanitarian
assistance (87%)



Priorities of the National Development Strategy

Social development (social protection,
poverty reduction), environment and
economic development (revenue and
macroeconomic policies)

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country

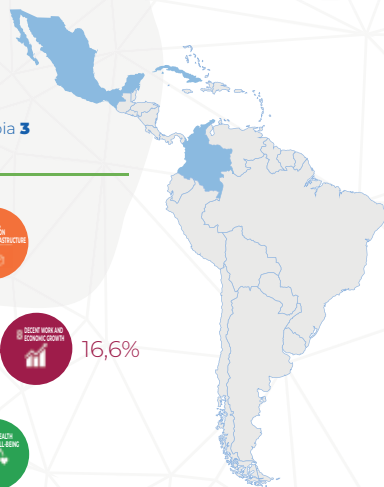
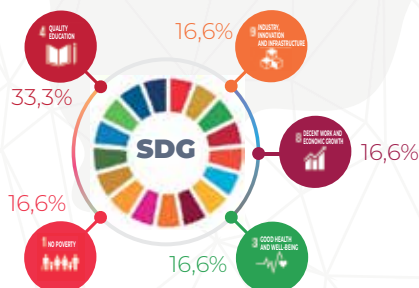
1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

♦ Mexico 1 ♦ Cuba 2 ♦ Colombia 3



Resident Representations

- Dominica: Embassy in Cuba
and Honorary Consulate in
Dominican Republic
- Embassies of Cuba, Nicaragua
and Venezuela in Dominica
- No UN agency





Capital

Saint George

Territory

340 km²

GDP per capita

US\$ 10.787 (2018)

Population

108.000 inhabitants

Independency

1974

HDI

0.772 (Alto)



National Planning Instruments

Strategic Development Plan 2030

- Priorities: Governance, innovation, infrastructure, environment and ecology; competitiveness, caring society, and climate change and disaster management.

MEMBERS



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign

- Department of Policy and Research
- Internal record and filing system
- 3 officials Ibero-America cooperation

ODA US\$ 5.8 million in 2017



Main Bilateral Partners:

Main Area: Multisectoral 45%



Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country

- Economic sector
- Environment sector

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

◆Cuba 2 ◆Mexico 2 ◆Argentina 3 ◆Colombia 3



Good Practices*

- Early Childhood Policies and standards
- Preschool curricula
- Teacher and practicing teachers training

* Source: UNICEF-BDC, 2018



Capital
Georgetown

Territory
214.970 km²

GDP per capita
US\$ 4.709 (2018)

Population
782.000 inhabitants

Independency
1966

HDI
0.654 (Medium)



National Planning Instruments

Green State Development Strategy:
Vision 2040

- Priorities: managing natural resource wealth, economic resilience and building human capital and institutional capacity
- It highlights innovative financing sources

MEMBER



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Department of the Americas)

- Department of International Cooperation

ODA US\$ 51.1 million (2017)



Main bilateral cooperant partners:

Main area: Education (69%)

Kuwait wrote off
US\$ 50.7 million debt (2019)



Resident Representations

- Guyana: Embassy in Brazil, Cuba and Venezuela and Honorary Consulates in Peru and Dominican Republic
- Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela in Guyana
- Headquarters of FAO, PAHO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNPF

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

♦ Argentina 1 ♦ Colombia 1 ♦ Chile 2
♦ Mexico 2 ♦ Cuba 4



Good Practices*

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Learning Environment

* Source: UNICEF-BDC 2018

**Capital**

Port-au-Prince

Territory27.750 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 733 (2018)

Population

11.167.000 inhabitants

Independency

1801

HDI

0.498 (Low)

**National Planning Instruments****Strategic Development Plan 2030**

- Priorities: territorial, economic, social and institutional reconstruction for the country's rebuilding and development
- It highlights establishing assistance coordination mechanisms
- UN Development Assistance Framework 2017-2027

**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cults
(Department of Economic Affairs and Cooperation)

Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

- More than 10 cooperation officials (2 for Ibero-America)
- Georeferenced management of external assistance module (SSC module on trial)

ODA US\$ 980 million (2017)



Main bilateral cooperant partners:

Main Area: Health and population (29%)

Mayor ODA recipient of the region

**Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country**

Social area (health and water sanitation)

Economic area (energy, agriculture and tourism sector)

Priority alignment with SDG 2 and 3

**Resident Representations**

- Embassies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic. Honorary Consulate in Costa Rica.
- Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic. Honorary Consulates of Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay
- Headquarters of: UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, OCHA, PAHO, UNWOMEN, FAO

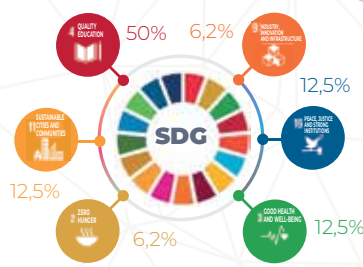
MEMBER

* Headquarters opening in Haiti in 2018

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS: RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

◆ Venezuela 1 ◆ Chile 2 ◆ Ecuador 2
◆ Mexico 5 ◆ Cuba 6



**Capital**

Kingston

Territory10,990 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 5,551 (2018)

Population

2,899,000 inhabitants

Independency

1962

HDI

0.732 (High)

**National Planning Instrument****Vision 2030 Jamaica**

- Priorities: economic prosperity, environment, social cohesion and justice and society empowerment

- It highlights the need for cooperation for resources, knowledge and capital exchange

MEMBER

INTERAMERICAN
LITHOGRAPHIC
PRINTING

**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (Caribbean and Americas Department)

Planning Institute of Jamaica (External Cooperation Management Division)

- More than 10 officials for cooperation

Publication of Social and Economic Survey

ODA US\$ 85.8 million (2017)



Main cooperant partners:

Main Area:

Social Infrastructure (23%)

**Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country**

Economic area (agriculture, fishing, enterprises, science and technology)

Priority Alignment with SDG 1 and 17

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

◆ Argentina 1 ◆ Colombia 2 ◆ Cuba 3 ◆ Mexico 8

Good practices

Health and Family Life Education



Programme of Adolescent Mothers



Community Development Project



**Capital**

Basseterre

Territory269 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 17.550 (2018)

Population

56,000 inhabitants

Independency

1983

HDI

0.778 (High)

**National Planning Instruments**

Annual Budget 2019

- Priorities: resilience construction in sectors related to agriculture, transportation, energy and water
 - Aligned to SDG 9
- The country is trying to obtain technical assistance for formulating its National Development Plan

**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation

Ministry of Sustainable Development (Department of Economic Affairs) coordinates cooperation

- More than 10 officials for cooperation

It registers funding sources

- It has designated a focal point for PIFCSS
- Not ODA recipient (OECD-DAC) since 2014
- It highlights Taiwan's cooperation

**Prioritized SSC/TrC cooperation needs and demands by the country**

- Social area: (Health and drinking water sectors)
- Economic area: (Agriculture and trade)

Prioridade de alinhar o CSS / CT com os ODS 3 e 13

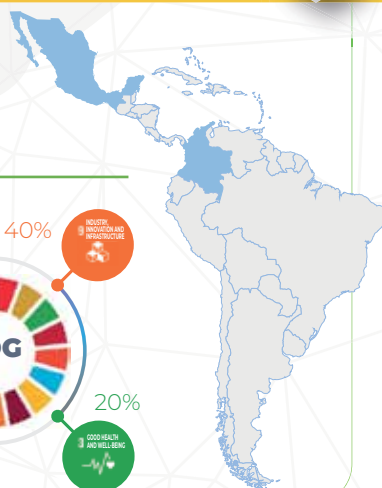
MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

◆ Mexico 1 ◆ Colombia 4

Good practices

- Revenue and Debt Management
- Primary and secondary universal Healthcare





Capital

Kingstown

Territory

390 km²

GDP per capita

US\$ 7,362 (2018)

Population

110,000 inhabitants

Independency

1979

HDI

0.723 (High)



National Planning Instruments

National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025

- Priorities: economic growth; human and social development; promoting good governance and effectiveness of public administration; physical infrastructure, environment and resilience to climate change; and Identity and culture



MEMBER



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Department of Foreign Policy and Investigation)

- 2 officials for SSC
- No cooperation report
- No information system on cooperation

ODA US\$ 7.3 million (2017)



Main cooperant partners:

Main Area:

Humanitarian assistance (34%)



Prioritized SSC/TrC needs and demands by the country

Social area: (Health and education sectors)

Economic area: (Trade and industry sectors)

Priority to align SSC/TrC to SDG 4 and 8

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

◆ Argentina 2 ◆ Colombia 2 ◆ Mexico 2 ◆ Cuba 2



Good practices

English as second language (implemented with Ecuador)

**Capital**

Castries

Territory620 km²**GDP per capita**

US\$ 10,536 (2018)

Population

180,000 inhabitants

Independency

1979

HDI

0.747 (High)

**National Planning Instruments**

Medium-Term Development strategy 2019-2022

- Priorities: social area (health, education and citizen security) and the economic area (tourism, agriculture and infrastructure)

MEMBER**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service

- No cooperation report available

ODA US\$ 12.6 million (2017)



Main cooperant partners:

Main Area:

Humanitarian assistance (72%)

Good practices

Early identification of development challenges

Adapt. Change. Take Action

National Adaptation Plan

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

◆ Argentina 2 ◆ Colombia 2 ◆ Cuba 3 ◆ Mexico 3

Resident Representations

- Saint Lucia: Embassies in Cuba. Honorary Consulate in Dominican Republic
- Embassies of Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela. Honorary Consulate of Chile in Saint Lucia
- Headquarters of FAO



**Capital**

Paramaribo

GDP per capita

US\$ 6,322 (2018)

Independency

1975

Territory163,820 km²**Population**

568,000 inhabitants

HDI

0.720 (High)

**National Planning Instruments**

National Policy Development Plan 2017-2021

- Priorities: Development capacity, economic growth and diversification, social progress and utilization and protection of the environment

- It includes financing strategy

Strategy 2035 (being drafted)

**COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Permanent Secretary Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation (cooperation and trade area)

- III Joint Commission Suriname-Barbados (2019)

ODA US\$ 5.8 million (2017)



Main bilateral cooperant partners:

Main Area:

Education (69%)

Good practices

Based-community communication



Renewal and efficient energy

MAIN SSC BILATERAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017**Number of initiatives per country**

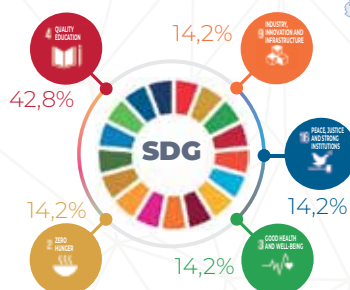
◆Argentina 1 ◆Mexico 2 ◆Cuba 2 ◆Colombia 2

Resident Representations

- Suriname: Embassy in Brazil, Cuba, Venezuela. Honorary Consulates in Dominican Republic and Uruguay

- Embassies of Brazil, Cuba, Venezuela. Honorary Consulates of Chile and Nicaragua in Suriname

- Headquarters of UNDP, UNPF, PAHO





Capital

Port of Spain

Territory

5.131 km²

GDP per capita

US\$ 17.034 (2018)

Population

1,373,000 inhabitants

Independency

1962

HDI

0.784 (High)



National Planning Instruments

National Development Strategy 2016-2030
Vision 2030

- Priorities: good governance, productivity (infrastructure and transportation), global competitiveness and environment

SDG Voluntary National Review Report (to be submitted 2020)

MEMBER



COOPERATION ARCHITECTURE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM
(Department of the Americas)

Ministry of Planning and Development
(Technical Cooperation Unit)

- International Cooperative Development
Division (planned 2020)

- Not DAC recipient (OECD-DAC)
since 2011

- 45 years of diplomatic relations
with China



Resident Representations

- Trinidad and Tobago: Embassies in Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Panamá, Venezuela and Honorary Consulates in Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Dominican Republic

- Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela. Honorary Consulates of Uruguay in Trinidad Tobago

- Regional headquarters of ECLAC

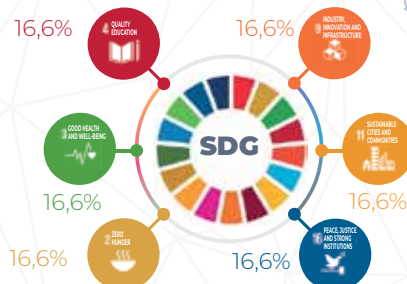
MAIN SSC BILATERAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS RECIPIENT ROLE 2017



Number of initiatives per country

1 - 5 6 - 10 + 11

♦ Cuba 1 ♦ Chile 2 ♦ Mexico 3





Secretaría General
Iberoamericana
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Ibero-Americana



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