



Regional Workshop

Preliminary Program

Nassau
Commonwealth of
The Bahamas
24-25 June
2013

Canada



UKaid
from the Department for
International Development



World Bank LAC
opportunities for all

Background

The CGF is an initiative facilitated by Compete Caribbean (CC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the World Bank (WB), in collaboration with the United Kingdom Agency for International Development (UKAid), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the University of the West Indies and CARICOM Secretariat, that aims to enable a platform for public private dialogue around the growth challenge, with a view to identifying practical and implementable solutions that inspire action in each of the 15 Caribbean countries considered.

The CGF engages a broad group of stakeholders, reaching beyond the traditional stakeholders to other critical players in the dialogue on economic growth including the private sector (both small and large enterprises), the youth, the unions, the cooperatives, civil society, the media and the Caribbean Diaspora.

Preparation started in 2011 and led to the launch of the initiative in June 2012, in Kingston, Jamaica to a broad audience of policy makers, private sector and civil society from across the region. Three priority areas have been identified during the preparatory phase and validated at the launch event in June 2012: namely, **Investment Climate, Logistics and Connectivity and Skills and Productivity.**

Between November 2012 and June 2013 twelve countries started national dialogues: Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, The Bahamas, Suriname, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize, while preparation has started in Haiti.

During the dialogues, national challenges were identified as well as those that need to be addressed at the regional level. Until now, more than 2000 people participated in the discussions taking place in each country and more than 120 thematic working groups meetings across the region were held.

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, French and English will be available.

Objectives, Duration, and Format

Objectives: The Regional Workshop of the Caribbean Growth Forum will facilitate a process of knowledge sharing on how reforms and results can be delivered, so that implementers, private sector and practitioners can learn from each other. It will also help capturing results from previous successes and failures, and use these experiences to find innovative solutions.

Against this backdrop, the Regional Workshop will serve three purposes: 1) as an opportunity to take stock of the process so far and engage policy-makers in a discussion on the long term growth strategies for the countries and the region; 2) as an opportunity to disseminate the analytical work prepared for the CGF and tap into the expertise of the practitioners that will attend; and 3) as an opportunity to debate the way forward and deepen the discussion among working group representatives on the challenges and potential solutions identified

Duration: The Regional Workshop will last 2 full days, during which plenary and parallel thematic sessions will alternate.

Format: The Regional Workshop will combine plenary sessions enabling CGF government focal points and participants to take stock of the progresses achieved so far in the national dialogues, with parallel sessions where the representatives from public, private, civil society and academia that engaged in the thematic working groups, will engage in technical discussion to fine tuning the action plans and the priorities that are emerging..

Sunday 23 June

Welcome Reception and Pre-Registration

19:00-21:00 *Hotel Atlantis, Nassau*

Hosted by the Government of The Bahamas

The Bahamas welcomes all Caribbean Growth Forum Regional Workshop participants to the City of Nassau

Monday 24 June

8:00-8:50 am

Registration and Meet and Greet

8:50-9:00 am

CHAIR'S WELCOME TO THE WORKSHOP

Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

9:00-9:10 am

JOINT REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE CGF SECRETARIAT

TBA

9:10-9:20 am

THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE DAY

Winston Rolle, Former CEO of Chamber of Commerce of The Bahamas

9:20-11:20

REFORMS IN THE MAKING: TAKING STOCK OF THE CGF NATIONAL DIALOGUES

TBA

This session will provide an opportunity for the Governmental CGF Focal Points to showcase the results of the national dialogues and the next steps in their respective CGF processes. This session will be held in plenary. The presenters will be the National CGF Focal Points. The presentations in power point will follow a standardized format.

A light coffee break will be served between 10:20 and 10:30

11:20-11:30 *Short Break*

11:45-1:00

ROUND TABLE “THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GROWTH IN THE CARIBBEAN IN TIMES OF LIMITED CHOICES”

Chair: TBA

Invited Speakers:

Hon. Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

Sir Dwight Venner, Governor, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (TBC)

Ing. Temístocles Montás, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic

This moderated Round Table aims to discuss among Caribbean policy makers and intellectuals the key growth challenges in the region and the potential solutions that are feasible in the current situation, where for most of the countries in the region the choices available are few. Caribbean scholars, business leaders, policy-makers, the Forum’s Focal Points, and other experts will explore region’s greatest challenges to growth to inform further action on strengthening resilience and competitiveness..

Key Questions for the Round Table:

Reform agendas emerged through the CGF participatory and inclusive process proposed a set of key challenges. What are the obstacles that need to be removed to have a smooth implementation?

What would be needed in the current context of low growth and high debt to enhance private sector contribution to growth?

Would business as usual be sufficient in the post-crisis era? What will it take to change the postcolonial development model?

How do existing political economy factors facilitate and/or constrain these choices?

How can the private sector and policy-makers work together to redefine the role of business in society?

1:00-2:30 LUNCH BREAK

2:30-4:00

ROUND TABLE “REGIONAL DIMENSION OF THE CARIBBEAN GROWTH FORUM”

Chair: TBA

Panelists: TBA

This moderated Round Table aims to discuss among regional and international development partners the growth agenda from a regional perspective. The Caribbean Growth Forum national dialogues have identified key areas for reforms that require commitment in several countries and by the regional organizations. This session will invite international development partners actively engaged in the region and the regional organizations to engage in addressing the solutions to the challenges identified by the national CGF Chapters.

Key Questions for the Round Table:

How can intra-regional and international labor mobility be enhanced and leveraged effectively?

What needs to be done to create a favorable logistics system for the Caribbean?

What are the regulations for improving the investment climate that needs to be addressed at the regional level?

How can intraregional and international labor mobility be enhanced and leveraged effectively for growth in the Caribbean?

4:00-4:30 Coffee Break

4:30-5:00 The Growth Agenda Forward

Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

6:00 Cultural Event and COCKTAIL

Room XXXXX

8:00 DINNER

Restaurant XXXXXX

Tuesday, June 25 *Thematic Panels*

Breakfast Networking: National/Regional

07:00-08:00 *Hotel Atlantis, Nassau*

Hosted by the CGF Partners

The CGF Partners welcomes all Caribbean Growth Forum Regional Workshop participants to engage in peer review and open discussions in preparation for the thematic discussions. Breakfast tables will be organized by country

9:00-10:00 **PANEL 1: ENHANCING THE LOGISTICS AND CONNECTIVITY OF THE CARIBBEAN**

9:00-9:05 *Opening remarks*

Chair: TBA

9:05-9:10

Brief Remarks on the Logistics and Connectivity Challenges in the Caribbean and the Way Forward Identified by the CGF

Presenter: XXXXX

9:10-10:00 - Panel

Invited Panelists: Mix of public and private actors

Outline:

Key Questions:

What are the three priority solutions to the logistics challenges in the region?

What will it take to implement the recommendations of the CGF?

With little room for public investment, what kind of innovative financing partnerships and regulatory and institutional frameworks can be developed?

What should businesses and governments in the region prioritize to ensure that infrastructure contributes to sustainable long-term competitiveness?

What kind of innovative financing partnerships and regulatory and institutional frameworks can be developed?

10:00-10:15 **COFFE BREAK**

10:15-11:15 - PANEL 2: IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN THE CARIBBEAN

10:15-10:20 *Opening remarks*

Chair: TBA

10:15-10:25

Brief Remarks on the Investment Climate Challenges in the Caribbean and the Way Forward Identified by the CGF

Presenter: XXXXX

10:25-11:15 – Panel

Invited Panelists: Mix of public and private actors

Outline: Improving the environment for local firms to work more efficiently and become more attractive to foreign investors is key for the Caribbean. Even though many countries in the region perform well in most international benchmarking indicators, there is still room to improve. The recent crisis has also highlighted the need to change the rules of the game, leveling the playing field and stimulating competitiveness beyond concessions and exemptions.

Key Questions:

What can be done to address the existing bottlenecks in the investment climate?

What will it take to implement the recommendations of the CGF?

What needs to be done to enhance SMEs competitiveness?

11:15-11:30 *Short Break*

11:30-12:30 - PANEL 3: SKILLS FOR JOBS IN THE CARIBBEAN

11:30-11:35 Opening remarks

Chair: TBA

11:35-11:45

Brief Remarks on the Skills and Productivity Challenges in the Caribbean and the Way Forward Identified by the CGF

Presenter: TBA

11:45-12:30 – Panel (mix of public and private actors)

TBA

Outline: While most of the Caribbean countries are no longer competitive in several areas of manufacturing, many islands can be competitive in services sectors and, indeed, in niche manufacturing. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, addressing the weakness of labor markets and the mismatching between private sector needs and educational system is a priority. A renewed focus on education and skill development is needed to help improve competitiveness and foster job creations.

Key Questions:

How can countries prepare their workforce for rapidly evolving skills needs?

How can public and private actors work together to identify skills gaps and implement education and training programs?

What can be done to implement the actions proposed by the CGF national dialogues?

12:30-2:00 LUNCH BREAK

2:00-5:30 FINE-TUNING THE SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED IN EACH COUNTRY DIALOGUE

Three parallel thematic sessions will provide the space for the national Working Groups representatives from the public, private and civil society sector to compare notes and fine tune the action plans. The working group will be divided in sub-groups to enable a more focused discussion on the substance and sequencing of the actions identified as priorities. Experts will share results of lessons learnt from similar reforms to stimulate the discussion. One facilitator per pillar will consolidate the results of the individual sub-groups and report to the plenary session.

Tuesday 25 June 2:00-5:30 Logistics and Connectivity Pillar	Tuesday 25 June 2:00-5:30 Investment Climate Pillar	Tuesday 25 June 2:00-5:30 Skills and Productivity Pillar
<i>Sub-Group Transports Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group Regulations Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group Professional and Vocational Training</i>
<i>Sub-Group ICT Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group Competition Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group Quality of Education Moderator: TBA</i>
<i>Sub-Group Energy Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group SMES Moderator: TBA</i>	<i>Sub-Group Productivity Moderator: TBA</i>

5:30-6:00 REPORTING FROM THE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Facilitator Logistics and Connectivity Pillar

Facilitator Investment Climate Pillar

Facilitator Skills and Productivity Pillar

6:00 CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS (PLENARY)