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BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

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## POSITION PAPER - GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN CARIBBEAN TRADE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY FOR IMPROVED TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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*Recognising* commitments our governments have made to gender equality at the international, regional and national levels through, inter alia, the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality and the Post 2015 and SIDS Agenda, the United Nations Charter, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and women's empowerment under the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals;

*Accepting* the business and development cases that investing in women yields economic and human development dividends.

*Recognising* that measures that enhance and secure the financial independence of women and promote their equal participation in all areas of life ultimately promote socio-economic protections that ultimately contribute to reduction in poverty and inequality.

As an outcome of our engagement in the inaugural workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Caribbean Trade Policies and Programmes: Promoting Gender Equality for Improved Trade and Development;

We, the participants from 13 countries in the Caribbean that are borrowing members of the Caribbean Development Bank {CDB}, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, recognise:

- Value chain analysis (VCA) usefully identifies the range of activities that are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the intermediary phases of production, to delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use.
- Gender-sensitive value-chain analysis complements a generic VCA by illuminating the different work undertaken by men and women along the value chain, and the gender relations that determine, inter alia access to and control over income derived from activities.

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- Output from gender-sensitive VCA signposts areas for more comprehensive gender analyses that can further inform the design of policy and programmes, in particular the formulation of appropriate indicators.
  - Indicators rooted in delivering on commitments made at the international, regional and national levels, cascading for coherence, not only make for solid results frameworks, but narrow the scope of data collection efforts that can improve efficiencies in collection, monitoring, and evaluation, and achievement of results.
  - Periodic reporting is facilitated through sex-disaggregated data capture.

We, the participants in the Workshop recommend to our national governments to:

- Systematically apply an a priori gender analyses to inform policy and programme design and resource allocation.
- Reach out to and include organisations and associations, including women's business, in consultative processes at formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Build the capacity of national ministries, departments, agencies and institutions in the region through, inter alia, the establishment of a coordinating mechanism to undertake gender analysis and assist in transitioning from policy to programming in a manner that retains or strengthens gender in each phase of the project cycle.

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