



UN Caribbean
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ONE CARIBBEAN 2030

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A silent protestor hands out brochures during peak hour traffic on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Kingston, Jamaica. Many participants covered their mouths to symbolise the high levels of under-reporting of victims and the culture of rape that often pushes women into silence.

Photo: Khristina Godfrey / UN Women Photos

STEERING COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

The UN Common Multi-Country Assessment of 2015 and UNDP's most recent Caribbean Human Development Report 2016, clearly articulates the various challenges and vulnerabilities of women and girls in the Caribbean and its contributions to gender inequalities in various forms. Gender inequalities in labor markets, education, health and violence contribute significantly to the marginalization of women in the Caribbean. Also of note is the fact that the indices for women's political representation lags behind global and regional averages for most countries in the Caribbean with some exceptions. Taking account that Agenda 2030 provides a renewed opportunity to address gender equality and women's empowerment through a multi-dimensional and integrated lens across all spheres of the development of girls and women, as a cross-cutting and fundamental principle underpinning the strategic priorities of the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF), the joint commitment of the governments and the UN development system, will contribute to advancing gender equality primarily through interventions to achieve: An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; a Healthy Caribbean; and a Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean.

This December issue of the bulletin showcase of the strong partnerships among stakeholders in advancing the discourse and awareness raising as part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, observed from 25 November - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December - Human Rights Day. This collective effort is to continue galvanizing action to end violence against women and girls in the Caribbean. We also highlight the Country Implementation Plans / Sub-regional Implementation Plans as the instruments for operationalizing the UN MSDF in the respective participating countries. All UNCTs are encouraged to continue efforts towards finalizing these plans in early 2017.

STEERING COMMITTEE MESSAGE

On behalf of the Regional Steering Committee of the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) we take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to the Government of Belize and the UN Country Team for the first to launch the UN MSDF in the region, on 8 December 2016.

As current Chair of the Regional Steering Committee I extended my appreciation for the collaboration in 2016 to all UN colleagues and counterparts who worked on the UN MSDF with a message of grace and a million thanks for the excellent work and support in the spirit of collegiality and commitment to the common cause of the UN – to leave no one behind.

Wishing all a Happy New Year – as we usher in 2017 with the implementation of the UN MSDF.

TOP STORY: GENDER EQUALITY SEAL GAINING SUPPORT AMONG PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES IN JAMAICA



UNDP Jamaica Resident Representative Mr Bruno Pouezat greets Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Hon Olivia 'Basby' Grange. Photo: UNDP Jamaica

Jamaica is on target to become the first country in the English speaking Caribbean to pilot the globally recognized Gender Equality Seal certification programme, following positive feedback from several local enterprises at a special introductory session on November 29.

One locally based multinational company has already committed while several have expressed interest in participating in the globally recognized

certification programme that has been proven to boost productivity and profitability in private sector and quasi-public enterprises using gender mainstreaming strategies. Read more [here](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN UN CARIBBEAN MSDF PROCESS UNDERWAY: UN MULTI-COUNTRY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ENDORSEMENTS



UN Resident Coordinator Bruno Pouezat presents at the UN MSDF Country Implementation Plan launch. Photo: UN Jamaica

The United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) has now been signed and endorsed by Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Aruba, and Curacao. Keep updated with the latest on this by following us on [Facebook at United Nations Caribbean](#) and [Twitter @un_caribbean](#).

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM **ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

From November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. Below is a snapshot of how different Caribbean countries honored 16 Days of Activism.



Barbados

UN Women Head of Office .a.i Tonni Brodber presenting on Gender and Human Rights to visiting final year law students of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

Photo: Sharon Carter-Burke / UN Women Photos



Jamaica

UWI LEADS and UN Women hosted the clothesline project which challenges the 'culture of silence' around rape and encourages women, men, allies and survivors and their friends and families, to tell their story by painting a statement on a T-shirt and hang it on "the Clothes Line".

Photo: Khristina Godfrey/ UN Women Photos



Trinidad and Tobago

The Network of Rural Women Producers TT, UN Women MCO Caribbean, ParlAmericas and the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago observed #16DaysOfActivism with a consultation on "Addressing Gender Based Violence in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Photo: Sharon Carter-Burke/ UN Women Photos



Jamaica

In the safe and healing space offered by #OrangeLights, seven survivors shared their stories of sexual and/or intimate partner violence or shared the stories of other women not yet ready to share their stories themselves.

Photo: UN Women Photos

GENDER AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT **WEBINARS**

Human Equality is necessary to create a sustainable and fulfilling world where all persons are free and equitable. In the interviews below, we discuss and explore the challenges faced in gender, and the empowerment of women and girls in the Caribbean region, and strategies to create a more equal and equitable world. Click the links below to view the interviews!



THE RIGHTS OF A WOMAN AND GIRL

Ms. Terry Ince
Deputy Director
Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women



GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION: THE CHALLENGE TO SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Mr. Colin Robinson
Executive Director
Coalition Advocating for the Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO)



GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judge Helen Whitener
Pierce County Superior Court
Washington State

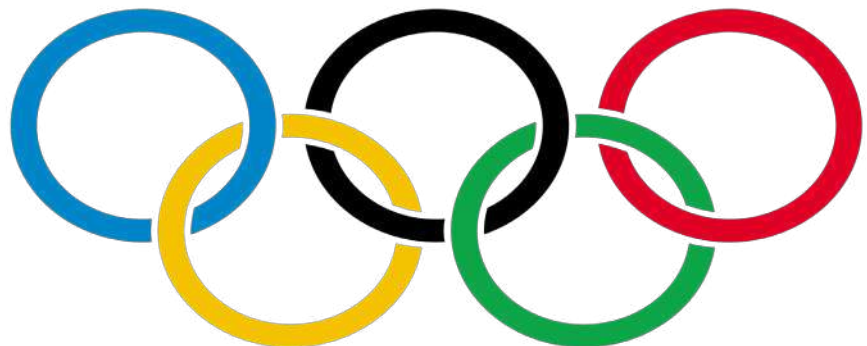
GAMES

Click on the Images to play this month's featured games!

UN Honorary Ambassador for Green

UNITED NATIONS HONORARY AMBASSADOR

RED GOES GREEN FOR A HAPPY PLANET

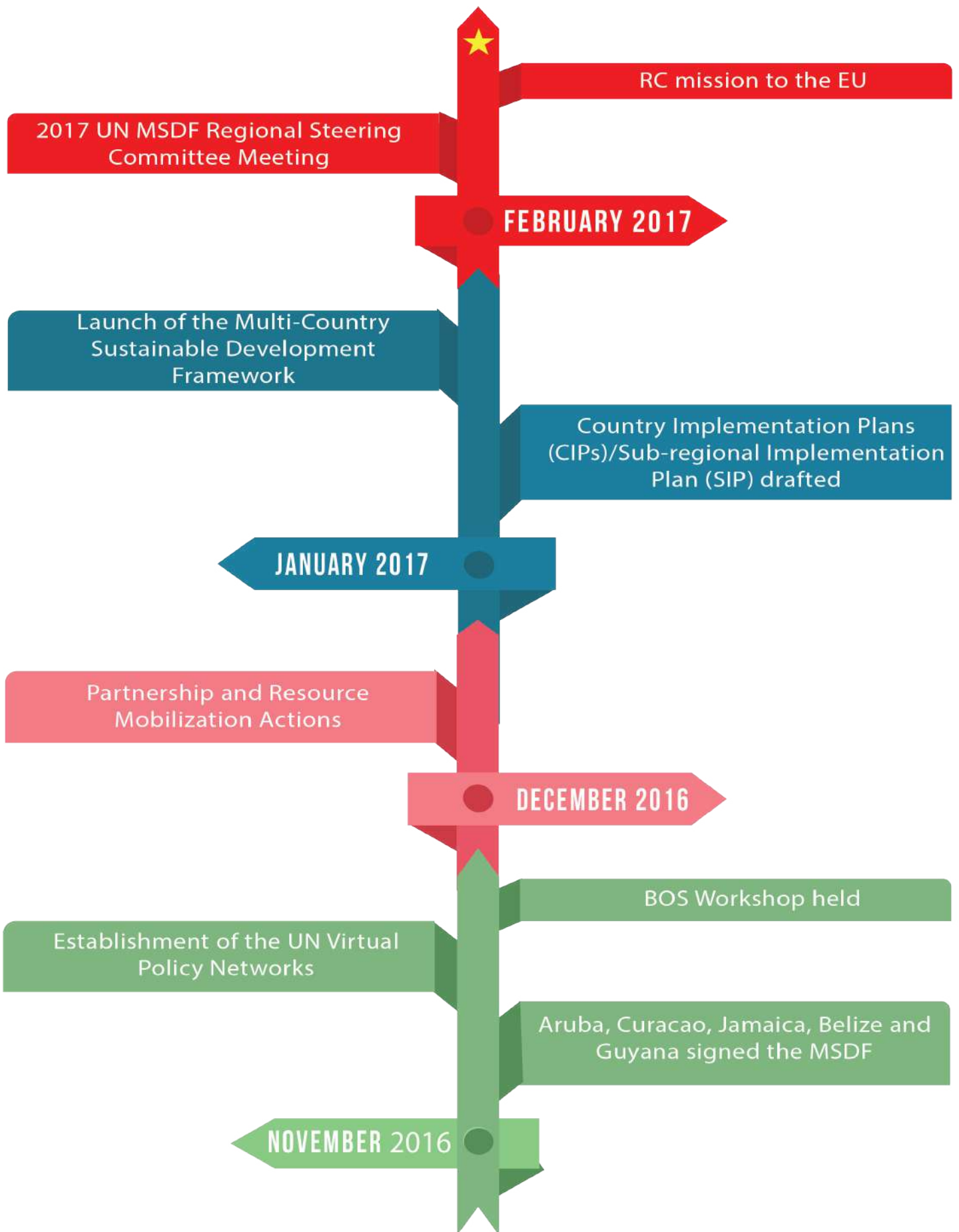


THE WAY WE WORK: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UN MSDF

The graphic below shows you the national and regional level structures of the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) and how they connect to each other. Last month, we familiarized ourselves with the UN MSDF coordination structures at national level. This month, we will examine the Country/Sub-regional Implementation Plans (CIP/SIP) and their role in the UN MSDF process. Read more [here](#).

Coordination Structure for the UN MSDF





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