

## **Terms of Reference UN – Internship Programme**

**Position Title:** RCO  
**Work Area:** Coordination and Communication  
**Duty Station:** Barbados  
**Supervisor:** Shari Inniss-Grant

### **Background Information**

The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) aims to bring together the different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations system at the country level. Resident Coordinator Stephen O'Malley leads the United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, which is represented by several United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies, with shared responsibility for ten OECS countries and territories. The sub-region is comprised of seven independent nations (Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and three British Over-seas Territories (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat).

Composed of seven independent states and three overseas territories, the Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA) is classified as high-or-upper middle states. This categorization does not take into consideration the nuanced reality of heavily-indebted small island developing states. Although the Human Development Index is categorized as "high" with Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda respectively ranking 57 and 58, inequality is a concern. Rising levels of unemployment and poverty continue to plague Caribbean youth and the region is reported to have the highest youth unemployment rate globally. The 2008 global recession led to a reduction of national budgets and social spending increasing income gaps and unemployment rates. The gross domestic product (GDP) of the OECS member states averaged 2.3 per cent during the time frame 2001 - 2009, however it contracted by 1.1 percent annually for the period of 2008- 2012. Countries throughout this region face debt burdens with high debt-to-GDP ratios, with Barbados now exceeding 100 per cent.

The current economic climate has led to an increase in crime, drug trafficking and overall insecurity. Levels of gender based violence in the region remain quite high, affecting more women than men. The incidence of partner or spousal crime in the Caribbean is above the global average of 26.4 per cent at 27.09 per cent; women are the greater proportion of complainants. Between 30 and 50 per cent of homicides within the Caribbean are a result of domestic violence. Physical, sexual and emotional violence against children is prevalent throughout home and school. Throughout the region, approximately two in five adult females report having experienced sexual abuse as a child and 60 to 70 percent reported physical or psychological abuse.

The primary health challenge facing this region is the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, while adolescent pregnancy remains a public health, policy and human rights

concern. Ranked second highest in the world for HIV prevalence, stigma, discrimination and restrictive laws in some country contribute to the high global ranking.

Climate change effects are seen through coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion into coastal agricultural lands and an increase in frequency of natural disasters further exacerbate socio-economic challenges. For example, tropical storm Erika caused damage and loss in Dominica exceeding 90 per cent of its GDP. It is estimated that climate change will cost the Caribbean an additional 1.4 billion dollars in annual losses by 2050.

Of the operational agencies comprising the United Nations Subregional Team (UNST) for Barbados and the OECS, the eight resident agencies are based in Barbados: FAO, ITU, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and UN WOMEN. Working closely with national governments, the Resident Coordinator and the UN Subregional Team advocates the interests and mandates of the UN System while drawing on the support and guidance of the entire UN family. All representatives of UN organisations at the country level report to the RC on matters related to the working of the UN Subregional Team and implementation of the jointly agreed work programme derived from the 2017-2021 UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF).

## **Objectives and Terms of Reference for this Position**

### **General Objective:**

The United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) defines how the UN will jointly achieve development results in partnership with 18 English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories for the period 2017-2021. The MSDF articulates a vision for how the Caribbean will advance the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the region's governments, Across four cross-cutting priority areas:

1. An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean
2. A Healthy Caribbean
3. A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean
4. A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean

This internship will provide the intern with (a) a good grounding in the various aspects of UN's development and humanitarian work within the Subregion, (b) experience in the regional and local implementation of the UN MSDF and (c) an understanding of how humanitarian, development and human rights portfolios interrelate.

Through direct interface with the UN Subregional Team and development partners, the intern will gain an understanding of the complex challenges facing the Caribbean and the UN's efforts to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A summary of the key duties and responsibilities of the intern is as follows:

## **General Responsibilities**

- ❑ Assist with the procurement processes which may include supporting the development and review of relevant documents;
- ❑ Assist with technical review of key documents, collating responses/comments and summarizing recommendations or next steps for dissemination;
- ❑ Assist with coordination of the development partners including UN agencies, governments, ECDPG groups, donor agencies, civil society, private sector and international, regional and national development agencies;
- ❑ Assist with event or meeting coordination and logistics as well as field activities in countries where necessary;
- ❑ Communicate on issues of common concern to the UN system;
- ❑ Provide secretariat support to interagency, subregional and regional mechanisms.

## **Communication**

- ❑ To increase visibility of 2017-2021 Caribbean UN MSDF, the SDGs and UN work in highlighted thematic areas.
- ❑ To partner with government and development partners to showcase how the MSDF and SDGs support national development priorities.
- ❑ To heighten the Caribbean public awareness of SDGs and connection with their day-to-day lives.
- ❑ Support communications and advocacy campaigns, including the design of communication plan, drafting of messages and engagement with stakeholders across various platforms.
- ❑ Help curate an audiovisual archive for the UN Subregional Team's development initiatives. This may include developing communication materials (including photographs, blogs, videos) or templates for others to use.

## **Desired Academic Background and Professional Experience**

### **Academic Requisites**

Applicants either be enrolled in or have a degree in Communications, Information Management, English, Languages, Film and Video, Media, Social Sciences, International Relations, Human Rights or similar degree programme and should fit one of the following streams:

- i. Post graduate student requiring practical experience in a development/communications area;
- ii. Undergraduate/graduate student interested in pursuing career in development or communications;
- iii. Associate degree student interested in pursuing career in development or communications.

### **Professional Requirements or required Experience**

1. Excellent computer knowledge (Microsoft applications)

2. Experience in social media platforms
3. Excellent written and oral communication skills
4. Ability to work well independently and collaboratively

## **Other Requirements**