



Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean
2013 SUBRAC Meeting
Agenda Item 5 – Implementing the congress mandate
How should we respond?
Social dialogue – influencing policy

Four issues come to mind when we think about how we as public service sector trade unions can influence development policy in the Caribbean:

- Collective bargaining
- Consultations with regional and international financial institutions
- Caribbean integration
- Climate change and SIDS

Task 1 – Collective bargaining

1. Does the employer respect the collective bargaining process? Or is it that in these times, collective bargaining is dead?
2. Are you satisfied with the results from your various rounds of collective bargaining?
3. Does the general public understand your rationale for the actions you take, especially industrial action?
4. Is your union being innovative? Have you been using new strategies and tactics? Have you borrowed any strategies from other unions/countries? How successful have they been? What lessons have you learnt?

Task 2 – Consultations with regional and international financial institution

1. Are you invited to the meetings when the IMF/World Bank visit?
2. Do you meet with the local representatives in your country or geographic location? Do you know the people that are responsible for the IMF, World Bank, CARTAC country/OECS offices?
3. The challenge is that for practical purposes the officials will want to meet with the national centre, not individual unions. How do you ensure that as public service sector trade unions you have a loud voice and strong presence at these meetings/consultations?

Task 3 – Caribbean integration

Every year, as it gets near to the Heads of Governments (HoGs) meeting various commentators signal the fall of CARICOM. They lament the slow pace of implementation. They chastise governments for not having the political will.

1. Can the public service sector trade union movement have a positive influence on Caribbean integration? Why? How?
2. What are the necessary pre-conditions for that to happen?
3. At the CARICOM level, the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) is the (sub)region's voice on labour issues. How loud and strong has been that voice? What vision do you have for CCL engagement?
4. Who's going to bell the cat?

Task 4 – Climate change and SIDS

The climate change issue has taken another turn. Now linked to disaster management issues, the focus seems no longer to be on SIDS – the most vulnerable. It appears that once again, small countries/territories must fend for themselves.

1. Are there ways that public service sector unions can assist governments in the Caribbean? How?