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CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME
OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC):

- I. PRIORITIES
- II. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CDCC
- III. SPECIFIC AUTHORITY, ENDORSEMENT, SUPPORT AND OTHER ACTION REQUESTED FROM CDCC IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECRETARIAT'S WORK PROGRAMME



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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I. PRIORITIES

Summary

1. At the third session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), member governments accorded priority to seven Work Programme areas as well as the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) which supports these priority programmes. Since then, at every session the priority given to these activities has been re-endorsed. Set out below is a brief summary of developments in each priority area since CDCC VIII held in June 1984. A more detailed report is given in Part II of this document.

A. Technical Co-operation, Among Developing Countries

Co-operation in Information

2. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has funded a new project for the further development of the Caribbean Information System (CIS) located in the Secretariat. Among other things, this project will computerize the system for more rapid and efficient service to member governments. Technical assistance in the form of in-service trainings of librarians was provided to Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago under the CARISPLAN PROJECT. Preparation and distribution of CARISPLAN Abstracts and Current Awareness Bulletins continued. A Joint UNESCO/ECLAC Regional Workshop on Network Development in the Caribbean was convened, and the conclusions are detailed in CDCC Document LC/CAR/G.179.

3. The Caribbean Agricultural Information Network (CAGRIS) was established as part of the CARISPLAN system, with its data base located at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad. Implementation of the 'Modernization and Strengthening of Industrial Property Systems' programme began and an intergovernmental meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean countries, Haiti and Suriname was convened in Barbados to review the industrial property situation among other matters. A report of the meeting, contained in WIPO Document ECCH/RM/TC/12, details the recommendations.

4. A Joint consultant mission formulated a proposal for implementation of the Caribbean Energy Information Network which was approved in principle during the eighth session of CDCC.

Science and Technology

5. The ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat, with the co-operation of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has begun work on producing two films. A consultant plant breeder completed his report on the first stage of a project: 'Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants'. The Secretariat led a team of scientists in preparing a document 'Draft Science and Technology Policy and Plan for the Caribbean' which was submitted for the consideration of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology (CCST). The Secretariat also collaborated with the Science Research Council of Jamaica with respect of the production of the first issue of a 'Newsletter'.

Removal of Language Barriers

6. A series of follow-up national workshops to the subregional workshop of 1983 is contemplated and the Participation Programme of UNESCO has approved \$25,000 to assist in convening these workshops. Barbados and some OECD countries have expressed interest in organizing national workshops. A Joint mission was undertaken to these countries during December 1984 to ascertain the level of preparatory work for the national workshops. It was determined that a few countries had convened national workshops outside of the Programme.

Caribbean Multinational Enterprise for the Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual Materials

7. On the advice of UNESCO the Secretariat postponed the intersovernmental meetings to discuss the constitution of the enterprise to a more appropriate time in 1985.

Caribbean Network of Education Innovations for Development (CARNEID)

8. As reported to the eighth session of CDCC, the Project on 'Educational Innovations' is now within the regular programme of UNESCO.

Transport and Communications

9. Agreement was not reached between the Government of Canada and ICAO/UNDP/ECLAC on the establishment of a rescue and fire-fighting training facility in Barbados. The Canadian Government proposes to carry out such activities in Canada but the Canadian programme will not cover all the necessary disciplines. ICAO proposed to submit a Joint project for CARICOM countries and the Netherlands Antilles to the EEC for funding. This project would cover matters excluded from the Canadian programme.

10. Cognizant of the delay in offering technical assistance to postal administrations, the CDCC Secretariat has outlined, in an Aide Mémoire currently under circulation, a plan to provide secretariat services and support to the Caribbean Postal Union (CPU) when formulated, as it now does for the CCST.

11. A project proposal on Caribbean satellite communications systems was prepared in collaboration with International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and submitted for funding to the Italian Government.

12. Under its TRAINMAR Programme, UNCTAD was asked to make the Secretariat of ECLAC/CIDCC a focal point for training in maritime transport for the English-speaking Caribbean. Arrangements have been concluded with International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a Regional Maritime Adviser to be located at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

Co-operation continued with ECLAC/Santisco on the search for technical assistance from Maritime International Co-operation Centre (MICC) of Japan to seek a solution to the problem of the Small Vessel Fleet.

International Trade

13. Work continued on the publication of eighteen national trade Procedures guides for CIDCC countries. The Secretariat prepared and sent national draft trade Procedures guides to each CIDCC member state with the request for comments and observations on the draft guides as well as official authorization for their publication. At the time of preparing this report, fourteen countries had so far given the authorization and the Trade Procedures Guides for these countries have been reproduced and distributed.

II. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CDCC

A. Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries

Co-operation in Information

14. The Work Programme activities of the Secretariat in the field of information during the intersessional period were based on the proposals outlined at the eighth session of CDCC and on directives given to the Secretariat at previous sessions of the Committee.

Activities Accomplished

15. The Main Activities Accomplished include:

(a) Caribbean Information System

- (i) During the period under review, the Secretariat prepared a project document and successfully negotiated funding for a new two-year project, valued at approximately US\$600,000 - of which the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will contribute US\$353,000 and ECLAC US\$242,000 as counterpart funding.

The project provides *inter alia* for a minicomputer with adequate disk storage, peripherals and software. In the near future, the base of the Caribbean socio-economic development literature will be located in the Secretariat and can be rapidly accessed by users of the system.

The project will also enable one CARISPLAN national focal point to acquire basic computer facilities to create its national data base and input directly to and retrieve data from the computer at the CDCC Secretariat.

- (ii) Technical assistance was provided to the OECS Economic Secretariat through the provision of a part-time Librarian to organize the OECS collection of documents and provide an information service to its staff;
- (iii) Technical assistance by way of in-service training in the Secretariat to librarians from Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago under the CARISPLAN project;
- (iv) Advisory services to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines related to implementation of a National Documentation Centre project funded by IDRC;
- (v) **Current Awareness Bulletin** - preparation and dissemination of monthly issues to alert users to recently published local and foreign material of interest to Caribbean development;

- (vi) **CARISPLAN Abstracts** - Preparation of inputs to the abstract is carried on as a continuous activity. Volume 9 was published and distributed during 1984; and
- (vii) A Joint UNESCO/ECLAC regional workshop on Network Development in the Caribbean was convened as part of the preparation for the implementation of the Regional Network for Exchange of Information and Experience in Science and Technology for Development (CARSTIN). The conclusions of the workshop are outlined in CDCC Document LC/CAR/G.179.

(b) **The Caribbean Agricultural Information Network (CAGRIS)**

16. This network is established as part of the CARISPLAN system but with the data base located at the Library of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

17. The IDRC has agreed to grant the sum of US\$250,000 over a three-year period to develop this network. The University of the West Indies Library of the St. Augustine Campus, as implementing agency, will provide a counterpart contribution of US\$142,000 and will be strengthened to serve as the regional co-ordinating unit. The project also includes:

- (i) Assistance to strengthen (national) agricultural information infrastructure at national level in order to expedite the full participation of each CDCC member state in the network; and
 - (ii) Technical assistance and training programmes for institutions that form part of the network.
- (c) **Modernization and Strengthening of Industrial Property Systems.**

18. Implementation of this programme has commenced. In preparation for the establishment of the Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU), the Head of the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) undertook a one-month study tour to the Canadian, European and Austrian Patent Offices as well as INPADOC, as part of the UNDP/WIPO Regional Project for Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. An inter-governmental meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean countries, Haiti and Suriname was convened in Barbados to review the industrial property situation in the subregion, consider possible co-operation schemes in industrial property matters and available options for the technical operations of the PIDU. The Meeting was organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Government of Barbados with the co-operation of the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat and CARICOM.

20. The recommendations of the meetings are detailed in the report of the meetings WIPO Document ECH/RM/TC/12. Inter alia, it is recommended that:

- (i) WIPO, in consultation with the ECLAC/CBCC Secretariat and CARICOM, prepare a feasibility study on the possible options for inter-governmental co-operation in the field of industrial property administration and draft an agreement for the establishment of an inter-governmental co-operation scheme containing alternative options on the organization thereof;
 - (ii) The countries of the region co-operate closely with the PIDU by:
 - a. Identifying national focal points which could serve as a link between seekers of technological information contained in patent and non-patent literature and the PIDU; and
 - b. Providing the PIDU with a list and a copy of granted patents and/or registered industrial designs; and
 - (iii) WIPO prepare, in consultation with ECLAC/CBCC, a detailed programme of work for the PIDU including organizing of seminars on the use and importance of patent information.
- (d) **Caribbean Energy Information Network**

21. The Committee at its eighth session approved, in principle, the establishment of this network within the framework of the Caribbean Information System (CIS). The terms of reference of a joint consultant mission to prepare detailed proposals for implementation of the system have been formulated. The mission will visit six countries during the month of April and its report is expected to be completed and made available to the Committee at CBCC IX. Financing of the mission will be provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat, IDRC and UNESCO.

22. The Secretariat has reviewed the objectives, scope and structure of the Latin American Energy Information System (SIELA) and will collaborate with OLAE.

Other Activities

23. The Secretariat participated in a number of meetings and consultations with UNESCO, WIPO, OAS, IDRC, CARICOM, CDB and the University of the West Indies, aimed at co-ordination and avoidance of duplication in the programming of activities.

Activities on which there was no Progress

Congress of Information Professionals

24. The Committee was advised at the sixth session that the comments received from various member governments were incorporated into a second revision of the Draft Statutes and the revised text submitted to Governments for approval. The first meeting of the Congress will be convened, as soon as funding is secured, to approve the Statutes and define a Work Programme.

Activities Proposed for the Next Period

25. The following activities are envisaged for the next intersessional period:

- (a) Updating and maintenance of the CARISPLAN data base;
- (b) Accessing of UN and worldwide data bases to improve response to information needs of users of the system;
- (c) Transfer of updated user profiles to the computer and the provision of a selective dissemination of information service;
- (d) Provision of technical assistance and guidance to member states and institutions on the use of appropriate information;
- (e) Continued publication of CARISPLAN Abstracts and the Current Awareness Bulletin; and
- (f) Establishment and operationalization of PIDU.

Specific Authority, Endorsement, Support etc. Requested from CDCC

26. The Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations of the WIPO/ECLAC/CARICOM Meeting to consider co-operation in the field of Industrial Property and to exhort member governments to ensure co-operation of the appropriate Ministry in identifying the national focal point which would provide the Secretariat with a copy of all patents granted since 1962.

27. The Committee may wish to acknowledge the assistance of WIPO in setting up the PIDU and the substantial support provided by the IBRC of Canada in the development of various sections of the DIS and in particular, the provision of funding for a patent information specialist for two years to head the PIDU.

Statistical Data Bank and Related Services

28. The Statistical Data Bank plays a major role in the thrust of the Office to develop information systems and facilitate access by users in CDCC member countries.

Activities Accomplished

29. Work is in progress on a publication containing statistical time series for CDCC countries in the following areas:

- (a) National Accounts;
- (b) Population;
- (c) Prices;
- (d) Trade; and
- (e) Balance of Payments.

Publication is envisaged for December 1985.

30. During the period under review, the Secretariat provided data to researchers and organizations in CDCC member countries as well as to ECLAC Santiago.

31. In response to requests for assistance in the field of statistics, the Secretariat has performed several services varying from the design of methodology to the preparation of documentation. In the past year, this Office provided assistance to the Saint Lucia Statistical Office in the revision of its retail price index. Also, at the request of the authorities in the British Virgin Islands, technical comments have been made on a document analyzing a recently conducted household budgetary survey.

32. The Secretariat continues to collaborate with other agencies in promoting the usefulness of statistics. During the year, a paper reviewing the tourism statistical data base available for Caribbean countries was presented at a Workshop on Tourism Statistics in Saint Christopher/Nevis organized by the Caribbean Tourism Research and Development Centre (CTRC). The Office also collaborated in the Statistical Users' and Producers' Seminar held in Antigua and Barbuda under the auspices of the OAS and the National Household Survey Capability Programme of the United Nations.

Activities Proposed for the Next Period

33. The Statistical Data Bank at the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat contains data sets based on annual series. However, with the increasing need for current statistics in the light of urgent need for close monitoring of movements in economic variables, efforts will soon be made to have the data base amplified to cover quarterly and monthly data.

34. The Data Bank will provide data to the proposed ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit as well as other substantive units in the Secretariat in order to satisfy part of their information needs as well as to assist in data analysis.

35. Technical assistance will be provided to member governments at their request to the extent resources permit.

36. Increased user demand, if extended to new series as well as analysis, will require additional resources to maintain the Data Base.

Specific Authority, Endorsement, Support etc., Requested from CDCC

37. Member states are urged to support the work of the data bank by making available the data requested and by utilizing the facilities of the Data Bank.

Science and Technology

38. The ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat continues to serve as the Secretariat of CCST. CCST itself is one of the main vehicles of horizontal co-operation, bringing together as it does member countries in a formal structure to promote *inter alia* mutual subregional co-operation in the transfer, adaptation and development of technologies.

Activities Accomplished

39. The main activities accomplished were:

(a) Convening and servicing the following CCST meetings:

Fourth Plenary Session, Sixth Executive Committee Meeting, and the Third Meetings with Agencies, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 16-20 September 1984.

(b) Sponsoring jointly with UNESCO the Pre-CASTALAC II Consultation 5-7 November 1984, Trinidad and Tobago.

The purpose of this Consultation was:

(i) To receive and discuss comments of the participating Caribbean experts on the draft working document for CASTALAC II the final version of which will become the main working document of the CASTALAC II conference, scheduled to be held in August 1985; and

(ii) To identify topics which might be the subject of resolutions, recommendations, or declarations of CASTALAC II.

(c) Progress made on projects approved by the Council (CCST) are indicated below:

(i) **Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities**

A simplified questionnaire has been designed and is being considered by the members of the Executive Committee prior to its submission to those countries which have not yet completed the assessment;

(ii) **Establishment of a Science and Technology Journal/Magazine for the Caribbean**

Work has commenced in co-operation with the Science Research Council of Jamaica on the production of the first issue of a newsletter (instead of a Journal) as decided at the Fourth Plenary Session of CCST;

(iii) **Preparation and Exchange of Audio-visual Material for Education in Science and Technology**

This is a joint effort with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Production of two films/videos - one on Communication and Information and the other on Agro-industry is underway. Completion is scheduled for early in the second half of this year. A booklet containing information on previously produced films has been prepared for distribution; and

(iv) **Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants**

The plant breeder recruited to complete the first stage of this project has submitted his report. Follow-up action based on his recommendations is being considered.

(d) The CDCC Science and Technology officer, through CCST was asked to lead the work of a high-level CARICOM Committee to prepare and submit a document "Draft Science and Technology Policy and Plan for the Caribbean" for consideration by the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology. The document has been submitted as requested.

(e) Representation at the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Broadcasters Union (CBU) 15-16 June 1984, which considered *inter alia* the distribution of video programmes, the establishment of a bank/register of films on Science and Technology to encourage exchange of video taped material and a proposed workshop on Science Writing and Communication.

(f) Attendance at a Meeting of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology (Barbados 9-13 November 1984) to present the draft Science and Technology Policy and Plan for the Caribbean and participate in discussions. Further elaboration of the draft is to be done and a final document submitted to the Sixth Caribbean Heads of Government Meeting.

Activities not Accomplished, Postponed or Discontinued

(a) Workshop on the Pharmaceutical sector in the Caribbean

40. This Workshop which had the technical support of UNCTAD, UNIDO and CARICOM, was scheduled to be held in Cuba from 22-24 October 1984, but had to be postponed owing to the unavailability of adequate funding. The major objectives of this Seminar/Workshop include identifying components of national and subregional policies in the sector and outlining strategies for transfer of technologies in the subregion.

(b) Workshop on Science Writing and Communication

41. The Workshop organized by the Committee on Science and Technology for Education in Developing Countries (COSTED) Regional Secretariat with the co-sponsorship of the CCST and scheduled for October 1984, had to be postponed due to the unavailability of funding.

The Workshop had been designed to initiate improved use of the different methods of communication available to scientists and educators to create a better informed public.

Activities Proposed for the Next Period

42. The following are the activities proposed:

(a) Co-operation with the Science Research Council of Jamaica in the preparation of the CCST Newsletter;

(b) Continued collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in completing the films on Food Technology and Communication and Information, and their distribution to all CCST member countries;

(c) Servicing Fifth Plenary Session and related meetings of CCST;

(d) Continuation of survey of national science and technology capabilities; and

(e) Other activities in the 1984-1985 Work Programme of CCST Document LC/CAR.G.122 (Sem. 4/11).

43. Linkages already exist and others are being forged between the work programmes of CCST and CDEG in such areas as information and documentation, agriculture, energy, natural resources and environment. Efforts will also be made to establish links with on-going Latin American programmes in biotechnology, biological sciences and related areas.

44. The Secretariat and UNESCO have collaborated extensively in the field of science and technology. The establishment by UNESCO of the subregional Office for Science and Technology in Trinidad and Tobago enhances the possibilities for greater co-operation.

Removal of Language Barriers

45. The present stage of implementation of the programme contemplates a series of follow-up national workshops to the subregional workshop held late in 1983 in the Netherlands Antilles. The Secretariat wishes to inform the Committee that the Participation Programme of UNESCO has earmarked \$25,000 to assist countries in convening these workshops.

46. In December 1984, a joint mission comprising one representative each from the Netherlands Antilles, UNESCO/CARNEID and the CDEG Secretariat visited Barbados and those OECS countries which had expressed interest in organizing national workshops. The objective of the mission was to ascertain relevant information on the state of preparations for the national workshops. It was determined that some countries had already convened national workshops on the subject, and those that had not done so agreed to inform the relevant authorities in the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and the Secretariat as soon as they were ready to proceed.

Co-ordination in Planning

Activities Accomplished

47. The following activities were accomplished:

(a) The ECLAC/CDEG Secretariat participated in a Joint ECLAC/ILPES mission to Belize during 1984, to prepare the first part of a Draft Five-year Development Plan. The Secretariat was particularly involved in the formulation of the section related to tourism.

(b) The Secretariat prepared the Caribbean component for the Technical Policy Review and Evaluation exercise being undertaken by ECLAC Headquarters.

(c) Progress has been made on the establishment of an ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. In brief, the purpose of the Unit is to augment existing planning capabilities in the ECLAC/Port of Spain Office, extend the work of ILPES more fully into the Caribbean and make a meaningful impact on social and economic planning activities by increasing training, advisory services and technical co-operation.

(d) Support was given to a study by a consultant undertaken for ILPES on 'Effects of the International Economic Recession on Economic Policy and Planning in the Caribbean'.

(e) The Secretariat participated in the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Committee, held in Mexico 15-17 April.

(f) The Secretariat assisted the Netherlands Antilles in the preparatory work for the proposed training seminar and subregional workshop on development planning.

Activities not Accomplished, Postponed or Discontinued

48. The meetings of planning officials of CDDC countries and two expert working group meetings on physical and regional planning and on transport planning were not convened during 1984 because of the pressure of other work and the departure of the officer responsible for planning.

Activities Proposed for the Next Period

49. It is planned to convene the deferred meetings mentioned above during 1985. The Secretariat will continue to be involved in the preparation of the new five-year Economic Development Plan for Belize.

50. In addition it is expected that following the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, 15-17 April in Mexico, the Work Programme of the ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit for the Caribbean will be fully articulated. A paper outlining the programme of activities will be presented as an addendum to this document at the ninth session of CDDC.

Council on Social and Economic Development (COSED)

51. Progress on institutionalization of intra-Caribbean co-operation in the field of social and economic development studies has lapsed and the proposed meetings of government officials to discuss the Draft Statutes of COSED could not be convened.

Specific Authority, Endorsement, Support etc., Requested from the Committee

52. The Committee may wish to express its gratitude to UNESCO and CARNEID for their continued support and urge member governments to participate in this programme to advance their efforts to remove language barriers by convening the national workshops at an early date.

B. Agricultural Sector

Activities Accomplished

53. Activities in this programme area during the intersessional period follow the proposals endorsed at CDCC VIII:

(a) The publication 'Agricultural Statistics of Caribbean Countries' 1984 has been completed and copies circulated to member governments and other users (see Document LC/CAR/9.132). This biennial publication includes basic data for all CDCC member states relating to the production of important crops and animal products and also imports and exports of food for the 10 year period 1972-1983.

(b) The survey of agro-industry in CDCC member countries has been completed for all OECS countries. Additional resources will have to be sought in order to extend coverage of the survey to other CDCC countries.

(c) Within the framework of horizontal co-operation between CDCC countries, assistance was provided to the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) and the Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura of the Dominican Republic to convene a workshop of experts from CDCC rice-producing countries to define a proposed programme for a co-operative rice research network. This workshop was held from 20-22 August 1984 in the Dominican Republic and follow-up action is planned.

(d) The report of the workshop on Agricultural Research Policy and Management in the Caribbean and the papers presented have been edited and distributed (see Document LC/CAR/6.126). A project document on the Agricultural Research Network has been prepared for submission to donors for funding.

Other Activities

54. Among the other activities initiated were:

(a) The preparation and partial implementation of a project on the development of rural agro-based industries in the Caribbean LDCs. Surveys and analyses of the data will provide inter alia: a better understanding of on-going small-scale agro-processing activities in the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean; the possibilities for increased processing of raw materials to reduce waste; and information on the use of current standard production techniques by small agro-processors. The project will also examine the potential of a pilot production unit to test the commercial application of recommended technology and scale of operation.

(b) A multisectoral project proposal to study the interrelationships between production, storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce has been prepared and submitted to potential donors for financing.