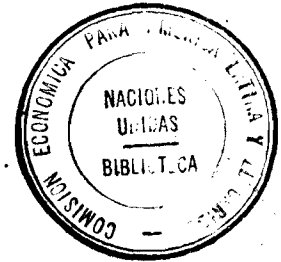


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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

New York, 29 March 1989

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Carlyle Corbin of the United States Virgin Islands, who introduced the proposed agenda as follows:

(a) Status of implementation of resolutions of the eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), including proposals recommended by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago.

(b) Review of the work programme of the organization since the eleventh session of CDCC.

(c) Consideration of proposed activities.

(d) Other matters.

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

The following documents were circulated by the secretariat with respect to the meeting:

(a) Final Report of the eleventh session of the CDCC (LC/CAR/G.263/Rev.1)

(b) Progress report on the implementation of the work programme of the CDCC for the period December 1988 to March 1989 (LC/CAR/G.268).

On agenda item 1, the Chairman provided a background on the proposals related to a redirection of perspectives of CDCC presented to the eleventh session held in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

He indicated that these proposals had been subsequently endorsed by the ministers in the form of a resolution on the role and functioning of CDCC, and that the meeting of the Monitoring Committee was consistent with the call for an ongoing review of CDCC.

He further pointed to the mandate of the Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of these proposals, which had been made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago in his capacity as outgoing Chairman of CDCC and as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman noted that that was the first such Monitoring Committee Meeting convened for the purpose of fulfilling that mandate, following consultations with the CDCC Bureau to ascertain the degree of implementation of the resolutions of the eleventh session of CDCC.

The Chairman then called on the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to respond to the specific proposals made at the last CDCC meeting in the context of the role and functioning of CDCC and the Port of Spain office.

In response to this request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC replied that he appreciated the opportunity to meet again with delegates to continue the dialogue which began in St. Croix last year. He indicated that he perceived the general thrust of the proposals to seek a rejuvenation of CDCC. He noted that on the question of autonomy, the Port of Spain office was as autonomous as it could be within the framework of ECLAC and that authority had been delegated to the office to carry out its own work programme for the Caribbean. Separate budgetary allocations are made to CDCC from New York and that the work programme undertaken by the Port of Spain office is the responsibility of the subregional governments.

Regarding the P-5 post sent to Santiago, he indicated that cuts in the United Nations system have made it impossible to obtain a P-5 elsewhere so that the post could be returned to Port of Spain. He assured that efforts were continuing to achieve this, but that if they proved fruitless the staff member with the post might have to be returned.

On the creation of a post of Deputy Executive Secretary for an English-speaking person to work with the staff in Santiago on Caribbean Affairs, the Executive Secretary noted that that was an issue which the governments themselves would have to take up in New York at the level of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), Fifth Committee, etc., but he warned that there might not be much hope for this since the United Nations had been trimming its top posts.

Responding to a question as to the role of the P-5 post now in Santiago, the Executive Secretary said that that person was in contact with the staff in Santiago to bring in a Caribbean perspective to the work of the Commission in order to serve best the needs of the subregion.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the proposals of the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago were being kept under consideration and that a set of proposals would be made to the Committee for the next CDCC meeting.

On the P-5 post he indicated also that the post had been originally assigned to science and technology and that the Deputy Director of the office had carried out work in this area in conjunction with his other functions.

The Executive Secretary left the meeting in order to fulfil another engagement.

It was pointed out by a member of the Committee that given the importance of science and technology in the region, the P-5 post should be retained for that activity and that the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was in fact contemplating a return of the post to serve properly the function for which it was allocated exclusively.

The Director was questioned on the movement of a P-4 post to New York from Port of Spain. He replied that it was felt necessary to move the staff member from the Port of Spain office and assured the Committee that the measure was a temporary one and that someone would be recruited shortly to fill the post.

In response to a question on the Programme Officer specifically proposed for CDCC by the Minister, the Director indicated that there was already such a post in Port of Spain but the staff member was involved in activities encompassing the entire work programme of the office.

The Committee agreed that it would be necessary to obtain the proposals of the secretariat prior to the next CDCC meeting so that the Monitoring Committee could meet and discuss these and make recommendations to the CDCC for consideration.

On agenda item 2, "Review of the work of the Committee", the secretariat outlined the work done since the eleventh session of CDCC, as appears in document LC/CAR/G.268. It was pointed out that a number of activities were of an ongoing nature and in some cases preparatory work only had been done in the context of later implementation.

A specific question was asked on the role of CCST in the area of science and technology to which the secretariat replied that the work programme of ECLAC Port of Spain with respect to science and technology was carried out entirely in the context of the CCST.

The Committee felt that document LC/CAR/G.268 was a useful one in that it brought governments up to date with activities prior to CDCC meetings and that the secretariat should prepare such documents periodically for review especially prior to the meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

On agenda item 3 "Consideration of proposed activities", the Committee suggested that the secretariat should broaden its work in the area of environment, a topic now being considered in various fora. It also suggested that CDCC could serve as a forum for discussing the International Development Strategy (IDS) and to help the Caribbean arrive at a common position on the IDS.

The Director mentioned that assistance had been obtained from the Government of the Netherlands in providing for a person in the area of training to be stationed in the Port of Spain office. Additionally the French Government has agreed to assist with a staff member in the computer field to work in the Port of Spain office. Assistance had been obtained from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to finance a project in demography in Haiti and the secretariat was also looking at what assistance it could render to the Member States for their 1990 round of censuses. He stated that work was being undertaken in assessing the social implications of economic adjustment programmes in the region and that the secretariat would continue to liaise with other organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNFPA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc., in collaborating and co-ordinating its work programme activities. With respect to the small island developing countries programme, work was continuing in collaboration with other agencies and organizations with an interest in this undertaking.

It was agreed by the Committee that the CDCC remained a valid mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination among Caribbean countries and that every effort should be made to facilitate that role. In that context the secretariat should, for the next CDCC session, present:

(a) A programme of work for the next biennium in accordance with the needs of the region, clearly identifying:

- (i) Those projects that can be implemented through the Secretariat's funds;
- (ii) Projects requiring extra-budgetary funding;
- (iii) Projects to be implemented through the Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TDC) mechanism.

(b) A full report on the role and functioning of the CDCC as per the resolution and the proposals made at the eleventh session of CDCC.

A meeting of the Monitoring Committee should be convened prior to the twelfth session of CDCC to review (a) and (b) above.

The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles reminded Member countries that the next CDCC meeting is to be held in Curacao and

that some consideration should be given to dates for that meeting. She proposed early September or in November for the consideration of delegates.

It was agreed that consultations should be undertaken by the secretariat and Member States on the dates for the CDCC meeting.

The Chairman concluded that in light of the presentation made by the Executive Secretary on the role and functioning of CDCC, further consultations were required to ensure input into the options to be considered in carrying out the recommendations.

In this regard, the Chairman stated that progress in the development of these options by the secretariat should be presented to the Monitoring Committee of CDCC well in advance of the next CDCC Plenary Session, so that governments would have sufficient opportunity to review them over a longer period of time and make counter proposals, if necessary.

The Chairman indicated that he would be consulting with the Bureau regarding the convening of the Second Monitoring Committee Meeting to review the proposals emanating from ECLAC.

The Chairman assured the Committee that the ongoing review of the role and function of CDCC would continue with the aim of ensuring a satisfactory result.

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