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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CDCC
WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 1990



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CDCC WORK PROGRAMME
FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 1990

During the first quarter of 1990 a number of initiatives was started by the secretariat while those activities which were on-going before the twelfth session of CDCC continued. Work has also commenced on activities mandated at the twelfth session of CDCC.

Specific work programme activities

16.5.1 Evaluation of economic performance of CDCC countries

Technical publications:

A document entitled "A brief overview of economic performance in the decade of the 1980s" has been completed.

Collection of data has begun and a draft format selected for two technical papers, to be completed in the final quarter of 1990 and to be ready for the thirteenth session of CDCC, as follows:

(a) Overview of economic performance of CDCC countries for calendar year 1989;

(b) Evaluation of economic performance of CDCC countries with special emphasis on the services sectors for the period 1979-1989. (Initial discussions have already been conducted in a working group to evaluate the importance of tourism, professional, educational and financial services for CDCC countries and to determine the elements that should constitute regional positions on these issues for the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations).

16.5.2 Economic and social planning

Technical publications:

A document entitled "Development Planning - Reflections and Reconsiderations" (LC/CAR/G.296) has been completed. It has been prepared for dissemination to interested planners in CDCC countries and as a teaching aid to the Faculty of Economics at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica.

Technical co-operation:

(a) In February a three-month assignment to re-draft the final version of the Macro-economic Planning Framework of Trinidad and Tobago was completed;

(b) Follow-up work continues on a technical co-operation project between ILPES and the Planning Institute of Jamaica, regarding the formulation of its national plan and the development of a macro-economic model.

16.5.3 Science and technology

A document has been prepared for presentation to the CARICOM Ministers responsible for Science and Technology who will be meeting in Jamaica from 9-12 April 1990. The St Kitts and Nevis National Consultation on Science and Technology will be held from 25-27 April 1990.

The eleventh Executive Committee meeting is to be held in April. In addition to the basic conference documents, a project proposal for the establishment of an industrial extension service will be presented to the Committee for its consideration.

Two issues of the CCST newsletter have been published for the period January-March 1990 while a third issue is in draft.

16.5.4 Social and economic development in the Caribbean

Social impact of structural adjustment

Data have been collected for Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic and a preliminary draft based on the materials so far obtained is being put together.

Removal of language barriers

Activity in this area has been slowed down due to a lack of finances.

Women in Development (WID)

Activities in the final stages of implementation of two extra-budgetary projects have been intensified and continue to be the main activity of the WID programme. These projects are:

- (a) Establishment of a database on selected areas of women's participation in economic and social development; and
- (b) Publication of a bibliography on women.

The officer responsible participated in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Regional Meeting, held in Trinidad and Tobago, 31 January-2 February 1990, as a resource person.

Substantive assistance was also provided to the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to prepare for the international conference on "Young Women in Development", held in Curacao from 8-11 March 1990. This included advice on the subjects to be addressed and the identification of speakers and participants from the CDCC region. A paper entitled "Caribbean Young Women and Perspectives for the Future" was also presented.

Collaboration was established with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on a television project which included assistance to the project consultant and commentary on elements of the production as it progressed.

16.5.5 Population

A training seminar on the Interrelations of Population in Development Planning was conducted from 17-19 January 1990 for the Population Council of Haiti. The project proposal for the development of training in techniques of demographic analysis in Suriname was finalized. Preparatory activities for an upcoming multi-country UNFPA/CELADE/ILO/PREALC training programme in conjunction with the University of the West Indies were initiated.

Revisions have been made to the inter- and post-censal estimates and activities related to their publication are underway.

Activities continue on the development of a socio-economic data-bank and a regional digest of statistics. However, the CDCC secretariat still awaits data from CDCC member countries for inclusion in these programmes.

The provision of technical assistance in population policy formulation and implementation continues. Arrangements were made for carrying out research as part of inputs into Haiti's population policy. Approval was granted for funding the post of National Population Co-ordinator, to head the population units being established in three countries (Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), in collaboration with the CDCC secretariat.

Work has commenced on the production of an information/education/communication (IEC) video depicting the interrelations of population in development planning for planners and policy-makers. Work continues on the development of the ECLAC/CELADE population reference library.

Work continued on the preparation and analysis of population projections for nine Caribbean countries: Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Two other research studies on mortality and population-development interrelations are ongoing.

16.5.6 Natural resources and tourism

A project proposal for the establishment of an environmental statistical data bank has been prepared. Work started on a series of Caribbean Environmental Statistics to be published in October.

Continuation of work on the project relating to socio-cultural and environmental management issues in Caribbean tourism continues and enters its final phase.

A national workshop on Environmental Information Systems was held in March 1990 in Trinidad and Tobago.

Work continues on the establishment of a Caribbean Forum on the Environment.

16.5.7 Information and documentation

Training on CDS/ISIS has been provided in some CDCC member countries. A pilot project document on telematics to include the quick dispatch of communications to some selected governments has been prepared. Participation in CARISPLAN has continued.

PATNEWS Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1 for the period January-March 1990 has been published and distributed. The information service on patents continues to be provided.

The Patent Unit is currently revising the text of the Caribbean Patent Index.

Statistics

Assistance was given to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago by providing training at CELADE in Santiago, Chile, for an officer from the Central Statistical Office. The officer, who spent two weeks learning the REDATAM and other useful statistical/demographic software packages, is now preparing a seminar at which the material will be shared with other personnel in the field statistics.

The document "Selected Statistical Indicators of Caribbean Countries" (LC/CAR/G.293) was completed in March 1990 and is at the stage of distribution. Work has commenced on the production of a soft copy version of the documents. The soft copy version should be ready by the end of May 1990. Work has also commenced on the data collection for the publication of a document entitled "Agricultural Statistics for Caribbean Countries". This document should be ready by year-end. Data collection for the next issue of the Selected Statistical Indicators is proceeding concurrently with the other data collection and document preparation exercises.

The Statistics Unit has continued to facilitate the work of the Regional Census Co-ordinating Committee through the services of a Data Processing Expert financed by CELADE.

By way of follow-up to the Colloquium on Statistics and the new Technologies held in October 1989, the secretariat has been requested to assist in the evaluation of the Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago and make recommendations for its re-organization. This exercise should commence in the latter half of April.

The Statistics Unit has prepared a paper for presentation at the Eleventh Commonwealth Statisticians' Conference to be held in Canberra, Australia, from 2 to 11 April 1990.

16.5.8 International trade and finance

Steps are being taken to place the Trade Procedures Guide on diskette as agreed at the twelfth session of CDCC XII.

The secretariat began preparing a paper on resource flows which will provide a first look at the international monetary and financial environment to ascertain its effect on the flow of resources and their possible contribution to economic growth. It will then analyse the structure and pattern of resource flows to the Caribbean during the 1980s, draw conclusions with regard to these flows and suggest means to improve their supply and the efficiency in their use. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) component of resource flows will be dealt with in a separate section of the paper.

16.5.10 General information

A second issue of the CDCC Focus is being prepared and short descriptive articles on individual topics of interest will be published periodically.

Other activities

The human resource development project is underway. Discussions are being held with Directors of Training in the region with a view to analysing the approaches for the organizational and selection procedures for training in the public sector.

Data collection has begun in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. An inventory of trained personnel at the professional level in various sectors will be prepared with a view to providing information for a Regional Skills Bank.

Preparation of a survey questionnaire to identify effectiveness of training programmes and to share experiences in the region is also being undertaken.

Resolutions and decisions

27(XII) Working Group of Non-independent Countries

A consultant has been employed to carry out the second phase of a study undertaken last year and it is hoped that the working group should meet soon.

29(XII) Co-ordination and collaboration between CDCC and regional organizations

A communication has been sent out to various institutions suggesting a mechanism to give effect to the resolution. The secretariat is awaiting a response.

Small Island Developing Countries

The preparatory meeting was held in Saint Lucia from 28-30 March, 1990.

Four basic documents were distributed as background papers. The report of the meeting has been circulated separately.

Place and date of the thirteenth session of CDCC XIII

Following the comments of the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, discussions were held with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, during the week 5-9 March 1990 and he suggested that if Antigua and Barbuda is to hold the meeting it should be held in the early part of September.

