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REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC



UNITED NATIONS

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The Fourth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 21-22 February 1991. (A list of participants is attached at Annex A).

The agenda of the meeting as amended was adopted as follows:

- (a) Reports of the Third Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and the Caucus of CDCC Representatives held in Caracas, Venezuela, in May 1990 and matters arising;
- (b) Arrangements, agenda and documents for the thirteenth session of CDCC;
- (c) Report of the meeting on collaboration between United Nations organizations; and,
- (d) Other business.

Agenda Item I - Report of the Third Meeting of the
Monitoring Committee of CDCC and the Caracas Caucus

The Committee noted the report of the Third Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and Information Paper No. 1 "Report of the Caucus of Representatives of CDCC Member Countries" held on 4 May 1990 in Caracas, Venezuela.

In introducing the agenda item, the secretariat noted that while the Caracas Caucus was not a formal meeting of the Monitoring Committee, it had dealt with a number of the same issues with which the Monitoring Committee had been dealing. The secretariat also drew the meeting's attention to the issue of Caribbean-Latin American relations which had received the attention of the Caucus and on which subject participants had called for further action.

The Committee noted the progress made in following up decisions taken by the twelfth session of the CDCC. The proposal to hold a workshop for CDCC focal points, however, remained outstanding. Many national focal points remained ill-defined and, with the quick turnover of personnel, it was necessary to refresh them as to how they might better carry out their tasks. The workshop would also have the task of re-examining the structure and functioning of the CDCC.

The secretariat, in response, repeated its firm support for the aims and objectives of the workshop. It had not yet been possible to convene the workshop due to a lack of funding, made

more acute because it was proposed during the course of the biennium. A number of alternative financing options had been explored, the most promising of which would be to seek extrabudgetary funding. The secretariat also outlined a number of alternative ways of trying to meet the objectives of the workshop at reduced cost.

The Committee decided, after consideration of the options presented, that the secretariat should seek extrabudgetary funding for the workshop, but in the interim the secretariat should provide a short briefing session for participants before the thirteenth session of CDCC. It also requested that a list of CDCC focal points be compiled and submitted to the meeting.

Reference was also made to the proposal to update the Monitoring Committee on progress on the implementation of CDCC resolutions. The secretariat indicated that periodic updates would be provided to the Committee, and that the newsletter "CDCC Focus" was being used to update CDCC participants on developments as they occurred.

With regard to the question of staffing of the CDCC secretariat, the Committee welcomed Mr. Swinburne Lestrade to the post of CDCC Secretary and requested an update on the status of other outstanding staffing matters in the Port-of-Spain Office. The Director noted that the post of P5, previously assigned to Santiago, had been returned to Port-of-Spain and was already encumbered by a temporary staff appointment. The terms of reference for the post of Deputy Director had been prepared and submitted to New York so that the recruitment process could begin. The post of Trade Officer (P4) which had been transferred to New York was due to return to Port-of-Spain shortly, as soon as the incumbent could be reassigned to another post. The Director noted that two other posts were vacant, the post of Social Affairs Officer (P4) which was due to be filled on 1 March 1991, and the post of Economic Affairs Officer at the level of P2 which was to be filled by 4 March 1991. Details of the work programme of the latter officer would be adjusted after a period of familiarization and orientation.

In response to a question about the communication from the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) about the availability of a P5 post for science and technology, the Director indicated that a response had already been sent to the CCST indicating that only one P5 post was assigned to the Port-of-Spain Office and that this was the post of Deputy Director. In conclusion, the Director indicated that all vacant posts were encumbered by temporary appointments so that resources allocated to the Office for staffing were being used.

The Committee noted that an update on the position regarding a permanent location for the CCST would be provided at the thirteenth session of CDCC.

Agenda Item 2 - Arrangements, agenda and documents for the thirteenth session of CDCC

The secretariat reported that the thirteenth session of CDCC would be held in Antigua and Barbuda, at the technical level from 2-3 April and at the ministerial level from 4-5 April, with the opening session taking place in the late afternoon of 4 April 1991. It was anticipated that the ministerial level session could be completed in one day, 5 April, but an additional day, 6 April, was available if it was needed.

During consideration of the draft agenda for the thirteenth session, the secretariat was asked to indicate which issues would be reserved for the attention of the ministers. The secretariat responded that the meeting was to be seen conceptually as a ministerial meeting, the technical level meeting being merely preparatory to the ministerial meeting. The ministerial meeting would be guided by the technical meeting as to the items on which the former might concentrate. It was expected, however, that some agenda items, such as 5, 11 and 12, would be referred to the ministers for their attention.

It was observed that two issues of regional interest, developments in Haiti and Caribbean/Latin American relations, did not appear to be explicitly included on the agenda for the thirteenth session. As background, the secretariat reported on initiatives which had been taken in both these areas, including collaboration with the ECLAC Office, Mexico. It indicated that a number of issues were ongoing and fell into the category of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) activities. Fuller reports would, however, be available to the thirteenth session of CDCC on these developments. After extensive discussion of both issues it was agreed that they would be dealt with under the relevant resolutions under agenda item 7 of the agenda for the thirteenth session of CDCC.

With regard to Caribbean/Latin American relations, the meeting noted that there was increasing interest in the matter within the CDCC subregion. The secretariat was asked to redouble its efforts to formulate a programme of work in this area. The Committee suggested that a useful starting point might be a background document, prepared in conjunction with the secretariat in Santiago, to indicate work which had already been carried out, and to propose areas for future co-operation.

The Monitoring Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of CDCC and noted that an annotated agenda would be also be circulated to member governments.

The secretariat introduced the document entitled "Implementation of the Work Programme of the CDCC for the Period 1990-1991". It indicated that an additional document would be available to the CDCC which would outline non-programme activities carried out by the secretariat in the same period. While presented sectorally, the programme was essentially of a TCDC nature and was to be seen as an interdisciplinary and multisectoral programme.

Following the introduction, a number of issues were discussed as follows:

(a) Concern was expressed that data sets were inadequate for some of the smaller countries and the secretariat was asked to make greater efforts to obtain data from available sources, including statistical documents of technical organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

(b) It was suggested that the ECLAC/CDCC work programme should take into account the interests of all sub-groupings within the CDCC including, particularly, its non-CARICOM members;

(c) Concern was expressed that the reporting on the language barriers project did not reflect the efforts made to obtain finance for the project. It was noted that a project perceived by the officials of the European Community (EEC) to be similar to that of CDCC was being submitted by the CARICOM Secretariat. It appeared that consultations between the two secretariats were necessary with a view to resolving this apparent conflict;

(d) It was noted, with reference to the work programme for women in development, that few of the activities related to the interests of women professionals. It was observed that the work programme did not appear to reflect linkages with other women's activities in the Caribbean. With regard to the ECLAC meeting on women and development to be held in the Netherlands Antilles in September 1991, it was understood that ECLAC/CDCC would provide the substantive contribution on the position of the Caribbean;

(e) The Committee requested details of the meetings in Kingston and Santiago as they could not determine the thrust of the secretariat's work in environment. It expressed concern that insufficient effort seemed to have been made to co-ordinate CDCC positions at some of the intergovernmental meetings;

(f) The Committee requested the secretariat to circulate to the non-CARICOM member governments copies of the reports of the Kingston Meeting and the Meeting of CARICOM Ministers on the Environment, held in Port-of-Spain recently. The Committee also

requested that similar unrestricted reports be circulated to these governments where resources permit and consistent with the mandate of closer co-operation between CDCC and CARICOM;

(g) Enquiries were made about staffing in the secretariat's Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU). The secretariat indicated that a previously vacant post had been filled and that a comprehensive evaluation of the secretariat's work in this area was underway;

(h) Note was taken of the CDCC project which was to be implemented soon which had as its objective the dissemination of data bases throughout the region, via microcomputer;

(i) The Committee requested that developments at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly should be brought to the attention of the CDCC, particularly those matters relating to the International Development Strategy, Drugs and Island Developing Countries (IDCs). The Committee noted that the secretariat had intended to include resolutions from the forty-fifth General Assembly in the documentation for the thirteenth session of CDCC; it had not received its copy of the General Assembly resolutions in time for inclusion in the documentation for the Monitoring Committee;

(j) With respect to island developing countries, concern was expressed that this matter had not progressed satisfactorily in the United Nations system. The secretariat was requested to attempt to revitalize the matter and to prepare a paper for the thirteenth session of CDCC suggesting possible new strategies;

(k) Dissatisfaction was expressed at the slow rate of disbursement of funds for the promotion of training policies project. The secretariat indicated that funds had now been received, so that financing for 1991 was secure. A written reply would accordingly be sent in response to the enquiry of the Chairman of the CDCC on this matter;

(l) The meeting requested a summary of regular budget as well as extrabudgetary programmes and activities of the secretariat, focusing on the eligibility criteria, consistent with the mandate given at the twelfth session of CDCC to the working group on non-independent country access to the United Nations system;

(m) It was agreed that the secretariat would arrange for a visit to the West Indian Commission by the representative of the Chairman of the CDCC and the Director of the secretariat, for consultations on co-operation between CARICOM and non-CARICOM countries. This proposed visit was in keeping with the intent of Resolution 30(XII) on Co-ordination between the CDCC and the CARICOM Secretariat in relation with non-CARICOM CDCC member countries.

(n) It was agreed that due recognition should be given to the work of the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee (and representative of the Chairman of the CDCC), by an appropriate reference in the paper on participation of member countries in the work of ECLAC/CDCC to be presented to the thirteenth session of CDCC.

Agenda Item 3: Report on the Inter-organizational Meeting

In pursuance of resolution 29 (XII) on the subject, the secretariat indicated that it had convened an informal meeting on collaboration between United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean during the morning of 21 February 1991, just prior to the fourth meeting of the Monitoring Committee. The purpose of that meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Monitoring Committee to meet with the organizations with a view to clarifying the mandate from the countries for greater inter-organizational collaboration and discussing how that mandate might be satisfied.

At that meeting there appeared to be a consensus on the following four points:

(a) The secretariat should seek the assistance of other United Nations organizations in the execution of aspects of its work programme, where it did not have the required expertise or where such collaboration appeared to be otherwise desirable;

(b) Consistent with its Constituent Declaration, the CDCC should seek to mobilize financial resources available from the international community on behalf of its member States;

(c) There should be a fuller exchange of information on programmes and activities at the regional level; and,

(d) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should prepare a format to elicit information from the agencies on their programmes and activities in the Caribbean. This could form the basis for inter-organizational discussion on collaboration.

The Monitoring Committee noted that the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator's role related to national activities, rather than regional; and that the United Nations Economic Commissions had been mandated by the United Nations to co-ordinate regional activities in the economic and social fields. It was agreed that a copy of the resolution (No. 32/197), authorizing such co-ordination, should be circulated to member countries and appropriate United Nations organizations.

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

It was suggested that renewed efforts should be made to publicise the role of the CDCC and that, in addition to other measures which may need to be taken towards this objective, this might be facilitated by inviting non-governmental organizations as observers to sessions of the CDCC.

The Committee expressed strong appreciation for the energy and dedication which the Chairman exhibited during her tenure as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.

Annex A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Lionel A. Hurst Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations 610 Fifth Avenue 311 New York, N.Y. 10020
GRENADA	Raphael Joseph Assistant Secretary Inter-American Affairs Ministry of External Affairs Botanical Gardens, Tanteen St. Georges
JAMAICA	Gail Mathurin Deputy High Commissioner Jamaican High Commission 2 Newbold Street Port-of-Spain Trinidad and Tobago
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	Lucita Moenir Alam Deputy Director Foreign Relations Bureau Fort Amsterdam 4 Curacao Joelle de Jong-Mercelina Foreign Relations Bureau Fort Amsterdam 4 Curacao
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Louis A. Wiltshire Director CARICOM, Political Affairs, Science and Technology Co-operation Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade "Knowsley" Queen's Park West Port-of-Spain

Roslyn Khan-Cummings
Foreign Service Officer
Ministry of External Affairs
and International Trade
"Knowsley"
Queen's Park West
Port-of-Spain

UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Carlyle Corbin
Representative for
External Affairs
Government House
St. Thomas
U.S. Virgin Islands 00802

ECLAC System

Clyde Applewhite
Daniel Blanchard
Swinburne Lestrade
Trevor Harker
Raul Garcia Buchaca
Leslie Wade

