

GENERAL  
LC/CAR/G.317  
5 March 1991  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Thirteenth session  
Kingston, Jamaica  
22-25 July 1991

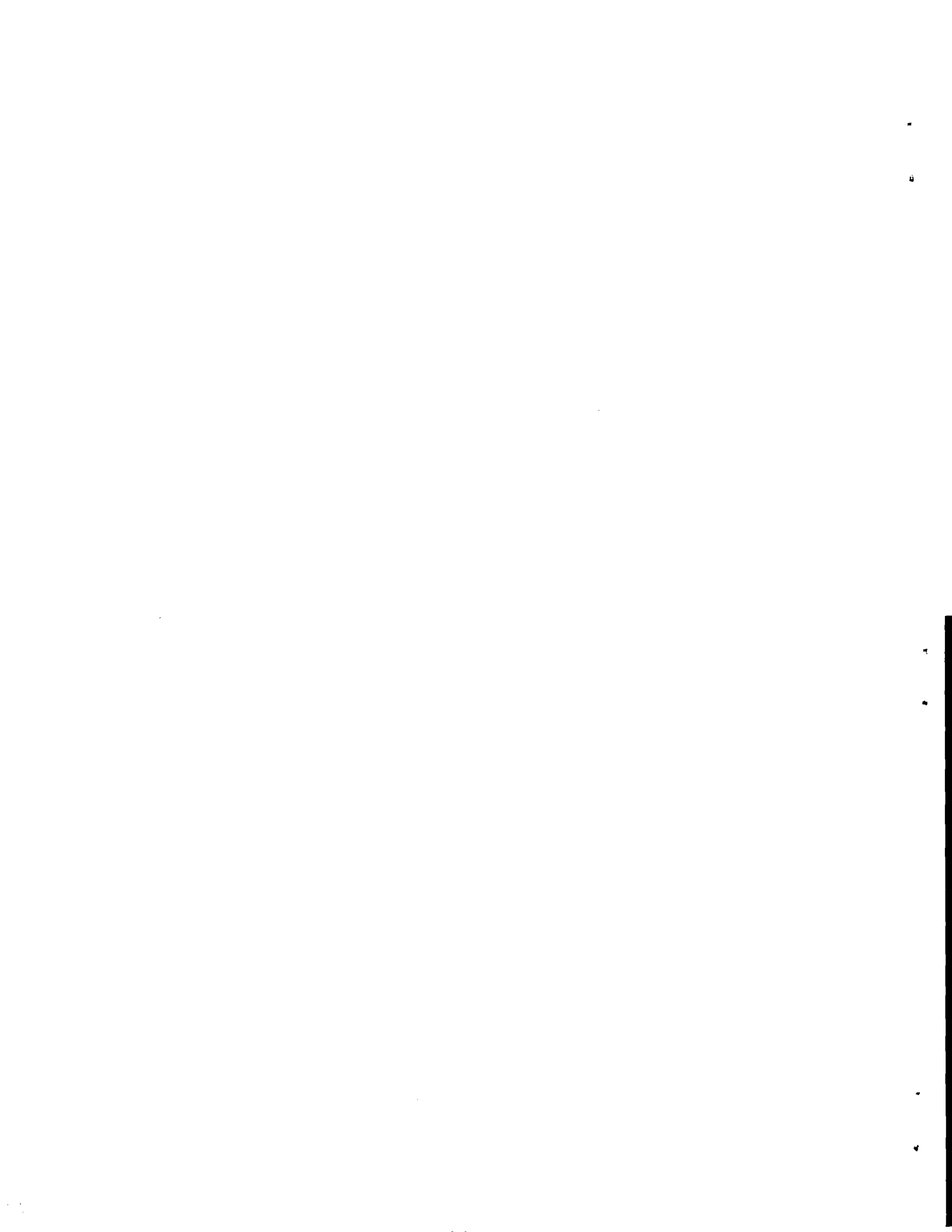
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN THE CARIBBEAN

21 February 1991  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

On 21 February 1991, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat convened a meeting of representatives of United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean.

The meeting was chaired by the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and was attended by representatives of ten United Nations organizations: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI).

Also in attendance were the Secretary of ECLAC, the Secretary of the CDCC and the members of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC representing Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. A list of participants is provided at Annex 1 to this report; and the meeting's agenda is at Annex 2.

In his opening address, the Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, Mr. Clyde Applewhite, as Chairman of the meeting, welcomed the participants and informed of the background to the meeting.

He informed that the meeting was convened at the request of CDCC member and associate member countries, and in specific response to resolution 29 (XII) adopted by the member governments of CDCC at its twelfth session in December 1989. Although informal interagency meetings were usually held prior to CDCC sessions, the countries had emphasized the need for a meeting of United Nations organizations prior to the thirteenth session of the CDCC, in order to explore the possibilities of increased inter-organizational collaboration in the interest of member countries.

It was expected that the meeting would provide a number of suggestions and ideas for further collaboration which would be presented to the member governments at the thirteenth session of the CDCC in April 1991.

The Director referred to the ECLAC/CDCC's past experience of working with United Nations organizations in the implementation of its mandates. The relationship was generally bilateral and in response to the needs of its constituents.

The question was how to enhance or expand the existing collaborative relationship between the United Nations organizations and CDCC. He noted that any attempt to expand the collaboration should be done in the context of the role of regional organizations in development, and on the basis of a multisectoral, interdisciplinary approach to development. He suggested that ECLAC/CDCC could facilitate the process of collaboration among all the United Nations organizations on the basis of this approach.

He made reference to General Assembly resolution 32/197 in which the role of regional commissions was well articulated and which mandated the CDCC to pursue mechanisms for such collaboration.

The Director called on the Secretary of the CDCC, Mr. Swinburne Lestrade, to introduce the agenda and meeting documents.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### Agenda Item 2

#### Review of the mandate from ECLAC/CDCC member countries on collaboration between United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean

The Secretary of the CDCC explained that the meeting was intended to be an informal discussion between representatives of United Nations organizations and the CDCC Monitoring Committee, with a view to clarifying the scope of the mandate for further inter-organizational collaboration which the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had received from the countries. He thought that it might prove to be an excellent opportunity for direct interface between the organizations and the countries, and that having jointly reviewed the mandate, an agreed, workable plan of action might emerge from the meeting.

He stated that the first paper "Background Note on ECLAC/CDCC Collaboration with other United Nations Organizations" had already proven to be useful to the secretariat itself and he hoped that other organizations would find it informative. It was intended to be a quick and easy, though not necessarily complete, reference of collaborative activity - the kind of document which other organizations might find useful to prepare from the perspective of their respective organizations.

The second paper "Background Note on the Mandate for Increased Collaboration between United Nations Organizations Operating in the Caribbean" sought to raise issues, identify the problem from the standpoint of the countries and suggest possible approaches to achieving the goal of further collaboration. He pointed to ECLAC/CDCC's special responsibility in inter-organizational collaboration, deriving not only from resolution 32/197 previously referred to by the Chairman, but also from the regional nature of the organization and the unique geographical spread of its membership. He noted that the countries had, for a number of years, been calling on the secretariat to take a lead role in furthering inter-organizational collaboration.

The Secretary continued that the secretariat was not unmindful of the need to clearly define its possible role in inter-organizational collaboration, especially in view of the UNDP's well known responsibility in this area. This concern was one of the reasons for the delay in convening this meeting.

In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed appreciation for the documents and offered a number of comments.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles queried the expression "imprecision of purpose" used in one of the documents. As far as she was concerned the mandate and purpose had been sufficiently clearly stated.

The representative of the ILO suggested that the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC provided the basis for a role for the CDCC secretariat in inter-organizational collaboration. He wondered how the mandates received from the United Nations General Assembly and the member countries might be made compatible, given that the organizations were responding to the same constituents but were operating within different frameworks. He stated that the United Nations had updated its thinking on resolution 44/211 dealing with co-ordination within the United Nations system, and suggested that the meeting take full account of the views of the General Assembly on this question.

In regard to the mandate for action by the CDCC, he identified two areas which he perceived to be particularly important: collaboration in specific sectors and the sourcing of financial aid and technical co-operation. The Constituent Declaration of the CDCC

(Clause 15), mandated the secretariat to "carry out action aimed at obtaining financial resources from the international community, the governments of the countries of the area, and other sources, for use in common projects for the benefit of the subregion's economic and social development".

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands suggested that the meeting documents might have included a larger number of excerpts from reports of previous CDCC sessions, in particular he thought that reference should have been made to the special circumstances of the non-independent countries and, in particular, to their lack of access to the resources of certain international organizations.

Some representatives queried the appropriateness of the use of the term "inter-agency" for purposes of the meeting.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat stated that the secretariat had been conscious of possible terminological nuances and had eschewed use of the term "inter-agency co-ordination", opting instead for the expression "inter-organizational collaboration".

On the issue of imprecision of purpose, the Secretary of CDCC identified three possible areas:

(a) The nature of the role: Whether the role which CDCC was being called on to play was "co-ordinating" or merely "collaborative";

(b) The institutional scope of the exercise: Did it encompass the United Nations system only or did it include other non-United Nations organizations;

(c) The depth of the exercise: Should the secretariat's collaborative role extend into the programming process (as is implied by some of the CDCC decisions) or should it be limited, for example, to collaboration on specific work activities.

The representative of Jamaica suggested that the role which CDCC was being called on to play was to seek the assistance of other United Nations organizations in carrying out its programme of work.

The meeting agreed that the work programme of the secretariat was a good starting point for a programme of collaboration.

A propos to the question of possible overlap of responsibility of mandates between UNDP and CDCC, the UNESCO representative stated his agency's position that the UNDP's co-ordinating role was

sacrosanct. There was some discussion on two areas in which the question of co-ordination was indicated: women and development and the environment.

The UNDP representative outlined efforts which he had made, in his capacity as United Nations Resident Co-ordinator, to co-ordinate the work of United Nations organizations at the national level.

A propos to the suggestion of a role for CDCC in assisting the countries to tap international resources, the Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat gave examples of his organizations efforts to secure funding for projects requested by the countries.

Regarding the issue of access of non-independent countries to the United Nations system, the UNDP representative stated that assistance was available to non-independent countries through the UNDP, although there was a question of eligibility based on per capita income and other considerations. He cited the good relations which existed between his organization and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The representative of UNICEF alerted the country representatives to the fact that each organization had its own criteria for determining eligibility of countries to its resources, and that the countries should inform themselves as to what these were.

Agenda Item 3  
Statements by representatives of  
United Nations organizations

The UNDP Resident Representative stated that the meeting was not in a position to determine the mandate from the countries and expressed concern at the levels of collaboration being discussed by the meeting. He felt that the secretariat could assist in clarifying a number of issues raised in the meeting with respect to the roles of United Nations organizations.

He requested clarification as to whether the collaboration being discussed referred to regional or national programmes. He made reference to United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/211 on co-ordination within the United Nations system and requested that it be distributed to members of CDCC.

The UNDP representative emphasized UNDP's interest in pursuing co-operation and made an offer for all UNDP Resident Representatives in the region to meet with Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, to discuss matters of regional co-operation. He referred to Mr. Rosenthal's membership on two

administrative committees of the United Nations system and to his in-depth knowledge of the issue of co-ordination as it pertains to the United Nations system. He thought that this knowledge should be tapped to inform decisions on increased inter-organizational collaboration. He also expressed a wish for more communication and exchange of views with the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

He provided the meeting with background information on how co-ordination is effected at the national level by the mechanism of inter-agency team meetings. The team approach ensured the independence of the members of the specialized agencies, but provided for a sharing of views on the economies of the countries and the means by which duplication could be avoided.

He welcomed the supportive statements on collaboration made by the representatives of the United Nations organizations present at the meeting.

The Chairman clarified that the meeting's concern was with regional programmes - although there were national components of regional programmes which usually reflected particular governmental requests. He agreed that there was a need for more communication between ECLAC/CDCC and UNDP, particularly with respect to national programmes.

The UNDP representative informed the meeting that there was a wealth of documentation available from UNDP, including a compendium of projects to which CDCC could have access.

The direct relationship which UNDP had with governments in the region placed it in a unique position to provide information and technical assistance. On that basis, UNDP was more than willing to work with ECLAC/CDCC in fulfilling its mandate.

In response to the question whether there was potential or existing overlap in the mandates of the CDCC and the UNDP in the subregion, the UNDP representative stated that a determination of that issue could be arrived at in the suggested discussions with the Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

The UNDP representative further stated that duplication of effort was possible, since co-ordination of the work of United Nations organizations was the role of UNDP under the Director-General for international co-operation, and not a role which member governments could give to the CDCC secretariat. Such decisions would have to be made at the highest levels of the United Nations system.



In response to the status of UNDP regarding regional programmes, the UNDP representative informed that the CARICOM Secretariat co-ordinated UNDP's regional programme; while at the national level the responsibility for co-ordination rested with the Resident Co-ordinator.

In response to a query as to the satisfaction of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat with the level of collaboration achieved so far with United Nations organizations, the secretariat responded that there was scope for greater collaboration especially of a multidisciplinary nature in relation to programme areas, such as environment, women in development and trade in services.

The CDCC secretariat perceived its role as one of conduit for the programmes and projects of the United Nations organizations facilitated by its unique composition and coverage within the Caribbean subregion.

The UNDP representative pointed to the need for countries to concern themselves with the reduction in development finance at both regional and national levels, and the consequential need to establish project priorities. In this there may be a regional role for ECLAC/CDCC, and information on any initiatives in this area should be communicated to the UNDP.

The Chairman reiterated his secretariat's constant efforts to secure funding for projects.

The representative of the ILO noted that although there existed a good relationship between his office and the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, such relationship had not been on the basis of the work programmes of the institutions and he welcomed the suggestion that the work programme be the basis for strengthening collaboration between the organizations.

The meeting was informed that the secretariat had previously examined the work programmes of relevant United Nations organizations and made linkages in selected areas.

Reverting to the question of CDCC's mandate, the representative of the ILO made reference to Section 15 of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC which authorized that organization to tap all possible sources of funding to support programmes and projects for the benefit of the subregion. He re-emphasized the unique role of CDCC structurally and the breadth of its membership which made it particularly suitable for the role mandated it by the countries. His organization was willing to contribute to a pool of financial and technical resources to be used for the benefit of the subregion.

In conclusion of this agenda item, since time was not available for further individual presentations, it was decided that there would be an exchange of information on work programmes and capabilities between the United Nations organizations and the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

Agenda Item 4  
Towards further collaboration

The meeting agreed that the starting point for a process of further collaboration should be the submission of the work programmes of the United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean to the CDCC secretariat and a subsequent preparation of a comprehensive report.

These submissions would clearly state current activities and capabilities, identify possible areas in which collaboration might be possible and the scope of country participation. The secretariat would design a format for these submissions and prepare a concise document for circulation to the organizations and countries.

The information in these submissions would be used to create a data base of the activities of all the organizations for the use of the secretariat, other organizations and the countries.

As a first step the secretariat would circulate its work programme to all the organizations for their reaction and possible suggestions regarding collaboration.

The meeting agreed on the need for an exchange of information at the regional level as a means of avoiding overlap and on the need for regular meetings to facilitate such exchanges.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting agreed as follows:

(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.

Annex I

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

L.B. Hayles  
Representative  
17 Keate Street  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ian Chambers  
Director  
ILO Caribbean Office  
P.O Box 1201  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Patrick E. Doughty  
Deputy Director  
ILO Caribbean Office  
P.O Box 1201  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

W.B. Rial  
Maritime Safety Adviser  
Caribbean (CARICOM) Region  
IMO Field Office  
48-50 Sackville Street  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Charles L. Perry  
United Nations Resident Co-ordinator  
19 Keate Street  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Farouk Y. Tarzi  
Deputy Resident Representative  
19 Keate Street  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Claudette Harry  
Acting Representative  
(Trinidad and Tobago)  
49 Jerningham Avenue  
Belmont  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Caribbean Epidemiology Centre - CAREC (PAHO/WHO)

Carl James Hospedales  
Epidemiologist  
Jamaica Boulevard  
Federation Park  
Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute - CFNI (PAHO/WHO)

Curtis McIntosh  
Adviser in Food Economics  
University of the West Indies  
St. Augustine  
Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
(UNESCO)

Simon Clarke  
Education Adviser for the Caribbean and  
UNESCO Representative (Jamaica Office)  
25 Dominica Drive  
Kingston 5  
Jamaica

Hubert J. Charles  
Co-ordinator  
UNESCO/CARNEID and  
UNESCO Representative - East Caribbean  
P.O Box 423, No. 7 Garrison  
St. Michael  
Barbados

Winthrop W. Wiltshire  
 Subregional Science and Technology Adviser  
 and UNESCO Representative  
 8 Elizabeth Street  
 St. Clair  
 Port-of-Spain  
 Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Derick Haniph  
 UNIDO Country Director  
 c/o UNDP  
 P.O Box 625C  
 Bridgetown  
 Barbados

Dominik Bartsch  
 Programme Officer  
 c/o UNDP  
 19 Keate Street  
 Port-of-Spain  
 Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Ashok Dhital  
 Planning Associate  
 Hastings  
 Christ Church  
 Barbados

COUNTRIES

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. George's

## 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

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  
Raul Garcia Buchaca  
Yvonne Acosta  
Hitome Rankine



Annex II

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Welcoming remarks and statement of purpose of meeting
2. Review of the mandate from ECLAC/CDCC member countries on collaboration between United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean
3. Statements by representatives of United Nations organizations:
  - (a) Organizations' mandate and purpose;
  - (b) Extent of collaboration with other United Nations organizations; and
4. Towards further collaboration
5. Any other business

