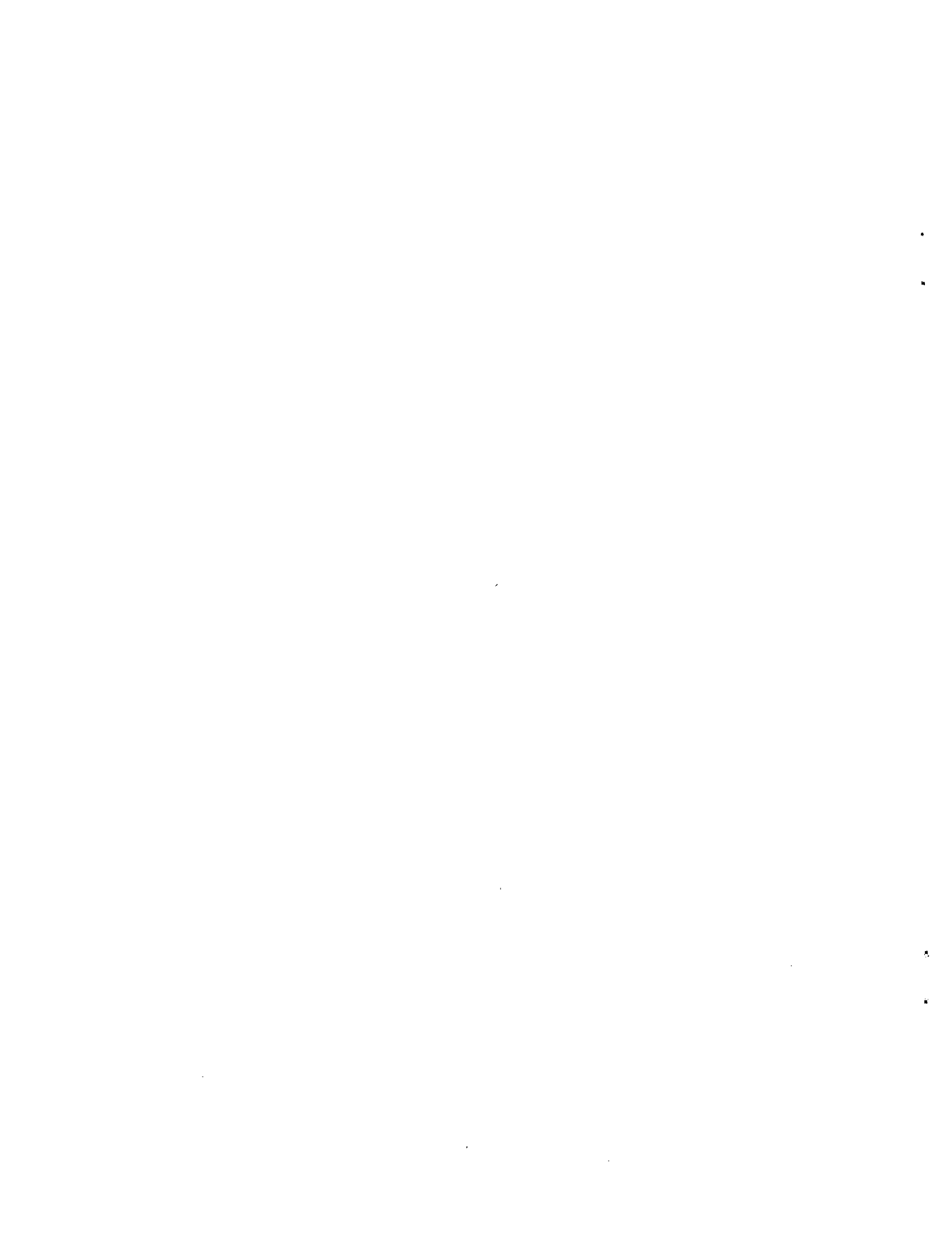SECOND SESSION

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
16-22 March 1977

JOINT ECLA/UNESCO PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

JOINT ECLA/UNESCO PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

Resolution 358 (XVI) establishing the Caribbean Development and
Co-operation Committee defines its functions as (i) a co-ordinating
body for activities relating to development and co-operation agreed
upon by the Governments, and (ii) an advisory and consultative
body to the Executive Secretary of ECLA in respect of Caribbean
issues and circumstances.

During the Constituent Meeting of the Committee, the steps
toward development and co-operation in the Caribbean have been
identified. The Work Programme entrusted to the Secretariat of the
Committee entails an intensive process of collaboration between ECLA,
Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and other inter-governmental
bodies. This collaboration has been initiated at an Inter-Agency
Meeting convened in New York in June 1976, under the auspices of the
CDCC Secretariat.

The implementation of the CDCC Work Programme, as it involves
UNESCO and ECLA, embraces various subject headings. The main ones
are:

    i. the institutionalization of measures to
       eliminate deficiencies in communication,
       data gathering and distribution;

    ii. the institutionalization of special
       programmes to overcome language barriers
       (practical instruction in English, French,
       Spanish);

    iii. the institutionalization of collaboration
       among the Caribbean scientific institutions
       in the implementation of the Work Programme; and

    iv. the development of public information media
       and cultural extension as a component for
       implementation of educational and cultural
       policies.

On the basis of discussions between ECLA and UNESCO Caribbean Area
representatives, a preliminary document was put forward at the Inter-Agency
Meeting in June 1976. These proposals have been further defined and are
detailed in this document. They deal with the basic infrastructures for
co-operation among the Caribbean countries, in the fields of education,
culture, science and technology. The proposals are:

    i.   A Caribbean Documentation Centre which will
            endeavour to eliminate deficiencies in
            communication, data gathering and distribution.

    ii.   A Programme for the Removal of Language Barriers
            which will expedite the process of mutual exchange
            among the member countries.

    iii.   Two Caribbean Councils of Sciences and Technology
            to ensure the collaboration of academic and other
            research centres.

    iv.   A Caribbean System for Life-Long Education (education
            permanente) which will include a Caribbean Enterprise
            for Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-
            visual Materials and a net of Centres for Cultural
            Retrieval and Animation.

The document is divided into four chapters corresponding to the
above proposals and with each one outlining a programme of activities.
The relevant CDCC mandate as well as the corresponding resolution
authorizing UNESCO's Director-General to support this type of
programme are stated. Whenever a CDCC mandate does not correspond
to any specific resolution of the General Conference of UNESCO, this
is also expressed.

Available resources within the ECLA system have permitted the
carrying out of a feasibility study of the proposal for the creation
of the Caribbean Documentation Centre; it has also been possible to
initiate action in this field. The support of UNESCO for this project,
required at subsequent stages, is mentioned in the document. It has
not been possible to make similar progress in the other three proposals,
notwithstanding their relevance.

A further report on the assistance which UNESCO will be able
to give to each of the four programmes of activities will be presented
during the Session. (Agenda Item 5).

I

CARIBBEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

CDCC Mandates

The Work Programme of the CDCC, while stressing the "willingness
of the countries themselves to share their capacities and experience",
and the necessity "to expedite the process of mutual exchange",
specifies that there is need "to eliminate deficiencies in communica-
tion, data gathering and distribution", and gives as an example
the appropriateness of establishing "a system for collecting
technological and methodological data covering the sub-region."

These policy formulations derive from the first paragraph of
the Constituent Declaration where the governments of the region -

"Declare their political will and their resolution to:

1. Carry out a policy for the optimum utilization
of the available resources of the sub-region, thus
promoting its economic and social development and
advancing progressively towards better co-ordination
of their countries' economies in the future. Based
on recognition of the advantages of economic
complementation, this policy will give impetus to
co-operation among member countries, particularly in
the implementation of joint projects, the exchanges
of experience and mutual aid, and through mechanisms
- including trade - which will contribute to this end."

A co-ordinated effort towards development requires a detailed,
standardized and readily available set of information on the
countries themselves. The acceleration of flows of data within
the sub-region and between the sub-region and the wider Latin
America as well as from other external sources also calls for
continuous and programmed activities, which in turn have to be
in line with the decision taken on the need for optimum
utilization of the available sub-regional resources.

Initial action

In response to this mandate, a proposal for the establishment of the Caribbean Documentation Centre put forward at the Inter-Agency Meeting in a joint draft ECLA/UNESCO document has met with the interest of the participating agencies. With the valuable assistance offered to the CDCC by the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), the implementation of the project has been initiated. Its details and scope are presented in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/16.

In view of the specificity of the context in which the mandate is formulated, the users of the Caribbean Documentation Centre can be aggregated into three main categories:

(a) Government officials at the decision-making and policy formulation level, as well as their supporting staff;

(b) Professional groups, specialists in different public and private entities; and

(c) the public at large.

Provisions are also made to satisfy other groups of users as mentioned in the document quoted above.

Further required actions

In view of the unequal development of national systems of information paralleled with the increased technical difficulties to have access to international systems of processed information, it is also proposed to strengthen both national and sub-regional spheres through a special support from UNESCO's NATIS and UNISIST programmes. This action will minimize the effects of the disparity of resources among the member countries and facilitate the type of concerted action described by the CDCC.

UNESCO Mandates

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has
approved the project 4.161.6 (Document 19 C/5, para. 4250),
specifying that "assistance will be provided to Member States,
upon request, for the building up of their national documentation,
library and archives infrastructures."

Equally, the General Conference of UNESCO has approved the
proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para. 2046), authorizing
the Director-General "to initiate a programme for the international
exchange of information on the application of science and technology
to development in the Member States, with particular reference to
literature and basic data which have a direct bearing on policy-
making, management, transfer and assessment of science and technology."

Joint ECLA/UNESCO Activities and Support
from other UN family organizations

Apart from the assistance to be given to the national information
systems, it is envisaged that UNESCO will undertake jointly with ECLA
co-ordinational activities to strengthen the relations between the
Caribbean Documentation Centre and analogous national entities.
Specific support to be given to the Caribbean Documentation Centre
will be presented during the Session. (Agenda Item 5).

Similarly, various agencies which have offered to support the
Documentation Centre and to take profit of its facilities as far
as dissemination and referral services are concerned, will detail
their contributions in due course.

II

REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS

CDCC Mandates

In the Work Programme of the CDCC, reference to technical co-operation among the Caribbean countries is presented as "the need to undertake special measures or programmes to overcome language barriers" with "practical instruction in the English, French and Spanish languages in all member countries."

This mandate refers to the whole population of the sub-region, but its implementation can only be gradual; and it is necessary to distinguish various target groups and to initiate action as may be appropriate. The following appear to be priority target groups — public servants, staff of inter-governmental organizations, of academic institutions or of private enterprises, specific urban or rural groups such as those linked to the tourism industry, or more generally the school-age population.

These target groups can in turn be sub-divided in order to design measures more adapted to their respective requirements; for example, public servants may be further classified according to their location in Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Commerce, Agriculture, or Education. In summary, the intention is to approach the teaching of languages more functionally, taking into account that the target groups will be determined in consultation with the governments of the sub-region.

It is necessary to keep in mind the need for the governments to have at their disposal, as soon as possible, a staff of translators and interpreters to satisfy the urgencies arising from an increase in international relations, commerce and tourism. To give effect to official action by the CDCC in the removal of linguistic barriers, it is necessary to augment the number of persons who speak the official languages of the sub-region, at the same time that the need for using these languages is being stimulated. The implementation of this project will therefore be parallel to the execution of other programmes presented in this document.

Implementational approach proposed

The programme for the Removal of Language Barriers will have specific tasks -

In the short term:

    (a) provision of language courses for
        specific target groups;

    (b) provision of translators and
        interpreters necessary to service
        governmental, inter-governmental
        and international institutions; and

    (c) training and re-training of language
        teachers to service the educational
        system, and to put into action a
        self-propelled trend towards multi-
        lingualism.

In the medium term:

    (a) translation services to provide access
        to and dissemination of documentation and
        audio-visual materials in the Caribbean
        languages within the priorities
        determined by the Work Programme;

    (b) research into comparative methods of
        language teaching in order to advise
        governments on curricula and other
        changes required to produce competence
        in the second and third languages at
        various levels of the educational systems;

    (c) production of pedagogic materials for
        the teaching of languages taking into
        account the official languages and the
        different "creole languages" in the
        sub-region;

    (d) co-ordinated use of mass media as a
        vehicle for language teaching; and

    (e) development of linguistic research.

In the long-term:

> To help in the development of a manifold Caribbean
> cultural identity through the stimulation of cultural
> and personal inter-changes and the communication at
> all levels between the people of the area.

UNESCO Mandates

In the Programme and Budget approved at the 19th Session of the
General Conference of UNESCO, there is no chapter which fully supports
the implementation of the programme for the Removal of Language
Barriers. UNESCO is dealing, notwithstanding, through its Division
of Structures, Content, Methods and Techniques of Education, with
problems raised by the teaching of languages, and foresees the
realization during the biennium 1977-78 of a colloquium on "Language
teaching in a pluri-lingual and multi-cultural context."

UNESCO's participation in the programme for the Removal of
Language Barriers, through missions, could be included in the normal
activities of the Regional Office for Education, with headquarters
in Santiago, Chile, or of the above-mentioned Division of Structures,
Content, Methods and Techniques of Education.

Specific support comprehensive to the programme for the Removal
of Language Barriers should be proposed in the 20th General
Conference of UNESCO in 1978, for inclusion in the Programme and
Budget of the Organization for 1979-1980.

Action Under Consideration

To initiate the tasks related to the Removal of Language Barriers,
a joint ECLA/UNESCO mission is recommended in order to determine,
with the governments, their priorities on the matter, the priority
target groups and the incentives that can be applied in order to
stimulate the study of a second or third language.

The conclusions of this mission would be put before a meeting
of experts convened to decide on the technical means to meet the
particularities of the target groups.

III

CARIBBEAN COUNCILS OF SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

CDCC Objectives

The Work Programme approved in Havana states that:

"the willingness of the countries themselves to share
their capacities and experience is an essential
prerequisite for collective action aimed at substantive
changes of mutual benefit."

In the Constituent Declaration as well as the Work Programme, the
different areas of co-operation are enumerated, and the desire of
the Caribbean countries to harmonize as far as possible their
processes of integral development is also defined. The problems
of human resources, the social impact of the processes of change
resulting from development, the need to adapt imported technologies
and to interchange knowledge and experience, with special mention
of the role of the universities and research institutions, are
underlined.

Implementational approach proposed

The necessity for the Caribbean intellectual élites to
entertain continuous consultations aimed at fostering an endogenous
process of regional development requires the creation of adequate
mechanisms for dialogue. In this connection, the creation is
proposed of -

> (a) a Caribbean Council for Science and
> Technology; and
>
> (b) a Caribbean Council for Social and
> Economic Development.

At a later stage, both Councils will be called upon to
constitute jointly a Caribbean Academy of Sciences and Technology.

UNESCO's regional offices and relevant divisions at Headquarters will carry out jointly with ECLA the feasibility studies for the creation of the Councils. The experience of the Latin American Council for Social Sciences (CLACSO) will also be taken into account.

(a)   Caribbean Council for Science and Technology

To implement the mandate approved at the Constituent Meeting of the CDCC, the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology must:

-   Establish "a system for collecting technological and methodological data covering the sub-region .... in close collaboration with the universities and other research institutions of the area."

-   Contribute to "mutual sub-regional co-operation in the transfer and adaptation of imported technologies and the development of indigenous technologies, particularly food technology and food production."

The Council for Science and Technology would advise the Governments and the CDCC Secretariat in other tasks described in the Work Programme, such as:

(a) "To undertake research pertaining to tropical agriculture, including genetics, as technology and equipment developed in other climates are not generally applicable in the Caribbean", and "to conduct studies directed towards the wider and better use of appropriate fertilizers."

(b) "the formulation of a sub-regional energy programme which would include the development of present energy sources, supplemented by other types (solar, nuclear and wind)."

(c) "a better knowledge of indigenous raw materials, with a view to their industrialization."

It will also be the responsibility of the Council to initiate studies aimed at the prevention of natural disasters; ecological and oceanographic studies; and generally to support the common definition of national scientific policies in the Member States.

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has approved the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para. 2022), authorizing the Director-General to carry out a programme with a view to:

1o. "assisting Member States in the formulation of policies, planning and financing in the fields of science and technology, in particular by rendering advisory services upon request, and by conducting the necessary researches, studies and clearing-house activities;" and

2o. "promoting international and regional co-operation concerning policy-making for, and the practical application of science and technology."

A feasibility study will be carried out jointly by ECLA and UNESCO's Regional Office for Science and Technology, together with initial contacts with scientists and relevant research institutes of the sub-region.

(b) Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development

The Constituent Meeting of the CDCC, in recognizing that the member countries share "similarities in the majority of social and economic problems they face", affirmed "that it is necessary to strengthen the unity and co-operation ... in order to carry out joint activities that will benefit the sub-region's economic and social development."

The Work Programme of the CDCC further recognizes, "jointly with the urgent need to promote and accelerate social development through changes in economic and social structures and the creation of employment opportunities ... that it is necessary to consider the diversity of situations existing, both between the Member States of the Committee and within the countries themselves."

In fact, if planning in a given country requires a series of previous socio-economic studies as a basis to the collective reflection on development strategies and on its social cost, these

necessities are more important and even more complex when there is
under consideration the co-ordination of various processes of develop-
ment in an area where, as underlined in the CDCC Constituent Declaration,
"it is indispensable to pay special attention to the relatively less-
developed and in most cases very small countries of the sub-region."

It would be the responsibility of the Council for Economic and
Social Development to undertake studies and examination of concrete
problems raised in the Work Programme, for example, "factors
conditioning women's participation in the labour force, demographic
growth, redistribution of the population and its incidence on regional
development, demographic and social statistics systems for planning,
training programmes in matters related to population and its inter-
relations with economic and social planning."

In a more general way, the Council would advise governments on:

    (a)   the definition and harmonization of strategies for
         economic and social development;

    (b)   comparative studies of socio-economic realities
         prior to decision-making;

    (c)   the elaboration of a methodology for social and
         economic research adapted to the necessities of
         the sub-region;

    (d)   the definition of common statistical indicators;

    (e)   the harmonization of national legislations
         related to the social and economic orders; and

    (f)   the definition of a Caribbean standpoint in
         the construction of a new international order.

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has approved
the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para. 3027), authorizing the
Director-General "to continue to carry out the programme designed to
contribute to the international development of the social sciences
in Member States, with emphasis on research, institution-building,
training, and collection and dissemination of information and
documentation, so as to improve their capacity for making analyses

and finding solutions to the major social problems in different societies, especially those arising from social and economic changes."

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has also approved the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para. 3058), authorizing the Director-General "to continue and develop the programme of research, application and training in socio-economic analysis responding to the needs of development planning and evaluation and to the need for assessing the quality of the socio-cultural environment, through the development and adaptation of socio-economic indicators, indicators of the perception of the quality of life, dynamic systems analysis and programme evaluation and through their broad application to development planning in areas of UNESCO's competence and through training planners in their use in order to serve Member States."

A feasibility study will be carried out jointly by ECLA and UNESCO's Social Sciences Sector as well as initial contacts with the relevant institutions and specialists of the sub-region.

IV

LIFE-LONG EDUCATION

CDCC Objectives

The implementation of the CDCC objectives carries implicitly the need for the creation of a sub-regional system for Life-Long Education, in as much as the Constituent Declaration states the will of the Governments:

> (a) to establish a self-reliant Caribbean identity;
>
> (b) to collaborate at sub-regional level to overcome fragmentation, cultural barriers and isolation, excessive diversification and lack of bargaining power at international level;

    (c) to improve progressively the social
        status of the population; and

    (d) to pursue a new pragmatic approach based
        on immediate action, the use of local
        expertise, co-ordination at operational
        level and a more integrated approach
        to development.

Justification

A system for Life-Long Education is to be prepared, if possible,
from the school system. UNESCO's efforts related to Life-Long
Education are presently concentrated particularly on the methodological
contribution to the restructuring of the educational systems with a
view to life-long education.

Formal education in the Caribbean shows disparities of levels,
achievements and aspirations. In some countries, illiteracy is
eradicated for all practical purposes, while in others relatively
high rates of illiteracy still exist. In some countries, the school
system is completely controlled by the state, while in others, important
sectors are entrusted to private initiative, in some cases mainly
secular, in others denominational. Furthermore, cultural patterns
in the educational systems differ according to the linguistic areas
or the colonial background. It is therefore particularly difficult
- if not impossible - to undertake presently a co-ordinated
restructuring of the educational system with a view to life-long
education.

Nonetheless, since life-long education is not yet formalized
in the area, it is amenable to joint action from the beginning of
its programming and offers a favourable field for co-operation
among the CDCC member countries. The characteristics with respect
to culture and communication which distinguish life-long education
wherever it is systematically pursued correspond to the need for
the identification and mutual understanding of Caribbean identities.

It therefore seems advisable to initiate as a matter of urgency
a certain number of actions aimed at providing the countries of the
sub-region - through duly co-ordinated pilot projects - with a
series of common instruments to prepare the implementation of a
system of Life-Long Education.

Mandates

The Work-Programme of the Caribbean Development and
Co-operation Committee specifies that -

> "Action in the field of education,.....will facilitate
> the promotion, strengthening, and preservation of
> Caribbean cultures, the appropriate use of public
> information media, cultural extension and sports
> development."

Furthermore, even though formulated in a context of economic
organization, the Committee enunciated in its Constituent Declaration,
a principle that is equally applicable to social development
institutions. It considers:

> "the possibility of establishing multinational
> enterprises within the sub-region owned and
> controlled by the Caribbean states and nationals
> of such states in fields which are of mutual
> interest to the Caribbean countries."

UNESCO Mandates

Similarly, the General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th
Session has approved the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5,
para. 1114), authorizing the Director-General "to undertake or
pursue a programme of activities designed to promote, in the
context of life-long education, the renovation and improvement
of structures, content, methods and techniques of school and
out-of-school education geared to development, bearing in mind
the various needs of Member States."

Implementational actions

It is proposed to create the necessary structures gradually basing them on existing structures. Efforts will be made at achieving some standardization in the sub-region as this will promote mutual exchanges.

The creation of a Caribbean System for Life-Long Education (education permanente) is proposed to complete the formal educational systems by stimulating the cultural identification of the Caribbean people, their mutual knowledge and the development of their creativity.

The proposal for a System of Life-Long Education would embrace initially:

      (a) A Caribbean Enterprise for Production and
           Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual
           Materials.

      (b) A net of Centres for Cultural Retrieval
           and Animation.

      (a)   Caribbean Enterprise for Production and
           Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual Materials

It is acknowledged that the mass media plays a leading educational function outside of the classrooms by transmitting values and knowledge intensively. As such, the media can contribute effectively towards increasing the awareness of the cultural identity among the Caribbean people, the mutual appreciation of their specific characteristics and the sharing of their knowledge, beyond the existing linguistic barriers. Furthermore, they can multiply the effect of formal education in fields such as vocational training, hygiene, diffusion of technologies, environment.

In conjunction with the public and private mass media existing in the region, the establishment of a Caribbean Enterprise for Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual Materials could act in close relation with the Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation. It would have the responsibility of ensuring that its production reaches the public at large.

The task of the proposed enterprise would embrace:

(a) stimulating and co-ordinating local
production of material to be distributed
to the member countries;

(b) elaborating specific materials either of
general interest to all the countries or
requested by an individual country;

(c) establishing a system for distribution
of materials by rotating them among the
countries.

The enterprise could proceed gradually according to the
directives of the governments and the available resources.

In a first phase, a net of correspondents would gather
systematically the materials prepared in the Caribbean countries
and of interest to the region. The correspondents could be chosen
from among the present staff of state-owned radio and television
enterprises. The Caribbean Enterprise would in turn prepare some
specific audio-visual programmes on matters of common interest for
the countries in the area. For this purpose, it would be necessary
to have access to a radio and a television studio and to a modest
system for reproduction, since the material would be distributed in
a rotating manner, in as much as the urgency for up-to-date information
does not require the distribution of as many copies as users. At
the same time, the writing of features to provide articles on the
countries of the region to different press, radio and television
organizations in and outside the Caribbean would be arranged. The
creation of a net of small printing offices, of the "Offset" type,
in order to cover the necessities of expression in local communities
to which the features would be automatically supplied, is to be
promoted.

In a second phase, a system for producing radio and television
materials would be organized, whose output would be some radio
and television programmes, as well as cinematographic documentaries

for use in the Caribbean countries and eventually for export. A publishing company would be also organized to publish the first collections of Caribbean pocket-books, as well as bulletins and journals that may be required by sectoral co-operation among the CDCC member countries. This publishing company might also assist governments and institutions in the sub-region with some publications.

In a third phase, the creation can be considered of a relay system by micro-waves or satellites capable of operating simultaneous and direct exchanges among radio, television and users in the sub-region.

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has approved the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para 4195), authorizing the Director-General "to continue to carry out the programme designed for the development and application of communication systems in Member States, based on scientific planning methodology and adopting new techniques emerging in this field, for the purpose of accelerating social and economic progress and promoting increased access to and participation in the communication process on the part of the general public."

A technical study embracing aspects of production and marketing of the proposed enterprise to be carried out jointly by ECLA and UNESCO is under consideration, to be followed by a meeting of government officials in order to evaluate the project.

(b) Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation

The cultural identification of the Caribbean countries appears to be consistently threatened by the mass media which are diffusing imported value systems.

In view of the fact that the culture of the Caribbean countries is in essence eminently popular, it is important to secure its transmission and its constant renewal. This can be done by associating the population in activities that stimulate its creativity while retrieving elements of oral tradition that are on the verge of disappearing.

The awareness of cultural identity in each country and the links between these identities will facilitate the recognition of the specificities of national variants and a more fruitful definition of the common ethos.

Various countries in the sub-region already have functioning one or another form of centres for cultural animation. It is desirable to create new ones where they are non-existent or to adapt the existing ones to an integrated cultural development programme and to the need for normalizing cultural exchanges.

The proposed Cultural Centres will be expected to receive periodically visiting cultural animators, coming from other Caribbean countries and displaying the specificity of their country through expositions, films, theatres, folkloric dances.

The Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation will be responsible for:

      i.   Cultural animation in the city or locality where they are located.

      ii.   Stimulation of the participation and creativity of the populations involved and their cultural identification.

      iii.   Handling of the exchanges from other similar centres.

      iv.   Elaboration of audio-visual material for the Caribbean Enterprise for Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual Materials.

      v.   Creation of collections or small museums which retrieve, through the participation and the support of the interested populations, the aspects of the daily life in the region: agriculture, ecology, handicrafts, history, folklore, etc.

      vi.   Development of the awareness of the populations for the preservation of the environment, the natural resources and the cultural heritage.

The General Conference of UNESCO in its 19th Session has approved
the proposed resolution (Document 19 C/5, para 4114), authorizing the
Director-General "to implement a programme relating to the integrated
cultural development of Member States with a view to contributing to
the affirmation of cultural identity and fostering the full development
of cultural values, as factors in the endogeneous development of
nations, increasing the free democratic access of the people at
large to culture and their active participation in the cultural life
of society and stimulating their creativity."

It is suggested to undertake an inventory of existing mechanisms
for cultural dissemination and their evaluation in relation to the
CDCC objectives. A sub-regional strategy for cultural retrieval and
animation will then be elaborated in more detail. UNESCO's collaboration
will be required particularly during the initial stages of implementing
the project.