

Eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee  
of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)  
10 April 2003  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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**REPORT OF THE  
ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

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## **PART I**

### **LIST OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- In the area of negotiations and trade, researchers and other stakeholders should collaborate more closely to avoid the duplication of effort in the subregion.
- The extremely innovative and useful work being accomplished by the Secretariat should be incorporated into its regular budget and not left subject to extrabudgetary funding.
- The secretariat should become more closely involved in the activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) scheduled to take place in 2004.
- Revised texts in respect of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) should be adopted as a matter of urgency. It was incumbent on the Committee to have the Revised Draft texts submitted to ECLAC for approval at its next session.
- The study on Trade between Puerto Rico and CARICOM should be expanded to include a greater number of Caribbean countries. The services sector should be incorporated into the analysis. The study should also incorporate future aspects and a review of trade relationships, such as the implications of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas.

## **PART II**

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

#### **Place and date of the meeting**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the Eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 10 April 2003.

#### **Attendance**

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

#### **Agenda item 1**

##### **Opening ceremony**

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Ms. Len Ishmael, welcomed delegates to the meeting. She also extended greetings to colleagues from ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, the Secretary of the Commission and the Chief of the Division of Programme Planning and Operations. In her opening remarks, she drew attention to the major issues set out in the agenda for the meeting and reviewed the efforts of the secretariat in revitalizing the CDCC and carrying forward its work programme to the benefit of the governments and peoples of the Caribbean. She also expressed her deepest appreciation to the Government of Puerto Rico for its support in hosting the meeting.

The Secretary of State of the Government of Puerto Rico, Honourable Fernando Mercado, when welcoming participants also assured the meeting that his Government was honoured to serve as host to this CDCC session. He emphasised Puerto Rico's commitment to the efforts of the Caribbean in meeting the challenges of globalisation, the Millennium Development Goals and equity in the international economic order. He acknowledged that poverty and the instability of financial systems were issues that affected the development of the peoples of the Caribbean. He pledged the willingness of Puerto Rico to contribute to the future of the Caribbean and, by extension, the rest of the world.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, as outgoing Chair, highlighted a number of areas in which the CDCC had achieved much success. He expressed the hope that at this meeting the Committee would confirm the work programme proposals for the 2004-2005 biennium, and that the ECLAC system would provide the necessary resources for their implementation. He congratulated the Director of the Subregional Headquarters of the Caribbean and wished her success in the future.

## **Agenda item 2 Election of officers**

The Bureau was elected as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Puerto Rico
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	First Vice-Chairman: Saint Lucia Second Vice-Chairman: Aruba
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Suriname

## **Agenda item 3 Adoption of the agenda**

The following agenda was adopted without amendment:

1. Opening ceremony
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Procedural matters and organization of work
5.
  - i. Progress report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium as at 31 March 2003;
  - ii. Extrabudgetary projects
6. Work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium
7. Status of the review of the CDCC: The Constituent Declaration.
8. Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which may be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC.

9. Analysis of trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM and prospects for integration.
10. Developments in relation to the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.
11. Other matters
12. Date and place of the twentieth session of the CDCC
13. Adoption of the report
14. Closure.

**Agenda item 4**  
**Procedural matters and organization of work**

The meeting adopted its programme of work.

**Agenda item 5**  
**Review of work programme 2002 – 2003**

- 5.i. Progress report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium as at 31 March 2003

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reviewed the activities of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat from 1997 drawing particular attention to the progress on work implemented in support of subregional goals and objectives, thus far, in the current biennium. The attention of the meeting was directed to the document, Progress report on implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium, (LC/CAR/G.724).

The Director reported that the key achievements of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in the current biennium were: the convening of the nineteenth Session of the CDCC in Port of Spain during the period 14-15 March 2002; the continued implementation of the three projects funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands; the completion of an extensive audit of the sugar industry in St Kitts and Nevis; the conduct of national workshops in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago on the assessment of the impact of natural disasters; and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprise development in the Caribbean subregion. On the basis of the work accomplished to date, it was anticipated that the secretariat would be able to complete its schedule of outputs for the 2002-2003 biennium.

The secretariat continued to provide assistance to member countries in meeting developmental challenges by providing support in several key areas, not only through the execution of work programme activities, but also in response to specific requests.

In her review of the activities on the 2002-2003 biennium to date, the Director drew particular attention to the work carried out in the following areas:

- Capacity building;
- Cooperation and integration at the subregional and national levels;
- Economic diversification, including studies on the tourism sector;
- Gender socialisation, violence and youth;
- Negotiations and trade;
- Small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Small Island Developing States and the Caribbean Sea;
- Social consequences of globalization; and
- Strategic policy formulation in the area of physical planning.

In the area of negotiations and trade, participants agreed that researchers and other stakeholders should collaborate more closely in order to reduce duplication of effort in the subregion.

5 ii. Extrabudgetary projects

The secretariat made reference to document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.3, which highlighted activities related to extrabudgetary projects being undertaken during the current biennium.

**(a) *Projects funded by the Government of the Netherlands***

- Project NET/00/081: Support to the development of trade in the Caribbean (Development of a trade database);
- Project NET/00/035: Development of social statistical databases and a methodological approach to a Social Vulnerability Index; and
- NET/00/079: Development of a regional marine-based tourism strategy.

**(b) *Project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)***

- Project BZE/01/001: Support to the development of a human development agenda in Belize

Delegates expressed their satisfaction with the work undertaken by the secretariat, as detailed in the progress report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium, despite the financial constraints. One delegation wished to see documentation indicating the rate of success achieved by the secretariat in the mobilization of funds.

Appreciation was also expressed for the new and innovative work being undertaken through the projects executed with extrabudgetary funds.

In response to an inquiry regarding the participation of non-ECLAC/CDCC entities (Guadeloupe, Martinique, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands), the secretariat clarified the procedures for the attainment of observer status by these countries. Participants were advised of developments in the ongoing process, in particular that Guadeloupe and Martinique had been authorised by France to assume observer status within the CDCC. The Secretary of the Commission indicated that their observer status could be confirmed by the time the next session of the CDCC or ECLAC was convened.

The quality of technical assistance received by the Caribbean at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was reviewed. It was suggested that the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies with respect to follow-up action should be clarified to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the most efficient use of resources. The secretariat assured delegates that the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies involved in the follow-up to the WSSD were quite distinct. In addition, the role of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, as the body with responsibility for the coordination of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, was being fully adhered to.

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands expressed an interest in having more countries included in the Overview of Caribbean Economic Performance, which was produced annually by the secretariat. He sought ECLAC's commitment, as a member of the tripartite Committee of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), to do all within its power to support the inclusion of non-independent countries in negotiations for the creation of the FTAA.

Regarding the issue of the marine-based tourism strategy, many delegates expressed an interest in having their countries included in future studies and in receiving reports on the activities so far completed.

The representative of the Dominican Republic sought clarification on the status of the Civil Registry Project, which was to have been undertaken by the secretariat in Haiti. He also requested an update on the study being prepared for the Dominican Republic on the Fiscal Implications and Macroeconomic Effects of Trade Liberalization. The secretariat informed the delegate that despite its efforts, the main donor, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had suspended the Project on the Civil Registry in Haiti. The study on fiscal implications had been completed and the Ministry of Finance in the Dominican Republic had thanked the secretariat for its work in contributing to its ongoing trade negotiations.

The representative of St. Kitts and Nevis thanked the secretariat for the all the important work undertaken in her country. She referred specifically to the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), which she viewed as important for small island developing States (SIDS) like St. Kitts and Nevis, saying that she looked forward to the completion of this project. The information provided in the trade statistics database was also considered beneficial to her country and other SIDS. This delegate expressed her hope that those activities regarded by her country as critical

to the development of Caribbean SIDS would be integrated into the regular budget of the secretariat, instead of being earmarked for extrabudgetary funding. She further informed the meeting that St. Kitts and Nevis, despite its vulnerability and small population size, had been graduated out of the borrowing category by lending agencies.

Regarding the evaluation of the performance of the secretariat, delegates expressed the view that it would be useful to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of the resources mobilized and the impact of the work of the secretariat. In that regard, the Director of the Division of Programme, Planning and Operations (DPPO) indicated that this issue was currently under consideration throughout the United Nations system as all parts of the system had been requested to institute more effective mechanisms to measure their performance. She mentioned the difficulty of postulating a cause and effect relationship between the work of the secretariat and government policy, as other initiatives and events taking place at the same time could also exert an impact on government policies. It was also important to capture, in a quantitative way, information on the number of people who had received ECLAC documents and who had been exposed to the ideas and the outputs of ECLAC. She concluded that, in the final analysis, ECLAC would be relying on its member States to assist in the evaluation of its performance.

The Secretary of the Commission made reference to preparatory and follow-up meetings to world conferences, referring particularly to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), WSSD, the International Conference on Population and Development+10 (ICPD+10), the Fourth World Conference on Women+10 (FWCW+10) and SIDS+10. He indicated that, by virtue of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/270, an ad hoc committee had been established to oversee those aspects related to the tenth anniversary follow-up to global conferences. With respect to ICPD+10, he informed that a subregional meeting would convene during the last quarter of 2003 and a regional meeting in 2004. Both events would be convened with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In addition, follow-up meetings to the FWCW would take place in 2004, both at the subregional and regional levels.

The representative from Trinidad and Tobago expressed the need for greater involvement of the secretariat in activities related to the WSIS, scheduled to take place in 2003 and 2005.

### **Agenda item 6** **Work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium**

The secretariat presented document, LC/CAR/G.725, Draft Programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 2004-2005 biennium, which had had been adopted at the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC.

### **Agenda item 7** **Status of the review of the CDCC: The Constituent Declaration**

The secretariat presented the document entitled, Status of the review of the CDCC: The Constituent Declaration (MONCOM 11/7) which outlined the major developments in the review

of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC since its eighteenth session, which had convened on 30 March-1 April 2000. At that session, the Committee agreed, in its resolution 55(XV111), on the need to undertake a comprehensive review of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, with particular reference to the specific objectives, goals, structures, mechanisms and processes of the organ, including its relationship with other organs. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was mandated to prepare a document embodying the review. The outcome of the review process stipulated by the ministers was to be submitted to the Monitoring Committee for its consideration and approval in early 2001.

In accordance with the mandate, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat presented a comprehensive document embodying the review of the CDCC (LC/CAR/G.634) to the tenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, which convened on 6 March 2001. Additional documentation, including a discussion paper and other background material relating to the CDCC and the review process, was also circulated.

The secretariat subsequently detailed all developments related to the review process, ending with the submission to ECLAC, Santiago, of the draft revised texts adopted at the nineteenth session of the CDCC. However, it had not been possible for the matter to be addressed at the twenty-ninth Session of the Commission when it convened in May 2002. The next opportunity would be the thirtieth session of the Commission, scheduled to convene in 2004.

The meeting expressed the view that the adoption of revised texts of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) had become an urgent matter. It was therefore incumbent on the Committee to have the Revised Draft Texts submitted to ECLAC at its next session for approval.

### **Agenda item 8**

#### **Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which may be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC**

The secretariat indicated that the inclusion of this item was aimed at informing member States succinctly of resolutions that had particular relevance to Caribbean SIDS that had been adopted by organs of the United Nations. A number of the resolutions dealt with upcoming world conferences and summits and would have special relevance in the discussion of subsequent agenda items. Member States that had a particular interest in any of the resolutions could obtain copies from the secretariat.

### **Agenda item 9**

#### **Analysis of trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM and prospects for integration**

The secretariat introduced the document, Analysis of trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM and prospects for integration (LC/CAR/G.731), which provided an analysis of

trade flows between Puerto Rico and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. It was structured in three sections. The first section provided a brief comparison between Puerto Rico and CARICOM economies in terms of size, output, development models and trade specialization patterns. The second section analysed trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM and provided an aggregate as well as a country-by-country trade analysis with Puerto Rico, covering both exports and imports. The third section centred on the perspectives for further commercial integration between CARICOM economies and Puerto Rico.

The results of the study showed that trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM economies were not significant. They also tended to be concentrated as regards their direction as well as their composition. In particular, there was a marked concentration in the composition of Puerto Rico's imports from Caribbean countries in relation to its exports. Puerto Rico also had a balance of trade deficit with Caribbean countries that was explained mainly by its imports of petroleum products.

Moreover, the typology of Puerto Rican export products and the constancy of its components over time revealed little change in the overall dynamics of trade with CARICOM countries. The small size of CARICOM economies and their trading regime which imposed higher tariffs to imported goods relative to those of Puerto Rico, combined with the latter's lack of commercial policy autonomy had constrained, to some extent, the development of trade. However, the diversity of those economies and their structural transformation into resource and service-based economies pointed to the possibility of developing a trading relationship in dynamic and value added sectors that could spur the development of these economies' small and medium sized firms.

This agenda item was addressed by a panel comprising Ambassador Patrick Lewis of Antigua and Barbuda; Dr. Jose Raul Perales of Puerto Rico; and a representative of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

Ambassador Lewis asserted that CARICOM countries had been colonies of exploitation, rather than of settlement and that they needed to develop a philosophy of quality that could enhance the competitiveness of their economies. CARICOM economies also needed to establish a dialogue for trade that would overcome currency problems. Trade between Puerto Rico and CARICOM countries should be focused towards niche markets. Agro-industry provided an example of a market that could be exploited and developed. Ambassador Lewis also informed CDCC country delegations that Puerto Rico had recently become a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Dr. Jose Raul Perales summarised selected main points of the study and referred specifically to the application of the principle of comparative advantage. He reminded delegates that the decline in the export and import shares for Puerto Rico and the Caribbean could be explained, in part, by the fact that the majority of exports originated in foreign capital owned firms and that a minority of firms was locally owned. As in the case of most successful exporters in Latin America and the Caribbean, an overwhelming percentage of Puerto Rico's exports - some 95% - originated from foreign direct investment. The sheer size of such export potential might indicate that the CARICOM countries did not offer much potential for Puerto Rican

exporters. Some 5% of Puerto Rico's exports, equivalent to almost \$2 billion, originated in local, small and medium-sized enterprises, for which the CARICOM economies constituted a natural trading partner. The establishment of private sector linkages could increase trade between Puerto Rico and CARICOM. In the case of the larger CARICOM countries, such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, there might be an important export potential that remained largely untapped. The issue was how to move from trade to trade policy. One of the key obstacles to increasing the level of trade between Puerto Rico and CARICOM countries was the high level of tariffs and also the prevalence of non-tariff barriers in the latter.

Delegates made three main comments on the study. First, the scope of the study should be expanded to include a greater number of Caribbean countries. Second, it should also include the services sector in the trade database and analysis. Finally, the study should incorporate future aspects and trade relationships, for example, the FTAA, and should assess the extent to which these would affect the trade relationship between Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Several delegations expressed the view that the relationship between Puerto Rico and CARICOM was based not only on trade but also on a more extensive economic relationship.

The ECLAC representative thanked representatives for their comments and suggestions and stated that little data on trade in services existed. He informed the meeting that other countries had not been included in the study because the Government of Puerto Rico had requested that the coverage be restricted to CARICOM countries. In addition, he noted that a revision of the study would incorporate the suggestions and comments of countries to the extent permitted by the available data. He also undertook to provide the Government of Puerto Rico with the trade database and indicators used in the study in magnetic format, at the earliest opportunity.

**Agenda item 10**  
**Developments in relation to the proposal for securing**  
**the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area**  
**in the context of sustainable development**

The secretariat introduced the document, Developments in relation to the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, (LC/CAR/G.732).

This agenda item was addressed by a panel which comprised Professor A. Ralph Carnegie of the University of the West Indies (UWI); Dr. Manuel Valdes-Pizzini of the University of Puerto Rico; Mr. Derrick F. P. Oderson, ECLAC consultant; and a representative of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

The Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean recalled that at the nineteenth Session of the CDCC, in March 2002, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had been mandated to take the lead role in the execution and coordination of the technical work required for the further development of the Caribbean Sea proposal. The issue of this mandate reflected the deep concern of member countries with respect to the limited progress that had been made in

advancing the proposal over the years, a proposal which, it was recalled, had its origins in the ECLAC-sponsored Caribbean ministerial meeting of 1997. The content of this mandate had been subsequently communicated to the Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

Pursuant to its mandate, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had completed two major activities from its operational framework, namely:

(a) Identification and review of existing international and regional conventions relating to, *inter alia*, the management and conservation of the Caribbean environment and the preservation of its resources, with particular emphasis on their sustainability/sustainable use; and

(b) A review of existing regional and subregional approaches to ocean management for the possible extrapolation of elements that might be incorporated into the Caribbean initiative.

Significant progress had also been made in all the other areas identified. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean had thus far provided the financial resources required for the technical aspects of the proposal. In addition, many elements relevant to the Caribbean Sea proposal and its corresponding process had been gleaned from the WSSD Plan of Implementation and from General Assembly resolution A/ RES/57/261. On the basis of technical work and ongoing related activities accomplished by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, the further development of the Caribbean Sea proposal could now be taken further.

In the ensuing discussion, the meeting agreed that there was need to have the Caribbean Sea recognised as a special area of sustainable development. Some participants observed that the Cartagena Convention had not sufficiently addressed all the sustainable development issues of importance to the subregion and progress so far had been modest.

Delegates agreed that the issue was multidimensional and that ownership by CDCC member States was essential for the effective management of the process. Support from the wider Caribbean and the Pacific region should also be sought.

There was also general agreement that increased technical assistance to member States was critical to the success of the initiative. In this regard, it was suggested that more collaboration among member countries was required to prepare the text of the next draft resolution to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly.

The delegation of Barbados was commended for its country's efforts in promoting the resolutions so far adopted at the General Assembly and appreciation was also conveyed in respect of the technical assistance provided by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. Delegates expressed the desire for that assistance to continue.

**Agenda item 11**  
**Other matters**

There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

**Agenda item 12**  
**Date and place of the twentieth session of the CDCC**

The meeting accepted the offer of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to host the twentieth session of the CDCC and agreed that the secretariat would consult with member States on a convenient date.

**Agenda item 13**  
**Consideration of the draft report**

The time factor militated against the tabling of a complete draft report. Delegates endorsed the portion of the report that they had the opportunity to examine and agreed that it would be finalized by the secretariat and disseminated, allowing delegates a period of two weeks to submit comments thereon.

**Agenda item 14**  
**Closure**

The delegates thanked the secretariat for having convened a successful meeting at which much valuable information had been provided. The secretariat was congratulated on the high quality of its presentations and received indications of support and interest in its work. Several delegates thanked the Director for her stewardship during the period of her tenure.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat thanked the delegates for their participation and for the expressions of appreciation. The Chairman then brought the meeting to a close.

Annex 1**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representative

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