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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Fifth CDCC Pre-CGCED Consultative Meeting
United Nations Headquarters, New York
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SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON
WORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION 1982-1983

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SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON
WORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION 1982-1983

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that at its Third Session held in Belize in 1978, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) mandated its Secretariat to co-ordinate its Work Programme with that of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development (CGCED) established in December 1977, to serve as a mechanism for the promotion and co-ordination of external financial and technical assistance to the Caribbean. It will also be recalled that at the Fourth and subsequent sessions of CDCC held at Paramaribo, Suriname (1979) and Kingston, Jamaica (1980) respectively, the Ministers decided that CDCC Government representatives should meet prior to CGCED Meetings to provide the Secretariat with directives to ensure harmonization of the activities of the CDCC and CGCED.
2. At its Sixth Session held at United Nations Headquarters in February 1982, the Ministers reiterated their mandate to the Secretariat to hold the pre-CGCED Consultative Meeting. At its Seventh Session (Trinidad, January 1983), the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should pursue discussions with a view to securing participation in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.
3. At the Sixth Session, the Committee also adopted resolution 9(VI) entitled "Co-ordination and Co-operation Activities to further the Implementation of the CDCC Work Programme". The resolution, among other things, recalled resolution 1980/56 of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 358(XVI) of CEPAL which inter alia recognized CDCC as a co-ordinating body of activities relating to development and co-operation and as a consultative organ of the Commission.
4. By operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Committee decided to:

"reiterate the mandate given to the CDCC Secretariat to study the most appropriate co-ordination between the CDCC projects and programme and any regional activities of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development".

II. DECISIONS ON PRIORITIES SET WITHIN THE
CDCC WORK PROGRAMME DURING ITS SEVENTH SESSION
(TRINIDAD, 19-26 JANUARY 1983)

5. The Committee reaffirmed a number of priorities, which are set out below:

a) Co-operation in Information

The Committee expressed strong support for the continuation of the work of the Secretariat in the field of Information and proposed that priority be given to the computerization of the activities of the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC).

b) Removal of Language Barriers

The Committee reaffirmed the priority status of this project and urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to secure the necessary funding. Note was taken of the offer of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to hold a Subregional Workshop on the Removal of Language Barriers; and certain delegations requested the Secretariat to communicate this offer to their Governments so that arrangements could be made for holding the follow-up seminars which were envisaged in the project proposal.

c) Integration of Women in Development

The Committee reaffirmed the priority status of the Women in Development (WID) programme and stressed the importance of the participation of Caribbean Women in Development. The Committee strongly urged that a post for the Co-ordinator for Women in Development in the ECLA Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean be provided from the United Nations regular budget and that the Co-ordinator should be an expert from the subregion.

d) Maritime Transport

The Committee decided that a Search and Rescue Plan for the Caribbean should be established at the earliest opportunity. It also recommended that member Governments accede to the IMO Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

e) International Trade

The Committee recommended that member countries give support to the proposed Trade Information Centre and that the Secretariat should proceed using existing CDCC resources. The Committee requested that the Secretariat keep member Governments informed on the progress of implementation of this activity and report to the Eighth Session of the CDCC.

III. OTHER ITEMS OF THE CDCC WORK PROGRAMME

6. Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development (COSED)

The Committee decided that the feasibility study on the establishment of COSED and the draft statutes should be circulated to Governments. A study should be carried out to determine existing or proposed activities of other Caribbean institutions in similar or related fields. The study should be submitted to the meeting of government officials to consider the draft statutes.

7. Education and Culture

The Committee was informed that there had been no progress on the implementation of the project "Network of Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation". New guidelines were given to the Secretariat for the implementation of this project and the Secretariat was requested to put emphasis on establishing links between existing centres. The Committee decided that work should not be postponed in such an important area and recommended that as a matter of urgency member Governments make individual or joint approaches to UNESCO to obtain the necessary resources.

8. Co-ordination in Planning

In the area of transport planning, it was recommended that the Secretariat consider the possibility of a feasibility study on container repairs in some Caribbean countries.

9. In the area of training, it was recommended that training programmes should address specific problems and it was suggested that a Senior Economic Planner visit countries for a specific period to conduct on-the-spot training and assist in establishing planning structures.

10. The Committee recommended that the Third Meeting of Caribbean Planning Officials be held prior to the Fourth Meeting of Latin American Ministers of Planning scheduled for May 1983.

11. Agriculture

In order to avoid overlapping with agro-industry survey carried out by the Caribbean Food Corporation in CARICOM, it was proposed that the CDCC focus on the development of the Agricultural Information System, since the CDCC had already demonstrated competence in this area. The proposed meeting of Associations of Producers and Exporters of selected Agricultural Commodities had not yet been convened due to constraints of both time and resources. The Secretariat indicated that the focus of these associations would be on production and post-production technology.

12. Industrial Sector

The Secretariat introduced this item by stating that the programme of work for 1982-1983 had been approved at the Sixth Session of the CDCC. It was regretted that there was no progress during the year because the post of Economic Affairs Officer (Industry) remained vacant.

13. Social Sector

The Secretariat referred to the project proposal for research contained in document entitled "Caribbean Creole Discourse and Social Development" and explained that this project would be an important contribution to the creation of instruments necessary for the social development of the region. This area of activity was receiving increasing attention in the Caribbean and mention was made of work carried out in Dominica, Haiti, St. Lucia, Guadeloupe and Martinique. The project proposal received active support of the Committee, particularly in the light of the effort of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to raise the status of Papiamentu to that of an official language. The meeting was informed that the monograph on Social Structural Changes in St. Lucia had been completed. The monograph on Social Structural Changes in Dominica would be distributed shortly and work on Grenada was due to begin later in the year.

14. Energy and Natural Resources

There was marked concern over the virtual suspension of work in the energy sector, owing to the absence of an officer in this position during the period. It was noted that national energy assessments were being carried out in a number of countries with assistance from other organizations. There was no necessity therefore, for the Secretariat to undertake similar activities.

IV. APPLICATION OF BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CDCC

15. The Committee was informed of the intention of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to request associate membership in ECLA and requested that it be kept informed of any developments on this matter. The Committee further recommended that this matter should be discussed by the national legal authorities within the subregion before any positive action was taken.

V. PARTICIPATION OF CDCC IN THE WORK OF THE AD HOC
ADVISORY GROUP OF CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR CO-OPERATION
IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CGCED)

16. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should pursue discussions with a view to securing participation in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. It was also agreed that the mandate to convene the CDCC pre-CGED Consultative Meeting remained valid.

VI. INCREASED ECLA SUPPORT TO
EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

17. The importance of co-ordination between OECS and CDCC was stressed. The Committee agreed that the most appropriate mechanism for co-operation should be determined through consultations between the two Secretariats and that member countries should be kept informed of the results of these consultations.

VII. STRENGTHENING OF THE CDCC SECRETARIAT

18. The Committee recalled the findings of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the mandates of CDCC V and VI concerning the strengthening of the Secretariat of the CDCC and noted the Secretariat document on the

implementation of the JIU report. The Committee further adopted resolution 13(VII) on the functioning of the CDCC Secretariat. This resolution inter alia, called for the delegation of additional authority and functions to the ECLA Subregional Headquarters in the 1984-1985 United Nations Programme Budget; and Caribbean governmental monitoring of the implementation of CDCC mandates and decisions.

VIII. ENGLISH ACRONYM FOR THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

19. The Committee agreed that the acronym ECLA should be used for the Economic Commission for Latin America in English documents.

IX. CHANGE OF NAME OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

20. The Committee noted the need for the Commission to fully reflect the reality of the region it served and recommended that the name of the Economic Commission for Latin America be changed to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Executive Secretary of ECLA gave an undertaking that this matter would be placed on the agenda of the next ECLA meeting.

X. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

21. Resources required from the United Nations Regular Budget to accomplish the following priority and mandated activities during 1984-1985:^{1/}

- one P-5 post for Senior Economic Affairs Officer for OECS matters
- two P-3 posts: one for the Chief of the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) and one for the post of a Co-ordinator for the Integration of Women in Economic Development in the Caribbean
- one P-2 post for an English Editor

^{1/} Source: Memorandum of 14 April 1983 from Mr. Mouchabek to Mr. J. Spence.

22. A total of six new local posts for the following functions:
- two for deployment in the CDC
 - two for Research Assistants in the fields of Industrial development and International Trade
 - one for a Senior Finance Assistant
 - one for assistance of the above requested Co-ordinator
23. Posts actually deployed to the Port of Spain Office:
- one P-3 post for the Chief of the CDC
 - one Senior Finance Assistant
 - one Indexer
 - one Library Clerk.

XI. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT
THE SEVENTH SESSION

24. The Committee adopted two resolutions:
- a) 12(VII) - Technical and Economic Co-operation within the Framework of the CDCC, and
 - b) 13(VII) - Functioning of the CDCC Secretariat.

XII. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

25. During the period under review, the Secretariat carried out activities in the following fields:
26. - Economic Survey: 13 countries were visited and discussions held with officials in preparation of the ECLA Report on Economic Activity;
27. - Technical Co-operation: - The Third Meeting of Caribbean Heads of Planning, an ad hoc Working Group in Agricultural Planning and a meeting with representatives of Caribbean countries on Caribbean/Latin American Co-operation were held;

28. - Agriculture: Two issues of Agricultural Statistics: Caribbean Countries were published and a report of the Survey of Agroindustrial Activities was completed for OECS countries, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago;
29. - Transport: Caribbean Maritime Search and Rescue Plan has been drafted, a document on Small Shipping Development Strategies has been produced, mathematical groundwork elaborated and a project idea on "Floating Factories" submitted to Governments.
30. - Social Sector: Workshop on the Removal of Language Barriers was held, a feasibility study of a Graduate School by FLACSO was completed, a feasibility study for the establishment of a Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development was circulated and an Overview of the Situation of Youth in the Caribbean presented to the Preparatory Meeting for International Youth Year.
31. - International Trade: An inventory of selected exportable products for CDCC non-CARICOM countries and 18 draft national procedures guides were prepared and an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Trade Procedures was convened in Cuba.
32. - Caribbean Documentation Centre: The Centre has continued the publication of CARISPLAN Abstracts, organized workshops and undertaken technical assistance missions, performing the focus of the Caribbean Information System for Social and Economic Planning.