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DRAFT PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (1982-83)

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a) Final output and estimated duration

- (i) Prepare guidelines for the participation of non-CARICOM countries in the CARICOM/ITC Regional Trade Information Project (1982).
- (ii) Initiate a registration of products traded within the wider Caribbean region (1983).
- (iii) Make an inventory of tradeable products in stages separating basic products like agricultural goods and foodstuffs, and industrial products produced in the subregion (1983).
- (iv) A seminar on trade operation and import/export techniques used in the region (1983).

b) Planned method of work

It is seen as convenient to initiate a close co-ordination of activities with the CARICOM/ITC project to foster the technical co-operation between the governments of the whole subregion for:

- (i) the establishing and strengthening of national trade information systems (TIS);
- (ii) the information and discussion on import/export operations and techniques used within the region;
- (iii) at a later stage promote trade both inside the region and exports from the region towards other countries.

The information provided by the outputs proposed should be complementary to the preparation of other draft programme elements, specifically:

- element 3.11 - Meeting of Associations of Producers and/or Exporters Associations of several agricultural products.
- element 4.11 - The study of alternative industrial development strategies for the CDCC countries.
- element 7.1 - The studies on the establishment of multinational enterprises by identifying areas for these.
- element 8 - Identification of possibilities for closer co-operation and integration between the Caribbean and Latin America.

It should be stressed that this programme element is compatible and complementary to the preparation of a Caribbean Information System (element 12 of the draft programme).

c) Relationship with other programmes within the CEPAL system and/or with those of other organizational units

These activities will be carried out in collaboration with CEPAL's Trade Development Division within sub-programme 340 and seeking the co-operation of UNCTAD through joint CEPAL/UNCTAD projects like those already operating in Santiago. Experiences in this area at the Latin American level should be used and technical co-operation from institutions such as ALADI or SELA should be sought.

d) Users, how to reach them and anticipated uses

Main users should be exporters and importers in the subregion as well as national trade Ministries or boards of commerce within the several countries.

They would be reached through publications made by CEPAL and through the mechanisms proposed by the CARICOM/ITC project, expanding its scope to the whole sub-region, for example:

- a CARICOM exporters/importers register
- a commodity newsletter
- a trade opportunities bulletin

The proposed seminar would put in contact relevant government officials from the subregion and could lead to the strengthening of contacts, harmonization of trade regulations and technical co-operation.