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PROGRAMME OF WORK OF  
THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE  
ORIENTATIONS FOR THE 1984-85 BIENNIUM



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



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Attempts have been made in this brief paper to give some useful background to member governments of CDCC in order to request that, as a consequence of discussions to be held during the Sixth Session of CDCC, they provide all possible guidance for the work of the CDCC Secretariat for the 1984-85 biennium.

It should be recalled here that when the budgetary cycle of the United Nations was placed on the basis of biennial programme budgets, this caused a disparity between the dates laid down for the preparation of the budget and the sessions of the Commission, to which the Secretariat's Draft Programme of Work for the CEPAL System must be submitted.

The result of this disparity was that, for example, the budget for the 1982-83 biennium was prepared between September and December 1980. In other words, the Programme of Work and the assignment of resources had to be done before the Secretariat's Draft Programme of Work was considered by the Commission.

This state of affairs gave rise to a high degree of rigidity as regards the Commission's possibilities of reassigning resources, and this was what the Secretariat sought to correct in convening the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole (New York, 20 November 1980). At that session, the problem was raised and it was proposed that the need to synchronize the cycle of meetings of the Commission with the budget programming cycle of the General Assembly should be taken into account.

The Secretariat considered that such synchronization would make it possible to submit the Programme of Work for the consideration of the Commission before the presentation of the budget, thus contributing to a greater rationalization of activities. In this way, the Programme of Work could reflect the priorities suggested by the member countries of the Commission.

In order to achieve this objective, the Secretariat would have to present the Draft Programme of Work 1984-85 for consideration by member states before the next budgetary period (i.e. between September and December 1982). This would make it possible to introduce the modifications considered desirable by member states and subsequently assign the resources in line with the mandates arising from the meeting of the Commission.

The foregoing led, firstly, to the adoption of Resolution 419 (Plen. 14), according to which the holding of the session will now take place in even instead of odd years, thus bringing them in line with the biennial programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly.

Secondly, at the Nineteenth Session of the Commission, by means of the adoption of Resolution 433(XIX) entitled "Establishment of priorities in the CEPAL programme of work", the Commission resolved to request the Executive Secretary to ensure that the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to be held in 1982 "include among its main agenda items the review of the planning and programming process of CEPAL" and also resolved "that annual meetings of CEGAN (Committee of High-Level Government Experts) held to appraise the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action should formulate suggestions regarding priorities for the consideration of member governments of the Commission when adopting the programme of work".

On the other hand, it should also be borne in mind that at the Nineteenth Session, a Regional Programme of Action was drawn up, discussed and approved in order to facilitate the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1980's of the New International Development Strategy approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

A Draft Medium-Term Plan of the CEPAL System for the period 1984-89 was also endorsed by member countries at CEPAL's Nineteenth Session and is to be submitted for approval to the General Assembly of the United Nations late in 1982.

Hence, the establishing of basic orientations or priorities in the programme of work for 1984-85 should take into account the mandates and objectives established in the Regional Programme of Action and - although not yet approved - used as a preliminary framework the Draft Medium-Term Plan for the period 1984-89. Also, the expected overall outcome of the CDCC Secretariat's programme of work for 1982-83 - once approved - is to be viewed as useful background.

Finally, in order to perform such an exercise, it is equally useful to have a number of purposes in view, among which:

- the determination of areas requiring increased emphasis within current programmes;
- the systematic elimination of areas of activities which are deemed obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;
- the identification of activities which experience suggests might be more effectively carried out by other units.

#### Some possible basic orientations for the 1984-85 biennium

The CDCC has, until now, underlined the need for action in three main spheres: the promotion of social and economic development, stimulation of better co-ordination within the Caribbean subregion; and the promotion of co-operation between member countries of the Committee and other members of CEPAL as well as with the integration groupings of Latin America.

Within this basic framework, the following areas and topics may need to receive further emphasis:

##### 1. Science and Technology for Development

In this field, activities are to deal with the provision of Secretariat services for the CCST; the identification of scientific and technological potential of Caribbean countries; the devising of measures and appropriate programmes for improved utilization of the domestic scientific and technological potential of Caribbean countries; the encouragement of the

designing and adaptation of technology to suit local circumstances; and the fostering of education and training of specialized scientific personnel.

## 2. Energy

Activities in this field will seek to provide support to those countries of the subregion which request it in the identification of measures to relieve problems deriving from the energy shortage and in the formulation of policies and plans; to forward timely and updated information on available energy resources, on subregional, regional and world supply and demand in the energy market, especially regarding alternative uses of energy (e.g. as fuels or raw materials), technological and economic aspects, and the need for conservation; to carry out studies needed to enable the Caribbean countries to initiate action to implement the Regional Programme of Action as regards new and renewable sources of energy and the recommendations that emerged from the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, especially as regards ways of minimizing the cost of the changes needed to use new and renewable sources of energy.

## 3. Agriculture

It is recalled here that in Resolution 35/56 of the General Assembly, hunger and malnutrition must be eradicated as rapidly as possible, and by the end of this century at the latest, and that during the decade substantial progress must be made towards the self-reliance and security in food of the developing countries in order to secure an adequate nutritional level for all.

Hence, in this connection the two objectives of food security and self-reliance are to be viewed as of paramount importance.

## 4. Technical co-operation among Caribbean countries

In this field activities will need to be oriented towards the identification, promotion and dissemination of new approaches aimed at promoting subregional co-operation and integration, with a view to the

instrumentation of the Programme of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade.

5. Monetary and financial issues

Attention will also need to be devoted to the impact on Caribbean countries within broader proposals for reform of the international monetary system, to the improvement in financing facilities, to the mitigation of the debt problems and to the assurance of adequate commercial flows of financing.

