



RESTRICTED

LC/CAR/G.155 (SEM. 7/2)  
 CDCC/CCST/85/142

23 May 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Seventh Executive Committee Meeting

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

22 May 1985



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

22 May 1985  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

1. Present were:

Chairman:	Saint Lucia	Angus Philogene
Treasurer:	Suriname	Otwald Spong
Member:	Guyana	Ulric Trotz
ECLAC/CCST Secretariat:		Donatus St. Aimée Christine David

The meeting noted with regret the absence of Vice-Chairman (Haiti), Mr. Gilbert Duperval.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda<sup>1/</sup>

2. The Chairman invited the meeting to consider the Provisional Agenda (LC/CAR/G.154(SEM.7/1) - CDCC/CCST/85/1), which was adopted without amendment.

Item 2: Minutes of the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting

3. The Minutes of the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting (LC/CAR/G.121(SEM.4/10) - CDCC/CCST/84/11) were reviewed and matters arising from these Minutes were discussed. These comments are included under Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising. The Minutes were then adopted.

Item 3: Minutes of the Fourth Plenary Session

4. After lengthy discussions the Minutes of the Fourth Plenary Session (LC/CAR/G.122(SEM.4/11) - CDCC/CCST/84/12) were reviewed and adopted. Comments on this item are included under Agenda Items 4 and 5.

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<sup>1/</sup> See Annex 1.

Item 4: Matters Arising

5. The Meeting reiterated the decisions of the Fifth and Sixth Executive Committee Meetings that a logo should be created for CCST, and decided that a regional competition among youth should be used for selecting the logo. The Secretariat was asked to:

- (a) devise a mechanism for the selection of the winner;
- (b) determine the amount of the prize money for winner (this would be provided by the Secretariat);
- (c) provide a description of the requirements for the logo, i.e. information about the CCST, and the type of logo required (coloured or black and white); and
- (d) draw up the rules for the competition.

It was decided that the winning logo would be selected by the Plenary Session.

6. The delegate from Suriname undertook to seek information from Mr. Kortram on the format for the financial report of CCST, and a report on his visit, on behalf of CCST, to UNESCO Headquarters in January 1984 which had been made in connection with the establishment of a Special Fund in accordance with Article 28(b) of the Statutes of CCST.

7. The delegate from Suriname requested the Secretariat to make available to his country through the audio-visual project, a copy of the film "On the Edge of Paradise" produced by the Caribbean Conservation Association. He also wished to inform the meeting officially that his country was pleased by the decision of the Fourth Plenary Session on the eligibility of the Netherlands Antilles for membership to CCST.

8. The Executive Committee noted that the pre-CASTALAC II Caribbean Consultation had been held in November 1984 in Port-of-Spain and requested the Secretariat to get information from the UNESCO Advisor to the Caribbean on the CASTALAC Officials Meeting, to be held in Peru in late June 1985.

Item 5: The CCST Work Programme 1984-1985

9. The work programme since September 1984 was reviewed and the following decisions were taken:

i) Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities

10. The questionnaire which had been revised by the Secretariat, was reviewed and amended. It was decided to forward this revised questionnaire as amended to the CCST focal points in countries which had not completed their survey. The meeting requested the Secretariat to seek information on similar assessments from UNESCO and the Technology and Energy Unit (TEU) of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

ii) Preparation of a Newsletter for CCST

11. The meeting approved the format suggested by the Secretariat,<sup>2/</sup> and asked for the inclusion in the first issue of a general description of the member countries and science and technology organizations located there. Consideration was given to a mechanism for obtaining articles and it was suggested that each national focal point would obtain and forward articles for inclusion to the Secretariat.

12. It was suggested that members explore the possibilities for printing the newsletter in their territories and agreed that ad interim offset printing would be used.

13. With respect to quantity, between 1,500-2,000 copies would be produced and allocated to focal points in member countries for distribution within each country.

14. It was agreed that the newsletter should be directed to a general, not a technical, audience and that it should also be sent to local newspapers. The Secretariat would suggest target groups but the onus for distribution rested on the country focal point.

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<sup>2/</sup> See Annex 2.

15. The meeting decided that the Secretariat should prepare a "mock-up" for the first issue by the end of July; and send this to the members of the Executive Committee for their comments and approval.

iii) Preparation and Exchange of Audio-visual Material for Education in Science and Technology

16. The meeting reaffirmed the role of this project in raising the consciousness of the general public on Science and Technology, and towards developing a regional capability in the audio-visual medium. It was decided that a questionnaire soliciting information on the format(s) in use in member countries be formulated and sent out, as well as a request for information on already produced Science and Technology audio-visual material, that might be made available to other countries. It was agreed that it might also be useful for a specialist to visit the various countries, to establish contact with the audio-visual units in countries where this contact does not yet exist.

17. It was also agreed that a short background to the project should be sent to member countries along with a request for the identification of projects in specific areas.

18. On a general level, it was noted that both the audio-visual project and the newsletter were part of an attempt at the popularization of science and technology. The meeting noted with regret the cancellation of the joint COSTED/CCST Workshop on Science Writing and Communication and asked the Secretariat to approach UNESCO for funding this exercise under their wider programme for Science and Technology popularization.

iv) Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants

19. The meeting noted the action taken on this project and looked forward to receiving the consultant's report on terms of reference which the Secretariat should receive by the end of May.

v) Implications of Newly Emerging Technologies

20. The meeting directed the Secretariat to seek sources of information on these technologies and to forward them to member countries for their information.

21. With respect to the proposed workshop, the Secretariat was directed to approach UNESCO, and the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for funding this activity.

22. The Executive Committee asked the Secretariat to examine a similar workshop held in Trinidad in early 1984 and, based on an analysis of this workshop, to approach the above-mentioned agencies for guidance on the matter.

23. It was agreed that the workshop should sensitize participants on those technologies which would have the greatest impact on regional activities, and should focus particularly on materials, science and on biotechnology, with a lesser emphasis on the new fuels and fission technology.

24. The workshop should address itself to decision-makers, technology planners and managers, resource allocators and educators, and should result in a system for providing up-to-date information on newly emerging technologies.

25. The Secretariat was directed to formulate a proposal for submission to the next plenary session. Guyana offered to act as host to this workshop.

vi) A Science and Technology Policy and Plan for the Caribbean

26. The meeting requested the Secretariat to make available for circulation any Science and Technology Plans produced by member countries.

vii) Information Systems

27. The meeting noted the actions undertaken by the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat towards the establishment of a Caribbean Science and Technology Information Network (CARSTIN).

28. With respect to the proposed workshop on micro-computers, the meeting agreed that the Secretariat should investigate the activities of other organizations in this area before elaborating on this activity.

viii) Health, Nutrition and Pharmaceuticals

29. The meeting expressed concern at the postponement of the Workshop on the Pharmaceutical Sector in the Caribbean, and was informed that the matter would be discussed at the forthcoming CDCC meeting. The Secretariat was urged to follow up this activity.

Item 6: Financial Status of the CCST

30. The ECLAC/CCST representative reported on the lack of finances of CCST and requested delegates to approach their governments with respect to meeting their commitments and arrears, if only in part, as this was vital for implementing even a part of the work programme.

31. One delegate suggested that given the severe constraints in payment of foreign exchange that some countries were experiencing, it might be possible for these governments to make their contributions in local currency to be used to offset any CCST activities in the respective country. He also suggested that the Governments concerned could allocate a small percentage of their Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) in 1986 to CCST. This could be claimed under TCDC.

32. The Secretariat was asked to explore these and other possibilities and to keep member countries informed.

Item 7: Applications of the US Virgin Islands and Martinique for Membership in CCST

33. The ECLAC/CCST representative introduced this item and read the communication from the US Virgin Islands asking that their request be placed on the agenda of the next Plenary Session. The Executive Committee directed the Secretariat to comply with this request and recommended that the same procedure be followed as that used for the application by the Netherlands Antilles.

34. On the request of Martinique, the Committee agreed to consider the matter at the next Plenary Session. The Secretariat was asked to send the statutes of CCST to the relevant authorities in Martinique, pointing out Article 4 which states that "Membership of the Council shall be open to member countries comprising the CDCC", and was directed to seek legal advice from the Office of the Legal Counsel, in United Nations Headquarters, on this matter and also on restrictive clauses in the statutes with respect to membership.

Item 8: Venue, date and agenda for the Eighth Executive Committee Meeting and the Fifth Plenary Session of the CCST

35. The meeting decided that these two meetings should be held at a venue to be decided, around the period late November or early December. The exact dates should be determined by the Secretariat after consideration of any other meetings by other agencies at that time.

Item 9: Any Other Business

36. The meeting noted the ninth session of CDCC, to be held shortly, and agreed to brief their delegates on CCST matters to be discussed at that meeting.

37. The relationship between CCST and CARICOM was discussed and the Secretariat was directed to hold talks with CARICOM to obtain clear guidelines of delineation of CCST function vis-à-vis CARICOM. The need to maintain the independence of CCST was again stressed, and it was noted that the recent low level of activity was related to the lack of funding for the effective implementation of its work programme.



i) Proposal for a Working Group on Standards

37. The Secretariat was urged to inquire from CARICOM what that Secretariat was doing in the field of standards; to have consultations with the UNESCO Regional Adviser on the subject; and directed to inform member countries on these actions.

38. The Secretariat was also asked to request from SELA documents on science and technology in general and on standardization in particular, as this organization had a permanent working group in this area.

39. The Secretariat was directed to ask the OAS Secretariat for a list of its 1986 projects.

40. The ECLAC/CDCC representative thanked those present for their attendance and noted that the discussions held would enable the Secretariat to have clear guidelines for the implementation of the work programme.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Sixth Executive Committee Meeting
3. Report of the Fourth Plenary Session
4. Matters arising
5. The CCST Work Programme 1984-1985
6. Financial status of the CCST
7. Applications of the US Virgin Islands and Martinique to the CCST
8. Venue, date and agenda for the Eighth Executive Committee Meeting and the Fifth Plenary Session
9. Any other business

CCST NEWSLETTER

First Issue

Article about CCST

- history of establishment, membership, brief run-down on projects, CCST activities

Highlight work on project

- audio-visual project: what went on, what's going on, future plans

Reprint from other source(s)  
on topic of interest to CCST

Newsbrief from around the region

CCST Council Members

- names and addresses

CCST Documents

- names and document numbers

