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

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

(United Nations Headquarters, New York, 14-15 November 1985)



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INTRODUCTION

The open-ended Review Committee met under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rabindranath Permanand of Trinidad and Tobago, in accordance with the mandate of Resolution 19(IX) adopted at the ninth session of CDCC held in Port-of-Spain in 1985.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman outlined very briefly the purpose of the meeting and read the terms of reference concerning the Committee as described in Resolution 19(IX). He urged delegates to reflect on the original idea and objectives of the CDCC and how best these could be accomplished, since the development needs of member countries and the region as a whole were probably greater now than before, in the face of continuous difficulties in the world economic system.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, Mr. Clyde Applewhite, made a brief statement pointing out the need for the CDCC to maintain its momentum and be propelled into the future with the necessary tools to serve member states. He urged the Review Committee to look at how the CDCC is currently structured and functions and how it might be organized in the future to carry out its operations and meet its objectives. He noted that the Secretariat was at the service of its member Governments and needed some guidance on how to assist member states in their development efforts.

The Chair then opened the floor for discussion.

Four documents along with the report of the ninth session of the CDCC were presented to the Committee.

Document LC/CAR/G.138 "Resolutions on the Establishment and Functioning of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee" dated 28 February 1985 contained all the resolutions adopted by CDCC from 1975 to 1984. Document CDCC/REV.CRP.1 provided background information on CDCC and was prepared by the Secretariat. Document LC/CAR/G.154 "Review and Perspectives on the Role and Work Programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee" was prepared for the ninth session of CDCC, but was not dealt with in detail because of time constraints; from it, however, emanated the idea of the Review Committee. Document CDCC/REV./CRP.2 "Notes for Consideration by the Review Committee" made specific proposals to be considered by the Committee and became, to some extent, the main document considered.

The meeting took the form of open discussion with delegates asking questions and the Secretariat responding. From the discussions, specific proposals were made from which the Secretariat produced a draft report with proposals and recommendations of the Committee.

These recommendations were further considered by the Committee and finalized. They are documented and attached as Annex I.

This document is now being circulated for comments by member states.

The Chairman thanked all participants for their input to the document and announced that the next meeting of the Review Committee would be held in early February in Trinidad and Tobago.

The delegation of Cuba reiterated that Government's invitation to all member states to attend the tenth session of CDCC to be held in Cuba in April 1986.

A list of participants appears at Annex II.

COMMENTS

The meeting originally scheduled to be held in Trinidad and Tobago was held in New York. This facilitated attendance by more CDCC member countries and consequently greater exposure to and involvement by their Permanent Representatives in the CDCC. This should serve to enable the Permanent Representatives to support more effectively issues, etc., involving the CDCC at the Secretariat and with other United Nations Agencies.

Some discussions ensued on new areas of possible attention by the Secretariat, for example, the question of counter trade. However, this was not immediately within the terms of reference of the Review Committee, and further, the modalities and preparatory work were still to be developed. The Secretariat will produce and circulate a separate document on this issue.

Annex I

RECOMMENDATIONS

In fulfilment of the mandate given at the ninth session of CDCC, the Review Committee wishes to make the following recommendations for consideration at the tenth session of the CDCC:

(i) It is essential that countries demonstrate the necessary political will to co-operate among themselves and to ensure the implementation of the work programme.

(ii) Regarding TCDC, it was agreed that the Secretariat should compile information on member countries' needs, either by written requests or by visits, with a concomitant list of possible donor countries, the areas in which they can assist and a roster of experts and other inputs for TCDC in the subregion.

(iii) That the Secretariat of CDCC should seek to undertake or identify action oriented activities and/or projects with positive multiplier effect to be executed by two or more countries and that such a list of projects be circulated to member states for consideration and subsequent approval by CDCC regular sessions; also that the Secretariat should seek the financial resources from the United Nations System and elsewhere to execute these projects.

(iv) In view of the importance attached to the Work Programme of the CDCC, it was agreed that the Secretariat should continue to seek additional extrabudgetary resources in order to implement the Work Programme. Such resources may come from bilateral agreements with donor countries or agreements with other organizations provided that such agreements do not exclude any CDCC member country, and that projects and programmes undertaken could be of benefit to all members of the CDCC.

(v) That the level and frequency of contact between the Secretariat and member governments be increased so as to facilitate a two-way flow of information and exchange of ideas both on the implementation of the approved work programme and in undertaking the mandates and decisions of the CDCC.

(vi) To that extent, member governments are urged to give effect to the establishment of focal points where these do not yet exist and to strengthen those that exist to facilitate the envisaged information exchange as mandated in Resolution 10(VI).

(vii) On the question of collaboration and co-ordination with other agencies of the United Nations System, it was suggested that greater use be made of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in order to facilitate this.

(viii) It was agreed that the CDCC should continue to serve as a vehicle for promoting regional co-operation; engage in policy studies on topics of interest to and affecting the development efforts of member states; implement projects given to it by member governments as part of its work programme.

(ix) That in order to develop the manpower capabilities and resources of the (smaller) member states of CDCC, the Secretariat should seek to develop training programmes as requested by these member states. Such programmes could include the posting of officials at the Secretariat for short periods to undertake specific tasks and to become acquainted with the activities of CDCC.

(x) Concerning relations with NGO's, it was decided that since CDCC is a United Nations affiliate, NGO's having consultative status within the United Nations System would pose no problem. However, where that is not the case, the Secretariat should draw up a list of NGO's and present to the CDCC for approval at the annual meetings.

(xi) It was suggested that CDCC should continue to advise member states, on request, on how to derive benefits from the system as a whole and from other development agencies.

(xii) On the question of the future role of the Monitoring Committee, the following suggestions/proposals were put forward:

- (a) An open-ended monitoring committee comprising of the focal points to meet before the regular sessions;
- (b) a monitoring committee comprising of the bureau of the CDCC as envisaged before, but with definite mandates and terms of reference;
- (c) a monitoring process to take place during the regular session of the CDCC.

It was suggested though that the above suggestions/proposals be examined further by the Review Committee at its next meeting prior to submission to the tenth session of CDCC with further inputs from the Secretariat.

(xiii) It was agreed that the tenth session should give special consideration to the priorities established in the Work Programme of the CDCC.

(xiv) It was agreed that the Secretariat should make every effort to provide on a regular basis information on its activities, programme of work and other matters including financial status and programme stages to member states and to their United Nations Representatives.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Dr. Patrick Lewis Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations New York
BAHAMAS	Ms. Paulette Bethel-Daly Counsellor, Second Secretary Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations New York
BARBADOS	Mr. Ricardo Browne First Secretary Barbados High Commission Port-of-Spain
BELIZE	Mr. William Avery Attaché Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations New York
CUBA	Mr. Abelardo de Moreno Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Havana Representative to the Second Committee United Nations General Assembly
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Mr. Frandía Senci6n Second Secretary Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations New York
GRENADA	Dr. Lamuel A. Stanislaus Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations New York
	Dr. Frank Caesar Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations New York

GUYANA
Mr. Rawle Lucas
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana
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HAITI
Mr. Orcena Gervais
Alternate Representative
Permanent Mission of Haiti to the
United Nations
New York

JAMAICA
Ms. Diane M. Brown
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the
United Nations
New York

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
Dr. Stella Pieters Kwiers
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the
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SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND
NEVIS
Ms. Suzanne Ramus-Jones
Permanent Mission of Saint Christopher and Nevis
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SAINT LUCIA
Mr. Charles S. Flemming
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Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the
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SAINT VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES
Mr. Myron Dellimore
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Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Mr. Rabindranath Permanand
Chairman, Review Committee
Director of Political and Economic Affairs
Ministry of External Affairs
Port-of-Spain

Mr. Hamid Mohammed
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
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Ms. Annette Gonzalez
Foreign Service Officer
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UNITED STATES VIRGIN
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ECLAC

Mr. Clyde Applewhite
Director
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
Port-of-Spain

Mr. Donatus St. Aimée
Secretary, Review Committee
Secretary of CDCC
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
Port-of-Spain

