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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

Eleventh Executive Committee Meeting  
Kingston, Jamaica  
11-12 April 1990



REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE  
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**UNITED NATIONS**

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A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was held on 11 and 12 April in Kingston, Jamaica.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of CCST, Dr Gladstone Taylor (Jamaica). Other members of the Executive Committee present were: Dr Tirso Saenz, Vice-Chairman (Cuba); Mr Aloysius Barthelmy, Treasurer (Saint Lucia) and Dr Desmond Ali, Member (Trinidad and Tobago). Servicing the meeting was Mr Donatus St. Aimee, Secretary, Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC). The list of participants is given as Annex 1.

The agenda adopted for the tenth Executive Committee meeting was retained, as follows:

1. General discussion on CCST;
2. CCST budget performance;
3. CCST Work Programme;
4. CCST organizational structure and arrangements:
  - (a) question of a permanent secretariat;
  - (b) inter-organizational co-operation;
  - (c) relations with governments;
5. Any other business.

The Committee had before it the following documents prepared by the interim secretariat:

- (a) "Report to the Eleventh Executive Committee Meeting on the Activities of the Interim Secretariat since the Tenth Executive Committee Meeting" (LC/CAR/G.295; (CCST/90/2);
- (b) "Report on CCST Achievements" (LC/CAR/G.294; CCST/90/1);
- (c) "Proposal for Improving Secretariat Service Level of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology" (CONS/90/1);
- (d) "Statutes of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology".

### Agenda Item 1 - General discussion on CCST

The Committee felt that despite limited financial resources, the Council had managed to accomplish a fair amount of activities over the years and in discussing methods for remedying the low profile of CCST in the region, suggested that CCST should become involved in one major project which could bring it visibility. The proposed project need not necessarily be a long-term one, but should make a large impact. Public acceptance of the importance of CCST could result in recognition by policy-makers; it was therefore necessary to create a clientele to market the organization. It was felt that one way to raise the profile of science and technology and their role in development would be to sensitize people to scientific and technological developments in the region and to the importance of CCST.

After much discussion it was agreed that CCST should function as an institution with a specific mandate and precise role. To that end, the following mission statement was adopted to outline the role and function of CCST:

"CCST is concerned with the collection, systemization, documentation and dissemination of knowledge in the Caribbean for use in the productive sector".

### Agenda Item 2 - CCST budget performance

The Committee was informed that as yet, no member country had made a contribution for 1990. It was also informed that US\$10,000 per biennium had been allocated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for assistance in convening two plenary and two Executive Committee meetings. No funds, had been allocated, however, for project activities. The interim secretariat would therefore need to develop project proposals for submission to funding agencies in order to keep the Council active. Additionally, contributions from member countries would enhance the standing of the Council and encourage funding agencies to assist

CCST if it could be demonstrated that member governments, by their contributions, were taking a keener interest in CCST.

The Committee agreed with that position and felt that this made the need for a full-time secretariat even more pressing.

The interim secretariat was requested to again communicate with member countries, urging them to make their outstanding contributions to CCST.

#### Agenda Item 3 - CCST Work Programme

In reviewing the work programme, the Committee agreed that the major project envisaged for bringing visibility to CCST (mentioned under agenda item 1) could be a document on the history of science and technology in the Caribbean. This document should highlight the achievements of all member countries in science and technology. It should capture the scientific and technological knowledge residing within the community, as well as the contribution of indigenous science and technology to solving problems in everyday life. It was agreed that Cuba would provide information on a methodology for the project and that Dr Ali, Dr Taylor, Dr Ulric Trotz (Council Member for Guyana) and Mr Barthelmy should serve as the core network for the project. The interim secretariat would develop the project for presentation to the next plenary session of CCST.

The Committee decided that an extension service for industry should be developed and submitted to funding agencies for support.

The Committee welcomed the initiative which enabled science and technology to feature prominently at the national economic consultations and the proposed regional economic conference, as well as the proposed organization of a regional science and technology conference.

The Committee requested the interim secretariat to continue consultations with the Governments of Belize and Saint Christopher and Nevis, in order to finalize their national consultations. This would enable publication of the proceedings of all the national

consultations held and serve as a major input to the regional science and technology conference.

The Committee also felt that CCST should assist in identifying sources of funds for regional projects; develop an updated skills bank by collating information already available in the region; and undertake a short inventory of research in progress in the region. It was suggested that a symposium on the management of research in the Caribbean be held, drawing on the experiences of the Scientific Research Council (SRC) of Jamaica, the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) of Trinidad and Tobago and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) of Guyana.

The Committee welcomed the report on CCST achievements and felt that this should be updated every five years.

#### Agenda Item 4 - CCST organizational structure and arrangements

The Committee agreed that there was need to examine the structure, composition and tenure of the Executive. It was felt that changing the Committee every two years, in the absence of a permanent secretariat, resulted in a lack of continuity and direction of the Council. The Committee recommended, therefore, that the Executive Committee be installed for a three-year period.

It was agreed that for the next five years, the mission of CCST should be:

(a) to facilitate, promote and foster co-operation among member countries;

(b) to promote, at every level of the society, the appreciation for scientific and technological occurrences in the society.

In this context, CCST would undertake activities in science and technology popularization and the utilization of the technical co-operation among developing countries (TDC) modality in the implementation of its work programme. In the short term, the Council must be involved in the identification of processed information on science and technology activities and developments

with significant impact on the region and for which regional actions and positions are required.

On the question of a permanent secretariat, the Committee was forwarding a letter to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, with copies to the Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the Chairman of CDCC, requesting the return of the P-5 post for science and technology to ECLAC Port-of-Spain Office, to enable the Council to function effectively. A copy of the letter is attached as Annex 2.

It was also agreed that the CDCC Secretary would request formal communication from member countries which had expressed a willingness to host the secretariat of CCST and that guidelines and requirements for this would be developed and sent to those countries for their information and consideration.

#### Agenda Item 5 - Any other business

It was agreed that a tentative time for the ninth plenary session of CCST could be July 1990, but that in any event, the plenary sessions should be held at least three months before the CDCC meetings. The interim secretariat would enter into discussions with members on the venue and exact dates of the plenary session.

## ANNEX 1

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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