



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CEPAL/1010

E/CEPAL/CDCC/8/Rev.1

27 February 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

(Havana, Cuba, 31 October to  
4 November 1975)

# CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK .....	1-10	1
Attendance .....	3- 7	2
Officers .....	8- 9	3
Agenda .....	10	3
II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS .....	11-30	4
General discussion .....	11-17	4
Rules of Procedure of the Committee .....	18-19	6
Work programme, priorities, calendar of meetings, and relations with other bodies of the region .....	20-24	7
Possible areas of co-operation of the Committee with other member countries of ECLA referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of ECLA resolution 358 (XVI) .....	25	9
Co-operation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with the Committee .....	26	10
Constituent Declaration of the Committee .....	27	10
Participation in CDCC meetings .....	28	10
Date and place of the second session of the Committee .....	29-30	10
III. CONSTITUENT DECLARATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE .....		11
IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION .....		17
1 (I) Participation in meetings of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee .....		17
2 (I) Possible areas of co-operation of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee with other member countries of ECLA .....		18
V. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE .....		19

	<u>Page</u>
Annex 1 - List of participants .....	21
Annex 2 - Functions and rules of procedure of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as adopted by the Committee at its First session .....	27
Annex 3 - Work Programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee .....	35
Annex 4 - Addresses delivered at the opening meeting of the Committee .....	57

## I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The first session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, established in conformity with resolutions 358 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America as a permanent subsidiary body of the Commission, was held at the Hotel Atlantico, in Santa Maria del Mar, Province of Havana, Cuba, from 31 October to 4 November 1975. The session took place in two stages: a Technical Level Meeting, held from 31 October to 1 November 1975, and a Ministerial Level Meeting, from 3 to 4 November 1975. The present report contains the conclusions reached in both stages.
2. The opening ceremony of the Ministerial Level Meeting was held on 3 November 1975. On this occasion statements were made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba and head of the Cuban delegation, Mr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and by the Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Cuthbert Edwy Talma, who spoke on behalf of all the participating delegations. The full texts of these statements are annexed to this report. At the outset of the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of ECLA, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, conveyed to participants a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing his sincere regret at not having been able to attend the first session of the Committee in person, as had been his intention. Developments in the Sahara situation and the responsibilities entrusted to him by the United Nations Security Council at its emergency session held over the week-end had made it impossible for him to come to Havana on this occasion, and he had therefore requested the Executive Secretary of ECLA to read out the statement which he had intended to deliver personally at the Ministerial Level Meeting of the Committee (the text of the Secretary-General's message is annexed to this report). It was unanimously agreed at the opening meeting to send a congratulatory message to the Government and people of Panama on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of that country's independence.

/Attendance

#### Attendance

3. Representatives of the following member countries of the Committee attended the first session: Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives of Belize and the West Indies Associated States attended in their capacity as Associate Members of ECLA, in conformity with Article 3(b) and (c) of the Terms of Reference of the Commission.
4. While Surinam was not represented at this session of the Committee it was noted during the deliberations that under resolution 358 (XVI) of the Commission Surinam will be entitled to full membership of the Committee once its independence becomes effective in November 1975 and it is admitted to United Nations and ECLA membership. An Observer from the Netherlands Antilles was also invited to attend the first session of the Committee, where he delivered a statement.
5. Observers from the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the first session: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, Latin American Demographic Centre, United Nations/ECLA Caribbean Regional Integration Advisory Team (UNCRIAT).
6. Other intergovernmental organizations represented by observers were: Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commonwealth Secretariat, Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA). The Executive Secretary of the newly-formed Latin American Economic System (SELA) also attended as a special guest.
7. A complete list of participants is given in Annex 1.

/Officers

Officers

8. The officers elected by the Technical Level Meeting were as follows:

Chairman: Héctor Rodríguez Llompart (Cuba)  
Vice-Chairmen: Benjamin Clare (Jamaica) and  
George Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Rapporteur: Deryck Small (Guyana)

9. At the Ministerial Level Meeting, the officers elected were:

Chairman: Carlos Rafael Rodríguez (Cuba)  
Vice-Chairmen: Dudley Thompson (Jamaica) and  
Cuthbert Joseph (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Rapporteur: H. Desmond Hoyte (Guyana)

Agenda

10. The Agenda of the Ministerial Level Meeting which was basically the same as that approved by the Technical Level Meeting,<sup>1/</sup> was as follows:

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of Officers
3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of Draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee
5. Work Programme of the Committee, priorities and calendar of meetings, and relations with other bodies of the region.  
Matters to be reviewed would include problems relating to production and conservation of food products, Law of the Sea, health and education, with special reference to technology and food production
6. Possible areas of co-operation of the Committee with other Member countries of ECLA referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of ECLA resolution 358 (XVI)
7. Co-operation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with the Committee
8. Discussion and adoption of the Constituent Declaration of the Committee
9. Adoption of the Report.

---

<sup>1/</sup> Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/1/Rev.1.

## II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

### General discussion

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed an opening message to the first session of the Committee, expressing his confidence that it would perform fruitful work in the field of mutual co-operation among the countries of the Caribbean and between those countries and the rest of Latin America and the world. He underlined the important role which the Committee was called upon to play in the United Nations' efforts to accelerate the economic and social development of all nations, in order to remedy the perilous gulf still existing between the rich and poor countries of the world.

12. In the general discussions, after thanking the host country for the warm welcome extended to the participants in this first session, the delegations expressed their earnest desire to contribute to the success of the Committee's efforts to promote the development and economic co-operation of the member States.

13. Some delegations stated that the Committee should be the expression of the will of the Caribbean countries to act together in the face of powerful external economic interests which had to a great extent impeded or delayed the region's integrated development. In this respect, a general desire was expressed that the Committee should promote the protection of natural resources, including marine resources, and take steps to facilitate the union of the Caribbean countries through educational and cultural programmes that would diminish the effect of language differences and dissimilar cultural influences and would permit the investigation and solution of common problems.

14. In addition to the efforts required in social sectors such as education and public health, the delegations indicated several key areas of the regional economy to which it would be useful to draw the Committee's attention. Stress was laid on the importance of agriculture, in view of the heavy sums still expended on food imports

/and the

and the far from satisfactory levels of nutrition still prevailing. The importance of industry, tourism, transport and communications was also underlined. A particular problem raised by some delegations was the need to promote more research with a view to developing local technologies suited to the special conditions in the Caribbean.

Several delegations mentioned the important role of other regional co-operation organizations, such as the Caribbean Community and the Caribbean Development Bank, and expressed their conviction that the Committee would supplement and promote the work done by those agencies.

Appreciation of the work done by ECLA, and particularly its Port of Spain Office, was also expressed. All the delegations expressed their confidence that the United Nations, and particularly UNDP, would give every aid to the development activities in which the Committee and the secretariat would be engaged. It was also felt that close links should be maintained between the Committee and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), whose establishment and presence at the Committee's first session was highlighted by some representatives.

15. The Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America said that the Programme would co-operate as far as its resources permitted with the work of the Committee, whose establishment was a source of pride to the United Nations and to its regional agency, ECLA. The Committee should open new avenues of co-operation, contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order which should be regarded not in terms of irreconcilable antagonisms between countries but rather of increasing co-operation among all countries in order to achieve an order which would genuinely guarantee the dignity of mankind.

16. The Permanent Secretary of SELA said that the Committee's activities would be a highly important factor for the success of SELA, which required the consensus and concerted action of the governments to achieve its objectives. He requested the countries' collaboration in suggesting joint development projects.

/17. The



17. The President of the Caribbean Development Bank and the representative of the Caribbean Community said that the establishment of the Committee was an event of considerable importance, and they expressed their desire to collaborate closely in its work. They said that the joint efforts of the countries and agencies of the Caribbean should also facilitate the integration efforts in progress in Latin America.

Rules of Procedure of the Committee

18. The Rules of Procedure of the Committee were first discussed at the Technical Level Meeting on the basis of the suggestions submitted by the secretariat in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/2 and E/CEPAL/CDCC/2/Add.1. Various amendments and new rules were proposed in the course of the deliberations, resulting in a revised draft that was submitted for the consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting as document E/CEPAL/CDCC/2/Rev.2. In the ensuing discussions, this draft was further modified. The Rules of Procedure of the Committee, as finally approved at the Ministerial Level Meeting, are given in Annex 2.

19. It was agreed that the report of the First Session of the Committee should record the following observations that were made during the discussion of the Rules of Procedure and are to be regarded as a complementary interpretation of the text of the pertinent rule as approved. Firstly, with reference to rule 13, it was suggested that member States of the Committee which have a controlling interest in airlines or merchant fleets should endeavour to make available special facilities to the secretariat for travel on official missions between the countries that are members of the Committee in connexion with the implementation of the Work Programme of the Committee and of any subsidiary bodies that it may establish. Secondly, in connexion with rule 14 dealing with the voting procedure, it was understood that the Committee insofar as possible would adopt its decisions by consensus. Were this not feasible, then the relevant provisions of

rule 14 would be applied. Finally, with regard to rule 15, note was taken of the provisions of rule 26 of the Commission, according to which, before new proposals which involved expenditure from United Nations funds are approved, the Executive Secretary of ECLA shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of the costs involved which cannot be met out of the resources available to the secretariat.

Work programme, priorities, calendar of meetings, and relations with other bodies of the region

20. Concerning item 5 of the agenda, which deals with the Work Programme of the Committee, priorities, calendar of meetings, and relations with other bodies of the region, the preliminary proposals presented by the secretariat in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/3/Rev.1 were used as the basis for the discussions at the Technical Level.

Numerous additions and modifications were suggested at this stage by representatives of the member countries and observers from the intergovernmental organizations. As a result, the secretariat was requested to amend the preliminary proposals, which were then submitted as document E/CEPAL/CDCC/3/Rev.2 for consideration at the Ministerial Level Meeting. Further modifications were introduced at this stage and the secretariat was requested to reflect these as fully as possible in the final version of the work programme which appears in Annex 3.

21. During the discussions on the work programme, the observers of the United Nations agencies and of the intergovernmental organizations attending the first session referred to the activities that their respective organizations were carrying out in the sub-region and assured the Committee members of their interest in continuing to assist the countries in the area and to co-operate with the Committee in the fulfilment of its objectives and activities. General appreciation was expressed by the representatives of member governments of the Committee for the assistance offered, which would undoubtedly constitute a very valuable complement to the work to be carried out by the ECLA secretariat, principally through its office in Port of Spain. In that connexion, the Executive Secretary of ECLA, in conformity with

/the pertinent

United Nations Rules and Regulations, submitted a statement on the financial implications arising from the work programme as discussed and recommended by member governments at the first session of the Committee, including the priorities and the specialized meetings proposed (see part V of this report).

22. With respect to the question of priorities, it should be noted that in addition to the priorities set out in the work programme document itself, the representatives of member governments, in adopting the "Constituent Declaration of the Committee" also incorporated therein certain specific priorities for action to be undertaken by the Committee and the secretariat. Likewise, both the work programme and the Constituent Declaration emphasize the close relations and co-ordination to be maintained with other international organizations that are working in the Caribbean sub-region and in Latin America as a whole.

23. As regards the specialized meetings proposed by member governments for inclusion in the Committee's work programme and indicated therein, the secretariat will issue a tentative schedule and other pertinent details of these meetings after the necessary consultations have been made with the Chairmen of the Commission and of the Committee and with United Nations Headquarters, in conformity with the relevant Rules and Regulations applicable to the Commission and all its subsidiary bodies.

24. It was agreed that with two exceptions, the specialized meetings that had been proposed should not be convened until after the necessary studies had been carried out by the secretariat along the lines indicated in the Work Programme, as approved. On the other hand, the Committee recommended the convening, in January 1976, in Port of Spain, of a meeting at the expert level of member States of the Committee and of other interested Latin American countries served by the ECLA Office in Mexico and the ECLA Office in Bogotá, having a coastline in the Caribbean Sea, to deal with certain aspects of the

Law of the Sea and Marine Resources as approved in the Work Programme. Similarly, the Committee recommended that a specialized meeting of Rectors of the Universities of the Caribbean Countries members of the Committee, should be held in Port of Spain in April of 1976, in close collaboration with the United Nations University, to discuss questions related to science and technology, the production and processing of foodstuffs, care for health (mainly in rural areas) and education in relation to development.<sup>2/</sup>

Possible areas of co-operation of the Committee with other member countries of ECLA referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of ECLA resolution 358 (XVI)

25. With regard to item 6 of the agenda, on the above mentioned subject, the Committee approved at its first session a resolution which reiterates the request made at the sixteenth session of ECLA to the Executive Secretary to undertake, without further delay, a study aimed at identifying concrete activities that would contribute to strengthening co-operation between member countries of the Committee and other member countries of the Commission within the sphere of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá. The resolution also invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and pertinent United Nations specialized agencies to support the initiative referred to above. The full text of this resolution is annexed to this report (resolution 2 (I)).

---

<sup>2/</sup> The relevant consultations and preparations for the organization and convening of these two meetings were initiated by the secretariat after the end of the first session of the Committee in Havana, particularly with the Chairmen of the Commission and of the Committee and United Nations Headquarters, as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Co-operation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with the Committee

26. No specific resolution on this subject was felt to be necessary, since the observers and representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies had actively participated in the discussions of the Committee at its first session concerning the work programme to be carried out and had pledged their continuing support to the member countries and to the Committee itself. It was agreed, however, that the main points made in this connexion during the discussions should be summarized by the secretariat when completing the final version of the report on the first session.

Constituent Declaration of the Committee

27. At the outset of the first session, a draft "Constituent Declaration of the Committee" was proposed jointly by the delegations of Cuba and Guyana. After discussion and some modification at the Technical Level Meeting, it was approved as set forth in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/4 and submitted for the consideration of the Ministerial Level Meeting. After consideration and further modification at that Meeting, the "Constituent Declaration of the Committee" was formally approved as given in part III of this report.

Participation in CDCC meetings

28. A resolution was adopted regarding participation in meetings of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and is reproduced as resolution 1 (I) in part IV of this report.

Date and place of the second session of the Committee

29. In conformity with rule 11 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee before closing the first session, considered the question of the date and place of its next session.

30. In this connexion, the representative of the Dominican Republic conveyed to the Committee his Government's invitation for the next session to be held in Santo Domingo. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the generous hospitality offered by the Government of the Dominican Republic and agreed to recommend that the second session of the Committee should be held in Santo Domingo within one year, at a date to be fixed in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ECLA in accordance with the pertinent Rules of Procedure of the Committee and the Commission.

### III. CONSTITUENT DECLARATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Ministers of the countries within the sphere of action of the ECLA Office in Port of Spain and those of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, meeting in the city of Havana from 31 October to 4 November 1975 to inaugurate the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a subsidiary body of ECLA:

Recognizing that the Caribbean countries share a geographic, cultural and historic proximity that must be taken into account when establishing the forms and mechanisms for co-operation among them, and that they have also inherited similar economic structures and have similarities in the majority of social and economic problems they face;

Reaffirming that it is necessary to strengthen the unity and co-operation of these countries in order to carry out joint activities that will benefit the sub-region's economic and social development and increase its bargaining power as regards third countries or groupings of countries;

Reiterating that such co-operation constitutes a manifestly useful mechanism for bringing into play the potentialities of the countries of the sub-region with the intention of complementing their economies and achieving joint policies in such important spheres as trade, the obtaining of financial resources, agriculture, tourism, food, transportation, industry, energy, the transfer of technology and technical know-how, health, education and others;

Recognizing the importance and relevance of the sea and all its resources for the development, co-operation and self-determination of the Caribbean peoples;

Conscious of the pioneering role played by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and continued by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting economic integration within the sub-region;

Confident that economic, political and cultural co-operation among the countries of the Caribbean will contribute to the necessary unity of Latin America;

/Convinced that

Convinced that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offers a broad framework for implementing concrete projects and initiatives and for co-ordinating common actions and positions in all fields, thereby facilitating greater identity of interests between the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America;

Emphasizing that it is indispensable to pay special attention, to the relatively less developed and in most cases very small countries of the sub-region;

Affirming that the countries of the Caribbean are essentially raw material producers and should therefore maintain solidarity with the adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with the measures taken by producer associations of developing countries in that regard;

Stressing that all co-operation mechanisms must be guided by the principles of the equality, sovereignty and independence of States, solidarity and mutual benefit, without any discrimination that might arise as a result of differences in political, economic and social systems;

Reaffirming in the spirit of various United Nations resolutions, that the countries of the sub-region have the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure or coercion that might be used against any one of them for having exercised its legitimate rights;

Emphasizing that the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations, must be subject to the aims of development and the national interests of the countries of the sub-region and that it is necessary to exchange information on their activities in the territories of the countries of the Caribbean;

Empahsizing that the execution of joint projects in areas of common interest may be the best way to implement a policy of economic co-operation and complementation among the Caribbean countries;

/ Recognizing that

Recognizing that the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) has vast experience in the field of economic and social co-operation that can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual co-operation beneficial to their economic and social development;

Determined to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of their peoples for development and progress;

Declare their political will and their resolution to:

1. Carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the sub-region, thus promoting its economic and social development and advancing progressively towards better co-ordination of their countries' economies in the future. Based on recognition of the advantages of economic complementation, this policy will give impetus to co-operation among member countries, particularly in the implementation of joint projects, the exchange of experience and mutual aid, and through mechanisms - including trade - which will contribute to this end.
2. Carry out trade analyses, with emphasis on tariffs, customs procedures and other related aspects, with a view to harmonizing and simplifying the mechanisms to promote trade between the countries of the sub-region.
3. Utilize the experience accumulated by CARICOM and other bodies which is of value for the achievement of the aim of co-operation among the Caribbean countries.
4. Analyse the possibility of establishing multinational enterprises within the sub-region, owned and controlled by the Caribbean States and nationals of such States, in fields which are of mutual interest to the Caribbean countries.
5. Implement joint complementation projects in order to facilitate the development and optimum use of the Caribbean countries' human, natural, industrial, technological and financial resources.
6. Co-operate in the field of agriculture, in order to accelerate the development and use of appropriate and efficient techniques in

/this sector



this sector in the Caribbean countries and formulate joint policies promoting the agricultural complementation of the countries of the sub-region.

7. Carry out joint activities for increasing and improving national transportation facilities within the sub-region and with other countries.

8. Facilitate the development of fishing activities in the sub-region to make them a fundamental factor in import substitution as well as in increasing employment.

9. Examine, in collaboration with those countries within the sphere of action of the ECLA Office in Mexico and the ECLA Office in Bogotá that have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea, the question of a common Caribbean position on the Law of the Sea aimed specifically at securing international recognition for a special régime for the Caribbean multi-State archipelago within the framework of the new International Convention on the Law of the Sea.

10. Implement joint programme in the field of education and public health and in other areas selected for priority action in the social sectors, at every level, with the aim of promoting the optimum use of the sub-region's scientific knowledge in these fields as well as of its material and human resources.

11. Co-operate in the training and development of the human resources of the sub-region.

12. Co-operate in the field of tourism in order to promote research and other activities of common interest.

13. Co-operate in the strengthening of relations among our countries and peoples by establishing programmes of cultural exchange, including sports.

14. Develop adequate telephone, telegraph, postal and other means of communications within the sub-region.

15. Carry out action aimed at obtaining financial resources from the international community, the governments of the countries of the area, and other sources, for use in common projects for the benefit of the sub-region's economic and social development.

/16. Co-operate

16. Co-operate in the mutual transfer of technology and of technolgocial and scientific knowledge in order to facilitate the adaptation of imported technology and the development of domestic technologies and increase the bargaining power of the sub-region's countries in operations between the latter and countries outside the area on these matters.
17. Collaborate on the identification and utilization of a complex base of raw materials within the sub-region, especially energy sources and including research on solar energy.
18. Carry out joint programmes and projects aimed at better use and protection of the environment, including the preservation of the flora and fauna of the countries of the Caribbean, as well as their historical monuments and documents.
19. Offer effective economic assistance in cases of emergencies and situations resulting from natural disasters and co-operate in the field of meteorology with a view to reducing the harmful effects of hurricanes and tropical storms to a minimum.
20. Promote the development of activities and projects beyond the scope of this Committee within SELA in order to facilitate more complete identification of the positions and interests of the countries of the Caribbean with the rest of Latin America, recognizing SELA as the proper regional-level framework for co-operation, consultation and co-ordination among the member countries.
21. Observe the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, national independence, mutual benefit, solidarity and non-discrimination on account of differing social, political and economic systems, in all co-operation activities undertaken among the countries of the Caribbean.
22. Exercise solidarity in the face of any type of economic action, pressure or coercion directed against any of the countries of the sub-region that exercise their legitimate right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity; in the face of the actions of transnational corporations which do not observe the aims of economic and social development and do not take into account the interests of those countries; and in favour of the decisions adopted

/by producer

by producer associations of developing countries or groupings of nations, working to achieve equitable and remunerative prices for their products.

23. Co-operate in the adoption of concrete measures aimed at the development of the member countries of the Committee and promote initiatives to strengthen co-operation among them, aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the present Declaration.

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS  
FIRST SESSION

1 (I) PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling that ECLA resolution 358 (XVI) requested the Executive Secretary to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen the co-operation of the other member States of ECLA and Latin American integration groupings with the Committee;

Stressing that the aforementioned resolution emphasized that such studies should be directed especially toward those countries within the spheres of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá;

1. Invites the Associated Members and observers present at the first session in Havana - Belize, the West Indies Associated States and the Netherlands Antilles - to attend all future sessions and meetings of the Committee;

2. Decides that when approving its programme of specialized meetings or calling any such specialized meeting, it will determine what other Caribbean States coming within the spheres of activity of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá should be invited to attend as observers.

2 (I) POSSIBLE AREAS OF CO-OPERATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE WITH OTHER MEMBER  
COUNTRIES OF ECLA

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which recommends the establishment of a Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and which in its operative paragraph 3, requests the Executive Secretary to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen co-operation between the member countries of the said Committee and the other member countries of ECLA and integration groupings in Latin America;

Recognizing that the possibilities for the co-operation called for in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 358 (XVI) are most immediately promising among the countries within the sphere of action of the ECLA offices in Port of Spain, Mexico and Bogotá, because of their geographic proximity and community of interests;

Reaffirming the need to maintain and strengthen Latin American co-ordination and solidarity,

1. Reiterates the request made by ECLA to the Executive Secretary to undertake, without further delay, a study aimed at identifying concrete activities that would contribute to strengthening the co-operation between member countries of the Committee and other member countries of the Commission within the sphere of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and pertinent United Nations specialized agencies to support the initiative referred to in the previous paragraph.

V. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORK  
PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE

With respect to item 9 of the Agenda, the secretariat wishes to underline the following:

1. The work of the Committee will basically involve the holding of various types of meetings, co-ordination with other sub-regional institutions, the preparation of studies, and the promotion of initiatives on specific subjects. These activities involve financial consequences for the ECLA secretariat.
2. As regards the holding of meetings, in accordance with resolution 358 (XVI) of the Commission budgetary measures have been taken to provide for the holding of a regular annual meeting of the Committee. These measures are presently under study by the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Any additional meeting sponsored by the Committee itself will involve the financing of the travel costs of the secretariat staff, the fees, travelling and living expenses of the interpreters for the three working languages, as well as other expenditures. These additional costs shall be covered by the host country, aided by such means from other sources as may be mobilized for this purpose.
3. In this connexion, the secretariat understands that both in the case of the Meeting of Experts on the Law of the Sea and the Meeting of Rectors of Caribbean Universities, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is willing to pay the additional costs involved. The place, date and financing arrangements of the other meetings which have been proposed (on tourism, planning and international trade) remain to be settled at the next meeting of the Committee. In the event that the Committee should decide that these meetings be financed from the regular United Nations budget, the proper steps should be taken in the competent organs, following the rules laid down by the General Assembly.

/4. Meanwhile,

4. Meanwhile, the preparation of studies, co-ordination with other sub-regional institutions and the promotion of activities that may be envisaged in the Committee's work programme will call for the strengthening of the ECLA secretariat staff, mainly in the Port of Spain Office. In this respect, bearing in mind resolution 358 (XVI) mentioned above, it can be reported that the steps to provide this office with additional resources, which were undertaken soon after the approval of this resolution, are now under consideration by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The secretariat is confident that the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee participating in this session of the General Assembly will stress before the Fifth Committee the importance to the region of strengthening the Port of Spain ECLA Office in order to facilitate the implementation of the Committee's work programme.

5. Nevertheless, the additional resources that may be mobilized through these steps will do little more than permit the secretariat to carry out a minimum programme of co-ordination and promotion of activities. Additional research and the promotion of specific activities that need to be carried out in order to fulfill the priority tasks laid down by the Committee at its first session require the mobilization of additional means from other sources, and this too will require the help of all the Committee's member governments.

6. The secretariat especially wishes to point out that the close co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations system is essential for achieving the goals of the Committee. Similarly, the secretariat considers indispensable the close co-operation of the regional agencies, and particularly that of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Secretariat of the East Caribbean Common Market and the Secretariat of the recently-established Latin American Economic System.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Member countries of the Commission

#### COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

Head of delegation: Alfred T. Maycock, Minister of Development

Members: Reginald L. Wood, K. Neville Adderley, Carlton L. Wright

#### BARBADOS

Head of delegation: Cuthbert Edwy Talma, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of Finance and Planning

Member: George L. Reid

#### CUBA

Head of delegation: Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Deputy Prime Minister in  
charge of the Foreign Relations Sector

Members: Pelegrín Torras, Héctor Rodríguez Llompart, Ernesto Meléndez,  
Ricardo Cabrisas, José García Peña, Ricardo Alarcón,  
Ramón Pez-Ferro

Advisers: José R. Viera, Angel Pernas, Orlando Borrego,  
Carlos Martínez S., Abdo Soto, Roberto Pereda,  
Héctor Sardiñas, Isabel Hernández, Oscar Pino Santos,  
José A. Tabares, Pedro Díaz, Osvaldo Cárdenas,  
Ramón Perdomo, Michael Vázquez, Marcia Pérez, Omar García,  
Rolando González, Horacio Reyes, Armando López Coll,  
Rafael Nuñez Cuesta

#### GRANADA

Head of delegation: Derek Knight, Minister without portfolio

Member: Fabian Redhead

#### GUYANA

Head of delegation: Hugh Desmond Hoyte, Minister of Economic  
Development

Members: Harold Sahadeo, Deryck Small, John Mc Calmon,  
Joyce Sinclair

#### HAITI

Head of delegation: Gérard Dorcely, Under-Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs

Member: Pierre Louis Salomon

JAMAICA

Head of delegation: Dudley Thompson, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Members: Benjamin Clare, E. Marcel Knight, Cleve Hanson,  
Trevor J. Harker, Miss Masie Plummer

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of delegation: Milton Messina, Chairman, Foreign Trade  
Commission

Member: Mariano Augusto Alcántara

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Head of delegation: Cuthbert Joseph, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Members: George Rampersad, Annette Gonzáles

2. Associate members

BELIZE

Head of delegation: Santiago Perdomo, Minister of Trade and  
Industry

Members: Severo Pinto, Rafael Fonseca

WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES

Head of delegation: Augustus Compton, Executive Secretary, Council  
of Ministers

3. Observers

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Head of delegation: R.F. Pieterella, Minister of Economic Affairs  
and Trade

Member: T.M. Monzón

4. Representatives of United Nations  
specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Zin Henry.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Pedro Moral López

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

César Fernández Moreno

Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Lucila Jallade

Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

Marian Fila

5. Other United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Víctor Soler-Sala

D. Roen Repp

Víctor Raúl Montesinos

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Raúl Maldonado

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Sathamangalam R. Krishnaswamy

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Vicente Sánchez

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Gabriel Valdés

John Cella

Fernando Salazar-Paredes

Lars Erikson

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Felipe Paolillo

6. Intergovernmental organizations

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

William Gilbert Demas

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Carl W. Dundas

Commonwealth Secretariat

Dennis Irvin

Latin American Economic System (SELA)

Jaime Moncayo

Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA)

Jorge Brioso Domínguez

7. ECLA system

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

Enrique V. Iglesias

Nessim Arditi

Andrés Bianchi

Daniel Bitrán

Silbourne Clarke

Gert Rosenthal

Louis Smith

Jorge Viteri

Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

Luis Eduardo Rosas

Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

Guillermo Macció

United Nations Caribbean Regional Integration Advisory Team

Nassau A. Adams

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)

Raúl Trejos

Annex 2

FUNCTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE AS ADOPTED BY THE  
COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION \*/

---

\*/ Established under resolution 358 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America as a subsidiary body of the Commission. This resolution was approved by the Economic and Social Council at its 1971st meeting during its 59th session.

## Chapter I

### ORGANIZATION

1. The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee is a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), at the governmental level. As such, the Committee shall report to ECLA, which in turn shall report to the Economic and Social Council.<sup>1/</sup>

2. The Committee shall be made up of a Minister designated by each of the countries members of the Commission specified in resolution 358 (XVI), as ex-officio members of the Committee.

In the event that any of the Ministers is unable to attend a meeting, he may be represented by an accredited alternate representative designated by his Government.

3. The Ministers may be accompanied by such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be designated by their Governments, all with the usual credentials required for international meetings.

Such advisers and experts may represent their respective Ministers, and shall have the right to speak and to vote at any meeting of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

4. The Committee may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned and with the approval of the Commission, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

5. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Minister designated as ex-officio member of the Committee by the host country of the session and elected by the Committee. He shall continue as Chairman between one session and the next regular session.

6. If the Chairman of the Committee ceases to be the Minister designated as ex-officio member of the Committee by his country, the newly-designated Minister shall replace him as Chairman.

---

<sup>1/</sup> In conformity with Decision 65 (ORG-75), the Council will not consider any report exceeding 32 pages.

7. At each session the Committee shall also elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who may be Ministers, advisers or experts.
8. The Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Committee in that capacity, and his country shall meanwhile be represented by an alternate delegate.
9. The secretariat of the Committee shall be the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America, acting principally through the sub-regional office in Port of Spain. In the implementation of its work programme, the ECLA secretariat may co-operate with the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area, including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community and the West Indies Associated States.

## Chapter II

### FUNCTIONS

10. The functions of the Committee shall be as follows: To act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLA in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances.

To this end the Committee will:

- (a) determine the carrying out of research and studies in connexion with the objectives of advancing towards Caribbean economic integration and co-operation and dealing with social and economic development needs, especially in the relatively less developed countries;
- (b) propose to the participating governments concrete measures directed towards the development of the Caribbean area and greater integration of and co-operation among the economies of the Caribbean;
- (c) indicate to the secretariat initiatives which should be pursued with a view to strengthening co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the other countries members of ECLA and integration groupings of countries of the Latin American region;

(d) discuss and propose sub-regional and multinational technical co-operation programmes and projects to be carried out in the area.

### Chapter III

#### SESSIONS

11. The regular sessions of the Committee shall be held once a year.

At these sessions, the Committee, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ECLA, shall recommend the date and place of the next session, following the principle of rotation between the member States.

The Executive Secretary of ECLA shall issue the notice of convocation of these regular sessions.

12. In addition to the annual sessions referred to in the preceding rule, the Committee may hold other meetings, attended by the Ministers of their alternates, when this seems desirable from the standpoint of the continuity of the Committee's work.

In such cases, the Executive Secretary of ECLA, on his own initiative or at the request of any one of the members, shall issue the necessary notice of convocation, after consultation with the remaining members and in agreement with the Chairman of the Committee.

13. For sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies not covered by budget provisions approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the host country shall cover the cost of interpreters, translators, secretaries, interpretation equipment, mimeographs, meeting rooms, offices and such other facilities as may be necessary for the normal functioning of the meetings. A standard agreement shall be signed between the host country and the Executive Secretary of ECLA on the administrative arrangements for each session. For all other matters, the host country shall comply



with the principles set down in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

14. Two-thirds of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. Each member shall have one vote. Procedural matters may be decided by simple majority. Substantive matters shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Abstentions from voting shall not affect such majority. Should doubts arise whether a matter is substantive or procedural, the Chairman shall decide after consulting the Vice-Chairmen.

15. In all other respects, the conduct of the discussions and the voting procedure shall be governed by the Rules of Procedures and established practice of the Commission.

#### Chapter IV

#### THE SECRETARIAT

16. The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

17. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for meetings in close contact with the Chairman of the Committee and the authorities of the country serving as the host country for the meeting. At the beginning of each session, he or his representative shall present a report on the work done since the last session. In the periods between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, as far as possible, the governments of participating countries are kept informed of the progress of the work in hand.

18. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that, at least thirty days before the commencement of each session, member governments receive copies of the provisional agenda and of the reports and documents which are to be considered at the session in question.

This rule may be waived in the case of extraordinary meetings.

Chapter V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

19. The working languages of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.
20. Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Committee provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

Annex 3

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

## WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

### I. BACKGROUND

On 13 May 1975, during its 192nd Meeting (Sixteenth Session), the Economic Commission for Latin America approved resolution 358 (XVI) concerning the establishment of a Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), which in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of this resolution is to be made up of the countries "within the sphere of action of the ECLA office in Port of Spain and the Governments of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti and other Caribbean countries as they achieve independence".

This Committee, according to the above-mentioned resolution, would "act as a co-ordinating body for activities relating to development and co-operation and as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of ECLA".

The resolution approved by the Commission requests the Executive Secretary of ECLA "to co-operate with the Governments concerned on matters within his competence which are of concern to these countries" and further requests him "to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen the co-operation of the other member countries of ECLA and integration groupings of the Latin American region with the Committee referred to in paragraph 1, especially in the case of those countries within the area of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá".

Finally, the resolution invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, "to bear in mind the additional responsibilities assigned to the sub-regional office in Port of Spain and the projects in connexion with the work of the new Committee and the action referred to in paragraph 3".

Resolution 358 (XVI), along with the other resolutions approved by the Commission at its sixteenth session, was included in the Annual Report of ECLA covering the period 1 March 1974-6 May 1975. This Report was submitted for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which, at its 197th meeting held on 22 July 1975 in Geneva, took note of it and of the resolutions and recommendations contained therein. Thus, with this action on the part of the Economic and Social Council, ECLA has complied with paragraph 10 of its Terms of Reference, according to which the Commission may, with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

Subsequently, after seeking the initial reactions of the governments concerned and consulting with the Chairman of the Commission, arrangements were made to convene the first session of the Committee in Havana from 31 October to 4 November 1975, following the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to serve as host. The provisional agenda for the first session was circulated to the participating governments specified in the resolution as document E/CEPAL/CDCC/1.

In relation to item 5 of the Provisional Agenda, concerning the work programme of the Committee, the secretariat felt bound to present as a working document some preliminary proposals for the consideration of the governments. In preparing this document account was taken of the pertinent discussions of the Commission at its Port of Spain session, as well as the past experience gathered by the ECLA secretariat. Moreover it was considered essential, on the basis of a tentative draft, that a team from the secretariat should consult directly with the participating governments about the possible contents of the work programme.

The consultations with member governments underlined the need for action by the Committee and the secretariat in three main spheres: assistance in the promotion of economic and social development, the stimulation of better co-ordination within the Caribbean sub-region,

and promotion of co-ordination between the member countries of the Committee and other members of ECLA as well as the integration groupings of Latin America.

It was also generally underlined that in pursuing these efforts the Committee would be helping the Commission to fulfil its functions with respect to United Nations technical co-operation programmes, in particular by collaborating in the promotion and appraisal of these activities in the Caribbean sub-region.

## II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the first place, it should be borne in mind that a number of the member States of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee form part of an economic community (CARICOM),<sup>1/</sup> while others do not belong to any sub-regional group.<sup>2/</sup> The Committee is initially made up of the following member States: the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, with Belize and the West Indies Associated States participating in their capacity as Associate Members of ECLA.<sup>3/</sup>

In preparing a work programme, past experience in promoting co-ordination in the Caribbean needs to be taken into account. The last hundred and fifty years there were several attempts by metropolitan countries to set up some form of homogeneous grouping encompassing various entities of the region, but none of these succeeded. In some cases an attempt was made to create political units, and in other

- 
- <sup>1/</sup> Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies Associated States (WISA), i.e., Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Montserrat.
  - <sup>2/</sup> The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti.
  - <sup>3/</sup> In line with resolution 358 (XVI), as Surinam will achieve its independence in November 1975 it will be entitled to full membership in the Committee on admission to United Nations and ECLA membership.

cases to establish economic blocs. These attempts failed, essentially because they did not take proper account of the interests of the countries of the region.

Such advances as are now being achieved are different in that they are based on formulas conceived by the countries of the region themselves to serve their own interests and aspirations. Whatever the strategies selected for development and co-operation in the Caribbean, it is necessary to bear in mind that if such strategies are to have any chance of success the solutions should come basically from the Caribbean itself.

In view of the disparities in size and levels of development among the Caribbean area countries, it is also necessary to give special attention to the development needs of the relatively less developed countries, and particularly to those affected by their limited population and territory.

Finally, it must be borne in mind that the Committee's work programme needs to be compatible with the common interests which the Caribbean and other countries of the Latin American region and other groups of developing countries are pursuing in the global context.

### III. SPHERES OF ACTION

The most appropriate way of approaching the presentation of a work programme for the Committee is to identify the main problems affecting the majority of the Caribbean countries and to see how the Committee and the ECLA secretariat, with assistance from the regional and international communities, could assist in overcoming these. In view of the special features of the Caribbean countries and the nature of their problems, it is indispensable that the approach should be pragmatic and offer real possibilities for action in the short and medium term.

The majority of the member countries of the Committee lack experience, resources and adequate institutions for the formulation and implementation of economic and social development policies

designed to attain full and productive employment of the labour force. Also, it has clearly emerged that the governments place particular emphasis on structural change and that concerted action will be required both in the sub-region and in the international community in order to provide the necessary impetus and resources for dealing with these problems.

Within this context, stress was laid not only on the need for improvements in national programming but also on the need to dovetail these efforts with those aimed at greater co-ordination of programming at the CARICOM and also at the wider Caribbean level.

A. Technical co-operation among the Caribbean countries

The willingness of the countries themselves to share their capacities and experience is an essential prerequisite for collective action aimed at substantive changes of mutual benefit. Some of the countries possess a wealth of human, material and institutional resources which they could place at the disposition of other interested countries. It has been observed that experts from a similar environment frequently give more efficient assistance on account of their familiarity with the common problems of developing countries and their greater capacity of adaptation to local conditions. Similar considerations could be applied to the technology available in the countries of the Caribbean sub-region.

To expedite this process of mutual exchange, stress has been laid on the need to undertake special measures or programmes to overcome language barriers - practical instruction in the English, French and Spanish languages in all the member countries - and eliminate deficiencies in communication, data gathering and data distribution. It was suggested, for example, that a system for collecting technological and methodological data covering the sub-region should be established, in close collaboration with the universities and other research institutions of the area. It is also indicated that there is a need for the exchange of technology on low-cost housing geared to the lowest income groups in both rural and



urban areas, and that these programmes be linked as far as possible with those for community development. Another sphere that offers possibilities for intra-Caribbean co-operation is that of construction methods, and in particular planning as regards infrastructural facilities and the use of prefabricated elements in the construction of dwellings.

It is considered that a priority of the Committee should be mutual sub-regional co-operation in the spheres of public health and education, the latter especially in its relationship to the exchange of technology and particularly that which is most appropriate to the member States of the Committee for achieving increases in food production. In the context of mutual sub-regional co-operation in the transfer and adaptation of imported technologies and the development of indigenous technologies, particularly in food technology and food production, it will be necessary to review the possibilities of developing close collaboration among the universities, faculties and institutes of technology, engineering and agriculture in the area.

Collaboration among the universities and other research institutions could be the subject of a special sectoral meeting of the Rectors of universities of the Caribbean who are to meet under the sponsorship of the Committee in Port of Spain in close collaboration with the United Nations University. This meeting would discuss science and technology, the production and processing of foodstuffs, care for health (mainly in rural areas), and education in its relationship to development.

Other activities of the Committee regarding mutual co-operation could be: compilation and updating of specific requirements of the Caribbean countries in priority development sectors; collection and updating of data on the resources available, including training and development of human resources; exchange of technical co-operation among member countries (i.e., training facilities, expert services, consultant enterprises, supplies of equipment, etc.), so as to facilitate the utilization of the resources available on the basis of negotiations among the governments and/or through the execution of multilateral and bilateral programmes and projects; definition of areas in which

the member countries can provide technical co-operation or take advantage of that offered by other countries under similar conditions; and provision of assistance to developing countries so that they can set up their own systems of mutual technical co-operation, especially for the relatively less developed countries.

B. The agricultural sector

Problems in the agricultural sector of the majority of countries in the Caribbean are partly due to constraints linked with the structure of land tenure, lack or limited application of adequate technology, and presence of transnational enterprises on large expanses of land, which do not take into account the needs and objectives of domestic agriculture.

Notwithstanding the significant co-operation extended by the international community and regional and sub-regional agencies, the fact is that, in the majority of the member countries of the Committee, domestic food production has tended to remain stagnant. This has led to increasing food imports that have contributed to the accentuation of balance-of-payments deficits. The importance of surmounting the problems of this sector is thus very obvious when it relates to variables such as employment, supply of industrial inputs, the use of resources, the level of living of the rural population, migration from the rural areas to the cities, and even the development of tourism. For this reason, in order to achieve harmonious development of the Caribbean sub-region greater efforts should be made in this sector.

It is considered especially necessary to undertake research pertaining to tropical agriculture, including genetics, as technology and equipment developed in other climates is not generally applicable in the Caribbean. In this regard it will be necessary to study the experiences of some of the member countries of the Committee in specific branches of agricultural and livestock production, and to find ways and means of disseminating the positive results obtained among the member countries of the Committee. There is also a need to give

particular attention to the problems of transport, storage of food and food processing, and management aspects, all of which have special features in the Caribbean.

It is also important to conduct studies directed towards the wider and better use of appropriate fertilizers and to take measures to combat soil erosion and deal with other environmental problems which have long-range adverse effects on the agricultural sector. Moreover, the development of agro-industry and the setting up of appropriate agriculture structures could permit better exploitation of the potential for food production. Finally, it is considered fundamental to stimulate the active participation of the rural population in the development process.

National efforts to promote the formulation and implementation of rational policies of agricultural development ought to be analysed jointly with the experience in co-operation already underway within the framework of CARICOM, in order to identify new areas of co-operation in agricultural production. Therefore, schemes along the lines of those already being implemented as bilateral or multilateral projects, such as corn-soy bean production between Trinidad, Guyana and St. Kitts on the one hand and Belize and Jamaica on the other could be developed. Moreover, the requisite conditions could be defined for promoting and organizing: (i) the sub-regional production and industrial processing of crops; (ii) associations of producers-exporters for the sharing of experiences and promotion of reciprocal co-operation in the various aspects of the marketing of agricultural products, without discounting the possibility of exporting as a group to third countries.

### C. The industrial sector

The international and Caribbean agencies have co-operated considerably with member countries of the Committee, but even so industrial activity in the majority of the countries is still incipient. Substantial manufacturing growth will ensure a more rational use of internal resources and stimulate trade among the member countries, while correcting the external disequilibrium by means of import substitution and the expansion of exports to countries outside the area.

It is also necessary to strengthen direct linkages between agriculture and industry to achieve a satisfactory structural balance, particularly through agro-industries and forest-based industries.

In this respect the Committee will have to undertake a review of the different degrees of industrialization in the member countries so as to identify areas of complementarity and mutual co-operation. This review should lead to concrete results such as the planning and design of industrial plants, technico-economic feasibility studies, definition of more suitable arrangements for the exchange of technology, preparation of programmes for the training of technical personnel etc. The results thus obtained could serve as a basis for formulating future action plans of wider scope, such as those investigating the possibilities for co-ordination of the industrial policy of member countries or groups of countries with similar levels of development keeping always in mind the need to promote the industrialization of the relatively less developed countries.

A consequence of these efforts could be the formulation of a sub-regional energy programme which would include the development of present energy sources, supplemented by other types (solar, nuclear, and wind) as feasible, and the pooling of efforts at the technical level. A further consequence would be a better knowledge of indigenous raw materials, with a view to their industrial utilization.

Another area of co-operation could be the preparation of feasibility studies on the setting up of multinational Caribbean enterprises to exploit specific natural resources such as bauxite, nickel and petroleum based fertilizers with a view to achieving a higher degree of processing, bearing in mind the environmental implications.

#### D. The social sector

Jointly with the urgent need to promote and accelerate social development through changes in economic and social structures and the creation of employment opportunities, it is recognized that it is necessary to consider the diversity of situations existing both between the member States of the Committee and within the countries themselves. Special mention should be made of situations which affect actual levels and trends of demographic variables.

Although, in comparison with the rest of Latin America, population growth rates are not very high in most countries of the Caribbean, many have problems such as high population density, internal migration with excessive tendency to urbanization and the migration of qualified personnel to countries outside the area. Other problems indicated are inadequate educational facilities and labour training programmes, the deterioration of housing and proliferation of shanty towns, inadequate water supply, insufficient drainage facilities and, in general, insufficient public health services, and high rates of malnutrition which retard the development of the individual and the family.

Bearing in mind that ECLA has a Regional Population Programme, it is considered that activities destined to serve the conditions and requirements of the member States of the Committee should be included within the framework of this Programme. Among the main points to be included, particular reference may be made to the areas of the migration of qualified personnel and the "brain drain", growth and mobility of the labour force, low levels of employment and maldistribution of income, the factors conditioning women's participation in the labour force, demographic growth, redistribution of the population and its incidence on regional development, demographic and social statistics systems for planning, training programmes in matters related to population and its interrelations with economic and social planning. In those fields, the Regional Programme could collaborate with governments which so request in the establishment and functioning of national institutions dealing with demographic aspects of planning.

In other fields of the social sector, and without underestimating the internal efforts already made or the magnitude of those still to be undertaken, the Committee will concentrate its attention on specific projects, adapted to the strategies of development and the priorities of its member States. As far as employment is concerned, and taking into account work already in progress, research would be in non-demographic aspects such as the demand for labour in different economic organizations (e.g., peasant economy, plantations, manufacturing), wages and/or income obtained through employment and/or self-employment; interest groups involved and their bargaining power.

Within this context, the action of the Committee will be directed towards areas of common interest in which regional co-operation can

produce concrete results, benefiting from such things as the exchange of technologies. Special emphasis will be placed on the following aspects relating to health and education.

#### E. Public health

It is recognized that substantial differences and even extreme situations exist in this field, and priority attention should therefore be given to efforts aimed at their reduction, with particular attention to the relatively less developed countries. Consequently, suitable areas for international co-operation include those related to mother and child health, the reduction of infant mortality, nutrition, environmental health, development of human resources, extension of health services - especially in rural areas - and improvement in statistical and information systems.

Within this framework, attempts will be made to ensure that the studies and economic programmes implemented under the auspices of the Committee include, as much as possible, a specific component related to their implications for health.

The Committee agreed on the desirability of setting up a sub-regional institution to monitor and assist in the prevention of epidemics and the spread of communicable diseases affecting human, animal and plant life within the area.<sup>4/</sup>

#### F. Education and culture

On the basis of past experience in the region, the Committee will orient its efforts to help those countries or regions which show signs of relatively lesser development. In order to reach the objectives set, the collaboration of academic centres of the Caribbean will be sought as well as that of international organizations.

Action in the field of education, apart from the extension of services and qualitative improvements, will facilitate the promotion, strengthening and preservation of Caribbean cultures. The appropriate use of public information media, cultural extension, sports development and systematic collaboration among universities and research institutions in the area will be important components in education and cultural policies.

---

<sup>4/</sup> A preliminary suggestion was made that it might be located in Cuba.

The assistance that may be provided to the countries of the area through the UNESCO/ECLA/UNDP regional project on education and development for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is now in course of execution, is worthy of note.

#### G. Tourism

For many years tourism was considered as a source of foreign exchange earnings which helped to reduce the balance-of-payments deficits of the Caribbean countries. However, recent studies would appear to cast doubts on this, since they show that many of the consumer goods and industrial inputs required to satisfy tourist demand are imported, while a large proportion of tourist earnings returns to the metropolitan countries in the form of profits, interest on investments, commissions and royalties, leaving only a small remainder for services and the sales of some artisan-type products. The formulation of policies on tourism should take into account the real economic and social contribution of this activity. In any event, however, significant investments in the hotel industry and in other installations designed to attract foreign tourists actually exist, and these, together with the labour force employed in tourism, makes it imperative to assign resources capable of improving its operation and contribution to the economy as a whole.

Any multinational strategies and projects for the development of tourism which are formulated should also place emphasis on tourism of the cultural type, while at the same time adopting measures destined to increase the number of visitors and intensify substitution of imported inputs and the utilization of national resources, to ensure that greater benefits are reaped from tourism by the countries of the sub-region. Since most of the tourism to the Caribbean comes from the metropolitan countries (United States and Western Europe), programmes should be studied and formulated for promoting tourism from the rest of the world and especially from Latin America to the Caribbean and vice versa, with a view to stimulating the interchange and improving mutual acquaintance and sentiments of mutual solidarity and co-operation.

Special efforts should be made to prevent tourist facilities for foreigners from dislodging the national population from their own centres of attraction or creating any type of social discrimination. It is also necessary to adopt measures so that such facilities do not affect either the environment or the potential exploitation of the natural resources of member countries. A related problem is that of sales of land adjoining beaches to persons or foreign enterprises from the metropolitan countries. Furthermore, preventative measures should be taken against social problems exported from the metropolitan countries, like drugs, prostitution and gambling.

The Committee will seek the collaboration of the Caribbean Tourist Research Centre, among other institutions, in order to formulate tourism projects that aid the economic development of the member States of the Committee.

Considering the wide importance of tourism in the Caribbean, it is generally accepted that a meeting at the expert level should be convened to analyse, among other things, the extent to which tourism really favours the Caribbean countries, and to work out means that would ensure the retention in the countries of the greatest benefits deriving from tourism.<sup>5/</sup>

#### H. Transport, communications and related services

An integration problem which is much more crucial for the Caribbean than for other sub-regional groupings is the fact that nearly all the member countries of the Committee are separated by varying expanses of sea. An efficient shipping service between them is thus an indispensable prerequisite for the success of any integration effort. A considerable amount of technical co-operation has been provided in this respect, as well as in the improvement of installations and equipment and of port organization, but the question of inter-island shipping by schooners which handle the bulk of trade, especially of agricultural goods between the smaller islands and the rest of the Caribbean, has not yet received the special attention it deserves.

---

<sup>5/</sup> Cuba would be prepared to consider the possibility of hosting this meeting if necessary.



The recently established Caribbean Multinational Shipping Corporation (NAMUCAR) could be the basis for solving some of the problems encountered, but there are others for which the Committee's action would be required. These include in the first instance a thorough study of the shipping service provided by schooners or other coastal vessels among the smaller islands and between them and the rest of the Caribbean, with a view to proposing for implementation a rational shipping scheme of suitable and adequately equipped coastal vessels in order to complement the West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO) and other shipping enterprises in the work of transshipment. The co-ordination of these services with WISCO activities is a primary area for action.

Action should also include measures to protect against unilateral decisions by the shipping conferences on freight rates and services, the formulation of a common shipping policy aimed at harmonizing the legal provisions on shipping, the promotion of the establishment of new sub-regional transport users' councils and associations and machinery for consultation between these and the shipping conferences, and the improvement and co-ordination of port development policies with a view to improving the installations, equipment and methods of organization and operation of port facilities. Among other problems to be faced are the introduction of new unitized systems of cargo by transport enterprises, along with the reorganization of insurance, customs and other activities in line with these systems. The establishment of navigation schools and other maritime institutions for the training of seamen should be stimulated.

In the field of air transport, there are various State-owned and private airlines in the area, but their operations are mainly oriented towards extra-regional transport. Furthermore, there are no circuits linking the majority of the member countries of the Committee. The infrequency of regular flights limits a larger flow of passengers, and the air transport of light cargo does not seem to be significant. For these reasons the possibilities of improving air-transport intercommunications should be studied.

Similarly, telephone, telegraph and postal communications are still very deficient. Improvement in these fields would result in increased relations and would facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects which fall within the scope of the Committee. It is therefore necessary to study ways of improving these services through the adoption of adequate measures.

#### I. Marine resources

More rational advantage should be taken of the fishery resources of the Caribbean as, among other things, their exploitation would contribute to a considerable increase in the supply of low-priced protein-yielding foods, with the double advantage of substituting imports of high-cost meat products and helping to lower the cost of basic subsistence and improving the nutritional level of the population. In addition to this, the adequate development of fisheries, including coastal fishing and fish farming, could provide new products for export outside the area and create employment in fisheries, in plants for the processing and packing of marine products, and in the construction and repair of fishing vessels.

It will be necessary to examine environmental protection of the Caribbean and its shore line from such dangers as oil spillage and its adverse effects on the exploitation of marine resources. The availability of live marine resources in the area and their processing at sea and in shore-based plants will also be studied.

In order to help the member States of the Committee to protect their basic rights and essential economic interests as regards marine resources and to deal comprehensively with these matters, it has been requested that the ECLA secretariat convene a special meeting of the member States of the Committee, at the expert level, with the participation of other interested Latin American countries which come within the area of action of the ECLA office in Mexico and the ECLA office in Bogotá and have a coastline on the Caribbean.

Since the issue of the Law of the Sea is not within the area of competence of ECLA, the secretariat should request, on behalf of the member States of the Committee, the strongest possible support from the Secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, within the limits of its own competence and practical possibilities.

The agenda of the meeting of experts should include, inter alia, an exchange of views on the issues being examined at the Conference on the Law of the Sea, with a view to unifying positions at the Conference, and an analysis of the possibilities of obtaining, within the framework of the future General Law of the Sea, a special regime on the Law of the Sea for the Caribbean. The group of experts should present to the Committee their comments and recommendations for future political action.<sup>6/</sup>

#### J. Coastal area development

If coastal areas are defined as the interface between land and sea, where the sea substantially influences the environmental aspects of the land bordering it, then almost all the region covered by the member countries of the Committee constitutes a coastal area, and its development should consequently be undertaken through a multidisciplinary approach.

The Caribbean sub-region is particularly suitable for this approach, since a large part of the human activity is concentrated along the sea, and this constitutes, in addition to similarities in historic and cultural traditions, a further unifying factor between the countries. In view of this, the Group of Experts on Development of Coastal Areas, convened by the United Nations in New York from 11 to 15 November 1974, recommended the planned development of the Caribbean sub-region, using the expertise of the entire United Nations system in technical and scientific matters.<sup>7/</sup>

---

<sup>6/</sup> It is recommended that the ECLA secretariat convene the meeting of experts in January 1976 and accept the generous offer of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to serve as host for the meeting.

<sup>7/</sup> See Marine questions, coastal area management and development. Report of the Secretary-General (Document E/5648, 8 May 1975).

The Committee will examine in due course the programme of development recommended by the Group of Experts, which includes a number of objectives relating, inter alia, to information collection, the study of beach erosion and sedimentation, the problems presented by the exploitation of offshore oil, dangers from land-based pollution, the investigation of transport and distribution, strategy formulation for the utilization of swamps and wetlands, and the promotion of recreation, tourism and fishing. All these activities would be embodied into concrete projects such as surveys on coastal resources and activities, land use and pollution control, erosion, tourism, and fisheries, as well as training and its regional application.

#### K. Regional co-operation

In resolution 358 (XVI) the Commission reaffirmed the importance of economic co-operation and integration as one of the means of achieving economic and social progress in the sub-region. The ECLA member States from Latin America and the Caribbean, for their part, have reaffirmed the importance of co-operation and co-ordination of their economic policies as one of the means for attaining the economic and social progress of the region. The recent creation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offers wide scope for achieving this objective. The activities and work programme of the Committee will correspond to the will expressed in the constitutive document of SELA.

In this connexion, the work programme of the Committee will include the studies required to complement integration efforts already under way in the sub-region. Among others, it will include studies that could help member countries not belonging to CARICOM to take decisions on forms of closer co-operation between themselves and the Community, and it could likewise help members of CARICOM to decide on the advisability of expanding CARICOM or creating some other form of association with the other Caribbean countries.

Consideration will also be given to the organization of markets within the sub-region aimed at expanding intra-regional trade, including the promotion of import substitution at the sub-regional level, with adequate safeguards.

Resolution 358 (XVI) further requests the Executive Secretary of ECLA "... to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen the co-operation of the other member countries of ECLA and integration groupings of countries of the Latin American region with the Committee... especially in the case of those countries within the area of action of the ECLA offices in Mexico and Bogotá". This reflects some of the concerns which have been growing up in recent years regarding the possible linking-up of such sub-regional Latin American groupings as CARICOM, the Central American Common Market and the Andean Group.

To date, proposals about these two aspects have been of a preliminary nature and have involved outlines of studies aimed at identifying points where such a link would appear to be most promising and quantifying the magnitude and type of resources required for such projects as may be considered most viable.

In view of the mandate given in resolution 358 (XVI), the Committee will examine this subject so as to give the secretariat a basis for programming these future activities. During their first stage, these activities would be oriented towards the preparation of comparative analyses of the three integration schemes mentioned, the examination of alternative development options or prospects, and the encouragement of mutual co-operation, so as to seek targets which would help to maximize the multiplier effects and the momentum of the integration efforts.

#### L. International trade

One of the most outstanding characteristics of the majority of the Caribbean countries is that they are highly dependent on foreign trade. Moreover, a very important part of their exports consists of raw materials whose production and trading are still mainly in the hands of large transnational enterprises.

Nevertheless, some of these countries have wide experience both in the field of integration, as is the case of CARICOM, and in import substitution and other development aspects, including various types of State control, both in foreign trade activities and in external financing.

This shows the need to seek appropriate forms of diversification and expansion of trade relations with other countries of the area, to stimulate even more commercial interchange, and consideration of mechanisms which restrict or eliminate the adverse influence of transnational enterprises.

At the same time, account must be taken of the impact on the balance of payments of these countries exerted by inflation which has its origin in certain developed countries, and which is transmitted through importation thus aggravating the external financial situation of the developing countries and seriously impairing the implementation of their development plans.

For these reasons the work programme of the Committee must include an analysis of the external trade of all its member States, in order to determine the nature of the obstacles to trade and identify those products where possibilities exist for increasing reciprocal trade. Within this framework it would be necessary to consider studies on tariffs and customs procedures affecting external trade, and such other related matters as transport and communications, with a view to co-ordinating interchange and simplifying customs procedures.

A further task will be the determination of trade obligations and commitments with third countries, separating out those of an extra-regional character (e.g., those deriving from GATT or from the association of some of the Caribbean countries with countries or groups of countries outside the Latin American region). This will serve to clarify the situation as regards the obstacles which may stand in the way of the co-operation process as a result of such extra-regional relationships and commitments. The preceding tasks should also be viewed in the light of the specific problems being faced by Caribbean countries as regards the traditional export items and the need to preserve or to seek favourable treatment for those commodities abroad.

The efforts of the countries which make up the Committee, through their actions within other organizations such as the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA), could contribute significantly to the possibilities for intra-regional trade as well as trade with countries outside the sub-region.

In view of the importance that the countries attribute to international trade, it is accepted that a meeting of experts should be convened as soon as studies in this field to identify the problems confronting the countries have been completed and circulated. The central purpose of the meeting would be to delineate the concrete actions that the member States can take in order to stimulate their reciprocal trade.

#### M. Natural disasters

The Caribbean sub-region often suffers the effects of natural disasters, mainly hurricanes, which cause great loss of life and severe damage. In addition to the assistance that the Committee could endeavour to promote within the United Nations system, it is considered necessary that the prevention of the adverse effects of this type of phenomena should be included as an extra element in development plans, policies or strategies of member countries. It is also considered necessary to set up a sub-regional network of early warning systems so as to be able to alert the population in time. The combined improvement of meteorological and telecommunications systems is a key factor in this respect.

Annex 4

ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE OPENING MEETING  
OF THE COMMITTEE



TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN  
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Havana, Cuba, 3 November 1975

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

I am glad to open the first session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. The establishment of this Committee reflects a long-standing concern of its Member Governments and of the United Nations. A relatively short time has elapsed since the initiative for its creation was put forward in Port of Spain, at the sixteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America, chaired by Prime Minister Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago. The board support this initiative received in the Commission, and later in the Economic and Social Council, augurs well for the future work of the Committee. I know I reflect the feelings of all present here when I express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Cuba for its warm and generous hospitality.

The fact that this meeting is taking place with such a distinguished group of Caribbean representatives is also significant in various other ways. It certainly constitutes a clear demonstration of the growing desire of Caribbean peoples to build upon their shared affinities and to explore together how best to unite their efforts to accelerate their economic and social development. Such efforts will no doubt be undertaken within the overall context of Latin American economic co-operation and global interdependence.

That this broader movement of constructive co-operation should develop in the Caribbean at this particular moment is most encouraging and should be warmly welcomed. It will doubtlessly facilitate the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the United Nations system and of ECLA, and will complement the most valuable work being conducted by other intergovernmental organizations such as the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Development Bank and the East Caribbean Common Market. It should also seek to harmonize its action with other endeavours of development co-operation within and outside Latin America.

We must not underestimate the magnitude of the task before us in redressing the dangerous economic and social imbalances that still prevail in the living standards of nations and peoples, and in the satisfaction of their economic and social needs and aspirations. We have been moving forward, but much too slowly, especially when we recall that two-thirds of humanity have conditions of life that are totally unacceptable on humanitarian, economic and social grounds. Furthermore, the maintenance of international peace itself cannot be ensured without

the elimination of the serious disparities that unfortunately still exist between the few who are affluent and the many who are poor. While there is no substitute for the internal efforts that each nation must make to accelerate its own economic and social progress, it is equally evident that in this increasingly interdependent world no country and no people, regardless of size or wealth, can forego international co-operation. Although these are very fundamental premises, their full acceptance and application by the international community has proved to be very difficult. Nevertheless, we should be encouraged that these problems are now receiving intensified international attention and understanding and are given a far higher priority for action, so that we may achieve effective solutions through mutually acceptable processes of negotiation.

It is in this spirit that we should view with optimism the advances made at the recent seventh special session of the General Assembly devoted to international co-operation and development. The unanimous agreements reached there will surely facilitate the difficult negotiations that lie ahead. The Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order together with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the more specific measures agreed upon at the special session should serve as the basic framework for continuing action by all Member Nations. It is essential that sincere political will on the part of all concerned must prevail in the dialogue that will now follow. That is perhaps the main function that the United Nations machinery is called upon to perform - to provide a dynamic and continuing forum where fundamental problems and differences can be clearly identified; where the willingness to persist in the search for satisfactory solutions becomes the essential ingredient of negotiation; and where agreed solutions may be implemented with determination and in good faith. We shall be judged harshly if we are not willing and capable of meeting the pressing challenges and responsibilities before us in the establishment of a new international economic order.

In this process, the Caribbean countries and peoples have a common need for mutual co-operation, and as this meeting clearly demonstrates, the determination to achieve it. The valuable integration efforts already underway in this area clearly reflect this co-operative approach, as does the recognition of the special problems and needs of the least developed Caribbean countries. I am sure that, as was the experience with ECLA's Committee, of Economic Co-operation in Central America, this Caribbean Committee will prove to be a useful mechanism for convergent action not only within the Caribbean area itself, but also with the rest of Latin America and the United Nations membership as a whole. Moreover, given the spirit and vigour of the Caribbean peoples and their leaders, I am confident that the whole international community will benefit from the fruitful contributions that we have come to expect from them.

Therefore, I sincerely wish all of you great success in the important common venture which you are launching today.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTOR AND  
HEAD OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION

Dr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA,  
Dr. Gabriel Valdés, Representative of UNDP,  
Licenciado Jaime Moncayo, Permanent Secretary of SELA,  
Mr. William Demas, President of the Caribbean Development Bank,  
Mr. Edwy Talma, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados,  
Ministers and Representatives of the Member Countries,  
Representatives of international agencies,  
Comrade members of the Revolutionary Government:

For the Cuban people and its Revolutionary Government it is both a privilege and a gratifying responsibility that the member countries of this Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee decided to hold its first meeting on our island.

The Caribbean consciousness of the Cubans arose at the same time as their Latin American consciousness, and both blossomed over a century ago, evoked by their incipient national feelings. José Martí, who was in all things farseeing, said in his time that "The Antilles ... must together be liberated or together perish", but, as he had faith in the peoples, he knew that our Antilles would liberate themselves.

Today, we are meeting on the road to liberation that we have decided to undertake. You can be sure, esteemed Ministers and representatives of our region, that the hospitality extended to you by our people is not merely a sign of that Cuban courtesy which has become proverbial, but also an expression of the fraternity stemming from the very heart of a Cuba that feels deeply rooted in its Caribbean area.

We would all have been pleased if the first meeting of our Committee could have been carried out with the presence - so desired by himself - of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Honorable Kurt Waldheim. We deeply regret his absence this morning, since it is due to the painful fact that in a region in the process of being decolonized, and among countries of our own underdeveloped world, the danger of war has arisen.

We understand the obligations that keep the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. In the midst of the struggle for its survival, when it decided to be completely independent, Cuba itself constituted for a moment the epicentre of a possible world conflict.

We cannot forget that the first visit of a Secretary-General of the United Nations to this land came about at such a moment of imminent catastrophe for all of humanity. The fact that the Prime Minister of Cuba then consented to the emergency visit requested by U Thant was proof that Cuba knew how to assume its obligations toward the international community and valued, in all its inestimable dimension, the supreme importance of "peace in our time". Likewise, the refusal of the Commander-in-Chief of the Cubans, Fidel Castro, backed by all of our people, to submit to the dictates which a power which then believed its threats to be irresistible tried to force upon us was supreme evidence that this small country preferred nuclear immolation to the humiliation and the contempt of its sovereign rights.

We are certain that in that dramatic episode, Cuba, through the steadfastness of its people and leaders, made a clear contribution to the cause of those countries which count solely on moral weapons to guarantee independence. We also served, beyond a doubt, the attainable dream of many millions of human beings who wish peace between nations to be a peace with dignity for all.

Now, Mr. Executive Secretary of ECLA, illustrious leaders of the brother countries of the region, representatives of international organizations, we meet in a different atmosphere. There still persists against Cuba the economic blockade utilized by the power that used it, along with military attacks and attempts at diplomatic isolation, as a means of coercion of our sovereign decisions. But the policy that inspired these aggressions has been defeated and its instigators and subordinate executors have disappeared into the void of history.

We are here in the exercise of a pluralism which is the basis of the growing international detente. Allow me to say that on implementing its willingness to enter into dialogue, Cuba merely reaffirms what its highest representative has so often reiterated: that we shall be friends of our friends, that we respect those who respect us, and that we shall use our offensive capacity only to defend ourselves.

I take this opportunity to inform you that this policy is being discussed and approved by all the adults and young people in our country - more than six million Cubans - as they examine, in an open forum, the Draft Constitution of the Republic and the Draft Programmatic Platform of the Communist Party of Cuba on the eve of its First Congress.

Therefore, nothing could be more fully in keeping with our Latin American and Caribbean aspirations than the initiative of the illustrious Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams, which led, during the recent sixteenth session of ECLA in Port of Spain, to the resolution to create this Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee that we are setting up today.

I recall now that when we met seven years ago in Venezuela, I had the opportunity of suggesting to the then Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, Mr. Carlos Quintana, the desirability of starting the study of all the possibilities for subregional co-operation in the Caribbean. Shortly afterwards, when our friend Dr. Enrique Iglesias, whom I am happy to greet on behalf of the Revolutionary Government, took over this office, we also discussed in great detail Cuba's concepts on the prospects of this area in which we are located.

At that time, we were not only dispersed, but also split and counterposed. But Cuba had faith in history and in the peoples that - in the final analysis - determine it. We knew that the moment for Latin American union was not far off and that the inexorable contradiction with those who have plundered, stagnated and divided us, would lead us to rid ourselves of the rulers in lackey's livery and join hands despite differing criteria.

That is what we are doing now in Latin America.

And the Caribbean cannot be absent from this continental task.

Because in this Caribbean - and especially in its Antilles - the urgent need for changes and for the unity to set them in motion is more pressing than in any other part of our America.

We could quote many economists and sociologists in order to explain our problems and outline our difficulties. But, many centuries ago, poets usurped the divine gift of defining and summarizing. And there is a poem which, according to the legend, "was written by Nicolas Guillen, Antillean, in the year nineteen hundred and thirty four", which paints a masterful picture of our afflictions. In it, we read:

"West Indies!, coconuts, tobacco, brandy...  
black-skinned folks with a smile always handy!  
Conservative and liberal too;  
raise some cattle and cane for you.

Here some days there's cash to be had,  
but most of the time you live pretty bad."

...

"We've got Chinese, white, black and mixed;  
but remember that our colors are cheap,  
for after years of contracts and tricks  
So there's no "stable tone" as you can see."  
We have been countries of:  
"Terracotta colonels,  
politicoes that rob and flaunt,"  
Where it was believed that:  
"Yankees give us money  
to clear away the clouds;"

And people were advised that "it's not just bending your back, but also bowing your head".

And always - as the poet said - "Let the dance go on!"

Unfortunately, these verses written in 1934 are still only too topical. In a very recent study on "The United States and the Caribbean", published with the sponsorship of Columbia University, the North American Frank McDonald describes in scientific terms what Guillen had summed up in imagery: transnational company executives, the almost always white "elite", the professional middle class "caught in the undesirable situation of knowing what the majority of the population under it must be suffering, while it accepts a reasonable portion of the profits, goods and services which fall to it from above".

If we are here it is because we know this and we want to change it. We are not all in agreement concerning the ways of carrying out this change. But we do know that any change means defense of the wealth that up to now we have been swindled out of and also economic development that - although unavavoidably based on the capacity of our peoples for sacrifices and creation - none of us can achieve only by ourselves.

The conviction that the battle against underdevelopment must be, unavoidably, a joint fight by those who have been condemned to economic stagnation is derived, in the first place, from the criterion that that underdevelopment is not an inevitable consequence of the poverty, reduced size and much less of any genetic incapacity of the peoples for progress, but that rather, on the contrary, it is a historical fact which centres around the phenomenon of past colonialism and contemporary imperialism. Rostow's pseudo-scientific explanations have proved as prematurely obsolete as those of Gumplowicz a century ago.

We are not underdeveloped, we were forced to remain in underdevelopment. Therefore, our development is somewhat more than the drafting of a plan for development. Above all, it means defending ourselves from those who wish to keep us backward in order to continue despoiling us, and see in the possible growth of our economies merely a vehicle for modern and more subtle ways of utilizing the natural resources of these lands.

The creation of the Committee in which we are gathered together indicates that the countries of the Caribbean have decided in favour of this imperative unification of efforts. But, it must be said, we are not attempting to isolate our geographic subregion, nor do the member countries believe that the Caribbean can progress apart from the objectives of progress that Latin America as a geographic and historical unit has set itself.

The members of the Caribbean Committee have growing bilateral and even multilateral links with the neighbouring countries, and we all consider the establishment of the Latin American Economic System a decisive step in the history of the continent. I feel that I am

interpreting a unanimously shared feeling in welcoming Mr. Jaime Moncayo, Executive Secretary of SELA, and saying to him that the Caribbean wishes to unite in order to join, with that added strength derived from our co-ordination in the impulse which the cause of the development of Latin America has received through the constitution of a body where, for the first time, our America is gathered without exclusions and can, therefore, speak "with its full voice" to the "other America", be it in the dialogue of negotiations, which we desire; in protest, when necessary, or in quarrel when - as has happened so many times - we are not left any other alternative.

Perhaps those who view this association of countries from a distance consider that their diverse colonial origins, which left their mark in different languages and diverse cultural influences, might prove to be an obstacle to the co-operation we have begun. Beyond a doubt, language barriers separate us, and the Spanish, English, French and Dutch colonial molds have stamped substantial differences among us. It is precisely because of this that in the programme of action which we shall begin to examine, primary interest is devoted to the learning of languages so that the obstacles become links and, at the same time, the cultural exchanges which will bring us closer together are assured.

But it must be said, furthermore, that we have a common foundation. On the one hand, unlike certain regions of the continent where the aboriginal peoples had created cultures which were integrated with European civilization in reciprocal influences, our Caribbean aborigines, some fierce, others excessively gentle, had not yet overcome the primitive stage. Almost all of them were exterminated without leaving cultural traces. The colonizers became the lords of these islands and brought from Africa the blacks which they needed for slave labour. What appeared to be dazzling gold deposits and the prospects created by sugar, attracted toward the Caribbean the ambitions of the emerging European capitalists who disputed Spain's predominance. The Caribbean came to be, as Dr. Williams described it, "The Cockpit of Europe". Whether the lords were English, French or Spanish, the workers came from the same African tribes. Thus, the blacks contributed the common ingredient. Their mythological beliefs and their songs of pain and protest permeated the cultures of opposite origins, Latin or Saxon. Then the creoles evolved and, whether black or white, although we speak phonetically a different language, we all respond to the echoes of the same drums and we move to the beat of the same rhythm. Furthermore, we carry within us a common grief produced by the long colonial servitude. And lastly, we are united by this sea, once populated by pirates and corsairs, and which now serves as a link for common ventures.

There is, therefore, nothing artificial in our decision to unite. And the programme presented for our consideration by the ECLA secretariat confirms this. The advances in the study of our mutual languages and the cultural interrelation which we proclaimed will be instrumental toward an efficient exchange in the fields of education

and public health, research in agriculture and cattle raising as well as in the industrial production of foods. We are expected to examine the possibilities in the field of transportation, where steps as important as NAMUCAR have already been taken. The independence of our communications with respect to the transnational monopolies should be an immediate objective.

On the other hand, the existence of vast mineral deposits - petroleum, nickel, bauxite, iron - provides us with the opportunity of coming to an agreement and working with other SELA countries in order to take advantage of the conditions of a market that will be quite broad when it passes from insular to Caribbean. Thus, we shall obtain the benefits of economies of scale and of the specialization that they will make available.

We cannot but take into account, in drawing up this programme, the experiments in co-ordination which have taken place up to now. CARIFTA, CARICOM and the Caribbean Development Bank are antecedents which aid us. The existence of these instruments which have already been created will not be weakened, but on the contrary, will be strengthened in proportion as the work programme we are to discuss in our session pressures us with its demands. We extend cordial greetings to Dr. Demas, President of the Bank.

The rules of procedure that our experts have discussed in the initial phase will provide the necessary framework for future action. They are conceived to prevent the Committee from becoming one more formal mechanism within the international bureaucratic system, which has given rise to so many criticisms. It depends on us to make it an effective instrument of work. This is a responsibility which we assume before our peoples.

The Committee is defined by the same resolution that brought it into existence as "a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America on a governmental level" ... At times it is forgotten that ECLA is not an administrative body, but rather a meeting of governments, and that if that body stops being effective at any time, the governments are in no small way responsible.

Precisely because this Committee is a subsidiary of ECLA, we face the problem of how to reconcile the interests of our countries, when they organize themselves to defend and promote their development, with the presence and action in ECLA of non-Latin American powers whose metropolitan and neocolonial aims contradict those aspirations, Cuba would like to point out, with complete frankness, that it finds in that contradiction an additional motive for continuing to proclaim, as we did in Quito, the need for the Economic Commission for Latin America to have a structure corresponding to its name and its aims, so that it would once and for all be an Economic Commission of Latin American and



for Latin America - something which will not necessarily make it a body counterposed to continental and international dialogue. In this context, SELA gives us an example to imitate.

As members of the United Nations system, the member countries expect from that system's agencies, when organizing the Committee, not only understanding of its aims but also help in their fulfillment. The presence in this room of qualified representatives from some agencies called upon to work for us, guarantees that aspiration. Let us emphasize that the Committee is confident that the United Nations Development Programme, represented here by an imminent Latin American, Dr. Gabriel Valdes, will provide its continuous co-operation for the subregional studies and programmes deriving from our activity.

Neither the Caribbean nor Latin America can live isolated within its borders, regardless of how vast these may be. Geography and history have joined us to all corners of the world. Our aborigines "discovered" the Europeans when the latter arrived at these coasts in search of other lands. From Africa came the men who were to leave their blood here to enrich the minorities that had occupied these territories.

Asia and ancient Oceania may have been the source of the original settlers of this part of America, and from those same regions there arrived later, as tricked semi-slaves, thousands of working men. No region in the world was absent from this historic stage.

Our closest neighbours were present and especially active. This is not the moment to recount offenses, nor does Cuba want - at this solemn hour - to use common forums to defend its specific criteria. But in the most recent meetings of Latin American countries with the United States, there have already been many voices that have proclaimed the need for organizing relations arising from an involuntary proximity on a different basis.

The Latin American Economic System will be a proper body for this purpose, and our Committee, in its more restricted orbit, must act in the same spirit.

We are sure that the decision of Canada to look increasingly towards the south of the continent will contribute to this. A developed country, with enormous potential resources, and equipped with modern technology and capable of transferring it, Canada is free of harmful traditions which provoke - as in other cases - the resentment or distrust of Latin America. In our recent conversations with the highest Canadian authorities, we have noted that the aspirations of Latin America are not alien to them. The coming visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, to Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba, will constitute a valuable opportunity for the rapprochement so necessary to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Gentlemen:

In the poem in which he described the Antillean drama, the poet of the "West Indies" gave free rein to his faith as a revolutionary to predict:

"It's true that this is still a very docile people ...  
Nonetheless, any day now  
they'll spring up suddenly:  
they'll break loose anywhere with calloused hands  
and it'll be like those city trees  
that tear up a whole sidewalk with a single growing root."

The first people that broke the old servitude with its calloused hands was the Cuban people. We are proud of it, but we are even prouder that this people in revolution has carried out development efforts that nobody can ignore. At the core of all this is the readiness to make sacrifice both in working boldly and untiringly and in renouncing immediate possibilities of consumption in favour of the necessary accumulation which will guarantee our future. We have also had - and we confess it without blushing - generous financial and technical assistance, the most decisive part of which has come from the Soviet Union.

We are not trying to outline routes, and if we have pointed to some of our achievements it is in homage to the efforts of millions of Cubans who have made a sharp turn from suffering to security. In order not to tire you by quoting numerous figures, we are distributing the book "Desarrollo y perspectivas de la economía Cubana", published by the National Bank on its 25th anniversary a few days ago.

On that occasion, the President of the Republic, Dr. Osvaldo Dorticós, who also heads the Central Planning Board, explained to the visiting bankers that during 1975 the Cuban economy has continued its upward trend. But he emphasized, also, that we have decided - for the 1976-1980 Five Year Plan now being elaborated - to establish a careful growth rate which will take into account the critical conjuncture of the international capitalist economy - from which we cannot isolate ourselves completely, the inflation which gradually makes the investments that still come from that area more expensive, and the fluctuations in the price of our main product: sugar.

We wish to transmit to you however, the assurance that Cuba has found a sure road. The advancements in education and in health, which have been an unexpected revelation for some of you, constitute experiences, perhaps unique, in the leap toward development. The combination of work and study, although it emerges in its present form from our socialist concepts, has its roots in José Martí and can serve in the technical and moral formation of any youth.

Everything we have achieved we modestly place at the service of the Caribbean. We understand solidarity as a duty and our people carry it out as part of their own national tasks.

Allow me once more to tell you how much pleasure your presence has given to us and to assure you that the Caribbean, as well as Latin America, has in Cuba a people enlisted in the cause to which we have all committed ourselves.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY THE HON. C. EDWY TALMA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF  
BARBADOS, ON BEHALF OF PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS, AT THE  
OPENING MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE, 3 NOVEMBER 1975

Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, Fellow Ministers, Distinguished  
Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to make a brief statement at this  
opening meeting of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee  
on behalf of the participating Delegations.

I wish, first, to express my appreciation of the generous offer  
of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba to serve as  
host of this Meeting and for the excellent hospitality which has been  
provided. I must express, also, my pleasure at being provided with  
the opportunity over the past few days of visiting a number of projects  
and observing the significant progress achieved by the Revolutionary  
Government of Cuba in its development programmes, particularly in the  
fields of education and public health.

Less than six months have passed since the Economic Commission  
for Latin America, at its sixteenth session held in Port of Spain in  
May 1975, approved resolution 358 (XVI) concerning the establishment  
of a Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee to comprise  
those countries within the sphere of action of the ECLA office in  
Port of Spain and the Governments of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican  
Republic and other Caribbean countries as they achieve independence.  
The speed at which action has been initiated to bring this Committee  
into being is indicative of the urgency which we attach to the  
promotion of the social and economic development of the countries of  
the Caribbean. The securing of our development goals through economic  
co-operation and integration at the sub-regional level can be seen  
as part of the wider process of achieving greater complementarity  
among the economies of Latin America as a whole. By providing the  
institutional structure for the formulation of concrete projects and  
proposals, it is hoped that the Committee will serve as a major  
instrument for the promotion of the integration process in the  
Caribbean.

The Committee which will be formally established at this Meeting  
will comprise countries which have had different degrees of economic  
contact with each other in the past. Some, like those of the  
English-speaking Caribbean, have already established institutional  
forms for the promotion of co-operation and integration. It is  
possible that the experience derived from these economic relationships  
can provide useful guidelines for the work of the Committee in  
fashioning effective patterns of future economic co-operation among  
its members. Thus, the Committee might wish to focus on the  
experience of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries. The establishment  
of CARICOM among the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean must  
be seen as a pragmatic attempt to deepen the process of integration  
which was initiated with the establishment of the Caribbean Free Trade  
Association. As such, it represents a further stage in the process  
of attainment of structural transformation of the economies of the

member countries, through the liberalization and promotion of intra-area trade and the harmonization of fiscal and productive policies. ECLA has made a substantive contribution to the research programmes which have provided the analytical basis for the Commonwealth Caribbean integration process. While this contribution must be seen in the context of ECLA's commitment to the promotion of integration in Latin America as a whole, it must be noted that the Port of Spain Office, under the able leadership of its Director, Mr. Silbourne Clarke, has developed a special understanding of the practical problems of economic co-operation and integration in the Caribbean.

In the establishment of CARICOM specific solutions have had to be found to the problems presented to the integration process by the wide disparities among member countries in terms of market size, levels of development, and differential endowments of natural resources. Special measures have also had to be devised to promote the development of the less developed countries.

Further expansion of CARICOM will require the making of major decisions by the member countries on a number of complex legal, political and economic issues. Many of these issues can be resolved only after an in-depth examination. In this regard ECLA can continue to play an important role in the identification of the dimensions of the problems involved and the scope of possible solutions, thereby facilitating the widening of the integration process to include, ultimately, all the members of the Committee.

I should now like to turn to an examination of the road ahead. The ECLA secretariat has provided a useful identification of some of the topics on which future analysis might centre as a matter of priority. Emphasis must be placed on the productive sectors of agriculture, industry, and tourism. At the same time, because we support the concept of an integrated approach to development, emphasis will also need to be placed on the promotion of programmes aimed at the improvement of the social sectors. Further, because of the crucial impact of the transportation problem on the integration of the sub-region, careful examination will have to be given to the development of programmes for the improvement of air and sea transport and of communication facilities.

It is not my intention at this stage to do more than indicate the broad outlines of the issues with which we will have to deal at this session, in formulating an action programme for the Committee. What appears to be evident is the need for specialized meetings to be held under the auspices of this Committee to elaborate detailed programmes at the technical level. Two areas where immediate attention would seem to offer possibilities for practical results are the discussion of specific Caribbean issues relating to the Law of the Sea and the development of indigenous technologies within the framework of relevant research programmes of Caribbean Universities and research institutions.

Although the primary focus of this Committee can reasonably be expected to centre on programmes and projects involving the members as defined by resolution 358 (XVI), it is evident that occasions will arise where the effective execution of those programmes will require the active participation of other Caribbean countries beyond its membership. In such cases, the Committee must be prepared to adopt a pragmatic approach, deriving from a careful evaluation of the constraints and opportunities involved.

The success of our efforts in promoting Caribbean co-operation within this Committee will depend to a large measure on the technical resources which can be made available to ECLA as a whole, and the office in Port of Spain in particular. We are certain that we can expect the full support of the United Nations agencies for the programme of work of this Committee. We feel that the contribution of these agencies will be more effective if it is the product of a more rational structure of organization of development activities, within the United Nations system. With that support and our own commitment to all of the peoples of the Caribbean area we can be assured that the Committee will contribute significantly to their social and economic advancement.