

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

BIENNIAL REPORT
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Santiago, Chile, 1994

**546(XXV) PROGRAMME OF FURTHER COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION
BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 518(XXIV) which urges the countries members of the Commission and the secretariats of the various intergovernmental groupings of those countries to identify and implement viable programmes of cooperation between the Caribbean countries and the other Latin American countries, paying particular attention to the areas of social development, trade and investment,

Considering the support expressed by the Conference of Heads of State of the countries members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Group of Three and Suriname held at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in October 1992, for the proposal by the Independent West Indian Commission to establish an Association of Caribbean States encompassing all the countries of the Caribbean Basin; the convening of the first technical meeting to consider the draft instrument for the establishment of the Association; and the holding of the Second CARICOM/Central American Ministerial Conference (Jamaica, 27-28 May 1993) at which proposals were examined for achieving convergence between the two subregions;

Mindful of the fact that the Central American and Caribbean countries, in cooperation with the CARICOM member countries and other Latin American countries of the Caribbean Basin, such as Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, have increased their efforts to conclude agreements on furthering such cooperation, particularly in the area of promoting trade and investment opportunities,

Taking into account that the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Port of Spain and Mexico City are in a particularly advantageous position to support the efforts of both subregions to foster cooperation and integration,

Considering also the note by the secretariat entitled "The role of ECLAC in cooperation between the Caribbean and Central America",¹ which proposes that joint activities be carried out in specific areas to promote further cooperation between the Central American and Caribbean subregions,

1. Urges the Latin American and Caribbean countries to compile and exchange information on trade and foreign investment. To that end, assistance is requested from the ECLAC secretariat, and especially from its subregional headquarters, which could, as a first step, engage in subregional database exchanges;

2. Requests that ECLAC play a supportive, catalytic role in promoting joint research on systems of economic development and social equity in order to facilitate the formulation of national and subregional policies in these areas. In this regard, collaborative links should be established among academic institutions;

3. Calls on the ECLAC secretariat to prepare periodic overviews of the evolution of the different subregional agreements that are being developed in the hemisphere, emphasizing their potential

¹ LC/G.1825(SES.25/21).

implications for the Latin American and Caribbean countries and identifying joint activities that could enhance the bargaining power of Latin America and the Caribbean. In this exercise, special attention should be paid to the evaluation of investment laws and legislation on intellectual property rights and their relationship to the multilateral agreements being concluded in the same areas;

4. Requests the integration secretariats of CARICOM, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the subregional headquarters of ECLAC to submit proposals for effectively furthering integration and economic cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America, including the conclusion of free trade agreements and the promotion of joint ventures in industry, agriculture and services;

5. Further requests the ECLAC secretariat to support, within its general sphere of competence and in coordination with the integration secretariats, recent efforts towards the establishment of an Association of Caribbean States.