



GENERAL

E/CEPAL/CDCC/95

24 November 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Subregional Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Seventh Session

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

19-25 January 1983



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

- I. PRIORITIES
- II. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CDCC
- III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIVITIES  
1982-1983



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



## I. PRIORITIES

### Summary

1. At the Third Session of the CDCC, member governments accorded priority to seven Work Programme activities and the Caribbean Documentation Centre which supports these priority programme areas. Set out below is a brief resumé of developments in each of these priorities. Attention is directed, however, to Part II of this document which is a more detailed report by items of the Work Programme of the CDCC Secretariat.

i. Removal of Language Barriers

The Secretariat has to report that no progress has been achieved on this important project due mainly to the unavailability of funding.  
(para 19).

ii. Transport and Communications

The CEPAL Subregional Office for the Caribbean is represented on the Steering Committee of the UNDP/UNCTAD/IMO Shipping project based in St. Lucia and assisted in the implementation of this project, in particular compiling and publishing shipping statistics. Three meetings on Search and Rescue for subgroups of the wider Caribbean have been convened by the Office on behalf of IMO. As a follow-up, a meeting of all Caribbean countries is planned for early 1983 at which it is expected that Governments, having considered the recommendations of the subgroup meetings, will finalize a Caribbean Maritime SAR Plan.  
(paras.60 to 74).

iii. International Trade

The post of Economic Affairs Officer (International Trade) was filled towards the end of 1981. Draft guidelines for the participation of non-Caribbean countries in the CARICOM/ITC Regional Trade Information Project have been prepared. Three project proposals have been drafted; two of these projects have been considered by the CEPAL Project Evaluation Committee and submitted to potential donors.

An overview of the international trade situation as it affects the Caribbean and the activities of various agents operating in this field has also been prepared and should be useful in guiding the Secretariat's work. (paras.75 to 80).

iv. Caribbean Multinational Enterprise for the Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-visual Materials

The UNESCO Fund for the Promotion of Culture requested and received supplementary material from the consultant particularly in relation to the inclusion of Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the study. The CDCC Secretariat is now awaiting the comments of the UNESCO Fund, a necessary prerequisite for further action. (paras 53 to 59).

v. Network of Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation

There has been no activity on the project during the last year as no additional interest has been shown in the project. (paras.53 to 59).

vi. Integration of Women in Development

< The post of co-ordinator of women's activities in the Caribbean remains vacant. Nevertheless limited activities were carried out during the year. A consultancy to analyse female participation in agriculture is currently in progress; in addition, research is being conducted on the social aspects of the participation of women in economic development activities. Consideration is also being given to contracting a consultant to prepare methodological indicators and guidelines to monitor the efforts of governments in this field and to initiate subregional programming. (paras.48 to 52).

vii. Science and Technology

Instruments of ratification of the Statutes of the Caribbean Council on Science and Technology (CCST) have now been received from ten countries. The Secretariat's activities are concentrated on servicing the CCST and assisting in implementing its Work Programme. Work has begun on the following major research and operational projects:

- Competing demand for land for energy and food crops.
- Assessment of Science and Technology capabilities.
- Production of a journal.
- Production of audio-visual materials for education in Science and Technology.

The Secretariat has also convened the second plenary meeting of CCST, the third Executive Committee meeting and an inter-agency meeting attended by UN Agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. (paras.20 to 24).

## II. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CDCC

### A. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

#### Co-operation in Information

2. The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) recognized very early the key role of information in the promotion of the social and economic development of the Caribbean and accorded to this field a correspondingly high level of priority in the work programme of its Secretariat.

3. At its Sixth Session, the Committee approved a programme of activities which included:

- i. establishment of an Agricultural Information System;
- ii. establishment of a Caribbean Congress of Information Professionals; and
- iii. continuation of the CARISPLAN project <sup>1/</sup> within the CEPAL Caribbean Documentation Centre.

#### Activities accomplished

4. During the period under review, the CEPAL Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) through the CARISPLAN project, continued to provide Caribbean Governments with technical assistance in the form of advisory services and training programmes to strengthen their national capability to participate fully in CARISPLAN

---

<sup>1/</sup> This joint CEPAL/IDRC project concentrates on provision of advisory services and training in order to promote the development of national information centres, and the co-ordination of these and similar centres to provide greater access to development planning literature in Caribbean Countries.

and thus benefit from access to subregional and international development literature. Efforts were also concentrated on the development of CEPAL's library to make it a vital resource for socio-economic information in the Caribbean. The main activities were:

- i. Regional workshop: a regional workshop of one week's duration was convened to identify appropriate programmes which could be adopted by the CARISPLAN national focal points in promoting the use of information, Jamaica, July 1982. (See also list of documents attached).
- ii. National training workshops: national workshops on indexing and abstracting techniques were held in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname. A 2-week workshop on basic techniques for library organization and services was arranged for the benefit of participating centres in St. Vincent and Montserrat. Supporting documentation for these workshops - such as national background papers and technical papers on certain aspects of information and documentation were prepared.
- iii. Advisory services to governments: assistance was provided to the Dominican Republic in formulating a programme to establish a National Information System; and to Dominica, Netherlands Antilles and St. Vincent assistance was provided in such areas as institutional arrangements, organizational structures, staffing, etc., relevant to the development of national Documentation Centres.
- iv. Training: a librarian from St. Vincent was granted a 6-week training attachment at the Caribbean Documentation Centre during this year.
- v. CARISPLAN Abstracts: computer printout for six issues of CARISPLAN Abstracts have been prepared, and 500 copies each of four of these issues have been reproduced and disseminated.
- vi. Current Awareness Bulletin: preparation and dissemination of monthly issues of the Current Awareness Bulletin to alert users to recently published local and foreign material in areas of interest to Caribbean development.

- vii. provision of a document delivery service in respect of items requested from the above publications in (v) and (vi) above.
- viii. preparation of a series of bibliographies on the following:
  - Grenada (CEPAL/CARIB 81/14) 37p.
  - Caribbean/Latin American Relations (CEPAL/CARIB 82/3) 21p.
  - A Select Bibliography on the Eastern Caribbean (CEPAL/CARIB 82/4) 153p.
  - Alternative sources of energy in the Caribbean (CEPAL/CARIB 82/7) 66p.
  - Transport in the Caribbean (CEPAL/CARIB 82/6) 53p.
  - Methodologies and techniques of Development Planning in the Caribbean (CEPAL/CARIB 82/5) 40p.

5. During the period under review, staff of the Centre collaborated with a number of United Nations Agencies and bodies including UNESCO, ILO, UNIDO, CLADES/CEPAL, as well as subregional, intergovernmental and other organizations including CARICOM, CDB and the Association of Caribbean University and Research Institute Libraries (ACURIL).

6. Members of staff also participated in two meetings of information specialists of UN Regional Economic Commissions which had as their main objective, standardization of processing procedures to facilitate exchange of data bases between the Commissions. This collaboration included convening of joint meetings and preparation and presentation of papers. One notable example is the collaboration with UNESCO in the implementation of its Action Plan for co-ordinated development of information systems in the Caribbean.



7. With respect to the Congress of Information Professionals, the Draft Statutes have been revised as requested at the Sixth Session of CDCC and submitted to Governments for confirmation (Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/58/Add.2/Rev.2).

8. With regard to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), it will be recalled that during the Sixth Session of the Committee, the Secretariat had indicated its desire to explore, with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the establishment of a subregional patent information and document system with the CEPAL Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC). Discussions have been held with WIPO on a draft project proposal which is being submitted for financing. UNDP has made funds available to WIPO for an inter-regional adviser in the field of industrial property and the Secretariat expects to benefit from this adviser's services.

Activities on which there was no progress

9. The Agricultural Information Network - Although there were discussions between the Secretariat and other organizations (including FAO) funding has not yet been secured to initiate work on the network.

Proposed activities for the next period

10. During the next intersessional period, work will continue on the CARISPLAN project. In this connection, it must be noted that IDRC has kindly agreed to extend Phase II of the project to July 1983. Another project to lead to the computerization of the Caribbean Documentation Centre has been drafted and discussions on financing are currently being held. This project will make a larger amount of planning and development literature more rapidly and readily accessible to CDCC member countries. The new project is expected to commence in August 1983.

11. Consequently, the Secretariat will continue during 1983 to provide advisory services and training to promote the development of national information centres as well as convening national and regional workshops. In this connection, national workshops have already

been scheduled for Antigua, the Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad and Tobago. CARISPLAN Abstracts and the Current Awareness Bulletin will continue to be published and it is hoped to improve the document delivery service.

12. Efforts will be stepped up to seek financing for the Agricultural Information Network and for establishing the Patent Information and Documentation System. It is hoped to establish the Caribbean Data Base of Information Units and convene the first meeting of the Congress of Information Professionals during the coming year.

Specific authority, endorsement, support, etc., requested from CDCC

13. The Committee is asked to note the achievements of the project to date, express appreciation to IDRC for its assistance in this important work and request continuation of this support to the needs of these developing Caribbean countries for economic and social information and documentation.

Statistical Data Bank

14. It will be recalled that at its Third Session, the CDCC mandated the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean, Secretariat to the CDCC, to establish a statistical data base, first on a manual basis, then switching to a mechanized basis.

15. The idea of a statistical data bank arose against the background of the need for quick access to data without the problem of manual compilation each time that such data are requested. The system of capture, - storage and retrieval of data is extremely useful to planners and researchers. The Statistical Data Bank is also a useful complement to the CDCC Information System, and will contain such qualitative data to permit a more judicious use of the figures. The system will also capture methodologies which can be retrieved for the more discriminating users of its data.

Activities accomplished

16. During the period a micro-computer TRS80-II was installed to facilitate the work of the Data Bank. A data base programme allowing for the creation of data files and incorporating a search routine has been written and is being utilized. Economic, social and demographic data are being stored, and the retrieval and dissemination capabilities have been demonstrated. Currently, work is continuing manually on updating the data series. Following the publication of the Directory of Major Statistical Publications <sup>2/</sup> during 1981, work has proceeded on compiling abstracts of statistical publications and the final publication is expected to be ready by November 1982. A mechanized routine for on-line search capability has also been established to make use of these abstracts.

Proposed activities for the next period

17. During the next period work will continue on (manually) updating the series of data in the following fields:

- Demographic and social statistics.
- National accounts.
- Balance of payments.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- Mining.
- Industrial statistics.
- Construction and other economic statistics.

The process of committing data to machine-readable form will also continue. Unfortunately, progress in this area will continue to be slow due to the lack of full-time data-entry staff.

---

<sup>2/</sup> CEPAL/CARIB 81/2.

Specific authority, endorsement, support, etc., requested  
from CDCC

18. The Committee is asked to endorse the importance of the work of the Statistical Data Bank and give its support to the request for a new general service post to help in speeding up the transfer of data to the computer.

Removal of Language Barriers

19. Despite the priority accorded to this item, no progress has been achieved during 1982 partly due to the non-approval of the funds for the national workshops which was included in the budget request submitted by the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean.

Science and Technology

20. Science and Technology has been designated a priority area since the formation of the CDCC. During the period under review, the Secretariat concentrated on servicing the Caribbean Council on Science and Technology (CCST), for which instruments of ratification have now been received from ten countries.

Activities accomplished

21. The Secretariat draft programme of work in this field was approved at CDCC VI <sup>3/</sup> and major activities during the period include: <sup>4/</sup>

1. convening of and servicing two meetings of the Executive Committee of CCST;

---

<sup>3/</sup> See Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/78/Rev.1.

<sup>4/</sup> Progress of work has been affected by the vacancy of the post of Scientific Affairs Officer during much of the period.

11. initiating work on the following four projects in the CCST work programme:

- Assessment of national science and technology capabilities;
- Establishment of a scientific journal or magazine;
- Preparation and exchange of audio-visual materials for education in science and technology; and
- Study of the consequences of the development of energy crops on food supplies in the region.

22. Work has proceeded farthest on the assessment of national science and technology capabilities. To date, one subregional workshop has been held, questionnaires have been prepared and a manual has been designed for the English-speaking Caribbean. Some countries have already carried out their national assessments.

With respect to the other projects, articles are already being prepared for the Science and Technology Journal and a consultant report on the project dealing with competition between energy crops and food supplies is expected by the end of 1982. The Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to collaborate in the audio-visual materials project by making a suitably qualified officer available to work on the project.

iii. The second plenary meeting of CCST, the third Executive Committee meeting and an inter-agency meeting were held during November 1982 and reports on these meetings will be presented to CDCC VII. (See Document E/CEPAL/CDCC 97).

23. Activity in this programme element has involved considerable co-operation and collaboration with many national, subregional and international agencies and organizations. Major involvement has been with national science councils or similar organizations, CARICOM, CDB, Universities of Guyana (UG), and the West Indies (UWI), OAS, UNESCO and the UN Interim Fund for Science and Technology in Development (UNIFSTD).

Co-ordination in Planning

24. This work programme element consists mainly of:

- i. servicing the annual meetings of Caribbean Planning Officials; and
- ii. preparation of documentation and organizing and convening meetings of the ad hoc planning working groups.

*very concise*

There has been active co-operation with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), with Government departments concerned with planning and with relevant intergovernmental organizations. Considerable preparatory work has been carried out during the year for meetings scheduled for late 1982 and in 1983. A report on these activities is to be submitted to CDCC VII, (See Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/95/Add.5).

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COSED)

25. Delegations will recall that at the last meeting of CDCC, the Secretariat was requested to pursue the formation of COSED. A highly qualified consultant was finally identified late in 1981 and work has now commenced on the formation of the Council, including the preparation of draft statutes. An interim report is expected in December and the final report by the end of January 1983.

Specific authority, endorsement,  
support etc. requested from CDCC

26. Financing for the proposed meeting to discuss the draft Statutes of the Council was not approved by the United Nations. The Committee may wish to make an appeal to the United Nations System for the US\$8,000 required to convene the meeting during 1983.

>  
*intergovernmental?*

## B. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

27. Delegates will recall that note was taken at the Sixth Session of the CDCC of the lack of progress on this item of the Work Programme owing to the post of Economic Affairs Officer (Agriculture) being vacant. As a result, the decision was taken that the proposed work programme, restated in the document on the draft programme of work<sup>5/</sup> should be carried forward to 1982.

### Activities accomplished

28. The vacant post referred to above was filled at the beginning of 1982. Work during the year centered mainly on:

- i) preparation of the publication Agricultural Statistics of Caribbean countries;
- ii) preparation for the meeting of associations of Producers and/or Exporters of selected crops; and
- iii) a survey of Agro-Industrial Activities in the CDCC subregion.

29. - Agricultural Statistics: Caribbean Countries - The final draft of the fourth issue of "Agricultural Statistics: Caribbean Countries" has been completed. This issue includes new data series for the four-year period 1978/1981 in addition to earlier historical series dating from 1967 and gives relevant information on resources, production, inputs and contributions of agriculture to the economy of member states. Information relating to land tenure, that is the number and size of holdings and tenancy arrangements have been reintroduced. New tables including national GDP and the contribution of agriculture to GDP have also been introduced, and the crops section has been expanded. Available data for the Netherlands Antilles have been included for the first time.

30. - Survey on Existing Agro-Industrial Activities in the CDCC Countries - The survey is in its early stages and is scheduled to be completed during 1983. The objective of this study is to obtain information for use in the design of a strategy for agro-industrial

---

<sup>5/</sup> See document E/CEPAL/CDCC/78/Rev.1