CARIBBEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES Barbados, 10-14 November 1997

GENERAL LC/CAR/G.514 15 December 1997 ORIGINAL ENGLISH

9 301 2003



REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING

Place and date of the meeting

The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS/POA) was held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, Bridgetown, Barbados from 13-14 November 1997. Preparatory to the ministerial meeting, officials met from 10-13 November 1997.

Attendance¹

The meeting was attended by the following member and observer countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC):

Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda

Aruba Barbados

Belize British Virgin Islands

Cuba Dominica
Dominican Republic Grenada
Guyana Jamaica

Netherlands Antilles Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago United States Virgin Islands

The following United Nations bodies attended: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations; the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the UNDP Special Unit/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (UNDP-SU/TCDC); the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs/Division for Sustainable Development/Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Unit (DESA/DSD/SIDS Unit); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).

Other intergovernmental organizations attending were: the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM); the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI); the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD); the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA); the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA); the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI); the Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI); the Caribbean Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC); the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); the Organization of American States (OAS); the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the World Bank; and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The following non-governmental organizations also attended: the Anguilla National Trust; the Barbados Baptist College; the Caribbean Association of Media Workers (CAMWORK); the Barbados Workers Union

¹The list of participants is at Annex I

(BWU); the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI); the Caribbean People's Development Agency (CARIPEDA); the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC); the Caribbean Environmental Reporters' Network (CERN); the Caribbean Law Institute; the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC); Counterpart International; the Dominica Conservation Association (DCA); the Environmental Awareness Group; Environmental Consultancy Services; the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism (ECTWT); the Future Centre Trust; the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT); the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust; NGO Forum - Suriname; the Saint Lucia National Trust; SEDA; Simmons and Associates; Trinidad and Tobago Citizens Agenda Network; and Toco Foundation.

The following countries attended as observers: Canada, the Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom

The following attended as special guests: Mr. Noel Brown and Mr. Cletus Springer.

SESSION I

Opening ceremony

The meeting was opened by the Honourable H. Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Health and the Environment of Barbados. In her opening remarks, she noted that environmental problems were seriously affecting the quality of life today, for example, the effects of global warming on polar ice caps resulting in sealevel rise which impacted on the shore settlements of Small Island Developing States. She observed that while there was a strong awareness of the role of global environmental conventions and treaties, these were pointless unless they could be translated into practical benefits for all the region's peoples. She emphasized that environmental issues transcended various sectors and it was, therefore, necessary to involve all stakeholders in the process. The Minister also emphasized the importance of a regional approach to questions of sustainable development.

In her statement, Ms. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean said that the meeting was an attempt to answer three critical questions about the implementation of the SIDS POA: how far had it gone, what were the constraints, and what was the way forward.

The Resident Coordinator for the United Nations system in Barbados, UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Marjorie Thorpe outlined the activities of the UNDP in supporting the implementation of the SIDS POA throughout the Caribbean, and in other SIDS regions. In particular, she noted the importance of the capacity-building component of the UNDP's activities, as exemplified in the Capacity 21 Pilot Project which was assisting in the creation of National Sustainable Development Councils (NSDCs) in the region. She also noted the role of UNDP TCDC in developing SIDSNET and SIDSTAP.

In the feature address, the Honourable Billie Miller, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, having outlined developments at the national level, stressed the importance of the regional dimension of environment and sustainable development issues. She identified climate change and sealevel rise, the management of coastal and marine resources and disaster mitigation and response as critical areas that had benefited from regional cooperation.

Minister Miller stressed the importance of developing a regional mechanism to coordinate the follow-up to the conference, citing the example of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as a small, well-organized and dynamic organization that was effective in managing follow-up and ensuring information sharing and regional cooperation. She also emphasized the importance of a unified presence internationally, making a specific reference to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to review the implementation of the SIDS/POA in 1999.

SESSION II

Election of officers

The Bureau was elected by acclamation:

Chairman: The Honourable Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Health and the Environment

- Barbados

Vice- Chairmen: Mr. Navin Chanderpal, Presidential Adviser on Science and Technology,

Natural Resources and the Environment - Guyana

Ambassador Lazaro Cabezas, Ambassador of Cuba to Barbados

Rapporteur: The Honourable Cassius Elias, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

and the Environment - Saint Lucia

Special guest speakers

Mr. Noel Brown, President of the Friends of the United Nations, and former Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, gave the keynote address to the ministerial meeting. He said that he felt encouraged that the concerted and cooperative action that had made this meeting possible could extend to making possible what he termed "sustainable island living".

He recalled that the convening of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in Barbados in 1994 had indicated that SIDS were able to take a more active role in shaping their global futures in the larger environmental world. He contrasted this with the attitude of marginalization which, he said, had characterised much of their history. He opined that the Barbados conference had reflected three fundamental realities which he wished taken into account in the deliberations of this meeting. First, the convening of that conference had reflected a significant achievement suggestive of the facts that SIDS interests were now a factor in the political global reality. Second, the conference had also demonstrated that SIDS had now developed a new self-consciousness which empowered them to become more assertive in defining their interests at the global level. Third, the preparatory action for the conference had yielded valuable scientific information, which would serve the countries in good stead and had led to the inclusion of the concept of a Vulnerability Index that was steadily being advanced. He reported that the issues which had given rise to the Earth Summit had not been resolved but had become even more serious now.

He challenged governments to use other strategies of implementing the Programme of Action and proposed that they bring the SIDS POA to national publics, business groups and other members of civil society. He felt that governments should also convene a series of implementation summits of policy makers and strategic stakeholders to exchange ideas and pool resources. He also proposed that governments design a major education programme for all educational levels based specifically on the Programme of Action. He recommended that a non-governmental mechanism similar to the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) be created and urged governments to explore innovative and creative ways to finance the Programme of Action outside of the traditional sources of funding.

Ambassador T. Neroni Slade, Permanent Representative of Western Samoa to the United Nations and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States addressed participants on the role played by AOSIS and its importance in the articulation of a united vision for SIDS in international forums, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

Review and adoption of the proposals of the technical meeting

Officials met at the technical level from 10-13 November 1997 to prepare the proposals for submission to the ministers. The ministers reviewed and adopted the proposals ².

Review and adoption of the Declaration of Barbados on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Ministers reviewed, revised and adopted the Declaration³.

² See Document no. SIDS97/CONF.26/Add.1

³ See Annex II

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING

SESSION I

Opening ceremony

Ms. Len Ishmael, Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), welcomed delegates to the meeting. She noted that the meeting was strategically positioned to provide the region with a unique opportunity to review its experiences over the last three years, with a view to using those lessons of experience to chart the way forward. She indicated that the SIDS/POA would be reviewed by a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999. Ms. Ishmael underscored the urgent need for the region to identify and prioritize actions to effectively allocate resources, to share information and to be committed to the process of implementation of the SIDS/POA.

Ms. Atheline Haynes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Barbados, delivered the opening remarks. She welcomed delegates to the meeting, acknowledging the presence of the many agencies and organizations. She emphasized the seeming lack of any clear cumulative impact, either at the national or regional level, with regard to the implementation of the SIDS/POA. She identified only one major regional project emanating from the SIDS/POA - Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC) - which was funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to the tune of US\$6.3 million.

Ms. Haynes said that in view of the theme of the meeting - "The Way Forward" - it was imperative that at the conclusion of the deliberations, delegates should have charted a clear way forward and developed an agreed work programme with clear targets regarding the implementation of the SIDS/POA.

Election of officers

The following were elected by acclamation:

Chairman: Ms. Atheline Haynes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment -

Barbados

Vice Chairmen: Ms. Gisela Alonso Dominguez, Director of Environmental Policy, Ministry of

Science, Technology and the Environment - Cuba

Ms. Ravita Diaram, Environmental Officer, Environmental Protection Agency

- Guyana

Rapporteur: Cornelius Fevrier, Environment Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,

Fisheries and the Environment - Saint Lucia

Adoption of agenda and organization of work

The proposed agenda was adopted by the meeting and the hours and working procedures were agreed upon.

Meeting overview

The Director of ECLAC/CDCC outlined the main objectives of the deliberations which were to:

- (a) Assess the status of the region with respect to the implementation of the SIDS/POA;
- (b) Identify the main constraints and challenges being experienced by member States in relation to the implementation of the SIDS/POA;
 - (c) Share lessons of experience among member States;
- (d) Determine the way forward within the framework of an action plan comprising both a joint work programme and a mechanism for coordination.

She outlined briefly the outputs and structure of the meeting which was divided into two parts, namely: the technical level and the ministerial level.

Regional realities: Implementation of the SIDS POA

The Director of ECLAC/CDCC presented an analysis of a questionnaire which had been circulated to member States and regional agencies participating in the SIDS process, on the status of regional, national and agency initiatives in the implementation of the SIDS/POA. The analysis was based on findings from nine countries and 14 NGOs, international and regional agencies.

Regional realities: Implementation of the SIDS POA

The Director's report outlined regional and national priorities and constraints and agency actions in the implementation of the SIDS/POA. Key indicators in each priority area of the SIDS/POA, outlining the status of implementation on a comparative basis, were highlighted

The report noted a coincidence of regional and national priorities, particularly in the areas of policy, technical assistance and capacity building. It also noted that involvement of marginal groups ranked consistently last among cross-sectoral issues, and energy ranked last at both national and regional levels, as ranked by both Governments and agencies, in terms of the 14 priority areas of the SIDS/POA. Inadequate funding and the need for better coordination at both the regional and inter-sectoral levels were identified as major constraints at both the national and regional level.

Ideas mooted for the improvement of the implementation of the SIDS/POA included:

- (a) increased funding;
- (b) training;
- (c) development of more regional and inter-sectoral mechanisms.

Increased funding and regional cooperation were identified as key elements in charting the way forward. Elements related to funding included the need for:

- (a) internal reallocation of funds;
- (b) creative sourcing;
- (c) resource sharing.

In the area of regional cooperation, the following were identified as key prerequisites:

- (a) the need to move beyond insularity;
- (b) articulation of a regional vision;
- assessment of the status of efforts to address environmental issues;
- (d) leadership by countries which lead the region in various areas of implementation;
- (e) exchange of lessons of experience.

Panel discussion on the implementation of the SIDS POA: Constraints, challenges and national experiences

Presentations were made by the representatives of Cuba, Belize, the British Virgin Islands and the Saint Lucia National Trust on national experiences in the area of sustainable development.

The representative of Cuba pointed out that even in a context of severe financial difficulties caused by the United States' economic blockade of that country, concrete actions were being taken in the area of sustainable development. These actions were concentrated in areas of institutional strengthening, capacity-building, community development and economic development. The following specific examples were highlighted:

(a) The Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment has been coordinating participation of the universities and the various sectoral actors in the development of a national environmental strategy;

- (b) The legal foundation for sustainable development has also been strengthened, taking into account related international conventions. Local action at the level of provinces was also being intensified through the creation of regional environmental units;
- (c) Emphasis was being placed on research particularly in the area of agriculture, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. In the area of environmental education, there has been a concerted effort to work with the universities to introduce and deepen environmental education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels:
- (d) Constraints were faced by Cuba in the area of financing and in its insertion into the regional arena. The view was expressed that the conditionalities relating to Cuba's participation in regional activities should be removed.

The representative of Belize pointed out that since environmental concerns often transcended national boundaries, there had been active cooperation with Central American and Mexican neighbours leading to the formation in 1995 of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development. Several benefits of regional cooperation were articulated, including access to funding to address issues such as mining; the development of a Meso-American biological corridor; the management of coral reef systems; and watershed-related issues. He made the following specific points:

- (a) The importance of cooperation between government and sustainable development entities was underscored in a bid to bring to full fruition sustainable development initiatives. In this context, Belize was carrying the message to rural areas through a series of workshops aimed at ensuring widespread participation of the people in the sustainable development process;
- (b) There has been interministerial and NGO cooperation through the creation of an Environmental Appraisal Committee which reviews and makes recommendations with regard to environmental projects;
- (c) With a view to developing a solid legal base, the Environmental Protection Act is being reviewed to include, *inter alia*, greater fines for crimes against the environment;
- (d) Problems encountered in the area of solid waste management were being confronted with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Japanese assistance.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands drew reference to the challenges faced in the area of waste management in his country, which had forced the introduction of incineration to mitigate problems associated with landfills. Liquid waste was also being treated before disposal in view of the importance of the marine environment and marine tourism. The following additional activities were highlighted:

- (a) There have been several initiatives in the area of biodiversity and funds were being mobilized to ensure that 10 percent of the land space was used for nature reserves;
- (b) A risk assessment study has been completed and a geographic information system created. Technology is being used to make information accessible to the public;
- (c) The representative of the British Virgin Islands underscored the need for regional civil servants to play a leading role in sustainable development issues and to work in cooperation with member States to advance sustainable development issues.

The Saint Lucia National Trust representative outlined four facets of what he referred to as a paradigm of sustainable development including: meeting needs at the community level; community participation that led to empowerment; sharing the costs and benefits of the sustainable development process and incorporating the lessons learnt from the process. The following additional points were made:

- (a) Human resource development should also take place at the community level and communities should be involved in the articulation of a vision for sustainable development;
- (b) Allowances should be made for funding national NGOs which should also play a role in determining the thematic priorities of the sustainable development process;
- (c) Greater public and private sector collaboration should take place with communities, and a mechanism to bring these groups together to share skills, experiences and resources should be formulated. A dearth of research in the areas of coastal ecology and environmental law was identified and a further call made for research information to be made available to NGOs.

In the general discussion which ensued the following points were raised:

- (a) The need for a regional policy apparatus to evaluate and give guidance on policy issues;
- (b) The need for mechanisms to finance sustainable development initiatives. In this regard, the establishment of a fund in Belize for the conservation of biodiversity was identified as one such mechanism which should be examined with a view to its use in other countries;
- (c) The need for a greater proportion of the budgets of regional institutions to come from within the region.

SESSION II

SIDS and global processes

Participants agreed that the draft proposals in Document SIDS97/CONF. 1 and SIDS97/CONF.2⁴, as amended and revised to reflect discussion, should be recommended for adoption by the Ministers.

The Chief of the SIDS Unit mentioned that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs was convening an expert group meeting on vulnerability indices for SIDS on 15-16 December 1997 at United Nations headquarters in New York. The meeting would discuss two reports prepared by consultants - one on alternative economic vulnerability indices and the other on alternative ecological vulnerability indices.

⁴ See Annex III

SESSION III

Mechanisms for mobilization and action

Participants agreed that the draft proposals in Documents SIDS97/CONF.3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25⁵, as amended and revised to reflect discussion, should be recommended for adoption by the Ministers.

In response to a request from Mr. Cletus Springer, resource person, the ACS representative, provided a brief organizational profile and reported on the work of the ACS over the past year. She pointed out that the ACS membership comprised 25 Caribbean Basin countries, including those from CARICOM, Central America, the G3 and the wider Caribbean. Associate membership was open to the British Dependent Territories, the French DOMs and the Netherlands Antilles.

SESSION IV

Mechanisms for mobilization and action: Caribbean regional implementation

Resource mobilization

The Director of the SU/TCDC of UNDP provided an overview of the compendium of 25 project proposals developed by UNDP. He summarized some of the actions specific to UNDP's mandate for capacity-building, technical assistance, SIDSTAP and SIDSNET under the SIDS POA.

He said that GEF and Capacity 21 funds could be used to aid the implementation of projects relevant to the SIDS/POA. He noted that UNDP had generally adopted a participatory approach to the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. They had also formed strategic alliances with other institutions, such as UNCHS and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), who were involved in various aspects of the implementation of the SIDS/POA.

Inadequate access to grant resources to support the SIDS/POA implementation was identified as a major constraint. The United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs, in collaboration with UNDP, is organizing a donor meeting in 1998 to address funding issues. Nineteen organizations have offered technical assistance to help SIDS prepare project documents on request. UNDP has assumed the responsibility of coordinating between SIDS and cooperating organizations at the regional and subregional levels.

Delegates observed that at this point in the meeting a strong role had been identified for agencies and institutions, while limited focus had been placed on the role of governments with respect to future implementation of the POA. It was suggested that governments must take ownership of the POA and efforts must be made to avoid duplication of projects by governments and agencies. The Director of ECLAC/CDCC emphasized that the main role of agencies was not to drive agency agendas, but instead to lend technical and other support to national governments. This view was underscored by UNDP representatives.

⁵ See Annex III

Delegates agreed that a request should be made that the donor meeting be held in June around the time of the Meeting of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation on Economic Development (CGCED), in order to facilitate maximum benefits to member States. It was stressed that the meeting should be structured in such a way so as to ensure that the roles of governments and agencies were clearly defined.

Mechanisms for implementation: Progress to date in the Caribbean

The ECLAC representative summarized the situation, emphasizing that any regional coordinating mechanism to which the delegates agreed would most probably have to be funded from within the region as limited external funding was available. He suggested that regional governments and agencies would have to reallocate the funds in their budgets in order to make the coordinating mechanism a reality.

Experience of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

The representative of SPREP gave a presentation summarizing the role of SPREP in the implementation of the SIDS POA in the Pacific. SPREP is a regional, intergovernmental organization covering 22 SIDS and four developed countries which provides technical support to aid implementation of national environmental strategies and action plans. A group comprising senior government officials, NGOs from across the region and regional organizations met as the Advisory Committee to fulfil the role of a regional coordinating mechanism.

Elements of SPREP's success were highlighted as follows:

- (a) The organization received a high level of government commitment;
- (b) It was given a separate legal identity;
- (c) Voluntary contributions were made to its core budget;
- (d) A five-year action plan was established;
- (e) It had a clearly defined role at the national level.

Lessons which could be learnt from SPREP's experience were identified as follows:

- (a) High cost of regional coordination;
- (b) The need to involve key stakeholders;
- (c) The importance of establishing linkages with United Nations diplomatic missions and organizations;
 - (d) The need for sufficient technical staff required to support negotiations;
 - (e) High returns to the member governments.

The SPREP representative then advised that coordinated, collective regional positions were invaluable at international forums for negotiations, and pledged his support to establishing closer interregional ties. Mr.

Cletus Springer added that SPREP had prioritized its areas of activity with respect to the SIDS/POA, and that Caribbean nations also needed to prioritize their activities with respect to implementation of the SIDS/POA.

In the discussion that ensued, it was suggested that increasing the degree of networking among organizations working toward SIDS/POA implementation might be more practical than creating a new institution to serve as a regional coordinating mechanism.

Options for change - Caribbean regional implementation

The Director of ECLAC/CDCC noted that the region must prepare for future revisions to the chapters of the SIDS POA by ensuring that regional needs were also incorporated into new versions of the POA.

Issues regarding legislation were discussed, and it was emphasized that existing legislation must be integrated to maximize its effectiveness. It was suggested that institutional strengthening must accompany new legislation.

With regard to a regional coordinating mechanism, it was suggested that national implementation methods and institutions must feed into regional implementation processes. Sustainable Development Councils and ministries responsible for sustainable development would play a crucial role in this process, which would include information-sharing and technical collaboration.

It was also noted that while the environment was viewed as a focus point for SIDS/POA implementation, it would also be important to incorporate social issues, including gender and poverty issues, into development strategies.

Delegates endorsed, in principle, the need for both a joint regional work programme and a regional coordinating mechanism. Some reservations were expressed regarding the potential financial implications for governments in establishing and maintaining a regional coordinating mechanism. The meeting agreed that the draft proposal contained in SIDS97/CONF.4⁶, as amended and revised to reflect discussion, should be recommended for adoption by the ministers

The need for the meeting to produce an overarching political statement was acknowledged, and a working group was formed to draft a policy declaration which participants agreed to recommend to the ministers for their adoption.

SESSION V

Framework for action

Review and consideration of draft proposals

Delegates revised the draft decisions and policy declaration and agreed to recommend them to the ministers for adoption. The meeting ended.

⁶ Annex IV

Annex 1

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Annex 2

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, the Ministers participating in the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS POA.

Having met in Bridgetown, Barbados from November 13-14 1997,

Reaffirmingthe principles and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Barbados Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Bolivia Summit,

Recognizing that this First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS POA addresses the relevant priority areas of the Barbados Programme of Action to ensure that follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS is achieved.

Given the financial commitments contained in Agenda 21, and taking into account, *inter alia*, Principle 6 of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and recognizing that work towards achieving the objectives of the SIDS/POA has already been initiated,

Affirm that:

Human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and, as such, are the focus of sustainable development concerns;

Caribbean governments remain actively committed to the adoption of the principles of sustainable development, to minimize the consequences of our inherent vulnerability and to enhance the quality of life of Caribbean peoples;

Caribbean governments remain committed to working in collaboration with civil society at the community, national, regional and international level to ensure the realization of sustainable development;

Environmental problems have no national boundaries. There is a need for global stewardship, and for the international community to meet its obligation to provide effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources in accordance with Chapter 33 of Agenda 21;

Declare that:

At the national level:

We will seek to enhance intersectoral collaboration through the establishment of a multisectoral, multidisciplinary mechanism, such as Island Systems Management, that links in a partnership arrangement, the public and private sectors, NGOs and CBOs, in the sustainable development process in small island States;

We commit to formulating and implementing policies aimed at poverty eradication in the context of cur physical, economic and social environments, strengthening national and regional institutions, and mobilizing resources to improve the quality of life for our citizens in accordance with Chapter XIV of the SIDS POA;

We acknowledge the importance of national institutions, encourage the strengthening of institutions, in particular Sustainable Development Councils where they exist, and encourage the establishment of Sustainable Development Councils where they do not exist;

We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the policies and actions embodied in the SIDS POA, and to address the dominant environmental issues within it, namely, land management, loss of biodiversity, coastal degradation, depletion of fresh water resources, natural and environmental disasters, climate change, energy and waste management;

Given our limited human resources, we shall endeavour to strengthen the capacity and capability of our people through training and education, with special consideration for science and technology. We pledge to share available expertise to facilitate the implementation of the SIDS POA using the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC);

We will employ new and innovative mechanisms to mobilize resources to support the implementation of sustainable development programmes in our countries;

Being aware of the inadequacies in data and information systems in the area of sustainable development, we shall encourage the development of information systems and processes such as the SIDS Network (SIDSNET);

The shortcomings of existing legislation need to be addressed. We will seek to ensure the complementarity of new legislation, enacted to support the implementation of the POA, and commit to the development of effective mechanisms for enforcement;

In order to ensure information flow and action for the successful implementation of the SIDS POA, we should identify and establish functional focal points;

We will seek the allocation of adequate resources to ensure the efficient monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the implementation process, through the development of appropriate tools such as indicators, for the timely achievement of its goals, objectives and targets;

At the regional level:

A Regional Coordinating Mechanism is necessary to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the SIDS POA, in particular, to facilitate preparations for the Review of the SIDS POA in 1999, and to develop common approaches to negotiations and joint representation at regional and international forums;

We will especially seek to strengthen our regional institutions and promote technical cooperation;

All relevant organizations and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Joint Work Programme should actively seek the views and experiences of counterparts in other regions and mechanisms developed to foster collaboration among international agencies, NGOs and CBOs and all stakeholders, in particular those who have been designated specific responsibilities under the Joint Work Programme.

At the international level:

We recognize the role of the Caribbean Sea as a sink for greenhouse gases, transshipment point and cradle of biodiversity and marine speciation, and give our fullest support to initiatives aimed at achieving its designation as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development;

We will use the opportunity created by the designation of 1998 as the Year of the Ocean to obtain international support for the aim of having the Caribbean Sea designated as a Special Area at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly to review the implementation of the SIDS POA in 1999, as well as focusing attention on the peculiarities and vulnerabilities of SIDS;

We acknowledge the important role AOSIS has played in formulating a collective position of SIDS in international forums, in particular those where international instruments are negotiated. Heretofore, committing ourselves to strengthening and supporting the Alliance, and promoting its functional cooperation with other regional agencies in the international arena;

We recognize that the formulation of a well-developed, coordinated and collective position among SIDS in international forums is critical. This collaboration should commence with the upcoming UNFCCC COP 3 in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997;

We will strengthen and work with other members of G77 to intensify efforts to obtain from the developed countries and international agencies a fulfilment of their commitment made at Rio in relation to new and additional financial resources and access of developing countries to new and environmentally sound technologies;

Through these initiatives, we will have more effective implementation of the SIDS POA thereby ensuring the adoption of the Sustainable Development paradigm throughout the Caribbean region.

Annex 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Information/background papers

SIDS97/INF.1	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: A review of progress. Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
SIDS97/INF.2	A review of the implementation of the SIDS-POA: Priorities for the future . Prepared for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC)
SIDS97/INF.3	Summary report of the 1995 Caribbean Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action
SIDS97/INF.4	Activities at the Caribbean subregional level in relation to the World Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Regional Coordinating Mechanism for implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action
SIDS97/INF.5	UNDP/CDB/CARICAD CAPACITY 21 Project. Report of Regional Consultation. Sustainable Development Councils: Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia
SIDS97/INF.6	Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: SPREP's experience
SIDS/97/INF.7	Status of solid waste management systems with particular reference to the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Prepared by the Caribbean Development Bank
SIDS97/INF.8	Environmental indicators for Barbados: A pilot study for 1996. Prepared by the Caribbean Development Bank
SIDS97/INF.9	Environmental Information Management in the Caribbean. Prepared by ECLAC-CDCC/IDRC/UNEP
SIDS97/INF.10	Environmental indicators for the Caribbean. Prepared by the Caribbean Development Bank
SIDS97/INF.11	Report on Commonwealth assistance to Small States. Prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat
SIDS97/INF.12	Indicators of sustainable development framework and methodologies. Prepared by the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD)
SIDS97/INF.13	Framework legislation for sustainable development. Prepared by the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)

SIDS97/INF.14	Capacity-building and technical assistance. Prepared by the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
SIDS97/INF.15	Regional programmes of fisheries assistance for Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean and their relationship to international agreements. Prepared by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
SIDS97/INF.16	Programme of the Meeting
SIDS97/INF.17	Proposed regional activities for the use of environmental economic instruments in the Caribbean (1977-1999). Prepared by The Planning Institute of Jamaica
SIDS97/INF.18	Activities in support of sustainable development in the Caribbean. Prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
SIDS97/INF.19	Small Island Developing States - SIDS Database: User Guide. Prepared by ECLAC/CDCC
SIDS97/INF.20	An alternative concept for the management of the use of island resources. Prepared by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - Natural Resources Management Unit (OECS-NRMU)
SIDS97/INF.21	Information resources for sustainable development. Prepared by ECLAC/CDCC
SIDS97/INF.22	Progress achieved and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Prepared by CEHI
SIDS97/INF.23	List of participants at the Ministerial Level
SIDS97/INF.24	Land resources. Prepared by UNCHS, Barbados

Conference room/discussion papers

SIDS97/CONF.1	Draft Guidelines for discussion. Agenda Item: Global, hemispheric and regional initiatives: Implementation and Negotiation of International Conventions and Non-binding Agreements
SIDS97/CONF.2	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Regional preparations for the 1999 United Nations Special Session to review the implementation of the SIDS-POA
SIDS97/CONF.3	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Capacity-building and technical assistance
SIDS97/CONF.4	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Regional Implementation Mechanism
SIDS97/CONF.5	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Coastal and marine resources. Caribbean Sea as a "Special Area"
SIDS97/CONF.6	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Climate change and sea-level rise
SIDS97/CONF.7	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Information for sustainable development: Indicators
SIDS97/CONF.8	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Biodiversity
SIDS97/CONF.9	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Tourism
SIDS97/CONF.10	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Science and technology
SIDS97/CONF.11	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Impact of uncontrolled disposal of sewage and industrial waste on coastal and marine resources (merged with CONF. 17)
SIDS97/CONF.12	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Caribbean Programme for Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
SIDS97/CONF.13	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Resource mobilization: Economic and financial instruments
SIDS97/CONF.14	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Information for Sustainable Development: SIDSNET
SIDS97/CONF.15	Draft Agenda Item: UNDP/CARICAD Special Event: Capacity-building for sustainable development
SIDS97/CONF.16	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Information for sustainable development: Environmental Information Management
SIDS97/CONF.17	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Management of wastes
SIDS97/CONF.18	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item. Energy

SIDS97/CONF.19	Agenda	Sign of the second of the seco
SIDS97/CONF.20	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Land resource	es
SIDS97/CONF.21	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Legalizati institutional reform	on, rationalization and
SIDS97/CONF.22	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Mechanism Progress to date in the Caribbean	ns for implementation:
SIDS97/CONF.23	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Freshwater n	nanagement
SIDS97/CONF.24	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Creating a living	culture for sustainable
SIDS97/CONF.25	Draft Guidelines for Discussion. Agenda Item: Disaster Man	nagement
SIDS97/CONF.26	Draft Report - Technical Level	
SIDS97/CONF.26. Add.1	Draft report of the Technical Session - Guidelines for Discussion Proposals	sion on Agenda Items -
SIDS97/CONF.27	Declaration	

Annex 4

REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISM

Decision

The meeting:

- (a) Reiterated that the major responsibility for the implementation of the priority areas of action lies with member States but that relevant existing subregional, regional and international institutions will, in collaboration with member States, be responsible for implementing or facilitating the implementation of agreed elements of the Joint Work Programme;
- (b) Agreed that there will be need over the next 18 months to intensively consult and coordinate efforts to encourage implementation of the Joint Work Programme and to develop the Caribbean's position for the 1999 Review of the SIDS POA, including a longer-term Programme of Action;
- (c) <u>Agreed</u> that one of the issues to be addressed in the longer-term Programme of Action would be a permanent mechanism for consultation and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- (d) Requested the Bureau of this Meeting to maintain oversight of the implementation of the Joint Work Programme and the preparation for the 1999 Review of the SIDS POA;
 - (e) Agreed that the meetings of the Bureau would be open-ended;
- (f) Requested the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats to act as Interim Secretariat to the Bureau and the preparatory process until such time as a permanent arrangement is agreed upon;
- (g) <u>Established</u> an inter-agency collaborative group, comprising, but not limited to, the CDB, CPDC, CTO, UNDP, the OECS Secretariat, UWI, CCA, ACS, CARICAD, UNEP/RCU and CEHI to support the Interim Secretariat;
- (h) <u>Requested</u> each member State and participating agency and organization to appoint, within three months, an appropriately located focal point for the SIDS POA to facilitate the two-way flow of information;
- (i) Requested the Interim Secretariat to prepare a budget within three months for the preparatory activities for the SIDS POA review and any additional cost of coordination for the next 18 months for the consideration of the Bureau and member States;
- (j) Agreed that member States and regional and international organizations, where feasible, would make available technical personnel and resources to assist the Interim Secretariat.

Annex 5

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACS Association of Caribbean States
ACP African Caribbean Pacific States
AOSIS Alliance of Small Island States

CAMWORK Caribbean Association of Media Workers
CANARI Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

CARDI Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute

CARICAD Caribbean Centre for Development Administration

CARICOM Caribbean Community

CARIRI Caribbean Industrial Research Institute
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
CBU Caribbean Broadcasting Union
CCA Caribbean Conservation Association

CCST Caribbean Council on Science and Technology

CDB Caribbean Development Bank

CDERA Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency

CEHI Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERN Caribbean Environmental Reporters Network

CFRAMP Caribbean Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme

CIMAS (Climate change model for St. Lucia and St. Kitts)

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CLI Caribbean Law Institute

CMI Caribbean Meteorological Institute
CMO Caribbean Meteorological Organization

CNG Compressed Natural Gas

CPACC Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change

CPDC Caribbean Policy Development Centre
CSD Commission on Sustainable Development

CTO Caribbean Tourism Organization

DESA Department for Economic and Social Affairs

ECCB Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

ECLAC/CDCC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

EEZ Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA Environmental Impact Analysis

EMA Environmental Management Authority (Trinidad)
ENCORE Environmental and Coastal Resources Project

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF Global Environment Facility

IICA Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

GIS Geographic Information Systems
IABIN Inter-American Biodiversity Network
ICZM Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDB Inter-American Development Bank

IDNDR International Decade for the Reduction of Natural Disasters

IMO International Maritime Organization

IRF Island Resources Foundation

ITU International Telecommunications Union

LPG Liquefied Petroleum Gas

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NRCA Natural Resources Conservation Authority (Jamaica)

OAS Organization of American States

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OECS Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

OECS-NRMU Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - Natural Resources Management

Unit

PAHO Pan American Health Organization

REMPEITC - Carib Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre

Caribbean

SDC Sustainable Development Council

SDNP Sustainable Development Networking Programme

SIDS Small Island Developing States

SIDS POA Small Island Developing States Plan of Action
SIDSNET Small Island Developing States Information Network

SIDSTAP Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme

SPAW Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine

Environment of the Wider Caribbean.

SPREP South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

SRU Seismic Research Unit (UWI)

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP/RCU United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Coordinating Unit

UNCHS United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNIC United Nations Information Centre

UN-IPCC United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

UWI University of the West Indies

UWICED University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development

WCISW Wider Caribbean Initiative for Ship-Generated Waste

WTO World Trade Organization

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