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JOINT ECLA/UNESCO DOCUMENT

A Discussion Draft

Prepared

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A Discussion Draft

The present document sets out proposals developed jointly by ECLA and UNESCO for the consideration of the Inter-Agency Co-ordination Meeting on the CDCC Work Programme.

The implementation of the CDCC Work Programme as described in the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/8/Rev.1, and as it involves the collaboration of UNESCO with the ECLA, falls under the following subject headings:

- i. Obtaining collaboration of Caribbean academic centres in the implementation of the work programme;
- ii. Developing public information media and cultural extension as a component for implementation of educational and cultural policies;
- iii. Institutionalizing special programmes to overcome language barriers (practical instruction in English, French, Spanish);
- iv. Institutionalizing measures to eliminate deficiencies in communication, data gathering and distribution.

The proposals set out herein take the form of four "Programme Ideas", which broadly correspond to the above subject headings, and which emerged from on-going discussions between the ECLA Office for the Caribbean and the UNESCO Caribbean area representatives, with the advice and support of representatives from Caribbean academic centres.

The Programme Ideas which are summarized below are:

1. Caribbean Academy of Science and Technology (Council for Science and Technology, and Council for Social and Economic Development);
2. Caribbean Communication for Development: A feasibility Study of a Multinational Cultural Media System;
3. Caribbean Institute for the Removal of Language Barriers;

4. Caribbean Centre for the Co-ordination and Dissemination of Documentation.

The Ideas are not meant to be rigid project ideas, but are seen rather as an intermediary stage between policy and project formulation. The intention has been to focus on areas of infrastructure and co-operation that are susceptible to a sub-regional approach and to develop a few large Programme Ideas, from which a set of specific and inter-related sub-regional projects will derive, producing visible and lasting effects on the integration processes. Furthermore each set of projects deriving from these Programme Ideas are to be linked one with each other, and their implementation should set up a self-reinforcing system, with built-in mechanisms for evaluation and participation by the governments and the academic centres of the sub-region.

1. CARIBBEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

With the possible exception of member countries of CARICOM, the relationship of Caribbean countries with third parties has been characterized, up to the creation of the CDCC, by isolation of efforts and unawareness of the sub-regional availability of resources. This is particularly striking among the intellectual elites, notwithstanding the fact that most of the leading Caribbean scholars have not spared their efforts towards sub-regional collaboration. It appears from their researches that the sub-region cannot fulfill its objectives of co-operation and joint development unless compartmentalization of the intelligentsia is overcome.

The creation is therefore proposed of a Caribbean Academy of Science and Technology, with two branches: (a) a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, and (b) a Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development.

It would be difficult to present a scheme for the organization of the Academy and the Councils, since their members will have to find out the best mechanisms of collaboration and exchange. But it is thought that a structure more or less similar to that of CLACSO

(Consejo Latino Americano de Ciencias Sociales) may be envisaged to initiate discussions and negotiations with regard to both Councils; that is to say, their membership would basically comprise research institutes and graduate school departments. The Academy's membership would comprise eminent scholars to be chosen according to an agreed mechanism.

It is also thought that besides the tasks of co-ordination of research and curricula, this organization should function as an advisory body to the CDCC Secretariat in matters related to science, technology, education and culture, economics and sociology.

2. COMMUNICATION FOR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION: A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A CARIBBEAN MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION

Mass communications are known to be a field of activities in which it is difficult for small countries to achieve efficiency and full coverage. Knowhow being scarce and production expensive, informal education diffused through those channels tends to be outward-oriented. Furthermore, very few Caribbean enterprises are powerful enough to convey to other countries knowledge of the sub-region and fewer are those interested by such objective. The proximity of the countries, their common economic and social background, their struggle for integration and self-identity, the variety of their sub-cultures and yet their uniqueness, plainly justify a sub-regional enterprise in Radio, Television and Printing, as a part of the infrastructure parallel to the efforts toward economic integration, and as a complement and widening to the achievements realized by the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Mass Communications Project (RLA/74/066).

Such an enterprise would be very important for:

- i. Dissemination of information in various fields e.g. technology, health, agriculture, nutrition, family life education, - i.e. functional education.
- ii. Promotion, strengthening and preservation of Caribbean Cultures through appropriate use of public information media, i.e. Caribbean identity.

- iii. Removal of Language Barriers to facilitate communication for these purposes between the Caribbean peoples generally.
- iv. Multiplication and stimulation of efforts toward development realized by sub-regional and international agencies carrying out programmes and projects in the sub-region.
- v. Conveyance to the wider Latin American and other international contexts of the standpoints of the Caribbean, and to the peoples of the sub-region, of the cultures of the outside world.

3. CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR THE REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS

The creation of the CDCC of ECLA, and its adoption of a wide-ranging Constituent Declaration, have demonstrated that the governments of the sub-region have unanimously recognized the common background and specificity of the Caribbean area, regardless of the linguistic differences inherited from the metropolitan powers which previously dominated their history. At the same time, the governments have recognized that the language problems will have to be tackled with the utmost urgency in order to create a viable basis for action in all other fields.

This can best be achieved by the establishment of a well-endowed Research Institute for the Removal of Language Barriers, containing a Graduate School of Interpretership and Translation, in conjunction with a series of national language learning centres, benefiting from its development of language teaching materials and methodology.

A joint ECLA/UNESCO team should be responsible for establishing:

- i. A sub-regional project covering Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, with provisions for other countries in the sub-region to join the project. This sub-regional project would include the Research Institute and the Graduate School, should be conceived as a permanent support for CDCC activities, and should at its very initiation be in a position to service the Committee.

- ii. A series of national projects, each having built into it the features necessary for inter-linking to other similar national projects, and articulating through them a sub-regional network of national language learning centres.

4. CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION AND DISSEMINATION OF DOCUMENTATION

The creation of the CDCC, while indicating the importance attached by the member states to the integration process, underlines both the need for deepening and widening regional information systems. It implies accelerated flows of information in the Caribbean and between the sub-region and the wider Latin American as well as other external contexts.

The possible users of a Caribbean Documentation Centre can be classified into three main categories: (a) Government officials at the decision-making and policy formulation level, as well as their supporting staff; (b) Professional groups, specialists in different fields and private entities; and (c) the public at large. The prime users are to be found within the sub-region, but the governments of the sub-region have also pointed out the need for closer relations with other Latin American entities, and proper actions will have to be considered.

In the CDCC work programme, the governments of the sub-region have signalled the areas of priority for development and the Caribbean Documentation Centre will cover gradually all these aspects by establishing close collaboration with existing centres and stimulating their activities, or by filling up empty boxes. It is to be noted the importance given to transfer of technology, retrieval and dissemination of indigenous technology, areas in which not much is being done presently.

The complexity of services to be offered by the documentation centre will increase as the centre evolves. One may point out nonetheless the need for strengthening as soon as possible national information networks, and for selective dissemination of information to the users. At the level of dissemination of information, the centre

will have to consider programmes of popularization of major documents, and therefore a close co-ordination with the other Programme-Ideas is foreseen.