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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Activities in this programme area proceeded in accordance with the programme approved at the Eighth Session of CDCC.

Activities Accomplished

(a) Trade Procedures Guides

Work continued on the publication of 18 national trade procedures guides for CDCC countries. National draft guides were prepared by the Secretariat and sent to each of the CDCC countries with a request for comments and observations from the relevant authorities and official authorization for their publication as the trade procedures guides for the countries concerned.

Due to the delay in obtaining responses from a few governments, the publication, in the form of a single document, had to be further delayed.

Authorization has so far been received from the following governments: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia and Suriname. These trade procedures guides have been reproduced and distributed.

(b) Inventory of Exportable goods

Work also continued on the subject of an inventory of selected exportable products for CDCC non-CARICOM countries in collaboration with the Project Co-ordinator of the ITC/CDB Project. Questionnaires for this inventory had been prepared and sent to the CDCC non-CARICOM countries. The survey for 11 CARICOM countries was conducted by the project co-ordinator while that for Trinidad and Tobago and the non-CARICOM countries was done by the Secretariat.

(c) Other Activities

Draft papers prepared in the Secretariat on mechanisms for promoting trade and exchange rate adjustments are presently under review. Monitoring of the balance-of-payment situation for CDCC countries will continue.

Activities proposed for the next period

(a) Monitoring the balance-of-payment situation and follow-up studies on mechanisms for trade promotion with the view to eventually convene an ad hoc group meeting on the establishment of a monetary clearing house facility at the CDCC level.

(b) Follow-up activities on trade procedures to include revision of the Trade Procedures Guides in light of Lomé III, and the results of the Nassau intraregional trade decision which inter alia calls for changes in the tariff rate.

(c) On the basis of product profiles and market studies of export commodities it is planned to prepare studies and formulate proposals for the establishment and operation of multinational production and trading companies on specific products and/or services - including the analysis of the availability of venture capital or other finances for such enterprises. This output depends on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

(d) It is also planned especially for the OECS states, in collaboration with subregional, regional and international organizations to conduct studies for investment opportunities. Plans are made to provide and co-ordinate the dissemination of trade-related information to CDCC member countries in accordance with mechanisms to be agreed on with CARICOM and on the basis of studies prepared by this Office.

Outputs and activities of this programme element are related to the general activities of the work programme of the CARICOM Secretariat in the field of Trade. Linkages will continue to be maintained with other intergovernmental bodies such as CDB, the World Bank, CGCED and regional activities of ITC and UNCTAD.