ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Ninth Session
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
29 May - 5 June 1985

ESTABLISHMENT OF ECLAC/CELADE DEMOGRAPHY UNIT
1. The ECLAC/CELADE Demography Unit has been established for the purpose of expanding the ECLAC Work Programme in population-related activities and increasing collaboration of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) with CDCC member countries.

2. Essentially, the activities proposed for the ECLAC/CELADE Population Unit derive from recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, and will focus on assistance to Governments at their request as detailed in the section on Future Activities below.

3. In view of the activities undertaken during the past few years related to the formulation of population policies, it is expected that Governments of CDCC member countries will concentrate on the establishment of institutions for the implementation of these policies.

4. The thrust of the Unit will be:
   (a) To promote population awareness;
   (b) To encourage and support the establishment of population information systems;
   (c) To encourage greater incorporation of population factors in development planning programmes;
   (d) To provide guidelines for the co-ordination of multi-sectoral activities in the field of population; and
   (e) To assist Governments in population policy implementation and evaluation.

Work Programme - Future Activities

5. In light of the above, the following programme of activities is being proposed to assist Governments at their request:
   (a) Technical Assistance
       At Governments' requests, assessments will be made of the status of population planning in their countries, prospects for strengthening institutional capabilities and the kinds of services required to satisfy their needs. Assistance with data analysis and evaluation will continue as required, and advice will be given on setting up demographic surveys.
(b) **Training**

The main aim of training activities will be to develop capabilities to understand population-development inter-relationships, project population growth, evaluate its interactions with various social and economic sectors and communicate results to planners and policy-makers. Funds are available through the CELADE co-operative project with CIDA to finance fellowships of up to three months duration at this Unit. The Fellows will be trainees from Government ministries, statistical departments or research institutions, and could receive assistance in analysing demographic data, or they could study methodologies and systems developed in the Unit.

(c) **Research**

Research activities will focus on the key links between population factors and attainment of economic and social development goals and on methods for strengthening Government's capacity for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies. Studies will be carried out on the inter-relationships between fertility, mortality, migration and socio-economic factors. Emphasis will also be placed on methods of reporting and disseminating research findings to government planners and policy-makers.

(d) **Population Information Systems/Dissemination**

The emergence of explicit population policies as well as the current emphasis on introducing demographic variables into development planning have led to an increase in the range and number of users of demographic data and population literature. Consequently, the Unit will assist Governments in seeking the availability and utilisation of population information to develop a more systematic use of research knowledge for development plans and programmes.

(e) **Linkages with other Caribbean Regional Agencies**

The Unit intends to increase its linkages with subregional organizations including CARICOM, OECS, UWI and the NGOs and to collaborate
where possible in the incorporation of demographic components into current and future projects.

**Staffing and Funding**

The Unit is supported to a large extent by funding provided by UNFPA, CELADE and CIDA. Initially the Unit will comprise three full-time demographers with provision of short-term consultants to assist with various activities. Opportunity will be taken to establish linkages with other units of the Secretariat to initiate multi-sectoral activities.