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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC

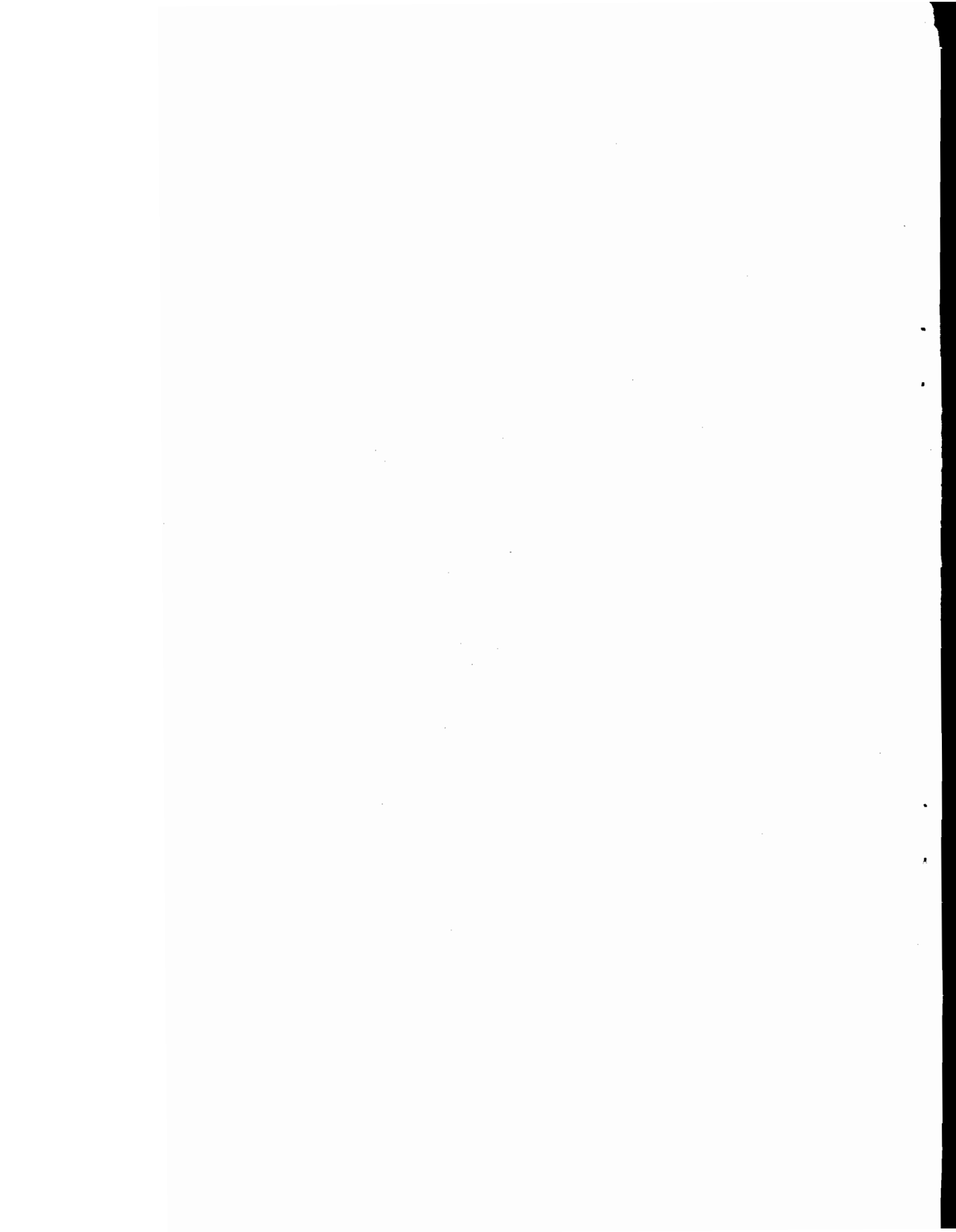


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

(St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands,
18-22 November 1988)

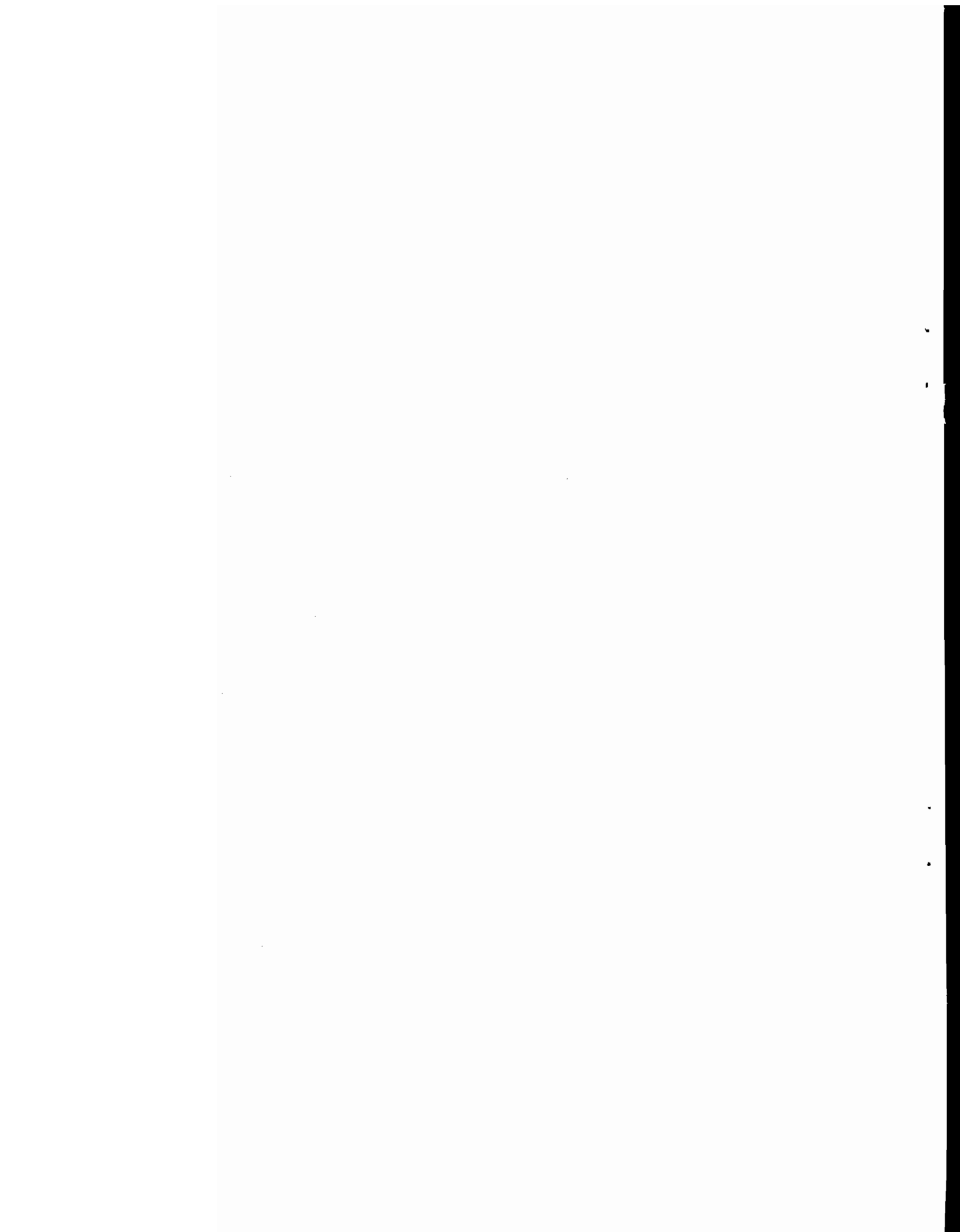


CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
Part One: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	1-37	1
Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987-1988	1-25	1
Agenda Item 7 - Programme of action in support of small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))	26-27	4
Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC	28	5
Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium	29	5
Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of the CDCC	30-31	5
Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented to the United Nations General Assembly	32	6
Agenda Item 12 - United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995)	33	6
Agenda Item 13 - Other business	34-35	6
Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII	36	6
Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report	37	7
Part Two: ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	38-53	8
Attendance	39-42	8
Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting	43	9
Agenda Item 2 - Election of Officers	44-45	9
Agenda Item 5 - Admission of Aruba	46-48	9
Agenda Item 3 - Addresses	49-51	10
Agenda Item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work	52	11
Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report	53	11

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
Part Three: SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	54-183	12
Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987-1988	54-155	12
Agenda Item 7 - A programme of action in support of small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))	156-165	27
Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC	166-170	29
Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium	171	30
Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of CDCC	172-175	30
Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented to the United Nations General Assembly	176	31
Agenda Item 12 - United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995)	177	31
Agenda Item 13 - Other business	178-181	32
Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII	182	32
Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report	183	32
Part Four: SUPPORT FOR HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	-	33
22(XI) Support for Haiti and the Dominican Republic	-	33
23(XI) Policies on harmful wastes in the environment	-	34
24(XI) Programme of assistance to small island developing countries	-	35
25(XI) Admission of Aruba as an associate member of CDCC	-	37
26(XI) Role and functioning of the CDCC	-	38

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
Annex I	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	- 39
Annex II	STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. SAHADEO BASDEO, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCO), AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION	- 45
Annex III	STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. GERT ROSENTHAL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC, TO THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION.	- 49
Annex IV	LIST OF DOCUMENTS	- 54
Annex V	LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT	- 56



Part One

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987-1988

Co-operation in information

1. The Committee welcomed a proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles to host a regional seminar on patent information and the transfer of technology at the recently established International Trade Center in Curaçao.
2. It was agreed that greater use shall be made of the National Focal Points in ensuring that the Current Awareness Bulletin was widely disseminated to interested users.
3. The Committee noted that activities of the secretariat in 1989 would be concentrated on the marketing of the information resources and services which had been developed and the strengthening of the region's capacity to use new information technologies.

Statistical Data Bank and related services

4. The Committee noted, with regard to the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, that the format for action on the English-speaking Caribbean countries had been modified and that survey activities had been divided into the preparation of an evaluation of economic performance over a 10-year period, which would be prepared annually and focus each year on a subject of special interest, and the drafting of a shorter-term survey of general economic performance, which would be produced biannually.
5. With regard to the question of the future of CDCC/ILPES co-operation in the absence of an officer in the corresponding post, it was noted that authority was being sought to fill the post, possibly with a Caribbean expert.

Science and technology

6. The Committee agreed that the secretariat should organize a series of national consultations aimed at creating an awareness of the importance of

science and technology, disseminating information on that field and assisting in the process of building institutions whose activities centred around it.

7. The Committee supported a number of projects including the project on animal feed and food production, the convening of a meeting of representatives of agencies working in the field of science and technology to propose a draft programme and the conducting of TCDC programmes and regional seminars on biotechnology. It also noted that several projects had not been implemented and had had to be carried over into the 1989-1990 work programme since the officer responsible for science and technology had also been entrusted with the performance of other functions in the secretariat. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed his country's support of the establishment of a permanent secretariat for CCST and the re-establishment of the P-5 post for its head.

8. It was recommended that current administrative arrangements for servicing CCST should remain in place since any new arrangements would add to the financial burden of member States, some of which were still delinquent in payment of their dues to CCST.

Agricultural sector

9. The Committee agreed that activities in the agricultural sector should be limited to the promotion of TCDC and to action taken in conjunction with relevant agencies, with particular emphasis laid on those aspects of agricultural development which served to foster overall social and economic development.

Language barriers

10. The Committee noted that there was a possibility of applying the useful exercise of creole discourse to other French creole-speaking countries of the Caribbean and of adding subjects such as agriculture, health, political science and sociology, to those already covered.

11. Reservations were expressed as to the juxtaposition of the oral history/oral traditions project and the museum development project. It was noted that UWI was already executing programmes related to oral history while the CARICOM secretariat had a mandate to implement the museum development project. Accordingly it was recommended that the CDCC secretariat should cease activities in those two areas of the work programme of the social sector.

Integration of women in development

12. It was agreed that counterpart research expertise should be developed in the Netherlands Antilles so that the nature of products passing through the Netherlands Antilles through informal trade channels could be studied.

13. The Committee expressed special interest in the secretariat's proposal to involve itself in the production of baseline data on export-oriented industries and the role of women in them.

Demography

14. The Committee noted that the activities to be continued through the next period included training in theory and methods of economic-demographic analysis and population policy implementation, establishment of population units and national population councils, the carrying out of an integrated research study on population and development, the establishment of the Socio-demographic Data Bank and Population Information System, the preparation of intercensus and post-census estimates for Caribbean countries; the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM), the in-depth analysis of censuses, the preparation of population projections and the publication of the Digest of socio-demographic statistics for Caribbean countries.

15. The Committee expressed support for the programme in demography and urged the secretariat to continue its significant and important work in the field of population.

International trade and finance

16. The Committee expressed support for countertrade since its use could circumvent problems relating to foreign exchange and promote regional trade. It was suggested that the secretariat should encourage member countries to enact legislation which would facilitate countertrade in the region.

17. The secretariat was asked to provide information on the impact of recent trends in international trade and to outline the possibilities for expanding such trade.

Natural resources

18. The secretariat was urged to accept responsibility for monitoring the situation in the following three areas: the dumping of toxic waste in the Caribbean; the development in a CDCC member State of a nuclear facility for the generation of electricity and the establishment of a link between the environment and public health.

19. Concern was expressed about the problems of deforestation in the region. It was agreed that the secretariat should seek the assistance of FAO in that connection particularly with respect to Haiti.

20. The Committee expressed the need for greater inter-agency co-operation in respect of the natural resources work programme of the secretariat, and in particular among UNEP in Jamaica, the UNEP Office in Mexico and IMO in order to optimize the use of resources.

Other activities of the secretariat

21. It was agreed that the secretariat should request countries with centres of excellence to assist CDC by providing expertise and training to other member countries in areas for which the latter were unable to mobilize resources from donor agencies.

22. The Committee noted that two additional areas would be added to the work programme. First, a closer look would be taken at the use of marine resources, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Sea-Bed Authority and with Canadian organizations. The second area of interest concerned the possibility of closer collaboration with organizations in metropolitan countries in looking more closely at the Caribbean diaspora. The secretariat was asked to review the potential for linkages with other institutions involved in work being done on the Caribbean and to devise ways of utilizing the technical expertise of nationals abroad by means of the transfer of knowledge through expatriate nationals (TOKTEN).

23. The Committee expressed gratification at the work done by its secretariat in furthering OECS integration. It suggested, however, that since not enough information concerning the availability of TCDC was being disseminated to member countries, the Current Awareness Bulletins might well contain a section providing a list of TCDC assistance available in the Caribbean.

24. The Committee agreed that its secretariat could play an important role in developing Latin American/Caribbean relations, and attention was drawn to the fact that UNCTAD was in a position to help in promoting progress in that connection. UNCTAD had a programme for expanding trade through the use of an information system on trade barriers affecting products. That programme could be viewed as a useful starting point in identifying trade relations in the Caribbean and Latin America. UNCTAD's work also related to the global system of trade preferences, which involved negotiation of trade concessions between countries in the developing world. That could provide another take-off point for identifying possibilities for negotiation of trade concessions between the Caribbean and Latin America.

25. Note was taken of the fact that the secretariat was still searching for ways of meeting country requirements for TCDC without placing a burden on the requesting States. It was observed that a focal point existed in each country for the dissemination of TCDC information but that delays still existed in the response made by governments to requests. Member countries were accordingly urged to accelerate their responses concerning their needs and the contributions they were prepared to make.

Agenda Item 7 - Programme of action in support of
small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18 (IX))

26. The secretariat was urged to request assistance from UNCTAD in locating sources of contributions to the Common Fund for use in respect of small island countries, in developing statistical data for use in documenting the contribution of services to the economies of those countries and in advising

such countries particularly during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations. It was also recommended that the Secretary-General should be advised to establish a special United Nations inter-agency unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various bodies dealing with the special problems of small island developing countries.

27. The importance of the regional commissions in this area was acknowledged by the provision made for the holding of a special meeting of the General Assembly for representatives of island developing countries, of which they could present their national and regional priorities to the various specialized agencies. It was suggested that the document presented at the current session of CDCC should be sent to that meeting with the recommendation that CDCC should become the focal point for the implementation of action.

Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those
of ECIAC and other United Nations bodies with
implications for CDCC

28. It was noted that action was being taken on the resolutions considered under this agenda item, and it was agreed that the Committee would deal with resolution 41/211 which affected the number of posts in the United Nations system, and resolutions 42/413 and 42/447 under agenda item 10.

Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC
for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium

29. In opening its discussions under agenda item 6, the Committee had agreed that agenda item 9 should be treated jointly with item 6. It has also been noted that those activities which had been postponed had been rescheduled for the following year.

Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of the CDCC

30. It was agreed that, since CDCC was in essence a governmental committee which had the responsibility of resolving any problems relating to organization it perceived, it would be appropriate for its members to adopt a resolution based on the opening statement by the Minister of External Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago speaking in his capacity as chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers.

31. It was further agreed that a conscious effort should be made to restore the vigour of CDCC and infuse it with a renewed sense of purpose, its primary role being co-ordination and co-operation. There was thus a need to reduce the scope of the existing programme since the secretariat had neither the in-house capability nor the resources to cover a broad range of activities, and also ran the risk of duplicating the efforts of other institutions. Measures were needed to ensure that the necessary changes would be implemented.

Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters
for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented
to the United Nations General Assembly

32. The Committee took note of the work programme for the 1990-1991 biennium, the medium-term plan (1990-1995) and the comments of the secretariat regarding the continuation of activities in various fields for which no substantive officer was at present in post. Since the secretariat did not possess the capability of performing highly technical work in some areas and in view of the severe staff constraints it was experiencing, such work would better be performed by the relevant specialized agencies.

Agenda Item 12 - United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995)

33. The presentation of this item by the secretariat was noted and particular attention was given to the possibility of flexibility in its implementation.

Agenda Item 13 - Other business

34. The representatives of Haiti and the Dominican Republic recognized the importance of the secretariat's activities in promoting economic co-operation among developing countries and submitted a resolution in which CDCC resolved to give particular attention to technical co-operation between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, on the one hand, and the remaining countries members of CDCC on the other. In the resolution, CDCC also resolved to co-ordinate its activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socioeconomic projects in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and requested its member countries to support the Dominican Republic and Haiti in their efforts to join the ACP group.

35. The Committee agreed that at its twelfth session the technical meeting should deal with all matters relating to the execution of the work programme and the report emanating from that meeting should be approved at the ministerial level, on the understanding that the Ministers would, however, still be free to deal with other questions of interest to them, such as the problem of the impact of the economic crisis on the social and economic development of Caribbean countries. To that end the secretariat should prepare a working document on which the ministerial debate could be based.

Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII

36. The Committee noted with gratitude the offer of the Netherlands Antilles to host its twelfth session in Curaçao in 1989. The secretariat was requested to enter into consultations with the respective governments with a view to setting the date of the session, bearing in mind the crowded schedule of meetings faced by member governments.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

37. In adopting its report, the Committee agreed that the secretariat should be responsible for completing the final draft and dispatching it to member countries for response within 30 days.

Part Two

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

38. The eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDOC) at the technical level, was held in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands on 18 and 19 November 1988, and at the ministerial level, on 21 and 22 November 1988.

Attendance */

39. Representatives of the following countries members of the Committee attended the session: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives of Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands attended as associate members. Observers were present from Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

40. The session was attended by representatives of the United Nations Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

41. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

42. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

*/ See annex I.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

43. Opening statements were made by Mr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago;*/ Ms. Maria Liberia-Peters, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles; Mr. Alexander Farrelly, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands,**/ and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Agenda Item 2 - Election of Officers

44. The following officers were elected by consensus at the meeting of the Heads of Delegation held prior to the opening of the session:

<u>Chairman:</u>	United States	
	Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Saint Lucia	Charles Flemming
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Netherlands Antilles	Lucita Moenir-Alam
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Jamaica	Cordell Wilson

45. As is the established practice, the officers of the part of the session held at ministerial level were representatives of the same countries as the officers of the session at technical level as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	United States	
	Virgin Islands	Alexander Farrelly
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Saint Lucia	Charles Flemming
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Netherlands Antilles	Maria Liberia-Peters
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Jamaica	Cordell Wilson

Agenda Item 5 - Admission of Aruba

46. The Chairman welcomed the participants to the eleventh session of CDCC and invited the delegation of Aruba to take its place as an associate member.

47. The representative of Aruba outlined some of the policies which had guided his government and assisted in the process of adjustment in the recent past. Describing Aruba's domestic policies as goal-oriented, he indicated that its participation in CDCC would likewise be goal-oriented. His country was pursuing Caribbean contacts because of the importance of regional linkages for its development. He noted that since tourism and foreign investment were matters of interest to all Caribbean countries, the region could not afford to follow policies which would brand it as a high-risk area. At the same time there was need to diversify the economies of the region by supporting the programme for small island countries, although care would need

*/ See annex II.

**/ See annex III.

to be taken to ensure that it did not lose its focus. In closing his statement he laid stress on the universality of CDCC, which he asserted was a manifestation of its strength.

48. A statement welcoming Aruba to membership was delivered by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, who spoke on behalf of all the CARICOM countries, the Netherlands Antilles and the British Virgin Islands.

Agenda Item 3 - Addresses

49. The representative of Haiti traced recent political developments in his country, noting in particular the establishment of an electoral college which had been charged with the organization of elections. He stressed that Haiti considered integration and co-operation to be suitable mechanisms for economic recovery and had accordingly taken initiatives to increase contacts with international bodies and institutions. The best kind of co-operation would, however, be between countries of the region having mutual respect for each other. Haiti, had therefore supported CDCC from its inception, hosting its eighth session in 1984. He referred to the closer links which were being forged with the Dominican Republic and the joint efforts being made by the two countries to participate in the Lomé Convention along with other ACP countries with whom they shared common cultural origins, developmental problems and aspirations for development. In that connection support from CDCC members particularly those which were included in the ACP group, was requested as a gesture of goodwill towards Haiti and a reflection of their desire to support the Haitian economy.

50. The representative of Cuba noted the continuing economic difficulties being faced by the region, drawing attention in particular to its economic vulnerability, declining terms of trade and depreciating currencies and to the widespread suffering caused by military and economic aggression from external sources in an attempt to create divisions among the Caribbean countries. He strongly felt that action within the CDCC should benefit all its members and that closer ties should be forged with CELADE, SELA and CARICOM. Thus, the secretariat would need to be more flexible in its approach and get away from bureaucracy. In reaffirming his country's will to co-operate within the region, he said solidarity was the greatest defense available to the Caribbean countries and the only means by which its problems could be resolved.

51. The representative of IMO outlined the functions of his organization, drawing attention in particular to the assistance which it could provide in areas such as maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution. The latter was considered to be of special importance to CDCC countries, most of which were dependent on tourism, whose success depended to a great extent on clean beaches.

Agenda Item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda
and organization of work */

52. The agenda adopted for the eleventh session of CDCC was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Addresses
4. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
5. Admission of Aruba
6. Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987-1988
7. A programme of action in support of small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))
8. Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC
9. Work programme of the CDCC for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium.
10. Role and functioning of CDCC.
11. Work programme of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented to the United Nations General Assembly.
12. United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995).
13. Other business
14. Place and date for CDCC XII
15. Consideration and adoption of the report.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

53. The Committee considered and adopted the report contained in Part Three of this document and the resolutions contained in Part Four. It was agreed that the secretariat would be responsible for finalizing the report and forwarding it to member countries for their response within 30 days.

*/ See the list of documents contained in annex IV to this report.

Part Three

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme
of the CDCC: 1987-1988

54. In presenting the work programme of CDCC the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reported on the progress made in its implementation. He drew the attention of the participants to the document entitled "Implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) 1987-1988" (LC/CAR/G.257) noting that it was essentially a report on work accomplished between October 1987 and October 1988. The Director noted that although the work programme was couched in sectoral terms, a multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach was being taken in connection with its implementation. He drew attention in particular to the various TCDC activities of the secretariat.

55. Specific activities performed by the secretariat in such areas as the following were outlined: information and documentation; statistics; economic surveys and analysis; projects data banks; science and technology; the removal of language barriers; co-ordination in planning; agriculture; the social sector, including the integration of women in development; international trade and finance; demography and natural resources.

Technical co-operation among Caribbean countriesCo-operation in information

56. The work programme of the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) was presented. The Centre not only provided information support to the secretariat in the implementation of its work programme but had worked consistently towards the development in the region of an effective on-line computerized network for the storage and retrieval of information in several areas relating to social and economic development. The secretariat hoped to expand those services by placing the existing statistical data bank and other data bases on-line also.

57. The progress made by the Patent Information and Documentation Unit was highlighted and the contribution made to its work by the CDCC member Governments, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the

Canadian Patent Office and WIPO was acknowledged. Member States were urged to promote greater participation by appropriate national institutions in the patent information and documentation programme since it could contribute significantly to their development and in particular to their industrial development and to an increase in the application of science and technology. They were also requested to ensure that copies of patents granted by them were sent to the secretariat so that the Caribbean patents data base could be kept fully up to date and the patents could be microfilmed for inclusion in it.

58. The representative of the Netherlands Antilles expressed support for the information programme and drew attention to several institutional mechanisms which had recently been put in place to establish linkages to information sources, especially in the areas of trade and transport. The secretariat welcomed a proposal by this delegation expressing the wish of the Netherlands Antilles to host a regional seminar on patent information and the transfer of technology at the recently established International Trade Center in Curaçao.

59. The secretariat urged member countries to make fuller use of the printed outputs and the valuable on-line data bases stored on ECLAC's computer. In that connection he drew attention in particular to the availability of information from LABORDOC, the data base of the ILO Library in Geneva. The representative of ILO expressed satisfaction that co-operation between ECLAC and ILO had borne such palpable results. He emphasized the importance of the ILO data base in that it contained information which related specifically to the Caribbean in areas such as employment, human resource development, the establishment of small businesses, social security, occupational training and health. The representative of UNIDO said that information relating to UNIDO documents was available through the national industrial development corporations or from its own monthly newsletter. It was agreed that greater use should be made of the National Focal Points to ensure that the Current Awareness Bulletin was widely disseminated to interested users.

60. Development of the Caribbean Information System for Agriculture Sciences (CAGRIS) had made it easier for agricultural researchers and planners to locate references to published works on Caribbean agriculture quickly and to keep up to date on the projects being undertaken in the region. During 1989 CAGRIS planned to offer a regional document delivery service, on-site training in five countries and two week attachments for staff at nine centres.

61. The representative of the secretariat reported that the Consultative Committee on Regional Information Systems had held its inaugural meeting in Port of Spain in October 1988 and had developed a three-year work programme which included the preparation of guidelines for the design and establishment of regional information systems, the publication of a directory of information systems and sources in the region, the creation and maintenance of a register of Caribbean resource persons able to provide technical assistance in the information sector and the establishment of a programme to promote the work and perspectives of the Committee.

62. Activities of the secretariat in 1989 would be concentrated on the marketing of the information resources and services which had been developed and the strengthening of the capacity to use new information technologies within the region.

Statistical Data Bank and related services

63. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that in view of the resource constraints facing the United Nations system and in an effort to provide outputs that were more relevant to the needs of CDOC countries, the format of the traditional economic survey of Caribbean countries had been modified. The activities relating to the preparation of the survey had been divided in such a way that an evaluation of economic performance over a 10-year period would be produced annually focusing each year on a subject of special interest for that year. A survey of general economic performance over a shorter period would be produced biannually.

64. Since the results of the survey depended on the qualitative and quantitative inputs received from member countries, members of the Committee were urged to increase their efforts to provide inputs on their socioeconomic indicators.

65. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the Caribbean Statisticians' Conference held in Jamaica, at which recognition had been given to the role of microcomputers in statistical offices and to the potential of the new technology in terms of more efficient services.

66. The Committee was informed of efforts by the secretariat to place statistical information on line so that users could have the same degree of access to it as they had to the CARISPLAN abstracts. However, in view of the high costs involved, the secretariat was for the time being utilizing less expensive means of storing and retrieving its statistical data.

67. The meeting was informed of developments relating to volume XIII of the series of the Agricultural Statistics report which drew its source material from mail questionnaires. Although the update was being revised, completion had been delayed because of a low response rate (56%). Volume XII had already been disseminated.

68. The representative secretariat expressed satisfaction at the progress of the REDATAM */ project. Data bases had already been prepared for some countries. The second phase of the project was expected to be more user-friendly and would present data in the form of maps. REDATAM had been selected as a tool for analysis of data obtained in the 1990 round of censuses and was expected to allow delivery of census results within a year a census was taken.

*/ REDATAM "Recuperación de datos para áreas pequeñas por microcomputador (Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer). A list of acronyms used in this report is given in annex V.

69. He noted that the Statistical Unit acted as a resource base for a number of exercises such as the provision of support to the OECS secretariat in studying the priorities to assign to statistics and the design of a project document for submission to UNDP for funding. The project concerned had been approved with funding in the amount of US\$442 000 and was now being executed. The second area of assistance concerned collaboration with ILPES in the conduct of a workshop on project data banks. Technical assistance had also been provided to Belize and proposed to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, which had been offered an observation tour of data banks in Chile for three government officials to help them to formulate and develop data banks in Trinidad and Tobago.

70. The delegation of Aruba requested that the secretariat should convene a meeting at which members of statistical offices could review new technologies. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed its gratitude for the assistance provided to its government in the area of project data banks. Gratitude was also expressed by the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles for similar assistance, and a request was made for more assistance from ILPES. That delegation also drew attention to the efforts currently being made in the Netherlands Antilles to develop a macroeconomic model.

71. The delegation of Saint Lucia raised the question of the future of CDCC/ILPES co-operation in view of the absence of an officer in the ILPES post in Port of Spain.

72. In response, the secretariat noted that it was seeking authority to refill the post in question, possibly with a Caribbean expert. However, in view of the present United Nations freeze on recruitment, it was also seeking to obtain the services of an officer from ILPES/Santiago. In the meantime the ILPES staff in Santiago was still taking an active part in the implementation of the CDCC work programme, in particular through the ongoing work relating to the project data bank and the promotion of TCDC.

Science and Technology

73. The Committee was informed that the ECLAC Secretariat had continued to provide interim secretariat services for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) during the period under review and had assisted in the implementation of its work programme. The representative of Cuba noted that his country had not received invitations to the CCST session scheduled for 2 and 3 December 1988; nor had it received the relevant documentation.

74. The representative of the secretariat went on to say that activities carried out in the field of science and technology included the convening and servicing of two meetings --the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee and the Seventh Plenary Session of the Council-- and the holding of two national consultations. Nos. 1-5 of vol. 4 of the CCST Newsletter, had also been published and circulated. In an effort to build awareness of science and technology in the region and strengthen ties among agencies working in those disciplines, the secretariat had also provided assistance enabling a number of people to attend a series of workshops.

75. Obstacles had been encountered in the development of focal points in each country. The objective of the focal points was to create an awareness of science and technology through the sharing and dissemination of information. The secretariat had accordingly planned to organize a series of national consultations aimed at creating such awareness, disseminating information and assisting in the institution-building process in the realm of science and technology.

76. The question whether CCST should continue to be serviced by the ECLAC Secretariat or should operate independently was also raised by the secretariat.

77. Referring to documents LC/CAR/G.258, CCST/88/1 and CCST/88/2, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago said his delegation supported the continuation of a number of projects, including the project on animal feed and food production, the holding of a meeting of agencies in the field of science and technology for the purpose of proposing a draft programme, the implementation of TCDC programmes and the organization of regional seminars in biotechnology. He also noted that several projects had not been implemented and had had to be carried over into the 1989-1990 work programme. This postponement of activities in the work programme was attributable to the fact that the officer in charge of science and technology was also responsible for performing other functions in the secretariat since the post once assigned to a full-time officer in science and technology had been reallocated. He reaffirmed his delegation's support of a permanent secretariat for CCST and of the re-establishment of the P-5 post assigned to its head.

78. The delegation of Jamaica supported the call to restore the P-5 post. However, it was recommended that current administrative arrangements for servicing CCST should remain in place since any new arrangements would add to the financial burden of member States, some of which were still delinquent in payment of their dues to CCST.

79. The delegation of the United States Virgin Islands informed the meeting that its government was exploring the possibility of hosting CCST and was willing to enter into discussions with a view to deciding upon the modalities.

80. The representative of Saint Lucia said his delegation also supported the restoration of the P-5 post and asked whether that post would remain in the Caribbean Office or be transferred to CCST.

81. In response, the secretariat explained that the P-5 post had originally been allocated to science and technology but had been reallocated to the position of Deputy Director six years previously. Its restoration depended on whether CCST became an independent secretariat, in which case it would seek assistance from other agencies to fund additional posts. On the other hand, if the interim arrangement with the Caribbean Office were retained, ECLAC would give consideration to the council's staffing needs. The secretariat noted that no decision could be taken on the matter until the outcome of the forthcoming CCST meeting was known.

82. The representative of UNESCO observed that UNESCO was not in a position to provide financing for a post in a new independent organization as UNESCO was currently in the process of abolishing some of its own posts. It was, however, willing to fund ad hoc activities and to keep up its assistance in the implementation of the CCST programme.

83. The representative of CARICOM described the assistance provided by the CCST officer in the finalization of the CARICOM Plan of Action for Science and Technology, which had been approved by governments. The representative also expressed concern over the reasons behind the non-implementation of the work programme and especially over the fact that the CCST officer was responsible for performing other duties in the secretariat and expressed the view that decisions on such matters should not rest solely with CCST since they also required inputs from the governments of member countries.

84. In response, the secretariat re-emphasized the need for funding for the staffing of CCST. It also noted that the realities of the situation would be reviewed at the next CCST meeting before any definitive decisions were taken.

85. The representative of UNIDO indicated that his organization was not in a position to provide financing for CCST. It was, however, making practical inputs to the advancement of science and technology through the provision of experts to plants. In that connection he mentioned its support of the coffee packaging concern in Dominica through the regional project carried out in co-operation with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI).

Co-ordination in planning

86. In introducing the report on co-ordination in planning, the secretariat referred to earlier reports on statistical data bank operations and to the work carried out jointly by ECLAC/ILPES in planning.

87. Although the Co-ordinator of the ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit had returned to ILPES in Santiago, Chile, there had been continued close co-operation between ILPES and the secretariat in the execution of the work programme. That co-operation had made it possible to provide assistance to Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago and to convene a workshop on project data banking, which had been attended by the representatives of a number of CDCC countries. At that workshop co-ordination in planning had in fact been discussed under the item on the activities of the Statistical Data Bank.

Agricultural sector

88. The representative of the secretariat reported that activities in the agricultural sector had been limited to the promotion of TCDC and to co-operation with relevant agencies with particular emphasis on those aspects of agricultural development which related to the fostering of overall social and economic development. In that connection the secretariat had developed working relationships with ITAL, a food technology institute in São Paulo, Brazil; the Agricultural Experimental Station of the United States Virgin Islands, the ECLAC/FAO Liaison Office; CARDI, IICA and UWI.

89. The representative of the Netherlands Antilles indicated the need to provide technical assistance in agriculture to the island of Saint Eustatius. The Netherlands Antilles also required help in supplying other countries with iguanas, considered by many to be a delicacy.

Language barriers

90. The representative of the secretariat outlined the work accomplished in the programme on the removal of language barriers and drew attention to the innovative joint co-ordination approach to the execution of that programme in which the Government of the Netherlands Antilles participated through its Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs. Work on the establishment of the proposed Caribbean Language Institute had moved forward as the results of an advisory group meeting held in December 1987, and a revised version of the draft project document on the removal of language barriers had been completed. Guidelines to the organization and operation of the National Chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute had been prepared and recommendations had been made on the development of interpretation and translation services. A meeting on the removal of language barriers which was to have been held in 1987, would be held in 1989 in Haiti. Other activities under the programme had served to foster networking among language institutions in the subregion. National workshops had been or would be held with a view to establishing the National Chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute.

91. The representative of the secretariat also reported that a dictionary of Saint Lucian creole had been produced and acknowledged the role of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in that exercise. In describing follow-up activity in the area of creole discourse, he expressed the need to bring the results of the study to bear on communication in the areas of agriculture and health. Follow-up activities carried out directly with IDRC at national level in those areas were a possibility. The secretariat noted the usefulness of the creole discourse exercise and suggested the possibility of extending it to other French creole-speaking countries of the Caribbean.

92. Several suggestions were made in respect of the extension of the project to include communication in politics, economics and sociology.

93. The representative of the secretariat noted the potential for a link between the language barriers project and the follow-up activities in the area of creole discourse, noting that a creole language served as an official language in the Netherlands Antilles.

94. With regard to the regional museum project, the secretariat explained that its role in the UNDP-financed regional project based in Peru was one of co-operation.

95. Several reservations were expressed by delegations as to the juxtaposition of the oral history/oral traditions project with the museum development project. It was noted that UWI was already executing programmes

relating to oral history while the CARICOM secretariat had a mandate to implement the museum development project.

96. In response, the representative of the secretariat affirmed the willingness of the secretariat to be guided in the determination of its activities in the areas of oral traditions and museum development by the decisions taken at the meeting. The Committee recommended that the secretariat should cease activities in those two areas of the social sector work programme.

97. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles emphasized the need for co-operation from CDOC member countries in connection with the monitoring of the creole discourse project and with the role to be played by the national chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute. The continued support of UNESCO was acknowledged as well as the work of the project co-ordinators in seeking funding from EEC.

98. A number of representatives commended the secretariat on its work in language barriers, and the Committee was informed that a seminar would be held on the subject in November-December 1988. The hope was expressed that the work done on creole discourse would be used to benefit rural populations.

Integration of women in development

99. Highlights of programme activities in the area of women in development included:

(a) Completion of the projects on women in development and trade and women in development and planning;

(b) The provision of inputs by the Caribbean Office to ECLAC's fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development;

(c) The creation of a bibliographical data base (WINDEV), for microcomputers using the micro CDS/ISIS software package, special thesauri on women identified by the secretariat having permitted the inclusion of specific descriptors;

(d) The preparation of a comparative overview of the status of women, the data used in it to be based on the findings of the studies completed under the planning project;

(e) Continued work on the establishment of a data base on women traders in the subregion.

100. With regard to the completed project on women in development and planning, some other United Nations bodies and some regional and national NGOs were commended for their follow-up action. It was noted that the need for data on women had been felt in connection with the comparative overview of the status of women. The problem of obtaining such data was being addressed in co-operation with the CARICOM secretariat and other bodies.

101. The representative of the secretariat noted that the secretariat's expertise in the area of women in development had been utilized by some CDOC countries and continued to be available to member States.

102. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles expressed special interest in participation in project activities concerning women traders, particularly with regard to Saint Maarten and Curaçao. It suggested that consideration should be given to counterpart research expertise and to the nature of the products passing through the Netherlands Antilles in the context of informal trade.

103. Concern was expressed about the future of some of the ongoing work in the Women-in-Development Unit on expiration of the contract of an officer who had been assisting with some activities of the WID Programme with financial support from the Netherlands government.

104. The representatives expressed special interest in the proposed involvement of the secretariat in the production of baseline data on export-oriented industries and women in that sector.

105. The concerns expressed at the fourth Meeting of CARICOM Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs were reiterated. Those concerns included the problem of forwarding documents from Santiago in Spanish and the need to accelerate information flows from Santiago.

106. Several delegations expressed their support for the completed and planned activities of the Women-in-Development Programme.

107. The secretariat was cautioned that increasing demands for assistance at national level were expected to be made on its Women-in-Development Programme and that the need for continued and increased support to the Unit might become urgent.

Demography

108. The secretariat informed the meeting that the main thrust of its work programme had been to create awareness of the need to integrate populations more closely into the development planning process. That goal had been accomplished through the provision of tools in the form of research and data inputs; the strengthening of government capabilities through training in the techniques and methodologies for developing population development linkages; the generation, utilization and dissemination of information and the development and establishment of institutional mechanisms needed to facilitate the implementation of population policy.

109. At the same time work had been carried out under the secretariat's programme for assisting countries in the formulation and implementation of population policies. Much of that work consisted in follow-up to a recently completed CARICOM project in which the secretariat had co-operated.

110. The representative of the secretariat indicated that a highlight of the period had been the initiation of a three-year UNFPA-funded project designed to assist governments in integrating people in development planning and in the implementation of population policies. To facilitate that goal, assistance was being provided in the establishment of appropriate institutional mechanisms such as population units in planning ministries and national population councils responsible for directing activities relating to the implementation of population policies.

111. The representative of the secretariat reported on the two-week regional training course on analysis of population-development interrelations for planning using microcomputers in which 28 people from 17 countries had participated. The meeting was informed that microcomputers and printers were being provided to participating countries for use in population development research and in the processing and analysis of census information collected in 1990.

112. It was noted that a number of research studies were under way with a view to providing the kind of information base required for policy-making. Those studies included an integrated research project concerned with the interrelations between fertility, mortality, migration and development; a completed in-depth analysis of census data for three countries; population projections (1980-2015) for nine countries, three of which were ready for publication, and a study of mortality problems in the Caribbean.

113. The meeting was also informed of a series of projects aimed at data generation, evaluation and dissemination. In that regard, a subregional socio-demographic data bank was currently being established and a number of research studies were under way on the preparation of additional data inputs and the evaluation of data. In that connection it was reported that the programme for the preparation of intercensus and post-census population estimates would provide inputs for the data bank as well as for the development of social and economic indicators.

114. The representative of the secretariat indicated that the contents of the data bank would be utilized for the development of a digest of socio-demographic statistics to be published annually.

115. She also drew attention to the work of the secretariat in the preparation of a population information system which would form part of the Documentation Centre's CARISPLAN. It was expected that countries would have access to the data through the microcomputer system in the Documentation Centre.

116. Activities proposed for the next period included the continuation of the work initiated under the UNFPA project aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of the interrelations involved in economic and social development and improving the analysis techniques used in connection with the provision of inputs into development plans. Activities to be continued through the next period included training in theory and methods of economic/demographic analysis and population policy implementation, establishment of population units and national population councils, integrated research study on population and development, establishment of the Socio-Demographic Data Bank

and Population Information System, preparation of intercensus and post-census estimates for Caribbean countries, Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM), in-depth census analysis, preparation of population projections and publication of the Digest of socio-demographic statistics for Caribbean countries.

117. Support for the secretariat's programme in the area of demography was expressed by several delegations. The secretariat was urged to continue its very important work in this field.

118. The meeting was informed that training courses similar to those being conducted by ECLAC/CELADE in English under a UNFPA project were being conducted in Spanish at CEDEM, also under the auspices of UNFPA. The Cuban representative suggested that courses in English could also be conducted at CEDEM.

119. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed gratitude to the secretariat for the assistance provided in carrying out the Demographic and Health Survey of Trinidad and Tobago, the output of which was considered vital for the planning process.

120. The CARICOM representative said that CARICOM supported the work being carried out by the secretariat in the area of population/development issues and provided information concerning the recently completed CARICOM study on the development perspectives of Caribbean countries to the year 2000, in which the impact of demographic issues on development plans was clearly demonstrated. The representative reiterated the need for governments to develop greater awareness of the importance of the interrelationship between population and development for improved development planning.

International trade and finance

121. The representative of the secretariat reported that most of its activities in the field of international trade and finance were concerned with trade in services, trade finance and countertrade and involved considerable collaboration with UNCTAD and UNCTC.

122. With regard to trade facilitation, he said the secretariat was seeking funding to computerize the Trade Procedures Guide; however, he also emphasized the importance of inputs from governments to the updating of the guide in order to ensure its relevance not only to Caribbean countries but to Latin American countries and other countries which might wish to trade with the Caribbean subregion.

123. He said reactions to the programme on countertrade had been mixed and asked governments to provide more indication as to the direction they would like the programme to take.

124. A representative expressed concern over the small volume of products available for intra-Caribbean trade and for trade between the Caribbean subregion and other areas in the Western Hemisphere and also over the

coastlines of countertrade for small developing countries and questioned the effect of assistance to State trading corporations.

125. The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed support for countertrade, saying that it could help to circumvent problems relating to foreign exchange and could promote regional trade. He suggested that the secretariat should encourage member countries to enact legislation which would facilitate countertrade in the region.

126. The representative of Cuba also expressed support for efforts in connection with countertrade, which he felt could be successful only if political will were present. The experiences of his country in the area of countertrade with Guyana had been very satisfactory. He recommended that a study should be undertaken with a view to identifying current trends in the Caribbean since no country could escape the crisis. In his view the Caribbean Basin Initiative had not been very beneficial; moreover some of the measures taken by the developed countries had restricted imports. The Caribbean countries needed to know the impact of recent trends in international trade and what possibilities existed for extending their trade.

127. It was suggested by one delegation that the results of the workshop on countertrade might reveal new opportunities for conventional trade. The CARICOM representative suggested that the workshop should not be research-oriented but should rather concentrate on an exchange of experiences and consideration of ways of enabling countries to become operational.

128. In connection with international finance the representative of Cuba suggested that since the external debt affected all Caribbean countries, the study which was being undertaken by SELA for Latin America could in combination with the ECLAC study, provide an indication of ways in which the economies of CDCC countries could be strengthened.

129. The CARICOM representative drew attention to some of the ongoing activities of a number of agencies in the area of services and suggested that CDCC should indicate where gaps needed to be filled. The CDCC secretariat noted that the work performed by the CARICOM secretariat did not relate to non-CARICOM States. ECLAC was working with the Institute for Latin American Integration (INAL) in export promotion in Latin America, and the mandate it had been given made it necessary for it to ensure that the CDCC member States were provided with the kind of services to which the CARICOM representative had referred.

130. The representative of the Dominican Republic stated that a study was being carried out in the services sector of the economy of his country in co-operation with UNCTAD for the purpose of identifying the sector's potential for promoting development policies and strengthening its negotiating capacity in the Uruguayan Round being conducted within the framework of GATT.

Natural resources

131. The representative of the secretariat said that in implementing the work programme on natural resources, the secretariat recognized the need to take into consideration the nexus between natural resources, tourism and the environment. The impact of the environment on tourism and of tourism on natural resources and the extent to which natural resources could contribute to tourism and to the enhancement of the environment were important considerations in the work programme of the secretariat.

132. He then drew attention to three specific areas, in which the secretariat had been urged to accept responsibility: the dumping of toxic waste in the Caribbean, the development in a CDCC member State of a nuclear facility for the generation of electricity and the link between the environment and public health.

133. Noting the limitations on the resources of the secretariat and the fact that other organizations were better equipped to deal with those issues, he sought feedback from the Committee as to the extent of the secretariat's involvement or co-operation with other agencies in that regard.

134. The consensus of the meeting was that the secretariat should be more directly involved in the work relating to the matters referred to. The representative of Haiti mentioned his country's deforestation problems, and inquired about the possibility of the secretariat's taking action in the form of seminars held on that subject. The representative of the secretariat said assistance would be sought from FAO in that regard.

135. All the delegations agreed that the dumping of toxic wastes in the subregion by some of the developed countries presented a serious threat and saw need for the secretariat to play a co-ordinating role in connection with matters relating to the protection of the marine environment. It was noted that a resolution had been prepared on this subject.

136. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) drew attention to the existence of several IMO conventions dealing with the question of ship-generated sea pollution. Those conventions were important in the context of tourism in the Caribbean region, and IMO offered its assistance to the secretariat in the areas they covered. IMO had established a programme of technical co-operation which aimed at helping governments of developing countries to develop national maritime capabilities.

137. The need was seen for more co-operation between the secretariat and other agencies and also between the UNEP Office in Jamaica and the UNEP Office in Mexico in order to ensure the optimal use of resources. Participants expressed concern about the practice of dumping toxic wastes, pointing out that it adversely affected the ecology of the Caribbean area. The representative of the Bahamas, spoke out in support of the need for greater co-operation among United Nations bodies and in that connection urged that a more serious look should be taken at the activities of UNEP and IMO since environmental protection was critical to the Caribbean subregion especially because of its impact on tourism. The Jamaican delegation

outlined the importance of tourism as a major earner of foreign exchange and implored the CDCC to make a greater effort to co-ordinate its work with that of UNEP, IMO and other appropriate agencies.

138. The representative of the Dominican Republic indicated that the Dominican Republic had experienced problems with resident foreign companies which were damaging the environment with toxins. Problems were also posed by industries operating in urban environments and resisting attempts to relocate them in other sites.

139. With regard to activities which had not been completed, it was recommended that the secretariat should be more aggressive in seeking funding for projects and seminars.

140. In response to a question by the representative of Barbados as to whom the proposal on sewage disposal would be prepared, the secretariat informed the participants that a series of project proposals had been formulated but that the activities involved had been passed on to the CARICOM secretariat. The representative of CARICOM reported that a funding proposal had been submitted to UNDP.

141. With reference to the meeting on the development and financing of the sewage disposal sector which would be attended by representatives of countries and donor agencies, the representative of the secretariat said that the meeting had originally been intended for CARICOM countries although the possibility existed for expanding it beyond CARICOM.

Other activities of the secretariat

142. The Committee was informed of other activities being performed by the secretariat, including the evaluation of the economic performance of Caribbean countries, a subject on which documents were available for distribution to member delegations.

143. The secretariat also drew attention to its TCDC activities and requested countries with centres of excellence to assist it by providing expertise and training to other member countries in areas for which those countries were unable to mobilize resources from donor agencies.

144. Reference was made to the co-operation between the secretariat and the Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in a study on trade in primary commodities.

145. The representative of the secretariat referred to its continued support of the furtherance of the OECS integration process as evidenced particularly in its work in connection with TCDC and small island developing countries.

146. He informed the Committee of two additional areas of possible interest to the secretariat. First, it might work with the secretariat of the International Sea-bed Authority and certain Canadian organizations in taking a closer look of the use of marine resources. The second area of interest concerned the possibility of closer co-operation with organizations in

metropolitan countries in considering the Caribbean diaspora in greater depth. The secretariat would review the potential for linkages with other institutions whose work concerned the Caribbean. Mention was also made of the secretariat's interest in devising ways of utilizing the technical expertise of nationals abroad in TOKTEN activities.

147. The representative of Saint Lucia took the floor on behalf of OECS to express gratitude to the secretariat for its help in furthering OECS integration. He felt, however, that not enough information was being disseminated to member countries concerning the availability of TCDC and therefore proposed that the CDCC Current Awareness Bulletin should contain a section listing TCDC assistance available in the Caribbean.

148. He also noted that too much lip service was being paid to the issue of Latin American and Caribbean relations, which in fact needed to be deepened. That need could best be met by CDCC secretariat.

149. The CARICOM representative drew attention to the CARICOM mandate to develop closer intra-Caribbean relations. Using trade as an example, he explained some of the difficulties encountered in mobilizing resources to provide information on trade procedures and practices. The Committee supported him in his view that the Port of Spain Office was the most appropriate institution for developing the kind of relationship sought, and it was proposed that a unit whose work focused on intra-Caribbean trade should be established. The main task in the creation of such a unit would be to work out the modalities.

150. The Jamaican delegation supported those speakers who had expressed the view that the Subregional Office for the Caribbean could play an important role in developing Latin American/Caribbean relations.

151. The representative of UNCTAD drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that UNCTAD was in a position to help in furthering the work being done in the area of the programme under discussion. UNCTAD had a programme aimed at expanding trade by establishing an information system on commodity trade barriers. The creation of such a system could be viewed as a useful starting point in identifying trade relations in the Caribbean and Latin America. UNCTAD's activities also related to the global system of trade preferences, which involved the negotiation of trade concessions between countries in the developing world. Its representative suggested that that link might provide another point of departure for identifying possibilities for negotiating trade concessions between the Caribbean and Latin American countries.

152. The representative of UNIDO informed the meeting that UNIDO was working with UNDP on a project to stimulate trade between the OECS countries and Latin America. Two exchange missions were expected to take place. Mention was also made of two statistical projects, one of which aimed at computerizing customs statistics.

153. The representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the modalities for the operation of TCDC had yet to be worked out. The secretariat attached particular importance to the issue of ways in which a country could fulfil the minimum requirements for receiving benefits and was

still searching for ways of meeting country requirements without placing a burden on the requesting States. Focal points existed in each country for the dissemination of information relating to TCDC, but all too frequently governments still delayed in responding to requests. Member countries were urged to accelerate their responses with regard both to their needs and to the contribution they could make.

154. With respect to the compilation of information on TCDC, the representative of Saint Lucia suggested that the secretariat should play a more aggressive role in searching for TCDC resources and linking up to other information bases in the United Nations system.

155. The representative of Cuba supported the representative of Saint Lucia in calling for more concrete action from the secretariat and also called for greater explicitness in the research studies carried out. He proposed that a study should be conducted on the economic and social situation of the subregion in the past 10 years. The study should take the form of a statistical and analytical document aimed at developing an understanding of past trends for the purpose of planning with particular stress laid on the impact of the external debt, unemployment and social and health problems and their solutions. Other problems faced by the region such as those of the dependency burden and the economic crisis, should be brought into clearer focus.

Agenda Item 7 - A programme of action in support of small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))

156. The representative of the secretariat noted that the Action Plan for Small Island Developing Countries focused on an integrated approach to agricultural development and on its links with industry, co-operative development, health, housing and tourism. Some components of trade were also linked to those and all other areas of the plan.

157. The plan provided for activities which could incorporate long-term development goals making use of the limited resources of the country.

158. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago urged the secretariat to request assistance from UNCTAD in locating sources of contributions to the Common Fund which were earmarked for small island countries and in developing statistical data for use in documenting the contribution of services to the economy and in advising small island developing countries, particularly during negotiations pertaining to multinational or commodity trade. He also recommended that the Secretary-General should be advised to establish a special United Nations inter-agency unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with problems peculiar to small island developing countries.

159. In the context of assistance to small island countries, UNCTAD was urged to place emphasis on the following areas of activity:

a) Co-operation with FAO and UNIDO in advising small islands on developing areas of comparative advantage in their diversification process;

b) Provision of a direct information link and of an advisory service during multinational or commodity trade negotiations;

c) Formulation of commodity proposals in co-operation with island developing countries leading to the special treatment of small islands in multinational trade negotiations;

d) Provision of assistance to small island countries in the development of comprehensive statistical bases containing data on the contribution of services to the economy;

e) Provision of assistance in locating sources of contributions to the Common Fund which are earmarked for small island countries;

f) Consideration of the adequacy of current export stabilization facilities with special attention given to:

- i) The recommendation made by the Group of 24 that payment of compensation under the IMF Compensatory Facility should bear a closer relationship to the actual size of the export shortfall;
- ii) The need for an increase in the volume of resources available to and the number of commodities covered under schemes for the stabilization of export earnings;
- iii) The problems which small countries are experiencing in contributing to the Common Fund.

160. The representative of Saint Lucia noted the importance of the regional commissions in the matter of small island developing countries, as was reflected in the convening of a special meeting of the General Assembly for representatives of such countries, where they would be able to present their national and regional priorities to the various specialized agencies. He suggested that the document submitted to the current CDCC session under the agenda item on small island developing countries should be sent to that meeting and recommended that CDCC should become the Caribbean focal point for the implementation of action in support of such countries. That recommendation was supported by the representative of the United States Virgin Islands.

161. The meeting deliberated on the various definitions and interpretations of the expressions "small island States" and "small island developing countries" and suggested some criteria in that connection. It was decided that given their peculiar characteristics, all island countries members of CDCC were to be regarded as small island developing countries.

162. The delegation of Jamaica said it had reservations on the Plan of Action but agreed to go along with the resolution in order to preserve the consensus.

163. The representative of the United States Virgin Islands alerted the Committee to the need for sustained development in the small islands and noted the importance of networking among technicians in individual small

island countries. He also referred to technical meetings recently held in Jamaica in connection with the problems experienced by such countries, which would be followed by similar meetings in Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico. Major issues included soil and water preservation and natural resource management in general. He urged the secretariat to continue to explore the possibilities of non-independent members of CDCC obtaining assistance under, and participating in the work programme of the Port of Spain Office.

164. The representative of ILO offered the use of an ILO video film on co-operatives, which he said would serve as a useful tool for increasing public awareness of co-operative efforts in connection with issues relating to small island developing countries.

165. Finally, it was recommended that to ensure the effectiveness of the different measures proposed, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should establish a special inter-agency unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with the problems peculiar to small island countries.

Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those
of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with
implications for CDCC

166. The representative of the secretariat stated that action would be taken on the resolutions concerned and urged the members of the Committee to give consideration to resolution 41/211, which affected the number of posts in the United Nations system, and to resolutions 42/413 and 42/447.

167. A member of the United Nations Secretariat in New York referred to resolution 42/211 and to document A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1 in which the Secretary-General proposed a 15% reduction in staff. He noted that according to document LC/CAR/G.260, the number of posts abolished in the Port of Spain Office was five and that the areas affected as a result of those reductions were agriculture, science and technology and transport and communications. According to his calculations, those cuts represented a 33% reduction in staff. Noting that for many years CDCC had been seeking additional posts for the secretariat of the Caribbean Office, he asked what impact the staff reduction had had on the performance of the Office, especially in the areas affected.

168. In reply the representative of the secretariat explained that the posts in question had been cut in accordance with instructions received from New York. One post had been deployed to Santiago. Many vacant posts were encumbered on a short-term basis in an attempt to ensure that the work was performed effectively. Some of the persons encumbering posts could not have been permanently employed because of the quota system. The responsibility of the Office was to see that its work was accomplished. Constraints on the recruitment of appropriate personnel made it necessary to have recourse to measures such as the use of project staff and the short-term encumbering of vacant posts.

169. The representative of UNCTAD cautioned that the practice of using temporary personnel in established posts, which were vacant could sometimes be abused since it could be resorted to circumvent the rules of the United Nations or the wishes of inter-governmental bodies.

170. The representative of Cuba suggested that the matter under discussion could more appropriately be considered under item 10. He also recommended that the secretariat should prepare a document containing some ideas on the subject. If agriculture, science and technology and transport and communications had in fact been affected, that would be a serious matter since those sectors were basic to the economic development of Caribbean countries. The doubts and concerns in the minds of representatives should not be treated with complacency.

Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium

171. The representative of the secretariat reminded the Committee that in initiating the discussion under agenda item 6, it had been agreed that agenda item 9 should be treated jointly with item 6. It had also been noted that postponed activities had been put forward for the following year. He pointed out that two segments, one dealing with industrial development and the other with agricultural development, had been reincorporated into the work programme for 1988-1989.

Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of CDCC

172. The representative of Barbados supported the proposals made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago when he had spoken in his capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers. He posed the following questions:

a) Was the failure of the review Committee to meet indicative of a lack of effectiveness on the part of CDCC?

b) Was CDCC in need of restructuring?

c) Did the Committee have the capacity to deal with the full range of tasks assigned to it?

d) What mechanisms and safeguards were needed to ensure effective performance at all levels?

e) Was the Monitoring Committee essential for ensuring the implementation of the work programme?

173. In the discussion which followed, the view emerged that CDCC was in essence a committee of governments which would need to extend themselves to resolve any perceived problems of the organization. It was agreed that the substance of the statement presented by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking in his capacity as

chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, should form the basis of a resolution on the role and functioning of CDCC.

174. It was also agreed that a conscious effort should be made to refortify CDCC and infuse it with a renewed sense of purpose, on the understanding that its primary role was one of co-ordination and co-operation. The scope of the programme needed to be reduced since the secretariat lacked the necessary in-house capability and resources and moreover ran the risk of duplicating the efforts of other institutions. Measures would need to be put into place to ensure that the necessary changes would be implemented.

175. In clarifying a number of points arising from the discussion, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC outlined the place of CDCC in the overall structure of the United Nations system, noting its subsidiary and advisory role to ECLAC. He stressed that while the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters had been made autonomous and fully decentralized and was focusing its attention almost exclusively on subregional issues, ECLAC had provided programme support for various Caribbean activities. Thus, the scope of the work programme of the Subregional Office was a matter within the purview of CDCC as a committee with the capacity to decide on such questions at its annual meetings. In conclusion he noted that the need for CDCC was obvious since it was the only forum in the subregion which allowed universal membership. However, it was necessary, in redefining its future role, to do away with exaggerated expectations of what it was capable of achieving in the short term.

Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters
for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented
to the United Nations General Assembly

176. The representative of the secretariat presented the work programme for the 1990-1991 biennium along with the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995. He answered several questions as to whether activities would continue in various fields for which no substantive officer was at present in post in the secretariat, which given the severe constraints it was experiencing with regard to staff, did not possess the capability to perform highly technical work in some areas. Such work would better be performed by the relevant specialized agencies. The international trade and development finance segment was reincorporated into the document after having been inadvertently omitted.

Agenda Item 12 - United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995)

177. After the medium-term plan had been introduced by the secretariat, clarification was sought on the possibility of flexibility in the programme for which the plan provided, and the representative of the secretariat assured the participants that flexibility was in fact a possibility.

Agenda Item 13 - Other business

178. The representatives of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, recognizing the importance of the secretariat's activities in promoting economic co-operation among developing countries, submitted a resolution in which CDCC resolved to give particular attention to technical co-operation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the one hand and the other member countries on the other. In the resolution CDCC also resolved to co-ordinate its activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socioeconomic projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and requested its member countries to support Haiti and the Dominican Republic in their efforts to join the ACP group.

179. The representative of Barbados indicated that he could not support the resolution in view of that part of it which referred to the application of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to be members of the ACP group. He asked that his position should be reflected in the report.

180. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (SCMFA), said that Haiti had submitted its application to CARICOM and urged the Dominican Republic to do likewise.

181. The representative of Cuba said he felt that at the twelfth session of CDCC, all aspects of the execution of the work programme should be dealt with at the technical meeting and that the report emanating from that meeting should be approved at ministerial level, on the understanding that the Ministers would, however, still be free to deal with other areas of interest to them, such as the impact of the economic crisis on the social and economic development of Caribbean countries. To that end the secretariat should prepare a working document on which the ministerial debate could be based.

Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII

182. The meeting noted with gratitude the offer of the Netherlands Antilles to host the twelfth session of CDCC, in Curaçao in 1989. The secretariat was requested to enter into consultations with the governments of the member countries with a view to setting a date which fits in with their crowded schedule of meetings.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

183. It was agreed that the secretariat should be given responsibility for completing the report and dispatching it to member countries for their response within 30 days.

Part Four

22(XI) SUPPORT FOR HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Faithful to the Committee's purpose of strengthening co-operation among its members,

Desirous of contributing to the integrated development of the region,

Aware of the need to support the political will of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to belong to the ACP Group in order to strengthen their cultural, economic and other links with the said Group,

Convinced that the critical economic situation of both countries is a hindrance to the development of their peoples and could entail harmful consequences for both the establishment and the consolidation of true democracy,

Convinced that the CDCC secretariat is capable of taking effective action in this regard,

(a) Resolves:

1. To give particular attention to technical co-operation between the other member countries and Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
2. To co-ordinate such co-operation activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socioeconomic projects in the above-mentioned two countries;

(b) Requests the member countries of CDCC, and particularly those which belong to the ACP Group, to consider to what extent they are able to give support to the joint application of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to be members of the ACP Group;

(c) Instructs the CDCC secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this resolution.

23(XI) POLICIES ON HARMFUL WASTES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Taking into account the results of the Regional Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico in 1988, especially those relating to the links existing between the environment and development,

Mindful of the importance which member countries attach to maintaining sound ecological development, since this contributes to sustained economic and social development for the benefit of their peoples,

Extremely preoccupied with recent activities which enterprises from some developed countries are undertaking in the region in connection with the disposal of polluting substances and the use of toxic substances in several of our countries,

1. Expresses its condemnation of the activities these enterprises are carrying out in the Caribbean region, which are to the detriment of the ecological system in the region and affect in a significant manner the economic and social development of our countries and the health of our populations;

2. Urges the governments of the developed countries whose enterprises are carrying out these activities to prevail upon them to abstain from so doing and to co-operate with the governments of the affected countries to eliminate the damage caused;

3. Requests the secretariat of the CDCC, in co-ordination with UNEP, to present in time for the twelfth session a report on the damage caused by these dangerous activities in the region.

24(XI) PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling resolution 21(X) of the tenth session of CDCC which requested the secretariat to present a plan of action for small island countries for the consideration of member States,

Mindful of the fact that other agencies and organizations are also considering the special question of small island countries,

1. Notes the report of UNCTAD in document UNCTAD/ST/LDC/9.9 on the meeting of the Group of Experts on Island Developing Countries held in Malta from 24-25 May 1988 and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this issue which appears as document A/43/513;

2. Supports the efforts being made by other regional institutions, especially the CARICOM initiative appearing in document A/C2/43/7 presented to the United Nations General Assembly which, inter alia, urges UNCTAD to:

a) Collaborate with FAO and UNIDO in advising small islands on developing areas of comparative advantage in their diversification process;

b) Provide a direct information link and an advisory service on this issue during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations;

c) Develop commodity proposals, in collaboration with IDCs, for the special treatment of small islands in multinational trade negotiations;

d) Assist small islands in developing comprehensive statistical bases on the contribution of services to the economy;

e) Assist in identifying sources of contributions on behalf of small island countries to the Common Fund;

f) Review the adequacy of current export stabilization facilities bearing in mind:

i) The recommendation of the G24 that payments of compensation under the IMF Compensatory Facility should bear a closer relationship to the actual size of the export shortfall;

ii) The need for an increase in the volume of resources and the number of commodities covered under schemes for the stabilization of export earnings; and

iii) The problems which small States are experiencing in contributing to the Common Fund;

3. Endorses the proposal calling on the Secretary-General to ensure the effectiveness of the measures proposed herein, by establishing a special

inter-agency task force to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with the special problems of small islands;

4. Accepts the Plan of Action presented in document LC/CAR/G.259 and directs the ECLAC/CDOC secretariat to implement same within the context of its work programme;

5. Directs the CDOC secretariat to continue to examine the access of the non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas within that system which could provide technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process;

6. Urges the secretariat to continue discussions within the United Nations system and with other organizations and agencies on the question of special assistance to small island countries;

7. Requests the secretariat to report annually on the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action and on the efforts made to further sensitize the international community to the special problems of small island countries.

25(XI) ADMISSION OF ARUBA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF CDCC

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Noting the communication of the Government of Aruba to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean requesting associate membership in the CDCC,

Aware that Aruba was admitted as an associate member of ECLAC at the twenty-second session held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20-27 April 1988,

Recalling the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC in which it is recognized that the Committee can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual co-operation beneficial to their economic and social development,

1. Welcomes the aforementioned application of the Government of Aruba;
2. Decides to admit Aruba as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.

26(XI) ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CDCC

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 358(XVI), which established the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a co-ordinating and consultative body, relating to development and co-ordination in respect of Caribbean issues,

Recalling further the usefulness and importance of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a mechanism for activities of promotion, co-ordination and co-operation between Caribbean countries and territories and between them and non-Caribbean developing countries,

Recognizing the necessity for member States to have their needs and priorities reflected in the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee so that it can be an effective vehicle for Caribbean collaboration,

1. Agrees that the recommendations made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago as outgoing Chairman of CDCC and in his capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs should, inter alia, form the basis of an ongoing review of the progress and functioning of CDCC;

2. Requests the Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of these proposals and to report its findings to member governments, at least two months before the twelfth session of CDCC.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LISTE DE PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Head of delegation: Mr. Molwyn M. Joseph,
Minister in the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

BAHAMAS

Head of delegation: Ms. Catherine M. Benjamin,
First Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BARBADOS

Head of delegation: Mr. Calvin Niles,
Counsellor,
Barbados High Commission
Trinidad and Tobago

CUBA

Head of delegation: Mr. Pedro Morales Carballo
Director, Comité Estatal de
Colaboración Económica

Mr. Ramiro León Torras

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of delegation: Mr. Virgilio Gautreaux Piñeyro,
Jefe, División del Departamento
de la Deuda Externa,
Banco Central

Ms. Arelis de los Santos

GRENADA

Head of delegation: Mr. Denneth M. Modeste,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
Botanical Gardens,
St. George's

HAITI

Head of delegation: Mr. Wilner Dessources,
Commissaire Général Promotion
Nationale et Administration
Publique

Ms. Marie-Josée Georges Garnier
Mr. Jean Ricot Dorneus

JAMAICA

Head of delegation: Ms. Cordell Wilson,
Deputy Director,
Economics Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Trade and Industry

Mr. Lorne McDonnough

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Head of delegation: Mr. Hugh Heyliger,
Minister of Agriculture, Lands,
Housing and Development,
Government Headquarters,
Basseterre

SAINT LUCIA

Head of delegation: Mr. Charles S. Flemming,
Chargé d'Affaires,
Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia
to the United Nations,
New York

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Head of delegation: Mr. Sahadeo Basdeo,
Minister of External Affairs
and International Trade,
Queen's Park West

Mr. Manniram Rambissoon

A. Associate members
Miembros asociados
Membres associés

ARUBA

Head of delegation: Mr. Angel Bermudez,
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Transport
and Communication

Ms. Jeanette Semeleer
Mr. Hose Bernardo Theodoor Figaroa

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation: Mr. H. Lavity Stoutt,
Chief Minister,
Road Town, Tortola

Mr. Otto O'Neal
Mr. Kenneth A. Williams

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Head of delegation: Ms. Maria Liberia-Peters,
Prime Minister

Ms. Lucita Moenir Alam
Mr. Fermin P. Coronel
Mr. Dennis Dare

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation: Mr. Alexander Farrelly,
Governor of the United States
Virgin Islands

Dr. Carlyle Corbin
Ms. Judith Bourne
Mr. Gerard Emanuel
Mr. George Goodwin
Ms. Donna Green
Mr. D. S. Padda

B. Observers
Observadores
Observateurs

ANGUILLA

Head of delegation: Mr. Emile Gumbs,
Prime Minister

TURKS AND CAICOS

Head of delegation: Mr. Oswald Skipping,
Chief Minister,
Grand Turk

Mr. Neville Anthony Adams

C. United Nations Secretariat
Secretaría de la Organización de
las Naciones Unidas
Secrétariat de l'Organisation
des Nations Unies

United Nations Department for Special Political
Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization
and Trusteeship (SPQRCDT)

Mr. Kenneth Jordan, Political Affairs Officer,
New York

D. United Nations bodies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
Organismes des Nations Unies

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Nassau Adams, Deputy Director,
ECDC Division, Geneva

E. United Nations specialized agencies
Organismos especializados
Institutions spécialisées

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. Ian Chambers, Director,
ILO Caribbean Office, Trinidad

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Captain W. R. Rial, Maritime Safety Adviser,
IMO, Trinidad and Tobago

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

Mr. Joseph M. F. Kennedy, Area Representative (Technical Assistance),
ITU, Honduras

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Mervyn Claxton,
UNESCO Representative to the Caribbean, Jamaica

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Peter Ryan, Head UNIDO Office, Barbados

F. Other intergovernmental organizations
Otros organismos intergubernamentales
Autres organismes inter-gouvernementaux

Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)

Mr. Louis A. Wiltshire, Deputy Secretary-General
Ms. Desirée Field-Ridley, Economic Adviser
Ms. Maxine Harris, Assistant Foreign Affairs Officer

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Mr. Silbourne St. A. Clarke, ECLAC/CDCC-OECS Co-ordinator

G. ECLAC
CEPAL
CEPALC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Mr. Gert Rosenthal
Mr. Clyde Applewhite
Mr. Daniel Blanchard
Mr. Lancelot Busby
Ms. Barbara Boland
Ms. Sonia Cuales
Ms. Sylvia Gutiérrez
Mr. Trevor Harker
Ms. Wilma Primus
Mr. Horacio Santamaria
Mr. Donatus St. Aimee

Annex II

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. SAHADEO BASDEO, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
AND OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC), AT ITS
ELEVENTH SESSION

His Excellency the Distinguished Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, Mr. Alexander Farrelly,
Madame Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs. Maria Liberia-Peters,
Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I, as outgoing Chairman of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, Mr. Alexander Farrelly, in anticipation of his election as Chairman of the eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to meet here this morning in such pleasant surroundings which I am sure will contribute to our fruitful deliberations. My thanks to the Government and people of the United States Virgin Islands for their warm hospitality and the excellent facilities which they have provided. May I also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and I wish to assure them of my delegation's firm support in conducting the work of this session.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mr. Gert Rosenthal, who is attending his first CDCC session. I also extend a special welcome to members of the delegation from Aruba, who participated at the technical level of this session prior to their impending admission as an associate member of the CDCC. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago eagerly looks forward to your participation in and contribution to the vital work of the Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Trinidad and Tobago has held the Chairmanship of the CDCC for the last three years and is the current Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. In this dual capacity I take the opportunity here this morning to reflect on the performance of the CDCC over this period.

As you may recall, last year the tenth session of the CDCC was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, after a lapse of one year during which time there was no meeting. It would appear that we have now reverted to our annual schedule of meetings and I sincerely hope that this is an indication of positive interest in the CDCC and the role which it should play in helping our members to find solutions to the various problems which confront us. You may recall that at the tenth session, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation had raised the question of whether the reluctance of members to attend the previous CDCC session at its originally scheduled venue was, among other things, an indication of a negative reaction to our organization. However,

from the level of attendance at our meeting here today, it seems obvious that this is certainly not the case.

The promotion of co-operation among its membership and particularly between CARICOM and non-CARICOM States has always been and continues to remain one of the major objectives of the CDCC. Perhaps the record of the Committee in this area has not been as outstanding and successful as we would wish. Our reaction to this should not be to neglect the CDCC. Rather it is up to the membership to shape and mould the organization so as to make it more responsive to our needs and aspirations.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow delegates, there seems to be a feeling that certain members of the Committee have lost interest in the work of our body. Indeed there is the view in some quarters that the Committee has strayed from its original purpose. It is for us to reverse this perception. For this reason it is vital for us to address the original purpose for which the CDCC was formed in 1975 largely at the initiative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with wide support from Caribbean governments. It was intended, as you know, to be a mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination of Caribbean concerns. It was conceived as a unique forum to promote co-operation among Caribbean countries, both independent and non-independent, in the wider Latin American grouping. The Committee was designed as a direct link between Caribbean countries and the United Nations system through the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was also seen as possessing the potential for serving as an umbrella organization for examining and co-ordinating positions on United Nations programmes and policies in the Caribbean.

These were identified very early as functions which needed to be performed particularly since no other agency or institution has been providing Caribbean Governments with a comprehensive overview of the plans, policies and programmes of all the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations as they affected and reflected the needs of the region.

Fellow delegates, the reality is that the CDCC has not been seen to be filling these requirements. What is therefore needed is a redirection of perspectives.

This meeting must be one of rededication to objectives. Member States need to have their current needs and priorities reflected in the CDCC so that it could be an effective vehicle for Caribbean collaboration. Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM countries would like the CDCC to emphasize its role as a co-ordination and consultation mechanism as opposed to its programme execution functions. To this end, the Committee's secretariat, in my view, should convene regular inter-agency meetings as a means of interacting and interfacing with United Nations organizations, including ECLAC, which may have programmes or projects relating to or affecting the Caribbean. For example, the CDCC should keep in close touch with the activities of agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in so far as particular programmes may be of relevance to the Caribbean.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now like to turn my attention from the functioning of the CDCC to its internal structure. The fact that the CDCC secretariat is located within and so closely identified with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has had both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, the CDCC avails itself of the physical facilities of and personnel belonging to the ECLAC office. But therein lies a serious drawback. There is a view that the ECLAC office and staff were expected to be responsive to the requirements of the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago as well as to the governments members of the Committee. As a result of this, the role and function of the CDCC has become blurred. What is necessary is the need for a changed relationship between the ECLAC Subregional Office and the CDCC. The Committee should become a more autonomous body with greater control over its budget and programming and an internal reporting system, separate and apart from that of the ECLAC Subregional Office. In keeping with the United Nations practice for secretaries of intergovernmental committees, the post of Secretary of the Committee should be upgraded to at least the level of P-5 and its terms of reference re-examined. The Secretary should be assigned the overall responsibility of ensuring that the mandates of the Committee are carried out and to perform this task, he should be assured the necessary complement of independent staff to function efficiently.

As an immediate measure, there is need, notwithstanding the present guidelines from United Nations Headquarters on staffing arrangements to ensure that as many of the vacancies in the ECLAC Subregional Office are filled. In particular it is necessary that the posts at the higher level are filled and that those posts which have been lost to ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago are returned to the Port of Spain Office. More specifically, the post at the level of P-5, which was originally filled by the Science and Technology Officer and was then allocated to the Deputy Director of the Port of Spain Office, has been lost to ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. This post should be returned to the Port of Spain office and could eventually be the one in which the Secretary of CDCC functions. I should make it clear at this point that while we do not object to rotation of staff between the subregional headquarters in Port of Spain and ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in no instance should such rotation result in the loss of a post.

Fellow delegates, while the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Office should not be excluded from the reporting system of the Secretary, consideration must be given to assigning at least one other staff member, possibly a programme officer, to work exclusively within the territories of CDCC member States. In recognition of the particular needs of the Caribbean within the Latin American and Caribbean region, there should be an official at the level of Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC, with special responsibility for Caribbean affairs. Such an official should be from the English-speaking Caribbean and the CDCC Secretary should work closely with this official once he has been appointed.

The Chairman of the CDCC is an important element in the functioning of the Committee and there should be constant contact between the Secretary of the Committee and the Chairman. The Chairman should also convene semi-annual

meetings of the Monitoring Committee so that greater vigilance could be exercised in overseeing the Committee's functioning.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on another note, it has been suggested that the scope of the work programme of the CDCC has become both unrealistic and unmanageable. This, may I suggest is largely because of the lack of adequate co-ordination, lack of secretariat staff and inadequate financial resources. As I have already indicated, given the call for greater emphasis on co-ordination and collaboration, the programme areas should be reduced and must reflect newly established priorities of member States. To finance these programmes member States, operating within the United Nations General Assembly, should seek to have reintroduced a specific budget plan for CDCC so that there is a clear identification of what resources are available to CDCC.

Fellow delegates, the CDCC is an intergovernmental organization and as I have already indicated it is up to us, the constituent members, to provide direction to the secretariat and to make it responsive to our needs. The success of any renewed effort to breathe new life into the CDCC depends to a large extent on the will of our governments to direct and monitor the work of the CDCC after we have provided it with a clearly articulated set of Caribbean priorities. As members we should always be fully cognizant of the CDCC's existence and the role which it could play in policy planning at national and regional level. We must ensure that the nature and level of our participation at its meetings are adequate. In brief we must become more involved with the CDCC's day-to-day work. Those governments which have not already done so should establish a national task force co-ordinated perhaps by their Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs and identify a national focal point to deal with CDCC matters. There is also need for more direct contact between member States and the secretariat. This could be achieved through consultation visits by the secretariat made to CDCC territories at least once per year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have made these proposals for a rejuvenated and resuscitated CDCC after consultations with my CARICOM colleagues who are fully supportive of them. I would now like the full membership present here today to give them serious consideration when we consider Agenda Item 10 with a view to their early implementation. May I reiterate that Trinidad and Tobago views the CDCC as an important mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination, as well as an important link between the English and non-English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. Its usefulness is beyond question, and through it Caribbean co-operation can be made more meaningful and redound to the benefit of all members. I wish to reaffirm Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to do all within its power and to work with all other members to set the CDCC on a new path of effectiveness and success.

I thank you.

Annex III

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. GERT ROSENIHAL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
ECLAC, TO THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION
COMMITTEE AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION

Distinguished Governor of the United States Virgin Islands,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear Colleagues,
Honoured guests,

I would like to say, first of all, how pleased I am to be able to meet with delegates of member governments of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. This forum offers the ECLAC Secretariat a unique opportunity to carry out one of our primary mandates, which consists of promoting international co-operation; in this case, at the subregional, regional and international levels. CDCC allows us to strengthen Caribbean co-operation; it also is ECLAC's main vehicle to give meaning and substance to the notion that the commonalities between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America far exceed the differences that might seem to separate them. Furthermore, this meeting gives me a welcome opportunity to come in contact with the leaders of the small island member States of ECLAC, and, indeed, with some non-self-governing territories which participate actively in the CDCC without being full members of the United Nations system.

The United States Virgin Islands is a case in point. This Committee plays a most valuable role in allowing participation of non-self-governing territories in activities of the United Nations. That explains the particular significance which we attach to the fact that this meeting is being held in St. Croix. I would like to express to the Governor and other authorities our appreciation for providing the splendid surroundings and the many amenities that have been extended to us. I am sure that they will contribute to the success of this meeting.

In the same vein, I would also like to thank the distinguished delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, and through his good offices, the Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade, for the continual support provided to CDCC and to its secretariat, especially since the Chairmanship of CDCC was assumed.

Last but not least, I wish to take this opportunity to extend a sincere welcome to Aruba, admitted as an associate member of ECLAC last April, and now joining this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

You will recall that the resolution establishing CDCC included, among its mandates, the role of acting as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. I would therefore like to avail myself of this occasion to initiate a dialogue with you regarding fundamental development issues of

the Caribbean and how we, at ECLAC, can contribute, albeit in a modest way, to meeting the challenges posed by those issues. Therefore, I would like to touch, first, on the nature of those issues; and, second, on the role of ECLAC in general and CDCC in particular.

It is indeed unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that one of the commonalities that I mentioned earlier between the Caribbean --English and non-English-speaking countries-- and the rest of Latin America is found in the adverse circumstances which have marked economic performance in the 1980s. The common denominator can be found in the international economy, often compounded by difficulties of domestic origin.

It is true, of course, that the manner in which different countries interact with external factors varies. For example, the debt issue appears to be less relevant for the smaller island states than for most of Latin America. However, depressed commodity prices, insufficient capital inflows, and uncertainty in the international economic environment are common to virtually all countries. It is therefore fair to say that small, export-oriented countries such as those that comprise most of CDCC, have been particularly hard hit, particularly if steadily increasing population is taken into account. The factors that explain the protracted recession in Latin America and the Caribbean have been amply documented by ECLAC in recent years, and I will not dwell on this aspect. A more specific analysis of the English-speaking Caribbean can be found in the excellent study recently completed by the Commonwealth of the CARICOM secretariats on Caribbean Development to the Year 2000. In confirming our own impression, that study states: "On the whole, the standard economic indicators of development performance tell a dismal tale".

The main point I would like to make, therefore, is that in Latin America, as well as in the Caribbean, one of the imperatives of our times is to get economic growth back on track, and to reinstate development as the most important single issue in the region's agenda. Such specific topics as improving international competitiveness, modernizing the productive system, improving the delivery of social services, combatting extreme poverty, and promoting sustainable growth within environmental constraints, appear to be common concerns to all our member countries, and I believe we can play a useful role in meeting these and other challenges. We also can be responsive to more unique development issues, such as is illustrated in the documents brought to this meeting regarding the very small island states and territories.

How ECLAC in general, and CDCC in particular, can effectively assist our member governments in overcoming the obstacles to their development is the second point that I would like to raise. According to the resolution that created the Commission, our main responsibility is to assist member governments in raising standards of living in the region. We try to carry out this function in different ways, promoting co-operation between countries, providing certain services such as technical assistance and training, monitoring the economic performance of our member countries and proposing solutions to specific problems. What gives ECLAC a certain uniqueness, at least in my view, has been its ability in the past to approach economic development from the perspective of our constituency --Latin

America and the Caribbean. In other words, ECLAC has been instrumental in bridging the gap between economic thinking and the realities of the region, coming up with something akin to a school of economic thought.

To be sure, we would not be so bold as to offer universal "blue-prints" for development; there is no such thing, since development strategies must take account of the peculiar characteristics of each and every country and adapt to continually changing circumstances. Rather, we wish to stimulate the debate on how to approach development, recognizing the complex and changing realities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the world that surrounds them. That is why we dedicate considerable resources to research and to trying to understand those diverse heterogeneous realities, as a complement to the more action-oriented activities in our work programme.

In order to successfully fulfill our mandates, the manner in which the secretariat interacts with member governments is extremely important. In ECLAC, which, as you know, gathers in its fold 40 members and five associate members from the region and from the industrialized world, the intergovernmental body performs the role of supreme decision-maker while the Secretariat, as in any other international organization, acts as an executive body entrusted with the responsibility of putting into practice the decisions approved. This is the model we have tried to reproduce in the Caribbean, through the intergovernmental forum gathered here today, serviced by our secretariat, whose Caribbean expression, under the able leadership of Mr. Clyde Applewhite, is our Office in Port of Spain.

This brings me, then, to comment on how we perceive the role of CDCC, as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLAC, and as a subregional forum in its own right. It is useful to recall that according to the rules of procedure, the Committee's main function is to act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon. This means that you, the member governments, have the ultimate say in defining priorities and orienting the secretariat's actions and work programme. It is up to us, the secretariat, to exercise our right of taking initiatives and formulating proposals that would hopefully help shape your orientations, and subsequently it is also up to us to try to carry them out. We are very sensitive to the fact that the most efficient and successful institutionalized undertakings in the international realm are those where the executive body responds closely to the interests of the member governments.

In this respect, I feel that we are re-defining CDCC's role—or at least putting it in sharper focus—with each meeting. As a broad concept, including the realm of fostering co-operation between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America, this forum is our most important "sounding board" to introduce the Caribbean concerns in ECLAC's overall work programme and to think constructively of specific actions to promote co-operation and enhance common interests. As a pluralistic forum, it offers us the opportunity to carry out activities to strengthen intra-Caribbean co-operation in a wide spectrum of issues, which on this particular occasion are broadly defined in the agenda and the supporting documentation prepared for this meeting. Finally, CDCC benefits as a forum from the fact that it includes among its members various countries which also belong to other subregional co-operative

arrangements, such as the Caribbean Community and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which, incidentally our secretariat stands ready to assist in any way possible. The latter countries can act in the context of CDCC on the basis of their common interests to become a catalyst for new initiatives, strengthening vital links of intra-Caribbean collaboration.

It could be argued that the heterogeneous nature of CDCC inhibits its adequate functioning. However, we feel, quite to the contrary, that heterogeneity has positive aspects. The Caribbean is still an area richly quilted by linguistic, racial, cultural and economic diversity, from which emanates much of the subregion's originality and vitality. There obviously are not simple formulas which can be uniformly applied to the diverse group of countries that are members of CDCC. Heterogeneity is, after all, the price of universality, which is also one of the most outstanding qualities of the United Nations. In fact, the diverse nature of CDCC calls for practical and relevant proposals for limited co-operation, rather than grandiose schemes for total co-ordination, whose prospects of success are less than promising.

I do not want to leave the impression, however, that carrying out all of CDCC's resolutions is a matter of our carrying out your command. There are, for example, some real constraints which can limit the effectiveness both of CDCC as a forum and that of the secretariat. Some fall in the category of the colloquial phrase of "biting off more than one can chew", others respond to the wise Whitehall dictum that any expenditure proposal should be accompanied by the identification of the source to finance it.

As to the first matter as all of you know, the tasks of the United Nations have expanded exponentially in the past decades. This has led, among other phenomena, to a clamor for greater coherence, as well as for the adoption of universal programmes. Such a trend, in turn, may exert some pressure on this Committee to tackle all the activities presently being covered by the United Nations system, which clearly would strain the secretariat's capacity to respond and ultimately weaken CDCC. It seems to be more fruitful to act within the domain of the partial and thus of the possible.

Regarding the second matter, as you all know, financial constraints today constitute the dominant trait of the functioning of the United Nations. In this respect, the Port of Spain Office of ECLAC has been adversely affected although to a somewhat lesser degree than ECLAC in its entirety, which in turn has suffered relatively less than United Nations Headquarters. I have had an opportunity to discuss the staffing implications of this matter recently in an interchange of correspondence with the Chairman of CDCC; copies of which, I understand, have been circulated among all the members. For this reason, rather than try and fulfill overly ambitious mandates, we are combining realistic work programmes with an intense search for alternative resources. I hope that member governments will assist us in this endeavour since donor agencies understandably require that their resources be dedicated to satisfy priority needs of the region. Concrete examples might be enhanced, training activities promoted by the ECLAC Port of Spain Office as well as a more concerted effort in improving the preparation of macroeconomic indicators in all CDCC member countries.

At any rate, I would like to reaffirm the secretariat's commitment to respond to your concerns to the best of our ability. The work programme of the ECLAC Port of Spain Office is dedicated exclusively to this subregion and, to a large degree, to supporting CDCO's activities. That Office now carries out its functions with ample delegation of authority on administrative and substantive matters. For example, budgetary allotments are received in Port of Spain directly from United Nations Headquarters in New York; recruitment of consultants and General Service staff takes place directly in Port of Spain, and wide latitude is granted to the Office in seeking extrabudgetary funding. In addition, the rest of the ECLAC Secretariat is increasingly involved in providing backstopping to the Port of Spain Office, a practice which could be further enhanced in the future thanks to the presence in Santiago of a regular staff member of our Caribbean Office who is providing subregional perspectives and other relevant inputs to work being carried out at the regional level.

Mr. Chairman,

I hope that my remarks, covering both development issues and the question of making CDCO more responsive to meeting those issues, will contribute to the dialogue to which I referred at the beginning of my statement. It is through such an interchange of views that this eleventh session of CDCO can lead to the definition of a relevant work programme.

The adverse circumstances which the subregion faces, compounded by the recent natural disasters which we all deeply deplore, certainly pose challenges which should stimulate our will and determination to overcome the hurdles to development. I believe that this Committee and ECLAC can play a highly constructive role in contributing to that end.

Thank you.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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|---|---|
| LC/CAR/G.236/Rev.1 | Medium-term plan 1990-1995
Plan de mediano plazo 1990-1995
Plan a moyen terme 1990-1995 |
| LC/CAR/G.241/Rev.1
and
LC/CAR/G.241/Rev.1/
Add.1 | Draft summary of the proposed work programme output for the 1990-1991 biennium |
| LC/CAR/G.255 | An evaluation of economic performance of Caribbean countries with specific reference to the genesis and evolution of the external debt |
| LC/CAR/G.256 | Draft provisional agenda |
| LC/CAR/G.256/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda
Temario provisional anotado
Ordre du jour provisoire annoté |
| LC/CAR/G.257 | Implementation of the Work Programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDOC) 1987-1988
Ejecución del programa de trabajo del Comité de Desarrollo y Cooperación del Caribe (CDOC) 1987-1988
Mise en Oeuvre du Programme de Travail du Comité de Développement et de Coopération des Caraïbes (CDOC) 1987-1988 |
| LC/CAR/G.258 | Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the second period of the 1988-1989 biennium
Programa de trabajo de la Subsele Regional para el Caribe de la CEPAL para el segundo período del bienio 1988-1989
Programme de travail du Siege Sous-Régional de la CEPALC pour les Caraïbes pour la seconde moitié de l'exercice biennal 1988-1989 |

LC/CAR/G.259

Programme of Action for Small Island States

LC/CAR/G.260

Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC, ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly with implications for the CDCC

Acciones tomadas con respecto a las resoluciones del CDCC y resoluciones de la CEPAL y otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas que traen consecuencias para el CDCC

Actions relatives aux résolutions du CDCC de la CEPALC et d'autres organismes des Nations Unies ayant des incidences sur le CDCC.

Annex V

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (States)
CAGRIS	Caribbean Agricultural Information System
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARISPLAN	Caribbean Information System for Economic and Social Planning
OCST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CDC	Caribbean Documentation Centre
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee
CDS/ISIS	Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems
CELADE	Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (Latin American Demographic Centre)
ECDC	Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILPES	Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LABORDOC	Data base of the ILO Library in Geneva
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
REDATAM	Recuperación de datos para áreas pequeñas por microcomputador (Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer)
SELA	Latin American Economic System
TCDC	Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
TOKEN	Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UWI	University of the West Indies
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

