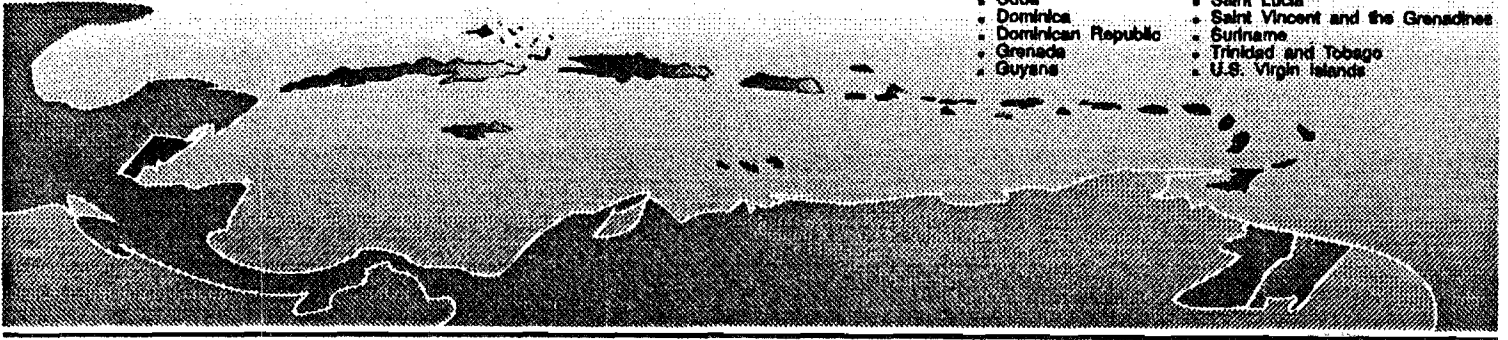


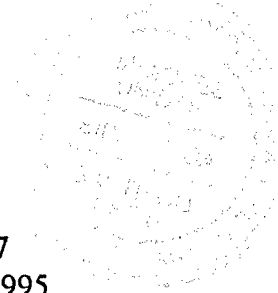


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- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
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- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Sixteenth session of the CDCC  
 St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda  
 5-8 February 1996

GENERAL  
 LC/CAR/G.467  
 18 December 1995  
 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

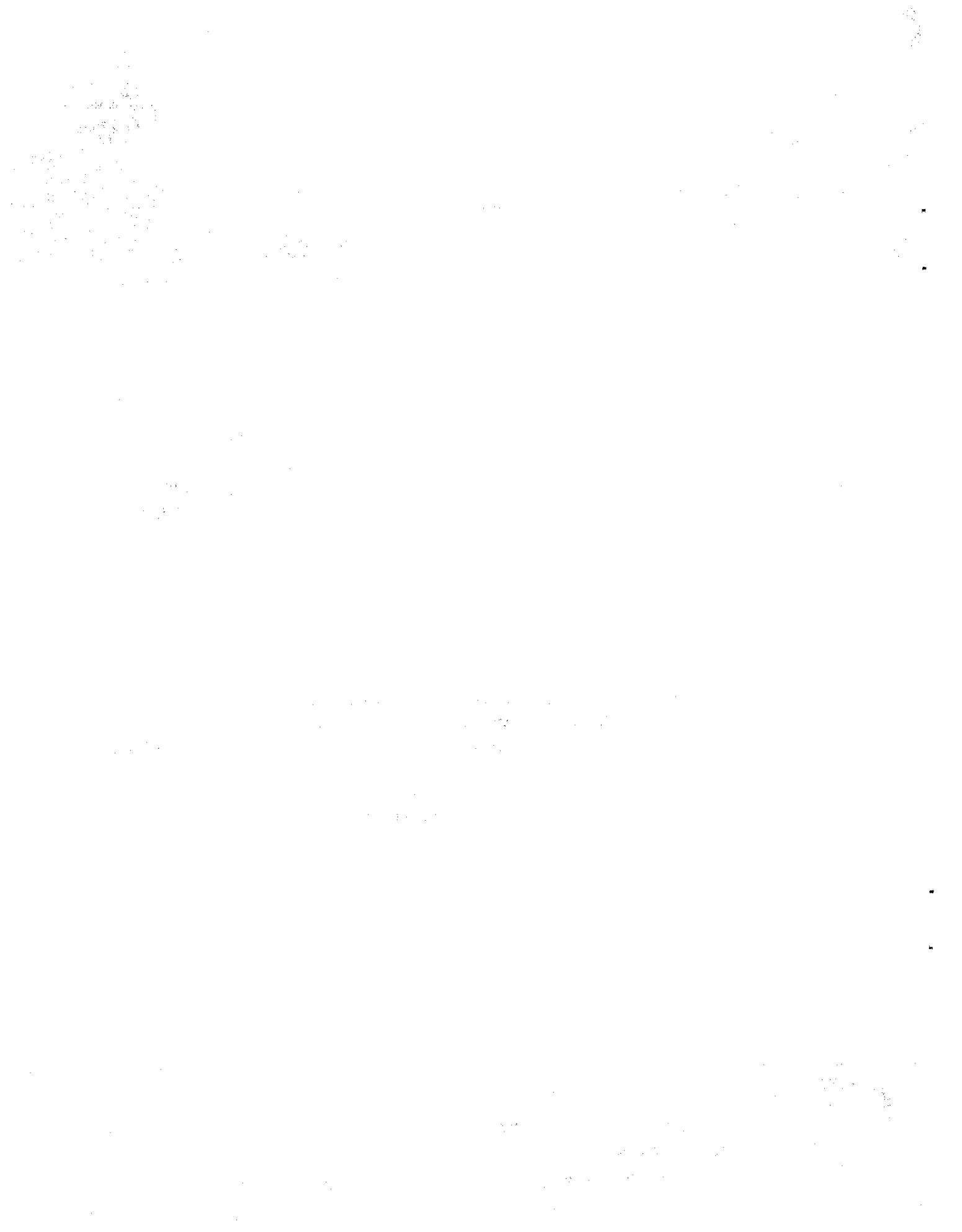


**ACTIVITIES AT THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL LEVEL  
 IN RELATION TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE  
 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

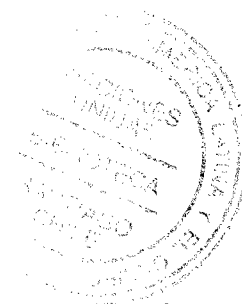
*Regional Coordinating Mechanism for  
 Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action*



UNITED NATIONS  
 ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
 CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE



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# REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS PROGRAMME OF ACTION

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

In May 1995, approximately one year after the historic Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) convened a Meeting of Experts (MOE) on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (POA). The purpose of the MOE was to review progress being made towards implementation of the SIDS-POA, to discuss constraints to its effective implementation, and to agree on priority areas for action.

The MOE was organized by the ECLAC/CDCC, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme's Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (UNDP/TCDC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The meeting took note of the fact that not much progress had been made in the adoption of sustainable development approaches or the integration, at the national level, of the SIDS Programme of Action. Some of the reasons for this delay were attributed to the need for adequate regulatory framework to support and facilitate integrated development planning, the need for a broad-based Sustainable Development Committee at the national level, and strengthening of the human resource capacity at all levels, particularly in fostering public awareness. It was also noted that there was need for greater coordination in the area of strategy and policy formulation and that the absence of a coordinating mechanism was a particularly critical factor affecting the slow pace of implementation of the SIDS-POA at national and regional levels. It was therefore recommended that a mechanism should be established at the regional level to facilitate coordination and implementation of the SIDS-POA.

It was also agreed that the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC Secretariats, which had recently signed a cooperation agreement between their institutions, and which were both involved in the implementation of aspects of the SIDS-POA, should be requested jointly to provide a regional coordinating mechanism for its implementation, on an interim basis, for one year.

This meeting also recommended the establishment of "an appropriate regional consultative or advisory body", which would include governmental and non-governmental organizations, and that the Heads of Government of the region should meet to discuss the activities, and inter-relationships among activities, which should be pursued for sustainable development within the Caribbean subregion. It was further noted that the establishment of new regional institutional arrangements, to facilitate implementation of the SIDS-POA, would require much preparatory work and resource

mobilization for this purpose and that the secretariats should, for this purpose, seek the full cooperation and support of other organizations, particularly the UNDP, the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and UWICED.

It was also stated that the next step in the creation of the coordination mechanism was for CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC, to present a proposal for the establishment of the entity to the next meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers and the ministerial session of the CDCC. This proposal, according to the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts, should also include information on the supplementary resources required to effect the coordination and promotion of the SIDS-POA.

Bearing in mind these recommendations, ECLAC/CDCC and CARICOM assembled a small Working Group of a select number of representatives of regional and international organizations and individuals and convened a one-day meeting (23 November 1995) to, first of all, consider a proposal for a coordinating mechanism for implementing the recommendations of the MOE, assist in charting the direction and work of the implementing mechanism and to make recommendations regarding the composition and function of the regional consultative body.

Based on the recommendations coming out of the MOE and the Working Group, a proposal for the establishment of a coordinating mechanism has been drafted and is being circulated for discussion and comments. In this proposal the recommendations of the MOE are presented in order to establish the context in which the proposed coordination mechanism was considered, and as a yardstick for assessing the work of CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC since the 17-19 May 1995 Meeting of Experts. Secondly, the mechanism for coordinating and implementing of the SIDS-POA is described, and the respective roles, functions and relationships of all the major actors described. Finally, a work programme, based on the recommendations of the MOE, and also based on objective reality of immediate needs as well as initiatives of other regional partners, is presented for discussion and comments.

## 1.2 Recommendations from the MOE

At the MOE, participants discussed a wide range of issues which, in their opinion, were constraining the implementation of the SIDS-POA. Based on these discussions several recommendations were made, many of which reflected their understanding that the implementation of the POA was the responsibility of the individual governments but that several factors were constraining the implementation of the POA at the national level. In this context it was agreed that there was the need for the creation of a mechanism which would facilitate the implementation of the

SIDS-POA at the national level, and that CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC, two institutions which had recently signed a memorandum of agreement, would assume responsibility for creating such a mechanism. The mandate given to CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC is as follows:

- (a) Support and facilitate the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the national level by serving as a source of information and technical assistance on aspects of its implementation, including resource mobilization;
- (b) Serve as a focal point for information and for regional and international liaison;
- (c) Identify and take action on transboundary and other regional issues of sustainable development in the Caribbean, including the formulation of regional projects and the mobilization of resources for same;
- (d) Encourage political support for the SIDS-POA and ensure that relevant aspects are brought to the attention of policy makers in the various sectors and in international forums;
- (e) Serve as the secretariat for an appropriate regional consultative or advisory body, which would include NGOs and other interest groups;
- (f) Support the work of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); and
- (g) Arrange for the carrying out of an independent examination of the feasibility of a permanent new mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the regional level. This will include preparation of the terms of reference, hiring and supervising of consultants, and making such other arrangements as may be required.

Based on these specific recommendations coming out of the MOE and the general thinking which shaped them, ECLAC/CDCC has proceeded with the preparation of a draft mechanism for coordination and a draft work programme which may be undertaken under this implementing authority. These initiatives, it is hoped, will provide the vehicle for achieve some of the objectives of the Meeting, but more importantly, provide a basis on which a sustainable mechanism can be established to provide ongoing regional support for the implementation of the SIDS-POA.

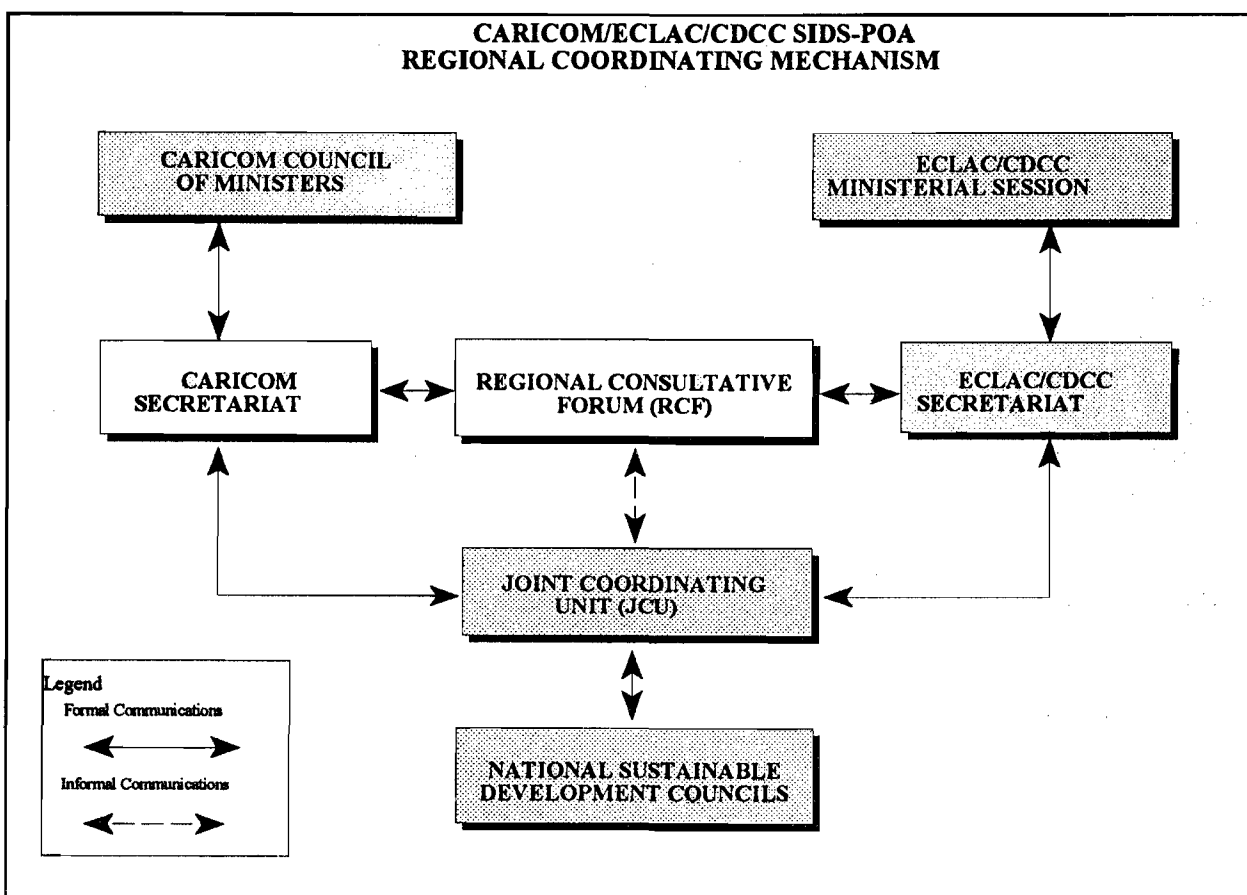
## **2.0 MECHANISM FOR COORDINATION**

In the discussions which ensued at the MOE participants expressed a desire for the establishment of a mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the regional and national level, as well as the establishment of a regional advisory body to guide the process. This mechanism, it is hoped, will be responsible for performing a dual role of influencing the formulation of environment and development policy on the one hand, and on the other hand, assume an active role in project implementation. The challenge therefore is for CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC, with the

support of other regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to create a mechanism for coordination which will facilitate consultation among regional partners as well as assist with the implementation of the SIDS-POA

As a first step in the creation of a coordinating mechanism it is important to note that the responsibilities of project implementation require the establishment of a unit dedicated to this task. In this context, it is proposed that the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats establish a body or unit which will have specific responsibility for project implementation, and more specifically, implementing the recommendations of the MOE. This unit, which could be termed the Joint Coordinating Unit (JCU), will have day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of the SIDS-POA under the guidance and supervision of the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariat (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.  
Regional Coordinating Mechanism Organizational Chart





Taking cognizance of the recommendation regarding the establishment of a regional consultative or advisory body, it is also proposed that the coordination mechanism should include the formal establishment of a Regional Consultative Group (RCG) which will provide direction and guidance to the JCU. Given the thinking which led to the suggested formation of this consultative body it is proposed that such a group should be made up of governmental representatives of member countries of CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC, other regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The RCG will be responsible for planning strategies and giving direction to coordination of activities in relation to the implementation of the SIDS-POA. This consultative body would meet annually, and provide a forum whereby representatives of all governments, non-governmental organizations, donor agencies and private sector interests in the Caribbean, involved in promoting and actively pursuing sustainable development objectives, would meet regularly to report on the progress and constraints relating to the implementation of the SIDS-POA in their respective countries.

The importance of the RCG is reflected in the fact that its proposed membership base allow for the widest cross-sectoral deliberations and discussions on sustainable development. In this context, it is proposed that the recommendations and decisions resulting from the deliberations of the RCG could become an entry point for informing the respective regional political organs (CARICOM ministerial sessions and ECLAC/CDCC ), for obtaining cooperation on matters requiring regional consensus, and for guiding and influencing sustainable development policy at the national level.

## 2.1 Structure of the RCG

The structure of the RCG, as agreed to at the Working Group meeting, should consist of high level government representatives from Caribbean Countries, representatives from regional Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), regional and international organizations and donor agencies with a direct interest or involvement in sustainable development in the Caribbean region, and the private sector. At the May 1995 MOE there were 18 governments, 25 inter-governmental organizations, and 7 NGOs in attendance. Since it is suggested that the meetings of the RCG should be open to all of the interest groups mentioned above, it is anticipated that meetings of the RCG could attract 55-60 government representatives and organizations.

## 2.2 Role of the RCG

The purpose for the establishment of the RCG is to provide a forum whereby governments, NGOs, regional and international organizations and private sector interests in the Caribbean can meet to discuss concerns, share experiences, and agree on collective action to be taken by national and regional institutions on matters and issues which will lead to the adoption and implementation of sustainable development policies and initiatives. In this context the role of the RCG should be to:

(a) Review the progress, achievements, successes and constraints regarding the implementation of SIDS-POA at the national and regional levels;

- (b) Identify areas for regional cooperation and provide broad directives on issues or activities to be undertaken by the JCU in support of these issues;
  - (c) Assess and monitor the performance of the JCU;
  - (d) Promote the adoption of sustainable development policies at the national level;
  - (e) Promote regional coordination and harmonisation of sustainable development policies;
- and
- (f) Consider issues and make recommendations on specific approaches which governments should possibly adopt at regional and international forums.

Decisions arrived at by the RCG will be communicated to their respective constituencies, via the established channels, depending on the action required. It is anticipated that some of the decisions taken and recommendations made will require the attention of the political directorate. These decisions will be communicated via the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC channels, to the respective regional political organs, or directly to the governments through established channels. Decisions or recommendations requiring the attention of the JCU will be conveyed to the Unit via the formally and informally established channels as depicted in Figure 1.

### 2.3 Frequency of meetings

It is proposed that the RCG will meet once a year, to review the progress being made regarding the implementation of the SIDS-POA. However, in anticipation of the need for more frequent meetings and the extent to which certain technical issues may require more detailed analysis and expert judgement, it is proposed that the RCG appoint an Interim Working Group, comprising no more than 15 persons, with the specific responsibility for helping to guide the work of the JCU in-between meetings of the RCG. The Interim Working Group will meet as often as will be required.

## 3.0 **CARICOM AND ECLAC/CDCC COOPERATION**

The objective of this joint cooperation agreement between CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC is to support and facilitate the implementation of the SIDS-POA by providing support for designing and implementing programmes, projects and activities which:

- (a) Help with the formulation of national and regional policy;
- (b) Provide direction, and focus on critical issues relating to environment and development;

(c) Enhance the capacity within the country to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives;

(d) Develop the human resource potential for environment and natural resource development; and

(e) Mobilise financial resources to assist with the implementation of programmes and projects aimed at achieving environment and sustainable development objectives.

As partners with joint responsibility for overseeing the work of the JCU, CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC will be guided by the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation signed on 24 January 1995, and other supplementary arrangements which may be specified with regard to the operation of the Unit.

Both CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC bring different and distinct perspectives to this coordination mechanism. CARICOM, because of its membership structure is seen as a powerful and influential medium for obtaining political approval on issues which are brought to the attention of that body. ECLAC/CDCC, because of its regional and international structural alignment, is an influential vehicle for maintaining linkages with other regional and international networks and providing current and timely information which are of relevance to the region. ECLAC/CDCC membership structure also ensures that other Caribbean countries, particularly the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs), become fully involved in the SIDS process. In addition, ECLAC, given the range of technical issues which form part of its work programme, can provide valuable assistance and input to the work of the JCU.

In the roles that each of these institutions is expected to play in this partnership, it is imperative that there is sufficient awareness of what resources each of the joint partners bring to this relationship, the comparative advantage which each partner has in terms of its ability to influence and inform Caribbean countries, the need to rationalise and share responsibilities, and above all, the constraints and limited technical capabilities which could have a direct impact on the ability to implement the recommendations of the MOE. It is envisaged that as part of this joint cooperation for implementing the SIDS-POA both these institutions will want to retain their distinct identities and as such there will be areas where they may pursue their respective institutional objectives. It is also recognized that they each will have certain obligations and responsibilities to their respective regional and international constituencies. In the following sections some of the more obvious roles of both CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC are defined as part of this joint relationship (See Table 1.).

Table 1.  
Roles of CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC

<b>CARICOM AND ECLAC/CDCC</b>	
<b>ROLE OF CARICOM</b>	<b>ROLE OF ECLAC/CDCC</b>
Liaison with CARICOM Member countries	Liaison with ECLAC/CDCC Member Countries
Obtaining political Support for implementing the SIDS-POA	Promoting and facilitating collaboration among SIDS regional bodies
Promoting collaboration and coordination among CARICOM Member Countries	Providing technical support to the JCU for the implementation of the SIDS-POA
Secretariat for the RCG	Secretariat for JCU
Reporting to CARICOM Council of Ministers	Reporting to ECLAC/CDCC Ministerial Council, SIDS/UN & other UN Organizations.
Fundraising	

### 3.1 Role of CARICOM

CARICOM, to date, has been very supportive of the efforts of member states in helping to coordinate their input to the United Nations Global Conference of SIDS and the implementation of the POA. CARICOM has pledged its support for the establishment of the coordinating mechanism and has endorsed the proposal currently before the European Development Fund (EDF) which is designed to create the institutional capacity for the secretariat to contribute more meaningfully towards the implementation of the SIDS-POA. Notwithstanding this anticipated support, it is envisaged that the CARICOM Secretariat will play a pivotal role in support of the coordination mechanism by facilitating liaison with member countries, providing political support, fostering greater cooperation and coordination among member countries in the implementation of the POA and serving as the secretariat for the RCG. These functions are elaborated further in the following sections.

#### 3.1.1 Liaison with CARICOM member countries

The CARICOM Secretariat has over the years established formal mechanisms for communicating and sharing information among its membership. Within the context of the joint programme, these mechanisms of communication can become an important means whereby the concerns of the membership are communicated to the JCU and likewise, decisions and action agreed to by the RCG can be shared with the political directorate.

### 3.1.2 Political support

Obtaining political support for the SIDS-POA is seen as the critical first step in the implementation of any specific action. Other than the annual Heads of Government meetings, several mechanisms exist which provide opportunities for ministerial and other bodies to take decisions on issues which have a direct relevance to the implementation of the POA. CARICOM can therefore ensure that opportunities are created to bring important SIDS issues to the attention of decision makers.

Within the context of obtaining political support for implementing the SIDS-POA, CARICOM should ensure the following:

- (a) Obtain approval for the establishment of the JCU, and for the involvement of CARICOM as a partner in the implementation of the SIDS-POA;
- (b) Obtain political support and commitment for the implementation of the SIDS-POA;  
and
- (c) Ensure that mechanisms are established whereby recommendations coming out of meetings of the RCG are brought to the attention of relevant decision-making bodies of CARICOM;

### 3.1.3 Promoting collaboration among CARICOM member countries

Several issues relating to environment and development have common origins and likewise require common approaches in addressing them. The CARICOM Secretariat may be seen as an important mechanism whereby issues which are of relevance to the region receive the collective attention of its members, and common positions adopted.

### 3.1.4 Secretariat for the RCG

Provide technical and other secretariat support for the RCG. Some of that support could include the preparation of reports on issues and positions which should receive the consideration of CARICOM Ministers and Heads of Governments, ensuring that issues relating to the implementation of the SIDS-POA and sustainable development in general are brought to the appropriate levels of CARICOM ministers.

It is imperative, therefore, that meetings of the RCG should be timed to precede annual meetings of CARICOM Council of Ministers who will be responsible for addressing issues relating to the implementation of the SIDS-POA and sustainable development. CARICOM staff will be responsible for preparing and organizing background papers and supporting documents on issues and recommendations coming out of the RCG for the consideration of the Ministers.

The CARICOM Secretariat could also help to inform CARICOM ministers, and Heads of Governments of issues which need their attention and facilitate discussion by providing background information on the relevant subject(s) to be discussed.

### 3.2 Role of ECLAC/CDCC

Since the conclusion of the United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, ECLAC/CDCC has been actively involved in helping to implement the POA. The secretariat has conducted policy oriented research on issues pertinent to sustainable development in the Caribbean; conducted a high level workshop on Renewable Energy Technology; established a communications initiative emphasizing the use of the UNECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System; and is carrying out an assessment of environmental information needs in the region with a view towards developing a project proposal aimed at establishing a mechanism to provide individuals and groups of users with access to environment related information integral to economic and social policy-making in the Caribbean.

The secretariat was also involved in convening the MOE on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action which reviewed the performance of member States with regard to the implementation of the SIDS/POA, out of which came recommendations for specific activities to speed up the implementation of the POA within member countries.

In recognition of the need to strengthen its capacity to respond to the needs of the region, ECLAC/CDCC has included in its 1996-97 work programme activities in support of the implementation of the SIDS-POA. In addition, the secretariat has sought assistance for a staff member who will have specific responsibilities for implementing the activities outlined in the 1996-1997 work programme and other initiatives aimed at helping to implement the recommendations coming out of the MOE. ECLAC, therefore, remains committed to the implementation of the SIDS-POA and the establishment of a JCU with CARICOM.

In fulfilment of its responsibilities under the joint coordinating mechanism, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat will have as some of its main objectives facilitating liaison with its member countries, the provision of technical support to the JCU, facilitating collaboration among other United Nations agencies, facilitating collaboration among other SIDS Regional bodies, reporting to the United Nations SIDS Unit in New York and providing temporary accommodation for the JCU secretariat.

#### **4.0 THE JOINT COORDINATING UNIT**

The purpose for establishing the JCU is to have a body dedicated to the task of facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the MOE, and in general, the SIDS-POA. Taking into consideration initiatives currently being implemented and being contemplated by other regional institutions, the objectives of the JCU will be to:

- (a) Assist with the development of national policies and strengthening the capacities of national institutions concerned with environment and development;
- (b) Help conceptualize and refine national and regional issues and provide information and suggest approaches which governments should possibly adopt at regional and international forums;
- (c) Provide advisory services to member countries, at their request, in activities related to the implementation of the SIDS-POA;
- (d) Review and assess the significance and implications of issues, initiatives/directives, treaties, and other obligations relating to environment and development coming out of other regional and international forums;
- (e) Establish an information database on activities related to the SIDS-POA;
- (f) Support the work of AOSIS; and
- (g) Arrange for the carrying out of an independent examination of the feasibility of a permanent new mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the regional level. This will include preparation of the terms of reference, hiring and supervising of consultants, and making such other arrangements as may be required.

##### **4.1 JCU Work Programme**

The work programme outlined for the JCU has its roots in the recommendations emanating from the Meeting of Experts. In addition, the work programme has been formulated, first of all, on identified gaps in programme initiatives which need to be filled if sustainable development can be fully integrated in development planning, and on the comparative advantage which CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC possess in informing decision makers in the Caribbean.

In seeking to outline a specific role for the JCU, it must be borne in mind that the JCU is being established at a time when there are several actors involved in sustainable development initiatives in the region. The work programme of the JCU should therefore reflect the desire of the two institutions to avoid duplication, provide support to other national and regional actors, and fill those niches which are not being addressed, either because of financial, institutional, structural and/or technical constraints. More importantly, the JCU, in the formulation and execution of the work

programme should draw on the technical support of other regional actors, particularly the OECS/NRMU, UNDP, UWICED, UNEP-RCU, the NGO community and the private sector.

Based on these considerations a set of activities have been identified which will form the basis of the work programme for the JCU over the next two years. These activities are as follows:

(a) Support broad based capacity building at national levels through the provision of necessary technical assistance or advisory services, and the provision of training and other human resource development activities.

(b) Secure the involvement of governments, NGOs, the private sector and other major groups in the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action.

(c) Establish cost effective information systems in support of designated priority areas in the SIDS-POA, and facilitate liaison with relevant national, regional and international organizations. This will include the provision of statistical and other information and the establishment and maintenance of a database of technical assistance availabilities.

(d) Prepare a popularized version of the SIDS Programme of Action and produce a SIDS newsletter.

(e) Identify transboundary and other regional issues of sustainable development in the Caribbean and formulate proposals or prepare other documentation as may be required, for the consideration of the RCG, governmental or non-governmental organizations or regional and international organizations as appropriate.

(f) Prepare proposals for the development of innovative financial instruments, including proposals for national and/or regional environment funds, and the formulation of policies which would remove policy distortions and "green" national budgets.

(g) Prepare proposals and guidelines for advancing the prioritization process at national and regional level.

(h) Submit and oversee the implementation of the proposed GEF project "Creating integrated policy, planning and management frameworks in support of ecosystem protection of the Caribbean Sea."

(i) Arrange for the carrying out of an independent examination of the feasibility of a permanent new mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the SIDS POA at the regional level. This will include preparation of the terms of reference, hiring and supervision of consultants, and making such other arrangements as may be required.



#### 4.1.1 Capacity building

**Objective:** To assist with the strengthening of the institutional capacities and developing of the human resource base for implementing environmental and development initiatives.

Provide technical assistance or advisory services and organize technical training to support the human resource development. The JCU will work closely with other regional partners involved in capacity building and the region's private sector to help with the expansion of this initiative through the development of guidelines, methodologies and other instruments to guide and influence the implementation of the SIDS-POA. Some areas for attention which readily come to mind are the development and implementation of national and sectoral strategy documents. Some of the possible areas of support could include:

- (a) Investigation of the underlying reasons constraining the formulation and implementation of national and sectoral strategies;
- (b) Identification of common policies and institutional framework mechanisms required as a prerequisite for implementing the POA;
- (c) Definition of the technical and advisory capacity required to undertake the preparation and implementation of sectoral strategies;
- (d) Development of appropriate "model" Guidelines for the preparation of national and sectoral strategy documents; and
- (e) Consideration and analysis of critical issues and policy choices in Environment and Development and make recommendations, as required, to help incorporate such policies into the decision making processes of member States.
- (f) Organize technical training workshops to support capacity building at national and sectoral levels.

#### 4.1.2 Information management

**Objective:** To strengthen the capacity of national governments to provide reliable, and comparative information and assist decision makers in making informed decisions.

The specific components of this programme are contained in the Environmental Information System proposal which has been submitted to the EDF. This project focuses on the merger of four essential components of information, namely information availability, effective ways of delivery, responsiveness to user needs and effective use of information.

It is intended that this project will assist the countries in establishing national information mechanisms with access to regional and international databases on environmentally-related information. This mechanism will enhance AMBIONET as an effective way of delivering the information that may be required by the user.

#### 4.1.3 Public awareness

**Objective:** To heighten public awareness of the SIDS-POA and foster greater public acceptance and sensitivity to special problems of small island developing States.

Creating mechanisms for greater public and private sector cooperation.

In this context the JCU will also produce a publication (SIDS Newsletter) which will facilitate the sharing of information on the progress being made with regard to the implementation of the SIDS-POA, update on other initiatives coming out of the United Nations system, as well information on other initiatives being undertaken by other regional partners.

#### 4.1.4 Transboundary project formulation and implementation

**Objective:** To identify transboundary issues of relevance to Caribbean countries and develop initiatives, programmes and/or projects which will facilitate common approaches to address and manage these resources and/or problems. Some issues which readily come to mind include the following:

- (a) Conservation of biodiversity (particularly marine biodiversity),
- (b) Trade and the environment
- (c) Structural adjustment and the environment
- (d) International Law, Conventions and Protocols
  - Law of the Sea
  - Biological Diversity
  - Climate Change
- (e) International financing issues linked to the implementation of the POA
- (f) Environmental Economics and Green Accounting

As part of this initiative the JCU will conceptualise and facilitate the designing of projects which seek to resolve common environment and development problems of SIDS, identify potential funding sources (GEF, etc) and coordinate their preparation and submission to respective donors. One such project proposal (Integrated Policy, Planning and Management Frameworks in Support of

Ecosystem Protection of the Caribbean Sea), has been formulated in preparation for submission to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

#### 4.1.5 Sustainable financing initiatives

Objective: To explore innovative forms of financing, including fiscal and monetary instruments, to fund and sustain natural resource management programmes in the region.

Implementation of the POA will require a substantial amount of funds. The countries have already indicated that they are unable to meet the financial requirements associated with the implementation of the POA. The donor community has also signaled its intention to scale back its level of support for countries in this hemisphere. In this climate of dwindling financial resources for resource management, it is imperative that various forms of financing be explored, which would ensure a continuous flow of funding to undertake required research and implement projects which meet the objectives of the POA.

#### 4.1.6 Permanent coordination mechanism

Objective: To examine the feasibility of a permanent arrangement for the coordination of the implementation of the SIDS-POA, at the regional level.

Prepare the terms of reference for undertaking this study, and commission an independent team of consultants who will be responsible for soliciting the views of a wide range of governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations in determining the most suitable arrangement for a permanent mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SIDS-POA.

#### 4.1.7 Regional GEF Project

Objective: To coordinate the implementation of the Block B Grant Caribbean GEF Project on "Creating Integrated Policy, Planning and Management Frameworks in Support of Ecosystem Protection of the Caribbean Sea".

UNDP has submitted to GEF Council, a request for Block B funds to assist in "creating integrated policy, planning and management frameworks in support of protection of the Caribbean sea and its ecosystems". This proposal, which is expected to go before the GEF Council in the first quarter of 1996, would assist individual Caribbean SIDS to coordinate their efforts on a more effective regional basis.

## 5.0 BUDGET

The resources earmarked for the operation of the coordinating mechanism and the Joint Coordinating Unit are those expected to come from ECLAC/CDCC, the CARICOM Secretariat, and UNDP.

ECLAC/CDCC has received approval from the General Assembly for its request for a P4 post to be based at the Port-of-Spain office, to add to its existing professional capability in this area. This office will provide the physical facilities for the JCU, and will assign a Secretary to the Unit.

UNDP has pledged support for the JCU using Indicative Planning Fund (IPF) and Special Resources, Capacity 21 and GEF, and technical support through its Senior Sustainable Development Officer.

The CARICOM Secretariat is currently seeking resources under the European Development Fund to facilitate its contribution to the JCU. Funding requested will make it possible to acquire two professionals, two research assistants, a secretary and other general office support.

The EDF is expected to make a decision on the two proposals at a meeting of the European Union regional council in the Dominican Republic, scheduled for the first quarter of 1996.

These resources will enable the JCU to undertake the substantial amount of the work outlined in the work programme. Though the specific amount of funds required have not been fully determined, it is anticipated that additional extrabudgetary funds, in the amounts indicated in the Table 2. will be required to implement the programme being proposed.

**Table 2.**  
**Operating and Programme Budget**

1.0 Institutional Support	Funding Source	Amount	
		Pledged	Requested
Staff (2) x 2 years 1 Professional 1 Secretary	ECLAC/CDCC	245,000.00	
Staff (2) x 2 years 1 Professional 1 Secretary	UNDP (In-kind)		
Staff (5) x 2 (CARICOM) 2 Professionals 2 Research Assistants 1 Secretary	EU/Lome		550,000.00
Consultants, Training, Meetings, Travel Communications, Printing & Equipment	EU/Lome		1,000,000.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>245,000.00</b>	<b>1,550,000.00</b>
<b>2.0 Program Activities</b>			
2.1 Capacity Building	Extrabudgetary		100,000.00
2.2 Information Management	EU/Lome		150,000.00
2.3 Public Awareness	Extrabudgetary		130,000.00
2.4 Transboundary Project Formulation and Implementation	Extrabudgetary		150,000.00
2.5 Sustainable Financing Initiative	Extrabudgetary		100,000.00
2.6 Permanent Coordination Mechanism	Extrabudgetary		75,000.00
2.7 Regional GEF Project (Block B)	EU/Lome		150,000.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>245,000.00</b>	<b>855,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,650,000.00</b>

## 6.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The coordination mechanism proposed is one which seeks to create a structure with a specifically identified responsibility for assisting with the implementation of the SIDS-POA. This decision to establish a joint coordinating mechanism and the structure proposed, takes account of concerns expressed at the MOE, and of the ways in which a coordinating mechanism might result in a speedier implementation of the POA. Also, the creation of this institutional mechanism responds to the need to take advantage of existing institutional structures and avoid the creation of new ones.

The time frame for operationalising this mechanism is set at two years, during which time it is anticipated that some of the essential features can become established and serve as a blue print for a more permanent mechanism. During this interim period, both CARICOM and ECLAC are expected to provide political and technical support to guide the operations of the JCU. In addition, the collective input of other regional and international organizations should provide an effective means of ensuring greater efficiency in the implementation of the SIDS-POA and that greater strides are made in integrating the environment in development planning.

The Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS-POA agreed that "the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC Secretariats should present a jointly agreed proposal to the next meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers and the ministerial session of CDCC for the establishment of this joint coordinating mechanism".

With this in mind, the ministerial meeting of the sixteenth session of CDCC is invited to endorse the joint proposal set out in this document, making such changes as it deems appropriate.

In accordance with the stated request of the Meeting of Experts, a draft budget for the implementation of the proposal is attached as an annex to this document

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