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**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE  
(CDCC)**

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## **PART ONE**

### **LIST OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

A number of recommendations emerged from the discussions. They included the following:

- More work should be carried out by the secretariat on the contribution of women to regional societies;
- Given the limited resource base of the ECLAC/CDCC member countries, a mechanism for the coordination and implementation of the activities of the various agencies operating in the region should be established to avoid duplication of effort. Agencies should concentrate on areas in which they have a comparative advantage;
- The CDCC's Constituent Declaration should be reviewed and a clear organic structure established for the Committee's operations. The review should include a clear definition of its objectives and functions, as well as the financial requirements for the conduct of its activities;
- The Monitoring Committee should meet annually and in those years in which the CDCC convenes at the ministerial level, the Committee should meet some days prior to the technical session of the CDCC to formulate recommendations for consideration by the ministerial meeting;
- More resources need to be allocated to the CDCC to carry out development programmes in the small, more vulnerable countries of the Caribbean;
- The document on the "CDCC into the new millennium" needs to be streamlined and plans and priorities for the allocation of extrabudgetary resources established;
- CARIFORUM should be considered a potential partner and a potential source of resources for technical cooperation among CDCC member countries;
- ECLAC and the CCST should meet to discuss the way forward in their relationship, to strengthen collaboration and to optimally promote science and technology in the region;
- A group of legal experts should meet to clarify the relationship between the ECLAC/CDCC and CCST taking into account, inter alia, the fact that the CDCC and CCST memberships do not coincide.

## **PART TWO**

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

#### **Place and date of the meeting**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the eighteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at the technical level in Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago, on 30 and 31 March 2000 and at the ministerial level on 1 April 2000.

#### **Attendance**

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were Anguilla, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands.

The delegate from Aruba apologised for the absence of the Honourable Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Mrs. L. Beke-Martinez. He also took the opportunity to read a statement on her behalf. In her statement, the Minister congratulated the commitment of the CDCC to its members and commended the Secretariat for its performance in this respect. She also thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the hospitality shown to the delegates of Aruba.

The chair asked that the delegate of Aruba convey to the Honourable Minister his appreciation that she took the time to convey such felicitous statements even though unable to attend the Meeting. He also thanked her on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the sentiments expressed in the statement.

The following United Nations Agencies attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD).

### **Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting**

The Chairman called the meeting to order, drawing attention to the significance of its convening in the context of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Committee's establishment. He thought it appropriate that, as appeared on the annotated agenda, Item 6, which dealt with the proposal to reinvent the Committee to equip it to meet the challenges of the future, had been identified as the central theme for discussion. He welcomed all delegations to the meeting and expressed the wish that visiting officials would have the opportunity to experience the culture of Trinidad and Tobago, notwithstanding the packed schedule implied by the agenda which required detailed examination.

### **Agenda item 2 - Election of officers**

Representatives of the following countries were elected to the Bureau:

Chairman: Trinidad and Tobago

Vice-Chairmen: Antigua and Barbuda  
Cuba  
Dominican Republic  
St. Kitts/Nevis

Rapporteur: Aruba

The election of four Vice-Chairmen was a special arrangement adopted by the session in the context of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Committee.

### **Agenda item 3 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as follows:

1. Opening.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Procedural matters.

5. Review of the work of the secretariat:
  - (a) Report of the Director on the implementation of the 1998-1999 work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat;
  - (b) Consideration of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium; and
  - (c) Status report on follow-up to global conferences.
6. “The CDCC into the new millennium: Meeting the challenges of the future” and Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organ.
7. Unveiling of “The Caribbean in the Decade of the 1990’s”.
8. Matters related to the Non-independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs).
9. Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC.
10. Resolutions of the session for presentation to the eighteenth session of the CDCC at the ministerial level and the twenty-eighth session of ECLAC, Mexico, 3-7 April 2000.
11. Any other business.
12. Dates and venues of the tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and of the nineteenth session of the CDCC.
13. Consideration of the Report of the eighteenth session of the CDCC at the technical level.
14. Closure.

#### **Agenda item 4 - Procedural matters**

The meeting agreed on its hours of work.

#### **Agenda item 5 - Review of the work of the secretariat**

- (a) *Report of the Director on the implementation of the 1998 – 1999 work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat*

The Director indicated that the overriding philosophy governing the formation of the work plan was the need to ensure a relationship between the developmental challenges facing the

Caribbean and the activities of the office and to provide the necessary data and other inputs required for informed decision-making.

In view of this, the following strategy had been adopted:

- Fostering a closer relationship between the office and member States;
- Ensuring a concurrence between the activities of the office and regional needs;
- Increasing accessibility and visibility of the office's output.

In her review of the activities executed over the 1998-1999 biennium, the Director drew particular attention to the following areas:

**Technical assistance**, in respect of which the office had undertaken at least 15 studies, in addition to 114 missions, almost twice the number undertaken during the previous biennium, in response to over 202 requests from member States, in a diverse number of technical fields.

**Publications/research:** In this area the office produced 102 publications, compared with 63 in the previous biennium, and 31 more non-recurrent publications than envisaged, while exhausting all budget lines for consultants, temporary assistance, Section 21 funds and ad hoc expert groups.

**Information dissemination**, in which context four official briefings were undertaken to inform the Permanent Representatives of CDCC member countries to the United Nations on developments in the region. The office also assisted member States to prepare for effective participation in a number of global forums. In addition, there had been a steady increase in the number of CDCC States attending meetings convened by the secretariat.

In forging ahead into new areas of endeavour, the office, as reported by the Director, conducted research and inquiry into the following areas:

- Intraregional migration: Owing to the increasing significance of migrants to the economic, social, political and cultural landscape of the member States, studies had been undertaken in several islands to provide information to aid public policy formulation;
- In the area of tourism and the implications of land ownership by non-nationals, several studies had been undertaken in light of the intractable nature of the problems that occurred when large parcels of prime real estate were removed from local ownership. This had implications for intergenerational equity. Related studies had been undertaken in the assessment of aliens' land holding policies;
- In the area of planning, major contributions had been made by this office to the redrafting of planning legislation for Saint Lucia. A meeting of regional planners

had also been convened to discuss and prepare for upcoming challenges in the local, regional and global contexts;

- In the services sector, especially in the areas of financial services and informatics, the office had completed studies offering strategic guidance to four members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries on the likely impact of those areas on their economies.

Other areas of research undertaken by the Office during the relevant period included the identification of the need for and use of environmentally sensitive technologies in the hotel sector; extensive work and representation to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on trade liberalization; and training in the macroeconomic assessment of the impact of natural disasters, which continued to frustrate economic progress in some CDCC member countries.

The Director presented an overview of a number of global conferences for which the secretariat had assisted member States in preparing. She outlined the support provided by the secretariat to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA) and also the reasons for the recent discontinuation by the office of its role as secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). She also reported on training programmes provided to member countries and on collaborative efforts with other regional institutions, including other United Nations agencies, in the furtherance of the office's mandate. The Director concluded by reiterating the ongoing commitment of the office to the translation of policies adopted by the membership into actions that would redound to the benefit of the peoples of the region. The full report of the Director's review was circulated under cover of document CDCC 18/INT.8.

***(b) Consideration of the work programme proposed for the 2002 – 2003 biennium***

The proposed work programme for the 2002 – 2003 biennium was presented to the meeting by the secretariat. The document under reference was LC/CAR/G.602. The secretariat stated that, in drafting the work programme, consideration had been given to the overriding goal of ECLAC/CDCC, namely that of assisting member States to achieve the social and economic well-being of their people, in the context of healthy, natural environments. Key assumptions had been made according to which:

- (a) Information technology would play a key role in economic diversification and the fact that increased availability of information would most certainly decrease certain aspects of the vulnerability of the small States of the region;
- (b) The process of widening and deepening of Caribbean integration would continue;
- (c) Trade liberalization programmes would continue to consolidate;
- (d) A greater percentage of Caribbean people would enter the ageing category and challenges in social integration and social progress would continue;



(e) Greater attention would be given to environmental issues.

Within the context of the above, programme activities had been designed to:

- Monitor economic performance;
- Assist in the deepening of the integration processes through trade and other mechanisms;
- Provide current statistical information on trade and social indicators;
- Analyze and monitor economic policies in the context of liberalized finance and trade regimes and their effects on growth, employment and the reduction of poverty;
- Monitor the role of science and technology in the productive sectors, with specific emphasis on technology transfer and research and application of technology;
- Monitor the dynamics of populations;
- Effect social integration and reduce environmental vulnerability.

The proposed work programme was approved by the meeting.

**(c) *Status report on follow-up to global conferences***

World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), 1995

The review of the WSSD is scheduled to take place in June 2000. The secretariat reported that it had conducted a number of activities in the period immediately following the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995, to provide technical assistance to its member countries as they sought to implement the Directional Plan of Action adopted at the Summit.

In September 1999, the Caribbean Subregional Review of the WSSD was convened to provide the opportunity for governments to share information on major policy and programme initiatives, best practices, constraints to social development and to the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action. At that meeting, governments also identified emerging trends, as well as priority areas for further action.

In support of the meaningful discussions that took place at the Caribbean Subregional Review of WSSD+5, the secretariat had commissioned a number of special studies on core issues of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In that regard, the secretariat reported the welcome assistance of other agencies of the United Nations family, namely, UNICEF and the ILO, in the preparation of selected papers.

Special assistance in the review process was provided to Haiti, upon request of the Government of that country, through the technical support of UNDP, Haiti. The secretariat reported on its activities in this regard, including the selection of individual experts and the creation of a bilingual team, fielded in Haiti for a period of 10 days. The Government of Haiti, through its Minister of Planning, expressed great satisfaction with the secretariat's assistance, as this had opened the possibility for that country, not only to benefit from the available information on WSSD+5 experiences in the rest of the Caribbean, but also, to provide information on the corresponding process in Haiti, a two-way coordination which had not taken place before.

#### International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 1994

The secretariat had been involved in several follow-up activities to the ICPD, toward the preparation of the ICPD+5 review. These included:

(a) The Caribbean Population and Development meeting, held in the Bahamas, 3-5 May 1995. One outcome of that meeting was the adoption of the Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development, referred to as the "Bahamas Consensus";

(b) Visits by the secretariat to a selected number of countries in the subregion between September and October 1998, to assist with the review process and the compilation of national reports;

(c) A Subregional Meeting on Population and Development, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in November 1998, in response to a mandate from the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development held during the twenty-seventh session of ECLAC, in Aruba, 11-16 May 1998.

At the regional level, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had provided technical assistance to Caribbean governments attending the meeting of presiding officers of the ECLAC Sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, in December of 1998. The secretariat had also provided substantive servicing to its member countries attending the final Preparatory Conference for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD+5 and for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS), held from 30 June – 2 July 1999.

These follow-up activities culminated in the convening of a meeting of an Ad Hoc Expert Group on Population and Development for the Caribbean Subregion over the period 24-25 January 2000, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Four priority areas for action were identified at the meeting, namely:

- (a) Youth/Adolescent reproductive health and rights;
- (b) The aged;

- (c) Migration; and
- (d) Training.

United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (UNGCSIDS), 1994

The secretariat presented a report in the context of the more recent developments in the implementation of SIDS POA adopted at the UNGCSIDS in 1994. In that regard, the more recent developments at the global and regional level were reviewed and the priority areas for future action identified. The review covered:

- (a) The Meeting of representatives of Donors and representatives of SIDS, “the Donors’ Meeting”, New York, 24-26 February 1999;
- (b) The Seventh Meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Development, New York, 19-30 April 1999;
- (c) The twenty-second Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations dedicated to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, New York, 27-28 September 1999.

The secretariat reported that great interest had been expressed by the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean in the further implementation of the SIDS POA, as evidenced by the number of projects presented by them at the Donors’ Meeting, in February 1999. Of the 312 project proposals presented, the SIDS of the Caribbean accounted for 149. It was noted, however, that there remained the issue of the further development and presentation of regional projects through, inter alia, the consolidation of national projects, where applicable, for submission to potential donors. The CDCC members were urged to treat this as a matter of priority.

The secretariat drew attention to the six sectoral areas of the SIDS POA that had been identified by the Special Session as requiring urgent action, namely:

- Climate change;
- Natural and environmental disasters and climate variability;
- Freshwater resources;
- Coastal and marine resources;
- Energy; and
- Tourism.

Attention was also drawn to the agreement reached at the Special Session to integrate, in specific operational terms, economic, environmental and social components of action to achieve sustainable development. This was indicated to be one of the major outcomes of the Special Session, from the perspective of the Caribbean SIDS POA which, in the pursuit of activities under the various chapters of the POA, had often seen their efforts frustrated or at least distracted by issues related to poverty alleviation, unemployment, trade and agriculture and other concerns of a socio-economic nature.

The secretariat also pointed to other developments that were pertinent to the future implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action. These included:

(a) The decision adopted by the twelfth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened under UNEP auspices, in Barbados, 2-7 March 2000, to lend enhanced support to the implementation of the SIDS POA and to facilitate its recognition as the framework for sustainable development in the region;

(b) The steps that had so far been taken within the Caribbean to reinforce the SIDS POA as the framework for sustainable development, with particular reference to the OECS environmental strategy then currently under discussion.

Attention was drawn to the Eighth Meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Development to be held from 24 April–5 May 2000, in respect of which regional SIDS were urged to make adequate preparation for participation. The secretariat also pointed to the need of governments to bear in mind the High-Level Segment of that meeting which was scheduled to take place over the period, 26-27 April 2000 and in which political commitment and priorities for the SIDS regional programme would be addressed, among other elements. The need was reiterated for participants to provide inputs towards the development of regional projects for submission to prospective donors. The secretariat also drew attention to the lack of progress in the establishment of a permanent mechanism for the coordination of the implementation of the SIDS POA in the region.

The Chair invited comments on the agenda item. Noting the lack of responses by delegations, the representative from Antigua and Barbuda attributed this to the competent delivery of the presentations made by members of the secretariat, as well as to the good work that was being done on behalf of the region. He found it unfortunate, however, that much of the work done by the Subregional Office was not reflected in the publications issued by ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago. He noted that this was still a great hurdle to be crossed, but complimented CDCC countries on the greater display of unity towards the resolution of issues of interest to the region which had not been previously exhibited, for example, at the seventeenth session of the CDCC, held in Aruba in 1998.

The Chairman then invited the meeting to either comment on or adopt the document on the implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1998-1999 biennium. The document was adopted.

### Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), 1995

Regarding the activities relating to the Beijing Plus Five review process, the secretariat reported on its technical assistance programme, as well as on its substantive servicing of relevant intergovernmental meetings.

As part of the preparatory process and in the context of the provision of providing technical assistance to ECLAC/CDCC member countries in the completion of national reports, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened two meetings to assist governmental technical personnel in the completion of national reports. As a result, national reports appraising the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action were completed by Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands. These national reports formed the basis of the preparation of the Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (LC/CAR/G.583) which was presented at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting, held on 5 – 7 October 1999.

The secretariat convened the Third ECLAC/CDCC Ministerial Conference on Women: Review and Appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women – Platform for Action, on 5 – 7 October 1999. Fifteen members and four associate members of CDCC attended. Other participants included representatives from United Nations Specialized Agencies, the CARICOM Secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and agencies/institutions from Trinidad and Tobago.

The Conference evaluated the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in three thematic areas: gender equity and poverty; gender equity and institutional arrangements for the advancement of women; and human rights, peace and violence. Upon its conclusion, the Conference adopted “the Port of Spain Consensus”.

At the regional level, the secretariat provided technical assistance to Caribbean delegations in attendance at the Eighth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, 8-10 February 2000. At this Eighth Regional Conference, a new Board of Presiding Officers was elected. From among the 16 members of the new Board, the Caribbean is represented by Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname. The Board of Presiding Officers which meets twice annually serves as a mechanism for liaison between the governments and the secretariat of ECLAC/CDCC with regard to the integration of women into the development process.

“Gender mainstreaming” was the subject of one of the strongest recommendations that came out of the Beijing Platform for Action. Governments in the subregion have been attempting in various ways to advance gender equity through administrative reform and, in so doing, have confronted a range of conceptual and operational challenges. In facilitating a review of actions to advance gender mainstreaming in the public sector, the secretariat conducted a study on this phenomenon among 10 countries, namely, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and

Tobago. The study was funded and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Gender Equity Fund.

The findings of the study are presented in a paper entitled “Gender Mainstreaming in the Caribbean” (LC/CAR/G.607). Arising from this Study, an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting was held on 13-14 January 2000. At that meeting, the participants reflected on the need to develop a standardized approach to gender mainstreaming in the region and, specifically, to the area of gender training.

In addition to the technical assistance provided, specifically, to the Beijing Plus Five review process, ECLAC/CDCC also provided technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the region.

**Agenda item 6 - “The CDCC into the new millennium:  
Meeting the challenges of the future” and commemoration of  
the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization**

Dr. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, presented the document “The CDCC into the new millennium: Meeting the challenges of the future”. She emphasized that the role of the CDCC had to be revisited in light of the changing geo-political landscape and that the meeting sought to define the relevance of the organ in its revitalization.

Dr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, stated that the CDCC was the link between the Caribbean Basin and the United Nations system. ECLAC was the mechanism through which the issues of concern to the member States of CDCC could be meaningfully brought to the fore and constructively addressed. He also stated that, in reinforcing the role of regional commissions, the United Nations system should try to operate in a more coordinated manner with respect to its activities in the subregion.

The Chairman commended the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for attempting to redirect the CDCC into the new millennium. He also expressed the view that what was needed for this process to be achieved was the reaffirmation of the political will for the CDCC. The major points made in the ensuing discussion are summarized as follows:

- It was suggested that, while the document presented by the secretariat contained certain proposals, the operational relations among countries of the subregion could be enhanced through very concrete suggestions on the revitalization of the CDCC. Also, in this regard, the subregion would move from a state of estrangement to one of constructive collaboration.
- The CDCC must refocus its research capabilities in order to reduce duplication of work, in order to strengthen collaboration between other regional bodies in the subregion, such as the ACS and CARICOM. In so doing, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should promote biennial consultations with other organizations in the

region to fine-tune collective efforts and resources, and therefore carve a niche for itself. These efforts should be directed from within, on a political level, so as to enhance the activities of the CDCC.

- It was recommended that revitalization of the CDCC should commence with a revision of its Constituent Declaration and that a time-frame as well as a mechanism to achieve this should be established. Also, the following substantive issues related to the perceptions of the CDCC should be addressed:
  - Resource mobilization;
  - Rearrangement of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme, taking into account subregional developments;
  - Examination of future relations with the CCST. In that regard, the legal framework of the ECLAC/CDCC mandate should be examined. That process should be conducted as soon as possible.
- The CDCC should have a greater degree of independence in order for it to be able to effectively identify the intensity and newness of the problems encountered in the Caribbean subregion.
- In clearly defining the path for the revitalization of the CDCC, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat proposed that, upon conclusion of the current meeting, a small working group would prepare a brief to capture the sentiments expressed at this forum and to be used to chart a strategic plan for moving forward. A meeting would then be held to examine the new realities facing the subregion and, in that context, to identify the emerging role of the CDCC and to amend the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC for presentation to the tenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, in March 2001. In addition, the secretariat would undertake to advise member States on progress made on deliberations, in order to ensure the widest possible consultation.
- Reference was made to the 1998 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution that focused on regional commissions of the United Nations. The United Nations was very supportive of regional processes and the CDCC was part of that philosophy established by ECOSOC in 1998.
- The meeting was reminded that the CDCC was recognized by ECLAC as the unique mechanism through which the specific interests and issues of the insular Caribbean could be brought to its attention. The meeting was also assured of ECLAC's support for the CDCC, CARICOM and other major regional processes in operation in the subregion. The meeting was also reminded that this support originated not only from the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, but from the Regional Commission as a whole.

- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was commended for its contribution to the NICCs in the area of technical assistance and for providing a means whereby they could access the benefits of the United Nations system.

In closing the session, the Chairman stated that the CDCC was uniquely dedicated to analyzing and monitoring issues related to Caribbean countries within the United Nations system. He observed that there was a strong need for reaffirmation of political will in order for the Committee to continue. He expressed the view that the future of the CDCC was indeed assured and that there seemed to be renewed energy among member States to revitalize the Committee. However, he noted that discussions should continue with respect to redefining the role of the CDCC and to making it more relevant to the region.

### **Agenda item 7 - Unveiling of “The Caribbean in the Decade of the 1990s”**

The secretariat introduced the document entitled “The Caribbean in the Decade of the 1990s” and explained that a number of characteristics shared by many CDCC countries, related to, inter alia, small size, remoteness and limited resources, placed them in vulnerable socio-economic positions. It also explained that those countries were vulnerable to environmental factors that threatened their ecosystems. As a result, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had undertaken to analyze the development experience of Caribbean countries in the 1990s by examining their actual performance. The overall conclusion was that while there had been gains in the economic and social arenas, the structures of the economies and their lack of diversification meant that countries in the region were easily set back by natural disasters and unfavourable global economic factors. Prospects for the development of the CDCC countries in the context of the aforementioned vulnerabilities would, therefore, require not only improved policy management by the countries, but also the assistance of the international community, especially in the area of capacity building.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC emphasized that the document, “The Caribbean in the decade of the 1990s” was a part of a larger study to be published later in the year. He observed that, regionally, economic performance was disappointing or that this was particularly the case for the countries of the Caribbean region. This, he stated, was not related to the size of countries, since some small countries had performed well, while some larger countries had not. One issue that needed to be analyzed was the fact that although the anglophone Caribbean had not performed so badly in the area of savings and investment in comparison with Latin America, nevertheless, the subregion had experienced lower levels of growth than its Latin American counterpart. This issue deserved the attention of the Commission.

Internationally and globally, many countries had displayed poor performance, due to the decreased levels of protection, which affected many countries, as in the case of bananas and the manufacturing sector. Tourism had emerged as a dynamic sector, which could assist in the re-shaping of Caribbean economies. The Executive Secretary submitted, therefore, that an analysis of the tourism sector also needed the attention of ECLAC/CDCC.



Although the unavailability of resources had resulted in data for the Caribbean that was not comparable with that of Latin America, the Executive Secretary noted that, based on the available data, social conditions in the Caribbean appeared to be better than those of Latin America. This was so in the face of worsening socio-economic conditions. He also stated that one of the challenges facing the subregion was that of maintaining better social indicators.

The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of recognizing the different dimensions of vulnerability faced by the SIDS. These dimensions were:

- Vulnerability of size;
- Vulnerabilities associated with small island States;
- Specific environmental vulnerabilities associated with the archipelagos within the hurricane belt.

He noted, therefore, that in any analysis, these dimensions should be clearly separated, since it was important in the context of aid and domestic policy.

#### **Agenda item 8 - Matters related to the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)**

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands paid tribute to the far-sightedness of the Founding Fathers of the body and indicated that, over the last 25 years, the membership by the NICCs had increased from one or two members, to seven. He recalled the decision taken at the eleventh session of the CDCC, which convened in St. Croix in 1988, to widen assistance to the NICCs and the formation, by resolution, of the NICCs Working Group, at the thirteenth session of the CDCC in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1992. He stated that his government had had the honour of chairing the Working Group since its inception. It was through that mechanism that the associate member countries had achieved significantly wider access to the United Nations system through the securing of observer status in United Nations Global Conferences on Environment, Population, Natural Disaster Reduction, Social Development, Women in Development, Human Settlements and the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The status of official observer enjoyed by the NICCs now extended to the Special Sessions of the General Assembly which had already convened or would soon convene in, Geneva, Johannesburg, Nairobi and New York. Nevertheless, he expressed the view that access to the United Nations System on the part of the NICCs remained inadequate.

In her presentation on the ECLAC/CDCC work programme, the Director had recalled that the meeting had been informed that, by way of a policy decision taken by the seventeenth session of the CDCC, given the fact that what was being sought was the “integration” of the NICCs into the wider Caribbean, the secretariat was no longer reporting separately on elements of its work programme relating to the NICCs, hence the integrated report presented.

She then added that the inclusion of agenda item 8, at the request of the delegate of the United States Virgin Islands, was based on the assumption that he wished to report on matters related to the NICCS. The secretariat had no separate report to present on the issue but would be happy to address and clarify any programmatic issues raised by the representative of the United States Virgin Islands.

The representative of Cuba recommended that there be a greater effort on the part of the secretariat in collaboration with the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, to cater to the needs of those countries and to maintain the required flow of information so that they might derive the necessary benefits.

The secretariat reported on the status of the documents relating to the NICCs, stating that all relevant documents had been prepared and disseminated with the exception of one, which was being updated. This document would be distributed on completion of the process.

**Agenda item 9 - Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC**

The secretariat introduced the document LC/CAR/G.605 containing summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council that might be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC. Of the 27 resolutions summarized in the document, 26 had been adopted by the General Assembly and one by the Security Council. They basically covered six major issue areas, namely, finance and development; the status of women; disasters; oceans and seas; decolonization; and democracy, with reference to Haiti. In the course of the review of the document, the secretariat highlighted, with corresponding explanations, those resolutions that were deemed to be of particular importance to the region. Reference had already been made to a number of the resolutions presented in the document, in discussions on preceding agenda items covering the respective areas.

The representative of Guyana took the opportunity to emphasize the need for linkages with other organizations in furthering the objectives made at various forums with regard to issues dealing with sustainable development and the environment. He pointed to General Assembly resolution 54/225 dealing with "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development". He explained that, in situations like these, every effort ought to be made by organizations to share the responsibility of carrying forward decisions, concerns and issues arrived at within the region, thereby strengthening the capabilities within the region. Guyana used the opportunity to reinforce the point that, very often, the responsibility for carrying decisions forward rested with a number of organizations within the region and at different levels. In light of the Eighth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April/May 2000, he called for collaboration of the various organizations within the region to arrive at a consensus on positions to be adopted by the region, in order to clearly point the way forward.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda raised the issue of the transportation of hazardous waste through the Caribbean Sea. He stated that there was a need to convey in a much stronger manner, the region's disapproval of any attempt to use the Caribbean Sea for the transportation of such material and urged that governments of the region urgently seek support in getting an appropriate resolution passed.

This sentiment received support from a number of other countries and a suggestion was made that the meeting develop and adopt a much stronger resolution with regard to the Caribbean Sea as a special area in which the threat of the transportation and spillage of hazardous waste is removed.

The representative of Cuba pointed to the fact that the draft Resolution before the meeting on this matter, did not go far enough in representing the position of the entire region. The delegate therefore called for collaboration with UNEP and other organizations in developing a resolution which participants could more fully support.

The secretariat was requested to convene a working group that would evaluate past protocols and conventions in this area and devise ways in which a more binding framework could be developed in the context of what already existed. In view of this, the observer of UNEP expressed the view that the Cartagena Convention was the only existing mandatory document relevant to this issue and should be examined for opportunities to further the objectives of providing protection for the Caribbean Sea.

The secretariat indicated its willingness to support efforts to develop further and implement the approach set out in the draft Resolution 54/225.

On the basis of the discussion, the chairman of the meeting proposed that the delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Guyana draft a resolution on these issues for adoption the following day. The proposal was adopted.

Participants were also urged to move beyond a concern with the development of a vulnerability index, as provided for in the SIDS POA, to the development and adoption of a more permanent mechanism for the implementation of the SIDS POA and to garner the required resources.

**Agenda item 10 - Resolutions of the eighteenth session of the CDCC at the ministerial level for presentation to the twenty-eighth session of ECLAC, Mexico, 3-7 April 2000**

Below is a list of resolutions that were introduced by the member countries indicated:

1. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda:** 49(XVIII) – Support for activities to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

2. **Trinidad and Tobago and Netherlands Antilles:** 50(XVIII) – Support for the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean;
3. **St. Kitts/Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Montserrat:** 51(XVIII) – Support to the implementation of the SIDS Plan of Action;
4. **Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts/Nevis and Aruba:** 52(XVIII) – Importance of economic and social data to the planning and policy formulation process in CDCC countries;
5. **Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada:** 53(XVIII) – Support for activities to implement the Fourth World Conference on Women - Beijing Platform for Action;
6. **Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Guyana:** 54(XVIII) – Integrated management of the Caribbean Sea;
7. **Cuba:** 55(XVIII) – Chaguaramas Declaration.

The full texts of the resolutions as adopted, appear in Part Three of the report.

### **Agenda item 11 - Any other business**

The issue of the establishment of an independent secretariat of CCST was tabled for discussion. A resolution entitled “Resolution on CCST” was introduced by the representative of Guyana and this was replaced by another, presented by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In the event, neither resolution went forward. It was argued by the representative of Guyana, in his capacity as Chairman of the CCST Executive Committee, that the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC allowed the establishment of such an independent secretariat without seeking the approval of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in accordance with the interpretation of Articles 1-3 of the Statutes of the CCST by the Executive Committee of the CCST.

Within the context of the above the following issues were raised:

- There was a need for clarification of the status of an independent secretariat of the CCST, a body that was formed by the CDCC, and whether the formation of an independent secretariat meant that the CCST was no longer “linked” to the CDCC;
- Whether all the valid issues were in fact being aired in the context of the meeting, and that lack of complete information could be the cause of the present confusion that appeared to exist among delegations. It was therefore not possible to obtain resolution of the issue at this session of the CDCC;

- The representative from the Dominican Republic questioned the tabling of a Draft Resolution identifying a single subregional entity for CDCC support. The meeting also noted that the membership of CCST did not include all members of CDCC;
- The delegation of Grenada was particularly concerned with obtaining clarity on the issue, since that country had lead responsibility for Science and Technology issues within CARICOM;
- The Chair suggested that legal advice be sought to clarify all pertinent issues, whether the CCST was under the aegis of the CDCC or not. It was determined that the acceptance of the draft resolution, which was being sought, could not be obtained within the present forum;
- The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters stated that the organization would continue to support the work of science and technology in the subregion, in collaboration with other relevant organizations;
- With respect to the opening of a bank account by the Executive of the CCST as reported, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat indicated that, according to the United Nations rules, financial resources from extrabudgetary sources should give rise to the establishment of a trust fund ensuring that only expenditures related to the relevant activities be charged to that account. Those expenditures should be made according to the prescribed financial procedures. In this regard, an “account” could be opened to accommodate such funds but such “account” was no more than a separate entry in the general accounts of the United Nations itself. Financial procedures of the United Nations prohibit the opening of bank accounts in the name of any person other than the authorized financial officers. Likewise, decisions on such expenditures should be made by the authorized substantive officers;
- The secretariat also noted that the CDCC did not, of itself, have a programme of work devoted to science and technology.

**Agenda item 12 - Dates and venues of the tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and of the nineteenth session of the CDCC**

Participants agreed to convene the tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee by March 2001 and the nineteenth session of the CDCC in January 2002. It was recommended that the venues of the meetings be determined by the secretariat, in consultation with member States.

### **Agenda item 13 - Consideration of the report of the eighteenth session of the CDCC**

The report of the eighteenth session of the CDCC at the technical level was adopted with some amendments as reflected in the foregoing sections of the present report.

### **Agenda item 14 - Closure**

In discussing matters relevant to the twenty-eighth session of ECLAC, Mexico, 3-8 April 2000, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC took the opportunity to apprise the participants of the CDCC meeting of issues related to that event. He also restated his firm commitment to encouraging the maximum amount of bilateral cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and invited all countries to participate in the Mexico meeting.

With respect to the issue of the date and venue for the upcoming tenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and the nineteenth session of the CDCC, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC raised a number of logistical aspects that were pertinent to arriving at such a decision. He advised that, since it was already predetermined that the ECLAC meeting will be held in April 2002 and that the conclusions and issues raised at the CDCC meetings are normally reported to this meeting, participants might wish to consider convening the next CDCC meeting in January 2002. This, he indicated, would allow for the timely distribution of the documents and reports necessary for the preparation of the meeting to be held in April.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, proposed, in light of the suggestions of the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, that the tenth Monitoring Committee meeting be held in the year 2001 and the nineteenth session of the CDCC in January 2002. The meeting agreed to this suggestion. In light of this agreement, the Director further suggested that the dates of March 2001 for the tenth Monitoring Committee and January 2002 for the nineteenth session of the CDCC be incorporated into resolution 50 (XVIII), which had already made provision for these meetings. This suggestion was adopted by the meeting. It was then decided that the venues, as well as the precise dates for the respective meetings, would be determined by the secretariat after consultation with the member countries of the CDCC.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda thanked the Chairman of the meeting, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and ECLAC Headquarters, on behalf of the membership of the CDCC, for hosting the meeting. This was followed by a reciprocation of the expressions of appreciation by the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the support that CDCC member countries had provided in making the meeting a success. The Executive Secretary also took the opportunity to support the sentiments of the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for its warm hospitality. He took note of the significant manner in which the auspicious occasion of the twenty-fifth Anniversary of CDCC had been commemorated and, referring to the cultural segment of the commemoration ceremony, remarked on what he saw as the interesting manner in which Latin America and the Caribbean were culturally similar. He also expressed admiration for the efforts of the Caribbean to become more closely integrated,

focusing on their characteristics of similarity rather than allowing the complex historical forces of diversity to draw them apart.

The Chairman of the meeting thanked the Executive Secretary for his warm sentiments and also thanked the participants for the various sentiments addressed to him and his country, for the hospitality they had received. He conveyed his enjoyment of the task he had to perform as Chairman and indicated that this was due, in large measure, to the tremendous support that he had received from the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and her staff.

## PART THREE

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION

#### **49 (XVIII): Support for activities to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to population and development embodied in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 5-13 September 1994;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the Caribbean Population and Development Meeting follow-up to ICPD, which was held in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, 3-5 May 1995, and the output of that meeting, which was *the Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development, referred to as the Bahamas Consensus, (LC/CAR/G.446)* which identified six areas as priority for future action for the Caribbean region: migration; interrelations between population and sustainable development; population policy; adolescent fertility; reproductive health and family planning; advocacy (information, education and communication) programmes;

Take note of the Caribbean *Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action (ICPD+5), LC/CAR/G.549, 3 December 1998*, which identified for future action *inter alia*: capacity building in the social sector, specifically in the area of socio-demographic data for policy formulation; establishment of national focal points for monitoring of implementation of ICPD POA; development of policies on migration; adolescent reproductive health and rights; and the integration of population and development issues into national planning processes.

Recalling the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on *Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, (E/CN.9/1999/PC/4)* presented at the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, held in New York, 24 March to 1 April, 1999;

Aware of the Report on the Open-end Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Sessional Ad Hoc Committee (Santiago Chile, 14-15 December 1998, LC/DEM/G.185);

Express appreciation for the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to facilitate national and regional efforts to implement the International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action, since said programme has brought to the forefront the importance of population issues in an integrated development strategy;



Request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue and to strengthen its efforts to facilitate and support member States in the implementation of the ICPD+5 Programme of Action and in their ability to respond to changes in the socio-demographic environment at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

Further request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to ensure that the activities which it undertakes on population and development, acting as a subregional monitoring mechanism, are included in the work programme.

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### **50 (XVIII): Support for the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Recalling the Resolution 358(XVI), which established CDCC as a subsidiary body of ECLAC in order to enhance cooperation among the countries of the region,

Recognizing the need for CDCC member governments and associate member countries to identify areas of priority to go beyond recommendations and to initiate programmes which would deliver solutions,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical research and operational activities carried out by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, and noting that the right balance must be attained between both types of activities by increasing and strengthening the research capacity of the secretariat in the subregion, guided by the cost-benefit principles;

Bearing in mind the efforts of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to forge closer links with member countries and associate member countries with a view to promoting more integral involvement of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the developmental efforts in the subregion, pursuant to resolution 46(XVII),

Convinced that for the most efficient and effective implementation of the development programmes for the Caribbean subregion the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should continue to cooperate closely with the ACS, CARICOM, OECS, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations;

1. Express its appreciation to the Director and staff of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the continued support to the CDCC member countries and associate member countries over the past 25 years through implementation of the work programmes for the respective bienniums;

2. Take note with satisfaction of the implementation of the work programme for the 1998-1999 biennium and the technical assistance provided to member governments during this period;
3. Approve the draft proposed programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium 2002-2003 and requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to refer this decision to the next session of ECLAC to take place in Mexico City, 3-7 April 2000;
4. Reiterate the desire of the CDCC member and associate member countries to participate meaningfully in all elements of the ECLAC work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium;
5. Request that special attention be given by ECLAC/CDCC to the implementation of programme elements which provide support to CDCC member and associate member countries in matters relating to the negotiation processes of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the FTAA;
6. Commend the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for its extensive contribution to the work of CARICOM, the FTAA process and the ACS and requests that such support be continued;
7. Further request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue with its awareness programme to ensure more effective dissemination of information during implementation of the work programme and to promote the involvement of member governments and associate member countries in the programme of work of ECLAC/CDCC;
8. Request that ECLAC/CDCC undertake more work on disaster preparedness, assessment and mitigation strategies, appropriate to the needs of member States and associate member countries, taking into account the frequency and severity of the impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, on the economic and social infrastructure and environment of already vulnerable member States, and of the high cost of rehabilitation and restoration and cooperate with the inter-regional organizations on this matter;
9. Also request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to take appropriate measures, including the provision of adequate resources, so that the members of the CDCC receive the benefit of assistance in the area of formulation of policy and institutional strengthening in the 2002-2003 biennium;
10. Endorse the proposal that the next session of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC be convened by March 2001 and that the full session of the CDCC, both at the technical and ministerial levels, be convened in January 2002;

11. Request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to report to the twentieth session of the CDCC on progress in implementing this resolution.

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### **51(XVIII): Support to the implementation of the SIDS Plan of Action**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Recognising that because of, *inter-alia*, their small size and limited resource base, Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to both natural hazards and anthropogenic influences;

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Barbados Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 1994;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting (Barbados 1997) on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to ensure that follow-up action at the national, regional and international levels is achieved;

Reaffirming the need for a coordinated effort to promote the common goals of economic development, improved living standards and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Small Island Developing States;

Recalling the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, SIDS Bureau, regional agencies and NGOs in facilitating the policies and programmes of Agenda 21 and the Barbados POA;

1. Further support the work and representation of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, the Inter Agency Collaborative Group and the Regional SIDS Bureau and the CARICOM Secretariat as being specifically appointed and supported by the member States of the CDCC, for the coordination of the implementation of activities aimed at the sustainable development for the region;
2. Fully endorse efforts aimed at the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism as a permanent and sustainable modality for the coordination of the development and implementation of activities geared towards the sustainable development of countries of the subregion within the framework of the SIDS/POA and other relevant international decisions.
3. Call on the ECLAC secretariat to assist in the implementation of the SIDS POA by the provision of additional resources to carry out the tasks outlined and to

enable the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism as agreed to my member States.

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**52(XVIII): Importance of economic and social data to the planning and policy formulation process in CDCC countries**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Recognizing that the Caribbean countries share a geographical, cultural and historic proximity and possess largely similar economic and administrative structures and face similar information inadequacies in the face of the contemporary demands of the globalization of trade and planning for sustainable development;

Reaffirming that it is necessary to strengthen the unity and cooperation among these countries to create modernized and effective subregional and national information structures, including the population and housing censuses to serve their development objectives;

Recognizing the need for technical assistance to be provided to the member countries of the CDCC to strengthen their capability in the management of information for national and subregional development;

Take note with satisfaction of the requests made to the secretariat to deliver technical assistance in this area;

Request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to take appropriate measures, including the provision of adequate resources, to ensure that the members of CDCC receive the benefit of assistance in the area of statistical information from the secretariat in the biennium 2002-2003;

Request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to report to the nineteenth session of the CDCC on progress in implementing this resolution.

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**53 (XVIII): Support for activities to implement the Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing Platform for Action**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to gender equality and equity embodied in the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

Reaffirming also the Georgetown Consensus of the Second Ministerial Conference on Women and the Port of Spain Consensus of the Third Ministerial Conference on Women which both recognised the need for accelerating the pace of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

Take note of the Caribbean *Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action*, which identified for future action *inter alia*: the incorporation of the gender perspective in all government policies; gender equity and the eradication of poverty; and the elimination of all forms of violence against women;

Express appreciation for the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to facilitate national and regional efforts to implement the Fourth World Conference on Women, Platform for Action;

Request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue efforts to facilitate the implementation, by member States of the FWCW+5 Platform for Action, at the national and subregional levels, including assistance in the convening of meetings of Expert and Working Group at the subregional level to consider gender equity goals and processes, with particular attention to gender mainstreaming preparatory to the hosting of Subregional meetings;

Request further that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat ensures that the activities described above are included in its work programme.

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#### **54(XVIII): Integrated management of the Caribbean Sea**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Recalling the General Assembly Resolution 54/225 promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

Recognizing the need to analyze the legal mechanism to implement the resolution of the General Assembly 54/225 in order to promote and strengthen an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea;

Recognizing also the Cartagena Convention (1983) as the only existing legal regional framework, for the Protection of the Caribbean Sea;

Recognizing also the need that the Cartagena Convention be further developed;

Decide:

To request that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat collaborate with the already existing working group of representatives from ACS, CARICOM and UNEP with the aim of reviewing the mechanisms to implement and make recommendations in regard

to the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development and the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 54/255.

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### **55 (XVIII): Chaguaramas Declaration**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the eighteenth session of the CDCC,

Recalling ECLAC Resolution 358(XVI) establishing the CDCC as a permanent organ of ECLAC for the development of Caribbean countries through cooperation on the basis of the priorities established by them;

Recognising the continuing validity of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC;

Recognising also the role of ECLAC/CDCC in strengthening unity and cooperation among the countries of the subregion, in increasing dialogue among themselves, in adopting common positions in relation with other international forums, and in promoting and defending the interests of the Caribbean subregion;

Emphasizing in the context of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ECLAC/CDCC the importance of active and sustained participation of the CDCC member States in the work programme and activities of ECLAC/CDCC in order to enhance the presence of the Caribbean countries in the international system;

Taking into account the proposals made at the eighteenth session with respect to the role, structure and rules of procedure of the main bodies of ECLAC/CDCC;

Taking into account also that the strengthening of the CDCC should start with a review of the Constituent Declaration, with particular attention to the precise definition of the objectives and functions of the Committee, its inter institutional linkages and its programmatic and organic structures;

Decide:

To reiterate the continuing relevance of ECLAC/CDCC in supporting its members to meet the challenges presented by the impact of the globalisation process on our countries which necessitates increased unity and cooperation among ourselves, through the strengthening of dialogue and the articulation of positions to be adopted in relation to third countries, groups of countries and conferences and meetings of the United Nations;

To emphasize the importance of the continuing existence of the Committee as a Caribbean entity for cooperation in support of the CDCC member States in recognition of its utility as a mechanism whose basic ideas as enshrined in its Constituent Declaration remain valid;

To agree on the need to undertake a comprehensive review of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC with particular reference to the specific objectives, goals, structures, mechanisms and processes of the organ, including its relationship with other organs;

To urge the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to prepare a document embodying the review mentioned in the preceding paragraph for submission to governments for comments for the preparation of the comprehensive document to be examined by a Working Group to be convened before the end of 2000. The final report of the Working Group would be submitted to the Monitoring Committee for its consideration and approval in early 2001;

To urge the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to maintain and strengthen links with CARICOM and the ACS and also with SELA, OLADE and the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to achieve the Caribbean goals;

To agree further that in the context of the review, special consideration be given to the roles of other regional and subregional organizations with the aim of more meaningful cooperation.

Annex 1**Address made by Ms. Len Ishmael, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, at the opening of the CDCC session at the technical level**

Excellencies, heads of delegations, members of delegations, specially invited guests, colleagues, it is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to the eighteenth session at the technical level of CDCC, one which is for us a rather momentous occasion given the fact of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the CDCC which we commemorate at this gathering.

Delegates of 16 CDCC member States are represented at this meeting, and to you I express my sincere appreciation for signalling your support to CDCC as indicated by your attendance here today.

Permit me the liberty of just a few remarks before turning these deliberations over to the meeting chair in keeping with the spirit of these meetings in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of CDCC.

When I first took up tenure as the Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in late 1997, I was troubled by two sensibilities, the lack of vigor and vitality of CDCC, an intergovernmental organ unique to the Caribbean Headquarters which had in the past played a pivotal role in the struggle for greater functional cooperation, collaboration and integration of the subregion. Indeed, between the years 1995 and 1997, the Committee had been unable to hold its annual meetings as a result of problems in gaining a quorum. Hosting sessions at the ministerial level was much more problematic.

The second concern with which I was preoccupied was the extent to which the work of the Caribbean Headquarters was not as "visible" as one would expect given the nature of this office's operations. I was troubled by the questions being raised in some quarters regarding the relevance of ECLAC to the developmental challenges of the subregion. It was felt that over time the office had in some ways become 'remote' from member States, had moved more towards the reporting on events after they had occurred rather than in the provision of strategic intelligence on issues of immediate interest and importance to member States thereby reducing its overall effectiveness and utility.

It was clear that the challenges ahead were twofold, the first to find ways of revitalizing CDCC and the second to find ways of ensuring that the work of ECLAC was perceived to be intimately coupled to the developmental needs of the region. Both challenges were daunting and seemed to be inextricably linked in some way, but not insurmountable.

Much of our efforts at tackling the first challenge consumed and preoccupied us during much of the biennium under review, indeed forming the basis for the ninth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and articulated in the document before you entitled: The CDCC into the New Millennium.



During the last biennium as we strove to put more vigor into the forum I undertook missions to at least 18 member States, taking the opportunity to meet not only with Heads of State but also Cabinet Ministers and Heads of Technical Departments, consulting on a portfolio of activities which were to form the basis for the delivery of technical assistance to member States. In so doing, ensuring that our resources were being deployed in areas in which member States felt there to be most need.

During those missions, opportunities were taken to meet with the regional press to discuss the value of CDCC and of ECLAC, as well as to talk at each opportunity of the relevance and importance of both. Presentations were made in this context to the Chamber of Commerce in a number of member States.

As the opportunities for a more intimate coupling of the relationship between the office and our member States increased so has, in leaps and bounds, the support to the CDCC and to this office. Participation in our CDCC meetings went from a situation of inability to host a meeting for lack of quorum in 1995 to attendance by 12 member States at the seventeenth session of CDCC in 1998, to attendance by 14 members States at the ninth session of the Monitoring Committee in 1999, to attendance today by delegates from 16 member States, and very strong attendance at all of our regional meetings.

Our efforts to promote the work of this office among member States also bore fruit. Early in the last biennium, staff reviewed and reflected on the activities of the work programme and made judgements regarding those issues not contained therein, which had become the subject of increasing concern among member States. To be relevant this office must also position itself to provide strategic information and guidance when and as necessary on issues of vital interest and importance to member States. This has been the overriding objective of our efforts over the last two years as we have embarked on studies and research projects of vital interest to the region, as well as providing regional forums for the discussion of issues of unique and special significance to the small island States of the Caribbean prior to their further deliberations at the regional hemispheric or global level.

We have also changed our manner of work to some extent. A study on the degree of competitiveness of the agro-industrial sectors of Guyana, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago involved not only the necessary desk and related research, but also a month in the field talking to plant operators and assessing plant capacity first hand. So too did the study on the trade and other implications of the proposed new highway linking Guyana with Northeast Brazil require the visiting of very remote borders by economists on staff. The change in modus operandi was also demonstrated in the provision of information on the FTAA and implications for member States, through national workshops involving public and private sector groups.

In many small and sometimes insignificant ways, I feel strongly that we have embarked along the right path. I believe firmly too, that the revitalization of the CDCC of which we speak has begun. With your continued support and goodwill, we have every reason to believe that this resurgence will continue. You have our commitment to deploy all of our resources in support of this goal.

Annex 2**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representative

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