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**A REVIEW OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND
COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

INCORPORATING

**A REVIEW OF ITS CONSTITUENT DECLARATION
AND
RULES OF PROCEDURE**



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

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE



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INTRODUCTION

The eighteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation and Committee (CDCC) which convened at Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago, over the period 30 March–1 April 2000 marked a veritable watershed in the history of the Committee which was established at precisely the same venue in May 1975. The significance of this session, in historical perspective, lies principally in the fact that, quite apart from the Committee's treatment of the elements customarily associated with its work programme, the session provided the opportunity, in the context of the commemoration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, for a very far-reaching review of its performance and of its relevance in the contemporary era.

This process of review of the CDCC, as elaborated at the eighteenth session, had its more recent basis in an initiative by the secretariat, which presented a preliminary "Discussion Paper" on the matter to the ninth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee which convened at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean on 10-11 May 1999. In the discussion paper entitled "The CDCC into the New Millennium: A Proposal for its Revitalization", the secretariat reviewed the establishment of the CDCC, including its Constituent Declaration; the Committee's relations with other selected regional organizations, such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). It also reviewed the CDCC experience, identifying, in the process, the political, institutional and other environmental factors to which the change in fortunes of the CDCC over the years, might be attributed. An approach to meeting the challenges of the future was outlined, including the identification of a number of concrete steps that might be taken in this regard.

The endorsement of the basic thrust of the secretariat's initiative by the Monitoring Committee, following what was regarded as its preliminary discussion on the matter was recognized to be, in no way, a substitute for a thorough examination of the relevant issues at the political level. There, nevertheless, existed a widespread expectation that the major outcome of the eighteenth session of the CDCC, that would convene at ministerial level, would be a unanimous expression of a strong political commitment to the Committee. For its part, the Monitoring Committee agreed that the subregion needed a mechanism to represent the interests and concerns of the insular Caribbean, including the non-independent countries, by means of which the numerous and complex challenges of the contemporary regional and wider international environment could be confronted, while at the same time, retaining the richness of the Caribbean identity within the United Nations system. More specifically, the CDCC was recognized as the only forum that grouped the countries of the insular Caribbean and provided a special and unique window for the representation of the interests of the non-independent countries, including the opportunity presented to these countries to participate in global conferences and follow-up meetings in the General Assembly of the

United Nations. These were recognized to be, in basic terms, the continuing major roles envisaged for a revitalized CDCC. In the context of reinventing the CDCC so that it might be equal to these challenges, a number of aspects of the Committee, its activities and its procedures, were identified as being in need of review. Fundamentally, this observation extended, necessarily, to the Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The wide-ranging comments made at the Monitoring Committee provided the basis for the presentation, by the secretariat, of a revised "Discussion Paper" to the Committee's eighteenth session. The relevant agenda item was approached as the central theme of the session and Ministers were urged to undertake a comprehensive and intensive exploration of the path to be followed in revitalizing the CDCC. The revised "Discussion Paper" now entitled, in more positive terms, "*The CDCC into the new millennium: Meeting the challenges of the future*", provided the basic reference document for the consideration of this important issue. However, contributions of inestimable value, as specific, as they were far reaching, even if contradictory, in some cases, were provided by all seven speakers who addressed the *Ceremony to Commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the CDCC* which convened on Friday 31 March 2000; that is to say, in the context of the eighteenth session. These contributions provided an excellent preview of the profound intellectual and political dimensions that would be covered in the Committee's discussions on the matter. In the event, a number of recommendations were formulated by the Ministerial Meeting.

Fundamentally, in Resolution 55(XV111), The *Chaguaramas Declaration*, adopted at the eighteenth session, the Ministers, inter alia, reiterated the continuing relevance of the ECLAC/CDCC in supporting its members to meet the challenges presented by the globalization process. From the perspective of the Ministers, this process necessitated increased unity and cooperation, through the strengthening of dialogue and the joint development of positions to be adopted in relation to third countries and groups of countries, as well as in conferences and meetings of the United Nations. All sentiments expressed in this regard were perfectly in keeping with the objectives articulated for the CDCC twenty-five years ago.

In the same Resolution, the Ministers also agreed 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. Resolution 55(XV111), the Chaguaramas Declaration, is attached at Annex I.

This *Review of the CDCC incorporating a Review of its Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure* is based, to a very large extent, on a review and analysis of the various proposals that were articulated by the dignitaries who addressed the "Commemoration Ceremony"; by delegations to the eighteenth session; by the secretariat; and by a number of other personalities who have had intimate contact and involvement with the Committee over the years. Given the nature of the exercise,

specific proposals will be attributed to their respective sources only in exceptional cases. The review, undertaken in the early sections of this Paper, of the CDCC, its goals, its performance over time and of considerations related to its operational environment, is intended to provide the basis for the review, as well as the revision of both the preambular and operational sections of the Committee's Constituent Declaration, including the objectives and goals to be pursued by the organ, as well as the identification of the required structures and other elements as set out in Resolution 55(XV111). The reference in this Resolution to "the Constituent Declaration" has been interpreted by the secretariat, as, necessarily, addressing the entire corpus of provisions contained in *the "Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee"*. Each such provision has therefore been deemed to fall within the purview of the review exercise. A copy of this document is attached at Annex II.

In the context of the foregoing, it is recognized that a number of proposals articulated by the sources mentioned, if implemented, will have significant implications for the manner in which the CDCC conducts its affairs. This is readily perceived in connection with proposals according to which, for example, decisions taken by the Monitoring Committee in years intervening between ministerial meetings, should enjoy the status of mandates. Moreover, the proposal for the nomenclature of this Committee to be restyled "Monitoring and Follow-up Committee", evidently represents an intention to effect an amendment that is more than just cosmetic in nature. It is in this context that the interpretation by the secretariat of the mandate entrusted to it by the eighteenth session, is deemed appropriate, that is, to incorporate into the review of the Constituent Declaration, a review of the Functions and Rules of Procedure.

Further, there have been a number of adjustments to procedures and practices of the CDCC over time. These relate to, inter alia, the basis for the computation of quorums for meetings and the decision to convene meetings of the Committee at the technical and ministerial level in alternate years. It is suggested that such elements might be considered for codification in a revised "Constituent Document". The value of avoiding the inclusion of specific and rigid provisions, or of any provision whatsoever, to govern certain aspects that are liable to periodic change, in documents of this nature, is nevertheless recognized.

PART 1

THE CHANGING OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CDCC

The proposal for the review of the CDCC was prompted by the perception, first, more or less comprehensively and openly articulated by the secretariat and now embraced by the generality of the membership, to the effect that a number of fundamental developments at the regional, as well as at the wider international level since its creation two and a half decades ago, needed to be factored into the organ's modus operandi and also, into its overriding philosophy. In accordance with the proposal, the Committee has commenced a process of reflection, with a view to "reinventing itself" in order to be able to exploit the opportunities and to meet the challenges presented by the new regional and international environment brought about by the developments just mentioned. This process has been outlined and analyzed in the context of the changing regional and wider international environment, in the document presented to the eighteenth Session of the CDCC, entitled, "The CDCC into the New Millennium: Meeting the Challenges of the Future". In order to avoid a repetition of those basic ideas and the accompanying analysis, that publication will be re-issued as a companion document to the present one.

1.1. The new dispensation

The geo-politics of the contemporary international environment manifest a stark contrast vis a vis the counterpart situation that existed in 1975. For the purpose of this paper, nowhere is this more evident than in the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC in which, in contrast to what obtains today, the Preamble, on which the operative section is predicated, speaks, in successive paragraphs, of, inter alia:

The Ministers,

Affirming that the countries of the Caribbean are essentially raw material producers and should therefore maintain solidarity with the adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with the measures taken by producer associations of developing countries in that regard;

Stressing that all cooperation mechanisms must be guided by the principles of the equality, sovereignty and independence of States, solidarity and mutual benefit, without any discrimination that might arise as a result of differences in political, economic and social systems.

Reaffirming in the spirit of various United Nations resolutions, that the countries of the subregion have the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure or coercion that might be used against any of them for having exercised its legitimate rights;

Emphasizing that the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations, must be subject to the aims of development and the national interests of the countries of the subregion and that it is necessary to exchange information on their activities in the territories of the countries of the Caribbean;

1.1.1. The early twenty-first century

The appreciation of the operational environment that obtained at the time of the establishment of the CDCC, as gleaned from the strident prose of its Constituent Declaration collides most violently, with the realities of the early twenty-first century.

The end of the Cold War, symbolized by the collapse of the Berlin Wall, has been interpreted by many analysts as the conclusive demonstration of the supremacy of the “Western capitalist system” over the centrally controlled economic systems of the former communist regimes of the then Soviet bloc. The opening of these latter economies to capitalist penetration was interpreted as heralding the freedom of choice, as typified by a free, liberalized market, in which economic actors pursue their objectives on the basis of competitive interaction. A parallel interpretation of the same phenomenon, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, also views that historic event as ushering in, at the same time, not only “economic freedom through choice” on the basis of competition, but also, political freedom, whereby access to the decision-making centres of governments is acquired through competition for public office, in an arena in which the free exercise of the franchise, “the vote”, is the relevant currency. From the perspective of the citizenry, this “free political system” provides the context in which voters might secure the policies they desire on the basis of their selection of policy makers in the form of government administrations, again in the context of a situation in which their votes constitute the currency in the market for political goods. Electorates purchase their preferred policies with their votes.

In the Caribbean, as elsewhere, the intensified recourse to this participatory process in recent times, is the approach to political affairs that has come to be viewed as “good governance”. Significantly, the increasing desire for public participation by organized groups has coincided with the retreat, on the part of governments, from a range of functions in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

Caribbean governments are aware of the central position occupied by “Governance” in the contemporary system of international affairs. In the pursuit of their relations with third countries; with groups of countries, for example with the European Union and, also, with multilateral agencies, Caribbean countries have come to recognize the significance of the trend already evident in trade, labour and environmental issues, to the extent that that these can still be perceived as discrete elements. Against this background, issues related to governance have all but evolved into significant conditionalities in inter-state relations. The “restoration” of President Jean Bertrand Aristide in Haiti in 1994, brought home to, particularly, Caribbean countries, the probability of the enforcement of governance tenets through international action. What this confirms is that many of the policies and actions, whether in the political, economic,

social or environmental spheres, that hitherto had been deemed relevant only at the national level and thus to fall within the sole purview of national governments, are now becoming candidates for enforcement at the international level.

Both these new elements, market liberalization and governance, have quickly evolved into conditionalities on important aspects of inter-state relations and present major obstacles to the sustainable development of the small States of the Caribbean. They thus constitute critical elements of the new operational environment in which the CDCC is to function, enforceable as they are, at the international level.

1.1.2. CDCC: Economics, sustainable development and the new global policy environment

In the preceding section, reference has been made to the enthronement of "competition", whether in its political or economic context, as a key feature of the new international policy environment. As regards the economic aspect, the general reference is to "market forces" as the mainspring of the international economy, buttressed by the establishment of internationally binding trade rules administered and enforced by the "The World Trade Organization (WTO)".

Within the WTO, these binding trade rules basically reflect the "new" international liberalized environment that simultaneously permitted the rise of the WTO itself, as well as the initiative for the creation of the Free Trade Area of The Americas (FTAA). Both the regime that finds the WTO at its pinnacle and that contemplated by the FTAA present severe challenges to the human and financial resources of the small countries of the Caribbean, among others, even as the "new dispensation" sets about the elimination of trade preferences hitherto enjoyed by them, constituting also, the mainstay of several economies of the region. At the same time, the new trading environment established and being consolidated by the WTO and the FTAA process presents ever increasing challenges to the competitiveness, which is to say, the survival of the small and generally undiversified economies of the CDCC membership.

Moreover, problems of access to these critical multilateral institutions and processes which manage the international economic system, present major challenges to the effective participation of the small countries of the Caribbean, which were already marginalized in the earlier and, admittedly, less complex, international world political and economic system. Further, the modest efforts within the limited scope of action available to Caribbean countries in these organizations and processes, already impose serious strains on their very limited human and financial resources, much of which have been preempted by these organizations and processes, as a result of the very high priority that necessarily must be attached to their respective activities. Developments of this nature imply the diversion of critical resources from other organizations and initiatives that are also highly relevant to the overall developmental endeavours of Caribbean countries. In addition, there is a call for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, at

a time when the results of the Uruguay Round are yet to be digested by the developing countries of the Caribbean, among others.

In consonance with these fundamental developments, an organization such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which constituted a champion par excellence of the interests of the developing countries at the international level and, already, with a particular focus on small island countries since the 1970s, has been eclipsed from its former pre-eminent position. UNCTAD was established as an autonomous agency of the United Nations system in 1964, precisely at a time when the modern phase of decolonization was gathering considerable momentum. The role of UNCTAD was indicated to be that of "promoting international trade, particularly that of developing countries, with a view to accelerating their economic development."¹

In the contemporary situation, the original role of UNCTAD, with its vibrant built-in "Third World Lobby" that was the Group of 77 and China, in the earlier dispensation, has now been overtaken by events, having transformed from one of advocacy to the provision of certain forms of technical assistance to developing countries.

These major developments are unfolding against the backdrop and, indeed, as an integral element of the intensified degree of linkages, including, in particular, economic decision-making that transcends national economies. This is the phenomenon of "globalization" reflected in, inter alia, "the liberalization of trade, the deregulation of financial markets, the spread of transnational production of goods and services and the development of new technologies". These are some of the fundamental changes that present the countries and institutions of the Caribbean with an operational environment that is drastically different from that which obtained during the early years of the CDCC. In this regard, it will be recalled that the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC contains such references as "the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty including nationalization" and to the activities of transnational corporations "in those countries that accept their operations". In an era in which there is competition for foreign investment from transnational corporations, in a context of deregulated markets, this approach is no longer feasible. Overall, the profound changes that have occurred in the international environment are having the effect of further complicating the already complex development problematique of Caribbean countries, among others, through the generation of a number of new or intensified constraints, whether viewed from the political, economic, financial, legal, manpower or other perspectives.

1.1.3. The Multilateral Financial Institutions (MFIs)

Together with this multifaceted phenomenon of "globalization", another significant feature of the operational environment of the CDCC membership and certain

¹ See Sanders, Ron: An Assessment of UNCTAD's effectiveness as an Instrument to Promote the Interests of the Third World, in Wells, Robert N (ed.) "Peace By Pieces-United Nations Agencies and Their Roles: A reader and selective bibliography", The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Metuchen, NJ and London 1991.

other countries is constituted by the policies of the Multilateral Financial Institutions (MFIs). A number of concerns have arisen with regard to the economic model advocated by these institutions, including the recognized and increasing undesirable aspects arising from their pursuit, in particular, the increasing gap between the rich and poor, at both international and national levels. More generally, this model ignores the fundamental economic and ecological vulnerability of these countries and insists on graduating countries out of their eligibility for certain types of developmental assistance solely on the basis of the per capita GNP criterion. It is for reasons such as these, that calls are being made for its review. At the same time, the quantum of financial resources from international organizations continues to decline, accompanied by increasing conditionalities, even as flows of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) demonstrate a markedly similar trend.

Speaking at the “Ceremony to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the CDCC”, the Secretary-General of the ACS, in reviewing the major changes that have taken place during the last 25 years, expressed the idea that:

“Not all the changes have necessarily been for the better. In the 1970s there seemed to be growing recognition and acceptance of the rights of developing nations to seek their own path to development in accordance with their political and social choices and with due respect to their sovereignty.

Today everyone is being offered a single path to development. Its name is globalisation. Today, for the nations of the Caribbean, many of which are small and vulnerable, the mantra is “compete globally, or die”.

The Secretary-General also quoted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report for 1999, according to which:

“Today’s globalisation is being driven by market expansion-opening national borders to trade, capital, information-outpacing governance of these markets and their repercussions on people.

When the market goes too far in dominating social and political outcomes, the opportunities and rewards of globalisation are spread unequally and inequitably-concentrating power and wealth in a select group of people, nations and corporations, marginalising the others....When the profit motives of market players get out of hand, they challenge people’s ethics-and sacrifice respect for justice and human rights.”

Reflecting on the UNDP Report, the Secretary-General observed that it was:

“...a stirring call for “Globalisation with a human face”. It calls for a reversal of the marginalisation of the poor, small countries. And it makes the point that regional collective action by the smaller nations of the world

- in multilateral negotiations, for instance - is a key instrument for a reversal of their marginalisation.

In other words regionalism is not made irrelevant by globalisation. To the contrary, regionalism is an even greater imperative. Regionalism is needed to help counter the downside of globalisation and to take advantage of whatever opportunities it may provide."

The imposition of varying conditionalities, implied by the globalization process, whether in the sphere of human rights, democracy, governance or the environment, as mentioned above, helps to complete the "policy framework" of these institutions. Fundamentally, these policy-developments present major challenges to the development and delivery of policies that are critical to the developmental aspirations of the region, even as the types of policies to be delivered, themselves undergo significant transformation, in response to the transformed "policy environment". As remarked by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, with reference to the CDCC:

"Some of the original tasks are no longer in tune with the needs of present times."

In addition to the multiple challenges presented to Caribbean States, as outlined above, there are still others, amounting to further pressures on their operational environment, which are to be faced, if the region is to secure effective and profitable insertion into the wider international economic system. Besides the economic aspects relating to, inter alia, the volatility of capital, with its severe implications for developing countries; the threat of elimination of trade preferences hitherto enjoyed; and the basic challenge presented by the "WTO system", there are a number of social and environmental issues. These include the persistence of hurricanes and other natural disasters; the increasing levels of poverty; the HIV/AIDS pandemic which accentuates social vulnerability; and the myriad challenges presented by the illicit traffic and use of illicit drugs which impacts all spheres of society and its governance. Moreover, the CDCC countries remain vulnerable to economic shocks and the deficit of growth with equity remains a major challenge. Together and even individually, these new challenges, including the new and emerging issues presented by the new international environment, will place even greater demands on the financial, manpower, ecological and other resource endowments of the small States of the Caribbean.

1.1.4 Relaunching the UNCTAD system: The South Summit, Havana, Cuba, 12-14 April 2000

When the eighteenth session of the CDCC convened in early 2000, there was a ready consensus by the Ministers on the position that, notwithstanding the continuing relevance of the Committee in supporting its members to meet the challenges presented by the impact of globalization, the basic concepts, ideas and approaches enshrined in the Constituent Declaration of their Committee no longer found resonance in an international

environment now characterized by intensified globalization of economic activity and an international economy that bore “liberalization” as its hallmark. It was in this context, though with other considerations relevant, that the Ministers agreed 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.

Significantly, merely a fortnight after the convening of the eighteenth session of the CDCC and still against the backdrop of the ever intensifying globalization of economic relations, the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, the first ever “South Summit”, which convened in Havana, Cuba, over the period, 12-14 April 2000, was the occasion of nothing less than a comprehensive reaffirmation of the ideas and orientations that were first articulated by the countries concerned, in a spirit of solidarity, in the 1960s and 1970s.

In the *Declaration of the South Summit*, the countries declared themselves to be fully convinced of the imperative need to act in close unity for the primary purpose of working for a peaceful and prosperous world. They also expressed a continuing commitment to the spirit of the Group of 77 and China, which has helped their countries since the inception of the Group in the early 1960s to pursue a common and constructive course of action for the protection and promotion of their collective interests and genuine international cooperation for development. The leaders had identified the principal purpose of their meeting as being the imperative of reflecting on the rapidly changing world economic situation and to discuss the emerging challenges facing the South in the economic spheres and seek a solution to them. They also emphasized that the process of globalization and interdependence must not be used to weaken or re-interpret such hallowed principles as the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention, and the inalienable right of States to choose political, economic, social and cultural systems without interference in any form by other States. The establishment of international economic relations based on justice and equity was indicated to be in the nature of an urgent task. Commitment was also expressed with respect to a global system based on the rule of law, democracy in decision-making and full respect for the principles of international law.

The Declaration also emphasized the following, inter alia:

- The need for a new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparities between rich and poor;
- The need to create a new spirit of international cooperation based on common but differentiated responsibilities between the developed and industrialized countries, involving a search for mechanisms that guarantee full and effective participation by the South in international decision-making;

- Globalization will provide no lasting solutions to the essential problems of developing countries;
- Recognition of regional cooperation and integration as the most meaningful approach to the challenges of globalization and take full advantage of its opportunities;
- The need for fundamental reform of the international financial architecture, making it more democratic, more transparent and better attuned to solving the problems of development;
- As the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, UNCTAD should continue to examine these issues and to build a consensus for the reformulation of policies and options on globalization from a development perspective;
- The need for special and differential treatment for the products and services exported by developing countries;
- The need for commitments for the provision of ODA be honoured;
- The need for transnational corporations to integrate development objectives of the host developing countries into their business strategies;
- The need for active international recognition to be given to the special problems and vulnerabilities of small island developing States and the strengthening of international efforts in the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS POA).

This compilation of ideas from the Declaration of the South Summit constitutes an important element of the changing international operational environment of the CDCC. It also contains some potentially useful orientations in the context of the revision of the Committee's Constituent Declaration and the development of a work programme that is more directly in keeping with the requirements of the contemporary era. Many issues articulated in the "South Declaration" document reflect perennial concerns of developing countries, including those that comprise the CDCC membership.

1.1.5. The CDCC in the Third World

On the basis of the foregoing, it is difficult to avoid the perception that the orientations articulated by the CDCC and those of the wider G-77 and China do not exactly coincide. The CDCC has premised its decision to review its Constituent Declaration on its perception that the basic orientations of the 1970s as enshrined therein, no longer found resonance in the contemporary globalized and liberalized international

environment. The G-77 and China, on the other hand, whose membership includes the bulk of the CDCC's own membership, rejects outright, the demands being made on developing countries in the context of globalization and liberalization: reaffirming instead, the sentiments articulated over two decades ago, as can be seen from the elements of the South Declaration summarized above.

Also relevant in this context, is the position adopted by the countries of the Caribbean in such forums as the negotiations for the establishment of an FTAA. Here, these countries appear to be articulating a position, according to which, they endorse the tenets of liberalization in the context of increasing globalization. On the basis of their publicly declared positions, they appear to be seeking to negotiate extended adjustment periods, lower thresholds and other expedients that will enable them to fulfil the identical commitments that are to be made by their developed counterparts. In other words, the countries of the Caribbean appear to be seeking to accommodate themselves to the liberalization/globalization paradigm.

1.1.6. Disenchantment up North

Another interesting dimension in this discussion, is the clear disenchantment that is being manifested in a number of developed country capitals, with respect to the liberalization/globalization paradigm. Even more significant is the fact that the concerns articulated by the protesters in those capitals, namely, fears of loss of jobs, increasing inequalities within and among countries, as well as competition from imports in a liberalized international market place, among others, coincide with those that have been articulated by the developing countries. This disenchantment has manifested itself in the disruption of the negotiations convened under the auspices of the World Trade Organization in Seattle, United States, in December 1999 and of meetings convened by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank also in the United States of America in early 2000. A similar phenomenon is apparent in some Western European capitals which were the scene of vigorous protests on May Day 2000.

In June 2000, these protests by the same group of anti-free traders, environmentalists and other activists that disrupted the meetings of the WTO, IMF and the World Bank, were continued, in the effort by the "OAS Shutdown Coalition" to disrupt the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) which opened in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on 4 June 2000. The OAS is closely involved in the process aimed at the creation FTAA by 2005. In the event, the protest in Windsor was mirrored by another which took place across the United States river border in Detroit. It remains to be seen whether these protests have any effect in deviating metropolitan leaders from the relentless pursuit of policies predicated on a globalized and liberalized international environment. Whatever their impact, or lack thereof, however, these protests have served to signal the existence, even in developed countries, of

viewpoints that are strongly opposed to the ideas and policies advocated by the range of multilateral organizations.²

What is evident from the foregoing is that while there exists a common interpretation of the evolving structure, as well as of the dynamics of the contemporary international liberalized, globalized environment, there is nothing quite resembling consensus on the approach that is to be adopted, as between the countries of the Caribbean, on the one hand and the wider group of developing countries of the G-77 and China, on the other, as they pursue their fundamental goal, namely, the sustainable development of their countries, within that same environment. Accommodation and adjustment, confrontation and manipulation and even pragmatism, appear to represent the major alternative options being advocated and, to some extent, pursued, in this regard.

1.1.7. The SIDS Programme of Action: A Role for UNCTAD

The twenty-second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly which convened over the period 27-28 September 1999 was devoted to a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. What was, perhaps, the major outcome of the Special Session was the amplification of the scope of implementation of the SIDS POA to embrace elements outside the exclusively environmental focus that is the major feature of the POA as adopted in Barbados in 1994. By way of illustration, the General Assembly recognized that :

“...Eradication of poverty is therefore a serious issue and an objective of high priority for small island developing States, and requires the integration of economic, environmental and social components of action to achieve sustainable development.”

With specific reference to “Globalization and trade liberalization”, the General Assembly, in the context of “goals, objectives and activities” to be pursued in this context included:

“Calling on UNCTAD, in consultation with small island developing States, to address the economic situation and trading prospects of those States in its ongoing comprehensive examination of the impact of globalization and trade liberalization on their economies during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

² See article in Sunday Guardian, Trinidad and Tobago, 7 May, 2000 by Overand Padmore, entitled “Will the Nation embrace this vision?” See also “Trinidad Express”, 5 June, 2000, pages 21 and 22: Articles entitled, respectively, “OAS talks proceed” and “Foreign Ministers gather despite threats of protests.”

1.1.8. The CDCC: The regional environment

This section is also predicated on the premise that an understanding of the CDCC and its functioning cannot be divorced from an understanding of the geo-political context that propelled its formation in 1975 and, likewise, of the thoroughly transformed and infinitely more complicated circumstances in which it is to operate in the new and still evolving international system.

At the time of the inauguration of the CDCC, there were in existence but two integration processes that provided for the participation of these countries, or at least, most of them, within the geographical area of the Caribbean. These were the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which was established by the adoption of the Treaty of Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 and SELA which was created by virtue of the adoption of the Panama Convention Establishing the Latin American Economic System, a mere two weeks prior to the inaugural meeting of the CDCC, on 17 October 1975.³

Integration sentiments constituted a very strong current of thought at the academic level and inspired corresponding actions at the political level across the region. Most of these integrationist sentiments had their origins in the writings of the “dependency school” with which were identified such “authorities” as Andre Gunder Frank, dos Santos, Cardoso y Faletto, Raul Prebisch and Victor Urquidi. In the countries of the Anglophone Caribbean, these ideas also influenced the school of “plantation economy” which was led by such Caribbean scholars as George Beckford, Lloyd Best and Norman Girvan, even as they were themselves influenced by that school. In both contexts, in the Anglophone Caribbean, as well as in the wider Latin American and Caribbean region, regional integration was identified as the vehicle, par excellence, for lifting these countries out of the dependent relationship on the periphery of the international economic system, into a more effective and remunerative insertion into that system. It was these broad integrationist sentiments that inspired the establishment of CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), notwithstanding the fact that the model selected by the countries concerned, was that of Europe, which had already made significant strides in that regard. Indeed, the establishment of CARICOM marked a progression from the previous Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), as the countries involved sought to advance their integration process from a free trade area to a common market, in literal adherence to “the European model”.

Fundamentally, when the ECLAC Resolution 358(XV1) was adopted for the establishment of the CDCC, it was on the basis of a combination of the sentiments associated with “Third World Radicalism”, as described above, together with those associated with the integrationist sentiments of the dependency-plantation economy school, that the CDCC member countries had managed to lodge and to institutionalize within the United Nations framework, specifically, ECLAC. The demonstration effect of CARICOM and SELA is evident in the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC. For

³ In the Panama Meeting held from July 31 – 2 August 1975, a consensus was reached to establish SELA. The Meeting to inaugurate the CDCC convened in Havana, Cuba, over the period, 31 October-4 November 1975. The Treaty establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States was adopted on 18 June 1981.

example, in the preamble of that document, the Ministers declare themselves to be, inter alia:

Conscious of the pioneering role played by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and continued by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting integration within the subregion;

Convinced that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offers a broad framework for implementing concrete projects and initiatives and for coordinating common actions and positions in all fields, thereby facilitating greater identity of interests between the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America;

The CDCC and SELA share so many characteristics, quite apart from being birthed following the same gestation period of Third World radicalism, solidarity and integration and almost contemporaneously, manifesting also, a number of significant points of articulation at the philosophical level, that they might properly be considered Siamese twins. The respective dates of their establishment have already been indicated. The major difference is that the CDCC is exclusively focused on the insular Caribbean. With respect to the gestation period and to the common factors that promoted and nurtured their development, it is worthwhile to set out here, in the body of the text, the first six paragraphs of the *Panama Convention Establishing the Latin American Economic System*. These paragraphs read as follows:

“The Latin American States represented at the Ministerial Meeting convened to establish the Latin American Economic System

whereas,

There is a need to establish a permanent system of intra-regional economic and social cooperation, of consultation and coordination of the positions of Latin America in international bodies as well as before third countries and groups of countries;

The present dynamics of international relations and socio-economic fields also make it necessary that all initiatives and efforts for coordination among Latin American countries be converted into a permanent system which for the first time will include all States of the region and be responsible for all agreements and principles which up to now have been jointly adopted by all countries of Latin America and which will ensure their implementation through concerted actions;

This cooperation must be realized in the spirit of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; and in a manner consistent with the commitments for integration which the majority of Latin American countries have assumed;

It is imperative to promote greater unity among Latin American countries in order to ensure concerted action in the field of intra-regional economic and social cooperation, to increase the bargaining power of the region and to ensure that Latin America occupies its rightful position in the international community;

The action of a permanent system of intra-regional, coordination, consultation and cooperation of Latin America should be carried out on the basis of the principles of equality, sovereignty, independence of States, solidarity, non-interference in internal affairs, reciprocal benefits, non-discrimination, and full respect for the social and economic systems freely chosen by States;

There is need to strengthen and complement the various Latin American integration processes through the joint promotion of specific development programmes and projects;”

Against the reading of these paragraphs, further comparison between the CDCC and SELA seems almost superfluous. A major point worth noting, however, is that whereas SELA, as indeed CARICOM, is anchored in and receives its identity in the context of a specific geographical region, the CDCC, while it caters to the needs of a specific group of regional countries, namely those of the insular Caribbean and, notwithstanding its nomenclature, is anchored in and also receives its identity within the United Nations system, specifically, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. This fundamental difference and its profound significance have not been always fully understood by all and, in fact, have been completely overlooked by many. This aspect will be explored in a subsequent section of this Paper as an introduction to the discussion of the operational elements of the CDCC, as debated at its eighteenth session.

With further reference to the emerging regional environment in which the CDCC is to function, it is useful to take into account the observation made by the Secretary-General of the ACS at the “Commemoration Ceremony” to the effect that:

“The CDCC was the first regional organization of note to straddle the divisions of language and political status. It brought together the English, Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking islands, and three related countries of the mainland, both independent and non-independent, within a framework of dialogue and cooperation. It blazed a trail that others were to follow in the 1990 with respect to what has also been identified as “CDCC’s pioneering design going beyond linguistic barriers and constitutional status within a framework of dialogue and cooperation”.

The membership of the CDCC includes, in addition to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname; a number of independent, former British colonies; British

dependencies; the “Countries” of the Netherlands; Puerto Rico; and the United States Virgin Islands. As has been indicated above, the integration of Cuba at the height of the Cold War marked a bold step in the context of the “inclusiveness” that was one of the hallmarks of the CDCC.

Further, while, according to Chapter V, paragraph 19 of the “Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee”, “The working languages of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish”, the membership of the Committee has these languages as their “mother tongues”, in addition to Dutch. All members participate fully at CDCC meetings. In fact, one of the major features of the CDCC is its provision to the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, the so-called “NICCs”, of an international forum in which to promote and advance their developmental aspirations and which affords them access to United Nations Global Conferences. The extent of participation and involvement of the non-independent countries can be gauged from the following excerpt of a statement delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Recovery and Economic Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles to the effect that, with respect to the CDCC:

*“Throughout the years it has proved that the aspirations of non-independent countries to cooperate with their neighbours, were valid and that Associate Members have resulted to be loyal members of the Latin American and Caribbean family. It should be pointed out –in all modesty– that at critical times Associate Members were even instrumental to keep the organization going, for example by chairing and hosting CDCC activities.”*⁴

Further in her discourse, the Deputy Prime Minister summarily reviewed an important aspect of the evolution of the regional environment in which the CDCC has been required to conduct its activities as follows:

“A case could be made that the organization along the way became a victim of its own success. I mean to say that, whereas CDCC was the first to provide a unique forum where Caribbean countries could-irrespective of scale, language and constitutional status-build bridges and create networks, gradually more players appeared on the regional scene. Our region was evolving and so were its institutions. Political decisions were taken to establish new regional mechanisms and to reform others. This is our present day reality.” (Emphasis added).

In the context depicted above, attention could be drawn to the establishment of the ACS in 1995;⁵ the establishment, on behalf of the countries of CARIFORUM, of a Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) and the ongoing initiative by CARICOM to transform itself into a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). What this

⁴ Sessions of the CDCC were hosted by the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba in 1989 and 1998, respectively.

⁵ The Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States was opened for signature on 24 July 1994 and entered into force in 1995 upon the deposit of the stipulated number of instruments of ratification.

illustrates is that the spirit of integration and cooperation is still alive. Further, the ECLAC/CDCC played a significant role in the process. For example, ECLAC/CDCC played a significant role in the establishment of the ACS with which it continues to work and which in recognition of the role of the ECLAC/CDCC has designated ECLAC a Founding Observer. The CDCC also enjoys excellent relations of cooperation with CARICOM: an aspect that will be developed in a subsequent section of this Paper.

1.1.9. The CDCC's role in the Caribbean

General

In the course of its 25 years of existence, the CDCC, with the assistance of the support of ECLAC as its secretariat, has made a significant contribution to the provision of information for decision-making, to the delivery of technical assistance, including training together with a host of other activities. In the context of the review of this Committee, it has been suggested by most, if not all commentators, that what is needed, is a consideration of the changes in the political and socio-economic environment of the region and of the corresponding responses from the CDCC. Another widely held view, hardly incompatible, posits that important areas of the region's interest can still be advanced by regional cooperation and integration and that the basic reasons that justified the creation of the CDCC remain as compelling as they were when they were articulated at the sixteenth session of the then ECLAC”

As expressed by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago at the Commemoration Ceremony:

“The pillars of global change are upon us: globality, the emergence of mega blocs such as the North American Free Trade Area; the European Single Market and Economy and the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which is still under formation; the growing international crime industry spurred on by the traffic in illegal drugs; and the rapid advancement in technology and knowledge.”

For the Prime Minister:

“All of this underscores the imperative for integration as a means of succeeding in the global society.”

Further:

“As the reality of globality continues to erase national borders, we in the Caribbean must continue the formation of our identity.”

Then two major questions are posed in rapid succession:

“Can the CDCC evolve into a mechanism of integration, as new institutional structures emerge in the region? How does it fit into the emerging architecture of the Caribbean?”

Implicit in these questions are many of the challenges to the future of the CDCC itself.

1.1.10. The CDCC-ACS relationship

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was established in 1995 as an “organization for consultation, cooperation and concerted action...” whose purpose is to identify and promote the implementation of policies and programmes in a number of specified fields. Indeed, its programme of cooperation embraces key areas of interest to all Caribbean countries and spans, inter alia, trade; transport; tourism; natural resources and the environment; the management of natural disasters; science and technology; health; education and culture. Since the establishment of the ACS, not to mention the process of the establishment in which ECLAC/CDCC was very active, close relations of cooperation have developed between both organizations in the development and implementation of the Association’s work programme. Support has been provided by the ECLAC/CDCC through, inter alia, the elaboration of studies and other documentation in trade, maritime transport and a number of other fields. Support has also been provided in administrative areas such as the budget process and in the development of specific initiatives such as the proposal for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

Recognition of these relations of cooperation was conveyed in the perspective on the CDCC-ACS relationship provided by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles at the commemoration ceremony, as follows:

“In this connection the close cooperation between the Secretariats of CDCC and the ACS is especially encouraging. Without the excellent documents and thorough studies prepared and presented by the ECLAC staff, we wouldn’t have been able to develop certain issues and take certain decisions the way we have within ACS. We should go further, for instance by actually synchronizing the work programmes of our regional organizations.”

With respect to the synchronization of work programmes alluded to by the Deputy Prime Minister, significant progress has already been made in this regard. Indeed, reflecting the decision taken to institutionalize and amplify the process, the First Meeting on Inter-Secretariat Cooperation in the Wider Caribbean convened at the Headquarters of the ACS over the period, 18-19 September 2000. Participating at that meeting were the Secretariats of the ACS, the Andean Community, CARICOM, ECLAC/CDCC, OECS, SELA, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Permanent Secretariat of

the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA). The Regional Negotiating Machinery also participated. The purpose of that particular meeting, whose core membership comprised the Founding Observers of the ACS, was to identify specific possibilities for inter-secretariat cooperation primarily in trade development and the related areas of transport and information systems, with the specific objective of developing a draft work programme of cooperation in those areas. A subsequent meeting is envisaged to address other important areas such as sustainable tourism and the environment.

1.1.11. The CDCC-CARICOM relationship

From its inception, as provided for in its Constituent Declaration, the CDCC has developed extensive cooperation with CARICOM over the years. This was, perhaps, an inevitable development, reflecting the significant degree of overlap of the membership of both entities, as well as the fact that the impetus for the creation of the CDCC arose from within the CARICOM membership, specifically, Trinidad and Tobago, though with Cuba also in the vanguard.

In the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, the Ministers declare themselves to be, *inter alia*,

"Conscious of the pioneering role played by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and continued by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting economic integration within the subregion;"

and

"Confident that economic, political and cultural cooperation among the countries of the Caribbean will contribute to the necessary unity of Latin America."

The achievements of the Caribbean integration process, to date, clearly provided a kind of model or, at least, an example, of the basis on which the identity, interests and needs of the CDCC membership could be effectively articulated and aggregated within the then ECLA, whose near hemispheric scope of membership presented a structure that did not readily permit recognition of the uniqueness of Caribbean issues and concerns.

It was evidently on this basis that, as stated in the Constituent Declaration, the Ministers declared their resolve to "*utilize the experience accumulated by the CARICOM and other bodies which is of value for the achievement of the aim of cooperation among the Caribbean countries*".

The habits of cooperation and consultation developed over the years between ECLAC/CDCC and CARICOM culminated, or perhaps more accurately, were formalized, in the conclusion on 24 January 1995 of a "Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation Between the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) acting for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation

Committee (CDCC) and the Caribbean Community Acting through the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)". This level of cooperation was facilitated by the provision in Chapter 1, paragraph 9 of the "Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee", to the effect, inter alia, that:

"...In the implementation of its work programme, the ECLAC Secretariat may co-operate with the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area, including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community and the West Indies Associated States."
(Emphasis added.)

The Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the CDCC and CARICOM provides for, inter alia, cooperation, consultation, exchange of information, reciprocal representation at meetings and joint implementation of projects. Currently, as evidence of the close working relationship that has been developed between the two organizations, visits have been exchanged by the Director of the ECLAC/CDCC Office and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community. In addition, ECLAC/CDCC accepts invitations to participate in a range of CARICOM meetings at which matters of mutual interest are discussed and vice versa.

In addition to the Memorandum of Understanding just mentioned, CARICOM has concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations which serves to anchor its relationship even more firmly within the overall United Nations system. Apart from consultations at the bilateral, inter-secretariat level, even higher levels of cooperation have been achieved as evidenced, for example, by the agreement of both Secretariats to jointly serve as the Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action which convened in Barbados over the period, 10-14 November 1997, to advance the implementation of that Programme of Action in the region. Cooperation also continues in a number of other areas.

The only concrete proposal touching on "the CDCC-CARICOM relationship" in the context of the review of the Committee, is that proposed by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago to the effect that the CDCC should be a bridge between that organization and the ACS. It will be recalled that, as indicated in the discussion paper presented by the secretariat to the eighteenth session of the CDCC, the establishment of "a CDCC caucus" within the ACS has been mooted.

1.1.12. The CARICOM-ACS relationship

Also relevant in the review of the operational environment in which the CDCC must operate, is the structure, as well as the content of the relationship between and among other regional agencies and bodies. By way of example, the relations between the CARICOM and the ACS will be summarily reviewed. In any event these are the more prominently activist organizations operating in the region and the status of their relations could have significant implications for the degree of effectiveness and relevance achieved

by the CDCC across the Caribbean region and, also, in the wider context of Caribbean-Latin American relations.

It will be recalled that the initiative for the creation of the ACS was sponsored and led by CARICOM whose entire membership also has parallel status in the ACS. In the context of the Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States, CARICOM, together with SELA, SICA and SIECA, were immediately conferred the status of "Founding Observer". This is a special category of Observer to which are attached a number of special privileges with respect to participation in meetings of the ACS and in the Association's activities, generally. Ascription to this status also confers considerable prestige within the organization: an element that greatly facilitates access and overall activism.

The ECLAC/CDCC was not immediately given similar recognition, notwithstanding its active role in the process of the establishment of the Association. However, following formal exchanges which effectively commenced at the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the ACS, which convened in Panama, over the period, 12-13 December 1999, eventually at the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Honduras, over the period, 7-8 December 2000, ECLAC was formally recognized as a Founding Observer within the Association. This relationship more adequately reflects the nature of the links that exist between the two organizations, particularly taking into account the deep involvement of ECLAC in key areas of the Association's work programme since the latter's inception and, indeed, prior to its formal establishment.

With respect to the specifics of CARICOM-ACS relations, these have been formalized in the ACS/CARICOM Co-operation Agreement which was signed in November 1997. In a meeting held at the CARICOM Secretariat on 3 April 2000, the Secretaries-General of both organizations agreed to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation in the areas of trade, sustainable tourism development, transport, the environment, the Caribbean Sea, and cultural cooperation, including language training. As reported in the regional press, the Secretary General of the ACS viewed the meeting as an important step in the development of a work programme within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the two organizations⁶. Further, the Secretary-General has reportedly declared his intention to put the relationship on a more substantial footing, without prejudice to the interests of the three other groups that constitute the ACS⁷. This was expressed in terms of developing a network of relationships and cooperation within the Caribbean Basin. Reference has already been made to the First Meeting on Inter-Secretariat Cooperation in the Wider Caribbean which convened at the Headquarters of the ACS over the period, 18-19 September 2000. The extent of cooperation between these two organizations, CARICOM and the ACS, as well

⁶ See Trinidad Express, 28 April, 2000.

⁷ The other groups within the ACS are the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA); THE Group of Three, comprising Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela; and the so-called "non-aligned" countries, a category that includes such countries as Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which are not members of any sub-regional integration process.

as the areas in which such cooperation is conducted, are not without implications for the operations of the CDCC, in the context of, inter alia, the scope of collaboration that might be feasibly proffered by the Committee by reference to its own work programme. Overall, however, as regards the overall CDCC-CARICOM-ACS relationship, the prospects for collaboration among them are quite favourable.

1.1.13. The fundamental CDCC-United Nations relationship

In an earlier section of this paper, where comparisons were being undertaken between CDCC and SELA, it was observed, inter alia, that: “A major point worth noting however, is that, whereas SELA, as indeed CARICOM, is anchored in and receives its identity in the context of a specific geographical region, the CDCC, while it caters to the needs of a specific group of countries, namely those of the insular Caribbean and notwithstanding its nomenclature, is anchored in and also receives its identity within the United Nations system, specifically, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.” It was also noted that “This fundamental difference and its implications have not always been understood by all and have been completely overlooked by many.” What is it that sets the CDCC apart from these other “integration processes” with which it is so often compared and with which working relationships of varying content have been proposed? Which elements, if any, among the numerous proposals that have been made for the interaction of the CDCC with other “regional bodies”, including the yielding of its functions to one or other of them, is actually feasible?

Some basic parameters

The very first paragraph of the “Constituent Declaration of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee”, makes reference to “The Ministers..., meeting to inaugurate the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a subsidiary body of ECLAC;”.

In Article 1, Chapter 1, of the *Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee* it is simply stated that:

“The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee is a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at the governmental level.”

This provision continues :

“As such, the Committee shall report to ECLAC, which in turn shall report to the Economic and Social Council.”

From the foregoing, it is at once clear that the status of the CDCC was never an issue. The fact of its being “a permanent subsidiary body” of ECLAC is merely stated. The Constituent Declaration of the CDCC is not in the nature of a traditional treaty

establishing an integration movement, with its own juridical personality, its secretariat and the other appurtenances of such arrangements. The basic document is styled “Constituent Declaration”. The CDCC is not an autonomous body. It exists within ECLAC and its activities are subsumed under the work programme of ECLAC as is approved at sessions of the Commission. It has meaning only in the context of the United Nations system, more specifically as “a permanent subsidiary body” of ECLAC.

As provided in the Constituent Declaration, in Chapter 11, Article 9:

The secretariat of the Committee shall be the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, acting principally through the sub-regional office in Port of Spain.

Herein lies another fundamental indication of the Committee’s status within ECLAC. The word “principally” ensures recognition of the fact that, notwithstanding the Committee’s “Caribbean” designation, it is not serviced entirely by the Subregional Office of ECLAC for the Caribbean, but by ECLAC as a whole.

1.1.14. CDCC, ECLAC and regional commissions of the United Nations

In the review of the CDCC, “a permanent subsidiary body” of ECLAC, which, in turn, reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), due attention is to be paid to the guidelines laid down by ECOSOC for the functioning of regional commissions. Such guidelines are provided in Resolution 1998/3 which was adopted by ECOSOC as recently as 20 July 1998 and which covers, in addition to the range of functions to be executed by regional commissions, the relations of these Commissions with other regional and subregional institutions. While the Resolution addresses a number of concerns that arose in the context of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), its relevance to the other Regional Commissions cannot be overlooked. This Resolution does, inter alia, the following:

- Reaffirms the need to strengthen cooperation between the Economic Commission (for Europe) with other bodies according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;
- Stresses that in order to ensure synergies and coherence, as well as to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, these relationships should be based on regular exchange of information in common areas of work and on mutual recognition and use of expertise and experience available in each organization and should lead to joint activities, as appropriate;
- Emphasizes the importance of dialogue among the secretariats of institutions and of consistent messages by governments in different forums in order to maximize cooperation among institutions;

- Stresses that, in responding to the specific needs of the region, the Commission has two core functions: the development and harmonization of legal instruments, norms and standards in its areas of expertise, and the production of statistics and analyses in those areas;
- Welcomes the involvement of interested non-member States in the development of norms established by the Commission as well as the interest of other regions in using these norms and in adapting them to their concerns and needs;
- Emphasizes that the technical assistance activities of the Commission are limited in scale and are undertaken in support of the functions mentioned (and are directed in particular towards countries with economies in transition);
- Stresses that the Commission also has the role of bringing the contribution of the region to the global level and facilitating the implementation of international commitments in the region with respect to its work.

Basically, this Resolution recalls the status of regional commissions (and their “subsidiary bodies”) within the United Nations system; reaffirms the need for cooperation between the Commissions and other regional bodies and the bases, as well as the scope, of such cooperation; stipulates the core functions (of the ECE); approves the involvement of interested non-member States in activities of the Commission (and its bodies); prescribes the scope of technical assistance to be provided; and stresses the role of the Commission in bringing regional positions to global attention and vice versa. The text of the ECOSOC Resolution 1998/3 is attached at Annex III.

The Secretary-General’s Bulletin ST/SGB/2000/5 “Organization of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Pursuant to Secretary-General’s bulletin ST/SGB/1997/5 entitled “Organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations”, in his Bulletin ST/SGB/2000/5, the Secretary-General promulgated, inter alia, the following:

Section 7: Subregional headquarters and national offices

7.1. ECLAC has two subregional headquarters, one serving the Central American subregion based in Mexico City and the other serving the wider Caribbean subregion located in Port of Spain. In addition, it has national offices in Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Montevideo and Bogota and a liaison office in Washington D.C. Each subregional headquarters and national office is accountable to the Executive Secretary through direct reporting to the Deputy Executive Secretary, who acts as focal point for the activities of those offices and supervises their work.

7.2 The core functions of the subregional headquarters are as follows:

- (a) Formulating proposals and rendering technical cooperation to the countries and institutions in the subregion in relation to a wide range of issues related to economic and social development;
- (b) Providing secretariat services to the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee, its subcommittees and working groups and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;
- (c) Conducting research on economic and social development, agriculture, industry, natural resources, energy, transport and statistics of the countries of the subregions and formulating proposals and recommendations relating to such studies;
- (d) Preparing country notes on the subregions and contributing to studies and reports prepared by ECLAC.

The Bulletin under reference entered into force on 1 March 2000⁸.

With respect to the CDCC, as pointed out by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC at the eighteenth session, the CDCC is a unique body within the United Nations system and must address itself to that system. The Committee was indicated to provide its membership with a direct form of insertion and access into the United Nations, specifically, through the ECLAC. Further, the CDCC should be the mechanism by which the specific interests of the region are brought to the United Nations. In this connection, it was noted that "The present meeting is part of ECLAC" as a regional commission. Further, regional commissions are to be viewed as outposts of the United Nations and as "mechanisms to draw regional issues into the global arena and to support regional processes." It was in this context that the Executive Secretary observed the existence of other agencies which "we can support and will support" and complement, with particular attention being drawn to the ACS "with which a good relationship already exists"; CARICOM, MERCOSUR, the Andean Community and the Central American Integration System. The Executive Secretary also pointed out that "We have our own regulations in the United Nations" governing the role of regional commissions. In response to a query about the perceived duplication of work by United Nations agencies, the Executive Secretary suggested that the United Nations needed to be more coordinated. To this end, he indicated an intention to propose the convening of a Special Meeting of the United Nations system at the Caribbean level, towards the coordination of the activities of the agencies concerned. In this regard, the third United Nations Inter-Agency Collaboration Meeting will convene in Trinidad and Tobago over the period 8-9 March 2001.

⁸ This Bulletin also provided for the abolition of the Secretary General's Bulletin entitled "Functions and organization of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" (ST/SGB/Organization, Section: ECLAC), dated 25 August 1995. Note the definition of "wider Caribbean" in Paragraph 7.1. Note, also, the absence of references to such terms as "sustainable development", "sustainable human development" or "the environment" in Paragraph 7.2.

Addressing what is, perhaps, the major implication of the status of the CDCC as an integral part of the United Nations, in the context of proposals made in the review process, the Executive Secretary emphasized that “There is no way of subsuming CDCC into a regional process.” This is the basic element that was hinted in earlier sections of this paper as not always having been understood by all and completely overlooked by many. Should the CDCC be effectively subsumed into a regional process, in the words of the Executive Secretary, “That would eliminate the link between CDCC and the United Nations.” It was in the context of the link with the United Nations that support could be provided to the Caribbean, not only from the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain, but also, from the offices in Bogota and Mexico, which, the Executive Secretary observed, are both linked to the ACS. The Executive Secretary, summarizing the position in a manner that provided major parameters for the review exercise, remarked:

“But our role is in the UN, of which CDCC is a part. This is the context in which the role of the CDCC should be approached.”

1.1.15. Summary implications of the operational environment

Arising from the above depiction of the international and regional environment in which ECLAC/CDCC must function and which it must, necessarily, take fully into account, are a number of observations, implications and considerations. A number of these have been extrapolated so that they might inform the specifics of the review exercise. The specific aspects of the review will have their fundamental relevance in the context of the drafting of a revised Constituent Declaration. This basic document will need to incorporate, inter alia, the geographical scope of action of the Committee, as well as its operational context, principally, in its regional and international dimensions. Together with certain other aspects, these elements just mentioned might be properly reflected in the preamble. Also to be informed by the above-mentioned observations, implications and considerations, are the broad objectives, goals and purposes of the Committee; as well as the specific tasks implied in these elements. The modalities, structures and processes that might be instituted to advance the performance of these tasks may also be deduced from the “policy environment” depicted above. The principal observations, implications and considerations extrapolated are set out as follows:

- In the international system as currently configured and taking into account the trend in which it is evolving (intensified globalization, trade liberalization, globalization of production and of financial markets, formation of mega blocs, new technologies, the creation of new institutions to manage trade and other aspects, the “new” policies of the MFIs, the further entrenchment of market forces, implying increased competitiveness, etc), while Caribbean countries may be strident in the advocacy of their demands, the identification of the measures to be pursued and the manner of their pursuit should be guided by pragmatism;

- In economic terms, having for the most part, endorsed the neo-liberal approach, as witness the signature of the WTO by the generality of the ECLAC/CDCC membership, their participation in the FTAA process and similar international initiatives, the thrust of the Committee's membership should be towards an effective and profitable insertion/participation in the international economy on terms that take into account differences in size, levels of development; the question of "the level playing field" etc ;
- The more salient inequitable features of the system should be highlighted while being employed as pegs on which demands/policy preferences are articulated: reduction in ODA, the graduation of SIDS from eligibility for assistance on the sole basis of GNP per capita, the imposition of various conditionalities and an absence of any reference to the vulnerability of these States, among other considerations;
- On the basis of, inter alia, the foregoing, it is clear that the reasons that justified the creation of the ECLAC/CDCC remain as compelling as they were when articulated in 1975 at the sixteenth session of the then ECLA. A revitalized CDCC will make a significant contribution to the efforts by its membership to meeting the challenges presented by the contemporary international and regional environment, as these countries pursue their sustainable development. Some of the tasks originally assigned to the CDCC are no longer in tune with contemporary needs and aspirations. Ex post reporting must be sidelined in favour of the provision of strategic intelligence on issues of immediate interest thereby enhancing the Committee's effectiveness, utility and relevance;
- The activities of ECLAC/CDCC are to be directly related to and must address the developmental needs of the region in their social, economic and environmental dimensions, towards sustainable development;
- Several of the early characteristics of the Committee will remain among its lasting strengths. It remains the only forum for transcending all historical allegiances and roots, for deriving consensus on issues specific to the insular Caribbean prior to their deliberations at regional, hemispheric and global forums. The smallness of the ECLAC/CDCC, its focus on cooperation, consensus-building and sharing lessons of experiences, remain its enduring strength and defining characteristics;
- The ECLAC/CDCC also remains the only "window" for participation in the activities of the United Nations by the NICCs of the region;
- From the operational perspective, the revitalization of the CDCC must necessarily commence with a review of its Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure, its external links and its programmatic

and organic structures. The last two elements mentioned are to be informed by the specific objectives defined for pursuit by the organ;

- Important areas of the region's interest can be effectively advanced only by regional cooperation and integration which constitute vital mechanisms for achieving the region's goals in the global society;
- In the past, ECLC/CDCC played a vital role in the development and delivery of functional cooperation, collaboration and integration in the subregion. The considerable increase in requests for technical assistance in areas of vital concern to member States suggests that the Committee's effectiveness and relevance will be evaluated according to its ability to meet the requests of member States. This will have important financial implications. Some of the more recently accentuated dimensions of the CDCC "work style" (field missions, organizing national workshops for the private as well as the public sector), are also relevant;
- Consideration should be given to the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the CDCC into the future, incorporating time-frames, with prescriptions covering, inter alia, resource mobilization, and the re-engineering of the ECLAC work programme. Priority thematic areas might be identified as a prelude to the development of appropriate strategies. Core functions must be identified;
- The CDCC serves as the Caribbean voice within the Latin American system with a view to having Caribbean needs functionally reflected in the overall ECLAC work programme;
- The CDCC must exploit every opportunity to generate synergies with other regionally based bodies (CARICOM, ACS, etc., and including other Caribbean and Latin American organizations e.g. the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)) to mutual benefit and with mutual recognition, according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;
- The possibility should be left open for the development of cooperation between CDCC and CARIFORUM (which also helps to link the anglophone, francophone and hispanic Caribbean) for the execution of specific projects;
- The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean becomes even more relevant and valuable in the light of the "new regionalism" in the Caribbean. It is a vital link and channel by which the resources of the larger ECLAC and of the United Nations system, as a whole, can be mobilized in support of the new emergent structures and modalities of regional cooperation in the Caribbean Basin;

- Inter-institutional links should be formalized as a demonstration of commitment on both sides to strengthen the role of the secretariat. Practical and concrete factors including the availability of the required budgetary resources must be borne in mind whenever agreements for the establishment of such links are proposed;
- Proposals according to which the CDCC should suppress certain of its current functions, ceding them to other regional organizations; that it might merge its structures with those of other bodies in the context of rationalization and other considerations; that it might be an entity separate and apart from ECLAC, in which case, the members would inform ECLAC of the full range of their specific and individual problems that needed to be addressed, as well as proposals related to these, are without validity, given the basic fact of CDCC as an organ of ECLAC and of the United Nations. The CDCC is not, therefore, amenable to being subsumed into a regional integration process, even though it will support such processes. The CDCC has relevance only in the context of the United Nations. Nor can the rules and regulations of the United Nations, including its budgetary process, be ignored. Moreover, there is no separate CDCC work programme. The proposal to the effect that the CDCC should focus on a few areas and become expert, is, however, worthy of consideration;
- The role of the United Nations system in supporting sustainable human development - a process that at once embraces the economic, the social and the environmental dimensions of development - is vital, especially in helping to counter the pressures towards policy monotheism being exerted on small countries by powerful multilateral institutions;
- As agreed at the twenty-second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the review of the implementation of the SIDS POA, the United Nations should continue to play its catalytic and supportive role particularly through the regional commissions, which play an integral role in the implementation of the SIDS POA, especially in the provision of assistance for capacity-building in small island developing States. A similar observation is applicable to the implementation of the Plans of Action adopted at other global conferences, which constitutes an important element of the mandate of the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean;
- Further, as was also agreed at UNGASS, efforts should be made to strengthen existing institutional arrangements through more efficient use of resources in the United Nations to maximize support for SIDS and so that the United Nations, its agencies and regional commissions become

more effective in promoting and assisting sustainable development in island States;

- More effective coordination of activities among, especially, regionally-based agencies of the United Nations will greatly facilitate the operations of the CDCC and is to be vigorously pursued. Also of importance is the cooperation the CDCC can receive from regional banks, as well as from the funds agencies and programmes of the United Nations system;
- There is a joint responsibility as among the membership of CDCC, which are, for the most part, small island developing States; its secretariat; ECLAC and the wider United Nations system, in general furtherance of the development aspirations of the Caribbean region;
- The graduation of countries from eligibility for certain important forms of international assistance, solely on the basis of GNP. Other issues relating to decision-making in the WTO, the MFIs and other organizations, as set out in the "Declaration issued by the South Summit are also relevant;
- In the revitalization process, it is appropriate to recall that the CDCC is, first and foremost, a grouping of its member States. An appeal should therefore be launched for more effective and sustained participation by the membership in the activities of the Committee.

PART 2

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUENT DECLARATION AND FUNCTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CDCC WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ITS SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, GOALS, STRUCTURES, MECHANISMS AND PROCESSES, INCLUDING ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Introduction

This review is informed by the analysis and exploration undertaken in preceding sections in line with the perception strongly endorsed at the eighteenth session of the CDCC, of the need to “reinvent” the CDCC so as to enable it to meet the challenges presented by the new and still evolving regional and wider international environment. The major outcome of the discussion has been a proposal that the Constituent Declaration of the Committee be “reshaped”.

In this context, as indicated in the preface to the revised version of the informal “Discussion Paper” entitled “The CDCC Into the New Millennium: Meeting the Challenges of the Future”, which was presented to the eighteenth session of the Committee, it was perceived that several basic elements contained in the Constituent Declaration no longer found resonance in the prevailing ethos of the contemporary international environment, characterized by globalization and the entrenchment of market forces within a rules-based system, among its more salient characteristics. In addition, the need was recognized for the incorporation of the new and specific issues facing the region into the new millennium, as well as the identification, in specific terms, of the activities that might be pursued to enhance the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the Committee in the promotion of the needs and interests of its entire membership.

2.1.1. The preambular section of the Constituent Declaration: Some guidelines

The point has been made that the CDCC bears all the marks of the period in which it was conceived and established. This was a period of “Third World radicalism” in the international scene: the era of, inter alia, the sixth and seventh Special Sessions of the UNGA, of the call for a NIEO by the developing countries, of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, of vigorous action by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of the launching and commencement of UNCLOS III, of the Integrated Programme for Commodities within UNCTAD and similar endeavours, spearheaded in the main, by the developing countries. All of these developments took place against the background of the polarized international environment of the Cold War, with the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 also occupying significant spaces in the international discourses that raged around the globe.

In the same manner in which the international context of the 1970s informed the appreciation of the perceived need for the establishment of the CDCC, its ideological orientation and its specific objectives, in terms of a methodology for the present review, it appears reasonable and necessary to have every regard to the structure and dynamics of the new international environment in proceeding to the identification of those elements in the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC that need to be “reshaped” in the context of the contemporary dispensation.

2.1.2. Some general considerations

In the preambular section of the Constituent Declaration, the Committee might be more appropriately portrayed in the context of globalization and market liberalization and of the situation of small States in that regard. Similarly, concepts such as “sustainable development” and “Small Island Developing States” with references to the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNGCSIDS) and, possibly, the other global conferences of the 1990s, should also be incorporated in entrenched positions that condition the Committee’s activities, as well as the strategic approach to their further development and implementation. The issue of “Governance”, including reference to the relevance of participatory approaches towards sustainable development, might also be incorporated.

2.1.3. Specific observations

(a) In the post-UNCED and UNGCSIDS era, issues such as that pertaining to “the sea and all its resources” as set out in the **fourth** preambular paragraph, could benefit from a more comprehensive approach to the management of hydrospace taking into account, in addition, initiatives taken by the region in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) towards having the Caribbean Sea internationally recognized as “a Special Area in the context of sustainable development”. Likewise, a more comprehensive reference to the impact of natural disasters should be made;

(b) In the depiction of the Committee’s operational environment, the scenario is to be amplified to incorporate new institutions such as the ACS and, also, to update the scope for collaboration, both in general, as well as in specific terms, as regards the Committee’s relations with other regional bodies;

(c) The reference, in the **eighth** preambular paragraph of the Constituent Declaration to the need to pay special attention to “the relatively less developed and, in most cases, very small countries of the subregion” might be reviewed, taking into account the shifting fortunes of countries formerly assigned to the respective categories of “more developed” and “least developed”;

(d) Following from the globalization/market liberalization ethos, attention might be directed to the **ninth** Preambular paragraph which makes reference to, inter alia, the suggestion that Caribbean countries “*maintain solidarity with the*

*adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with measures taken by producers associations of developing countries in that regard;”. Likewise, the drafting of the **eleventh** preambular paragraph might be revisited in light of its reference to “the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure or coercion that might be used against any one of them for having exercised its legitimate rights;”*

In the **twelfth** preambular paragraph, reference is made to “the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations.....” This text might also be revisited to more closely reflect the values prevailing in the international system while, at the same time, articulating the concerns of the small countries of the region.

2.2. The operative paragraphs

The single most important observation as regards the operative paragraphs of the Constituent Declaration is to the effect that this section might be strengthened by the clear identification of the issues of priority interests to the region, in the context of its sustainable development, embracing, in particular, the social, economic and environmental dimensions. The basic strategies for advancing and promoting those interests must also be spelled out. Emphasis is to be placed on the need to operationalize the concept of “sustainable development” in its social, economic and environmental dimensions. In this regard, it is noted that the germ of the environmental/cultural dimension is contained in Operative Paragraph 18, which makes reference to the need to carry out “*projects aimed at better use and protection of the environment, including the preservation of the flora and fauna of the countries of the Caribbean, as well as their historical monuments and documents.*”

Operative paragraph 9, with its reference to “*the question of a common Caribbean position on the Law of the Sea aimed specifically at securing international recognition for a special regime for the Caribbean multi-State archipelago within the framework of the new International Convention on the Law of the Sea*” has been overtaken by events. This formulation should be replaced by the new issues of relevance to the region in this and related spheres.

It is also recognized that “reshaping” the Constituent Declaration will require, as a critical input, the ideas, values and preferences of the member countries with respect to the “*Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee*”. Attention also needs to be paid to the structures that are required.

2.3. The need for caution?

Before continuing the review in the forward-looking context of the provision of specific guidelines for redrafting the text of the Constituent Declaration, if not proceeding to the drafting exercise itself, it is perhaps useful to bear in mind two major currents of thought reflecting different approaches to the international environment of the early twenty-first century. One of these approaches, in essence, recommends adjustment to that environment. The other emphasizes the imperative of challenging that environment and, in addition, of changing it, so as to make it conform to the needs and interests of small developing countries. The first approach, reflected in the discussions to date within CDCC circles, involves casting the Committee in the context of the global environment characterized by the dominant forces of globalization and of economic liberalization. The second, is the one implicit in the extensive reference to the *South Summit Declaration*. From that Declaration, it is at once clear that, from the perspective of the Group of 77 and China, no aspect of the ideological content of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, would be viewed as being in need of adjustment, in the sense of seeking to ensure an accommodation with the current ethos.

Against this background, it might be appropriate to inquire: “What should therefore be the approach to the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, bearing in mind, for example, the approach of Caribbean countries, for example, to the FTAA process in which the basic premises of the market-oriented liberalism are not challenged?” It will be recalled that these countries, instead of challenging the neo-liberal approach to international trade issues, are placing emphasis on securing special treatment, in the context of longer transition periods and different thresholds, for example, to achieve the same goals that have been identified for pursuit by their developed counterparts. Basically, though, it might be suggested that the basic underpinning of the CDCC approach should be that of an informed and enlightened pragmatism.

2.4. An approach to the goals, objectives, purposes and aims of a reshaped CDCC

By way of stating a basic truism, as a regional commission of the United Nations, the point of entry of ECLAC interventions is, necessarily, at the regional level. Nevertheless, the coverage of the activities of the CDCC, a subsidiary body of ECLAC, spans all geographical dimensions, including the national and the global, in addition to the regional. This last is informed by the others, even as they themselves are informed by it. A preliminary distillation of the major functions envisaged for a reshaped CDCC at the various levels is set out in the following section. It is to be emphasized that, wherever applicable, an integrated, multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach should be applied in the execution of the respective elements of the Committee’s activities. It might also be useful to identify the core objectives of the Committee.

2.5. Proposed major activities for a reshaped CDCC

General

- Sustainable development;
- Focus on cooperation, consensus building and sharing lessons of experience;
- Human and social development, poverty alleviation, social equity and gender issues;
- Providing a regional forum for the exploration of issues of unique interest to members prior to their discussion at regional hemispheric or global conferences; providing the mechanism by which the specific interests of the region are brought to the United Nations;
- Implementation and general follow-up of the Plans of Action adopted at global conferences .

2.5.1. Activities at the international level

- To serve as a bridge between the articulation of Plans of Action at the global level and their translation into policies at the regional and national levels; to draw regional issues into the global arena; to provide the mechanism by which the specific interests of the region are brought to the United Nations.

2.5.2. Activities at the regional level

- Basic: As in the 1975 Constituent Declaration: “...to act as a coordinating body for whatever activities relating to (sustainable) development and cooperation as may be agreed upon and serve as advisory body and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances.”; (This formulation could be “tightened” with respect to its drafting.)
- To provide a “window” for participation in the activities of the United Nations by the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, the so called “NICCs”;
- To serve as a bridge between the articulation of events at the global level and their translation into policies at the regional and national levels; to draw regional issues into the global arena and to support regional processes; to provide the mechanism by which the specific interests of the region are brought to the United Nations;
- To provide briefings to permanent representatives of CDCC members in New York and other relevant diplomatic centres;
- To serve as a regional “think-tank” for member countries and organizations;

- To bring to the attention of the secretariat, any policy issue or initiative that should be pursued towards enhancing cooperation between the Caribbean countries and the other members of ECLAC, as well as with other integration groupings of the Latin American region;
- To propose subregional and “multinational” technical cooperation programmes and projects;
- Sustainable human development, including, education, health, human resource development, eradication of poverty;
- Disasters: Post-disaster assessment in macroeconomic, social and environmental dimensions;
- Cultural exchanges;
- Diversification of economies;
- The application of science and technology to regional development; transfer of technology;
- Provision of strategic intelligence on issues of immediate interest and importance to member States, public and private sector, etc;
- Tourism, trade, investment, offshore services, the environment;
- Transport;
- Ocean management issues (selected);
- Resource mobilization for the delivery of technical assistance, including the joint implementation in direct collaboration with, or on behalf of other agencies;
- Training, capacity building;
- Diversification of economies;
- Technical cooperation;
- To undertake studies on issues of priority concern to the region with a view to making recommendations of policy. (Such issues might include the socio-economic impacts of migration; the planning, land use and land-ownership issues associated with the tourism industry; the impact of globalization and the trend of trade liberalization on the regional economies; the issue of competitiveness and the need to diversify regional economies and other issues included in the work

programme. More generally, the committee might undertake research and studies incorporating specific policy recommendations related to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development);

- Mounting seminars and workshops on specific themes of priority interest, linked to operations of cooperation and to developments in other relevant forums;
- To support and collaborate with, as appropriate, regional organizations and integration groupings e.g. the ACS, CARICOM, SICA, SIECA, and the Andean Community, according to complementarities in terms of mandates, memberships and approaches to issues of common concern, generating synergies to mutual benefit and with mutual recognition being given to the respective efforts and contribution of each party;
- Formalization of cooperation arrangements for inter-institutional relations, to exploit synergies with other regional and regionally-based organizations, regional banks, as well as funds, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system on the basis of shared mandates, etc;
- Pursue more effective coordination of activities among, especially, regionally-based agencies of the United Nations system;
- The application of science and technology to regional development;
- Monitoring of any intraregional developments that may hinder the region's progress.

2.5.3. Activities at the national level

These might include the following:

- Recommending to governments, concrete measures directed towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean region and towards greater integration of and cooperation among the economies of the region;
- Provision of technical assistance, policy research and advice, including the organization/sponsorship of national consultations.

These activities can be pursued through ECLAC, with CDCC as the medium for access thereto.

2.6. Structures, mechanisms processes/modalities

These might include:

- Cooperation, coordination, consensus-building, projecting the Caribbean identity in policy perspective; regional collective action, e.g. in negotiations and other encounters with third parties;
- Formulation of concrete recommendations to guide policy in member States;
- External linkages; outreach to other institutions, agencies, etc: coordination, collaboration, exploiting synergies;
- Technical cooperation.

2.7. Towards revised Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC

Taking into account the current practices and procedures of the CDCC, there appear to be a number of areas in which changes of varying degrees might be introduced. Such changes might be relevant in the context of, inter alia, the introduction of new procedures and the formalization or, as appropriate, the codification of certain procedures and approaches that have evolved since the establishment of the Committee in 1975. A number of proposals are set out hereunder for consideration. Chapter references are in respect of the existing Rules of Procedure.

Chapter I: Organization

Para. 2: The matter of credentials i.e. the need for delegations to be duly accredited might be made explicit;

Para. 4: Why the restriction to specialized agency? This text might be more flexibly drafted to cover relations with any other organ with which the CDCC might wish to formalize a relationship in the manner envisaged;

Para. 7: At its eighteenth session, in the context of which it commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment, the Committee decided to elect four Vice-Chairmen, instead of the customary two. Perhaps, this paragraph could be redrafted to expressly permit special arrangements on occasions identified by the Committee itself;

Para. 9: The second sentence of this paragraph deals with collaboration between the secretariats of the CDCC and those of "other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area". Perhaps this issue could be the subject of a separate provision which could, in any case, be amplified to cover such issues as bases for the establishment of such relationship, criteria for selection and basic procedures e.g. biannual consultations, ad hoc meetings and similar elements. The identification of specific/primary

organizations should reflect contemporary realities. The formalization of cooperation arrangements and of inter-institutional relations generally, must have as its objective, the exploitation of synergies with other regional or regionally-based organizations, regional banks, as well as Funds, Agencies and Programmes of the United Nations system, on the basis of shared mandates and similar considerations.

Chapter II: Functions

Para. 10: This text should be updated and recast in a more comprehensive format.

Chapter III: Sessions

Para. 11: The arrangement adopted at Seventeenth Session of the CDCC, held in Aruba, in 1998, whereby Technical Meetings are convened annually and Ministerial Meetings biennially should be enshrined in the revised Declaration;

The existence of the Monitoring Committee should be formalized taking into account the Cuban proposal for the monitoring committee to be re-styled “the Monitoring and Follow-up Committee”. This committee could have its own rules and objectives. Meetings of the committee would permit reviews of performance and the formulation of proposals for consideration by ministers. There is also, the Cuban proposal for the decisions of the monitoring and follow-up committee taken in years intervening between ministerial meetings to have the status of “mandates” (to avoid delays in implementation as would occur should ministerial approval be required).

The current provision is for the Executive Secretary to issue the notice of convocation of the regular sessions. This, however, is not observed. It is recommended that the entire question of the modalities for the convening of meetings be reviewed, with a view to the introduction of clarity and precision into the relevant provisions. In this regard, it is recognized that the Executive Secretary might choose to delegate this function.

Para. 13: It is recommended that the entire question of the allocation of expenses when meetings are hosted away from the Subregional Office be revisited. These provisions appear to be more honoured in the breach.

Chapter IV: The secretariat

Whereas in Paragraph 9, it is provided, inter alia, that “*The Secretariat of the Committee shall be the Secretariat of the ECLAC, acting principally through the sub-regional office in Port of Spain*”, in Paragraphs 17 and 18, it is the Executive Secretary who is given responsibility for making the arrangements for meetings. This provision could benefit from a review, again with a view to clarity and precision.

Overall, notwithstanding the provision in Paragraph 9, just mentioned, very little explicit recognition is given to the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters in the basic text.

2.7.1. Specimen elements of Rules of Procedure of international organizations

Section I: General provisions

- Definitions
- Application
- Conflicts in interpretation
- Participation of associate members

Section II: Composition

- Competence
- Participation of member States

Section III: Meetings

- Regular meetings
- Extraordinary meetings
- Venue/site of meetings
- Special guests
- Preparatory meetings
- Provisional agenda
- Provisional agenda for an extraordinary meeting
- Suspension or adjournment of sessions

Section IV: Debates and voting

- Quorum for procedural matters
- Precedence of motions
- Call to order
- Presentation and distribution of substantive proposals and modifications
- Presentation or withdrawal of proposals and motions
- Reconsideration of proposals
- Decisions on substantive and procedural matters
- Voting
- Interruption of voting
- Modification or amendments
- Division of proposals or modifications
- Voting on modifications
- Voting on proposals
- Elections

Section V: The Bureau/Headtable

- Composition of the Bureau
- Substitution of the Chairman
- Functions of the Chairman (of the CDCC)

Section VI: Official languages

Section VII: Reports (Rapporteur, assisted by the secretariat)

Section V111: Observers and social partners

- Participation of observers
- Participation of social partners

Section 1X: Final provisions

- Amendments
- Entry into force

2.7.2. An approach to chapter headings and to an index of their respective content of the 1975 Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC

Chapter I: Organization

- What ECLAC/CDCC is and its place in the ECLAC and overall United Nations hierarchy;
- Composition of the Committee and provision for representation by an Alternate;
- Provision for advisers, experts and the rights of these officials in the context of the meeting;
- Provision for the establishment of subsidiary bodies;
- Designation of the Chairman and duration of his tenure;
- Provision for substitute Chairman (in case of e.g. a Cabinet reshuffle etc);
- Provision for Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and corresponding eligibility criteria;
- Scope of participation of Chairman at meetings vis a vis the rest of his country delegation;

- Identification of the secretariat, its mode of functioning. Also, provision for cooperation between CDCC and other regional intergovernmental bodies.

Chapter II: Functions

Enumeration of the functions of the CDCC and of actions to be taken toward their fulfilment.

Chapter III: Sessions

- Periodicity of regular sessions; Method of determining dates and venues, as well as the basis for the process (principle of rotation);
- Provision for “other meetings” as required; Procedure for convening these “other meetings”;
- Enumeration of responsibilities of host countries of CDCC meetings. Procedure for formalization of these responsibilities/administrative arrangements. The status and relevance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations;
- Determination of quorum. Allocation of votes (one per country); Types of majority required in respect of procedural matters, substantive matters. Status of abstentions. Mode of determination of whether an issue is substantive or procedural;
- Residual provision to govern all other related issues.

Chapter IV: The secretariat

- Scope of participation of the Executive Secretary (or his representative);
- Duties of Executive Secretary as regards the making of arrangements for meetings; obligations of Executive Secretary at meetings (presentation of a report). Duties of Executive Secretary between meetings;
- Duties of Executive Secretary before meetings (circulation of documents 30 days before etc., in the case of regular meetings. The arrangement may be waived in the case of extraordinary meetings.)

Chapter V: General provisions

- Working languages of the Committee;
- Provision for amendment or suspension of any Rule of Procedure subject to superiority of terms of reference laid down by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

NOTE: Given their wide-ranging content, it is recommended that these Chapters be subdivided, along the lines of the specimen elements listed above.

55 (XVIII) CHAGUARAMAS DECLARATION

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

Recalling ECLAC Resolution 358 (XVI) establishing the ECLAC/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 the 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 fora, 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 the 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 the 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 the 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 UN 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 II

LC/G.1588
November 1989

**CONSTITUENT DECLARATION
AND
FUNCTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

CONSTITUENT DECLARATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Ministers of the countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Office in Port of Spain and those of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, meeting in the city of Havana from 31 October to 4 November 1975 to inaugurate the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary body of ECLAC.

Recognizing that the Caribbean countries share a geographic, cultural and historic proximity that must be taken into account when establishing the forms and mechanisms for cooperation among them, and that they have also inherited similar economic structures and have similarities in the majority of the social and economic problems they face;

Reaffirming that it is necessary to strengthen the unity and cooperation of these countries in order to carry out joint activities that will benefit the subregion's economic and social development and increase its bargaining power as regards third countries or groupings of countries;

Reiterating that such cooperation constitutes a manifestly useful mechanism for bringing into play the potentialities of the countries of the subregion with the intention of complementing their economies and achieving joint policies in such important spheres as trade, the obtaining of financial resources, agriculture, tourism, food, transportation, industry, energy, the transfer of technology and technical know-how, health, education and others;

Recognizing the importance and relevance of the sea and all its resources for the development, cooperation and self-determination of the Caribbean peoples;

Conscious of the pioneering role played by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and continued by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting economic integration within the subregion.

Confident that economic, political and cultural cooperation among the countries of the Caribbean will contribute to the necessary unity of Latin America;

Convinced that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offers a broad framework for implementing concrete projects and initiatives and for coordinating common actions and positions in all fields, thereby facilitating greater identity of interests between the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America;

Emphasizing that it is indispensable to pay special attention, to the relatively less developed and in most cases very small countries of the subregion;

Affirming that the countries of the Caribbean are essentially raw material producers and should therefore maintain solidarity with the adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with the measures taken by producer associations of developing countries in that regard;

Stressing that all cooperation mechanisms must be guided by the principles of the equality, sovereignty and independence of States, solidarity and mutual benefit, without any discrimination that might arise as a result of differences in political, economic and social systems;

Reaffirming in the spirit of various United Nations resolutions, that the countries of the subregion have the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure of coercion that might be used against any one of them for having exercised its legitimate rights;

Emphasizing that the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations, must be subject to the aims of development and the national interests of the countries of the subregion and that it is necessary to exchange information on their activities in the territories of the countries of the Caribbean;

Emphasizing that the execution of joint projects in areas of common interest may be the best way to implement a policy of economic cooperation and complementation among the Caribbean countries:

Recognizing that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has vast experience in the field of economic and social cooperation that can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual cooperation beneficial to their economic and social development;

Determined to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of their peoples for development and progress;

Declare their political will and their resolution to:

1. Carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the subregion, thus promoting its economic and social development and advancing progressively towards better coordination of their countries' economies in the future. Based on the recognition of the advantages of economic complementation, this policy will give impetus to cooperation among member countries, particularly in the implementation of joint projects, the exchange of experience and mutual aid, and through mechanisms – including trade – which will contribute to this end.

2. Carry out trade analyses, with emphasis on tariffs, customs procedures and other related aspects, with a view to harmonizing and simplifying the mechanisms to promote trade between the countries of the subregion.
3. Utilize the experience accumulated by CARICOM and other bodies which is of value for the achievement of the aim of cooperation among the Caribbean countries.
4. Analyse the possibility of establishing multinational enterprises within the subregion, owned and controlled by the Caribbean States and nationals of such States, in fields which are of mutual interests to the Caribbean countries.
5. Implement joint complementation projects in order to facilitate the development and optimum use of the Caribbean countries' human, natural, industrial, technological and financial resources.
6. Cooperate in the field of agriculture, in order to accelerate the development and use of appropriate and efficient techniques in this sector in the Caribbean countries and formulate joint policies promoting the agricultural complementation of the countries of the subregion.
7. Carry out joint activities for increasing and improving national transportation facilities within the subregion and with other countries.
8. Facilitate the development of fishing activities in the subregion to make them a fundamental factor in import substitution as well as in increasing employment.
9. Examine, in collaboration with those countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Office in Mexico and the ECLAC Office in Bogota that have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea, the question of a common Caribbean position on the Law of the Sea aimed specifically at securing international recognition for a special regime for the Caribbean multi-State archipelago within the framework of the new International Convention on the Law of the Sea.
10. Implement joint programmes in the field of education and public health and in other areas selected for priority action in the social sectors, at every level, with the aim of promoting the optimum use of the subregion's scientific knowledge in these fields as well as of its material and human resources.
11. Cooperate in the training and development of the human resources of the subregion.
12. Cooperate in the field of tourism in order to promote research and other activities of common interest.
13. Cooperate in the strengthening of relations among our countries and peoples by establishing programmes of cultural exchange, including sports.

14. Develop adequate telephone, telegraph, postal and other means of communications within the subregion.

15. Carry out action aimed at obtaining financial resources from the international community, the governments of the countries of the area, and other sources, for use in common projects for the benefit of the subregion's economic and social development.

16. Cooperate in the mutual transfer of technology and of technological and scientific knowledge in order to facilitate the adaptation of imported technology and the development of domestic technologies and increase the bargaining power of the subregion's countries in operations between the latter and countries outside the area of these matters.

17. Collaborate on the identification and utilization of a complex base of raw materials within the subregion, especially energy sources and including research on solar energy.

18. Carry out joint programmes and projects aimed at better use and protection of the environment, including the preservation of the flora and fauna of the countries of the Caribbean, as well as their historical monuments and documents.

19. Offer effective economic assistance in cases of emergencies and situations resulting from natural disasters and cooperate in the field of meteorology with a view to reducing the harmful effects of hurricanes and tropical storms to a minimum.

20. Promote the development of activities and projects beyond the scope of this Committee within SELA in order to facilitate more complete identification of the positions and interests of the countries of the Caribbean with the rest of Latin America, recognizing SELA as the proper regional-level framework for cooperation, consultation and coordination among the member countries.

21. Observe the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, national independence, mutual benefit, solidarity and non-discrimination on account of differing social, political and economic systems, in all cooperation activities undertaken among the countries of the Caribbean.

22. Exercise solidarity in the face of any type of economic action, pressure or coercion directed against any of the countries of the subregion that exercise their legitimate right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity; in the face of the action of transnational corporations which do not observe the aims of economic and social development and do not take into account the interests of those countries; and in favour of the decisions adopted by producer associations of developing countries or groupings of nations, working to achieve equitable and remunerative prices for their products.

23. Cooperate in the adoption of concrete measures aimed at the development of the member countries of the Committee and promote initiatives to strengthen cooperation among them, aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the present Declaration.

FUNCTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Chapter I ORGANIZATION

1. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee is a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at the governmental level. As such, the Committee shall report to ECLAC, which in turn shall report to the Economic and Social Council.⁹

2. The Committee shall be made up of a Minister designated by each of the countries members of the Commission specified in resolution 358 (XVI), as *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

In the event that any of the Ministers is unable to attend a meeting, he may be represented by an accredited alternate representative designated by his Government.

3. The Ministers may be accompanied by such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be designated by their Governments, all with the usual credentials required for international meetings.

Such advisers and experts may represent their respective Ministers and shall have the right to speak and to vote at any meeting of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

4. The Committee may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned and with the approval of the Commission, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

5. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Minister designated as *ex-officio* member of the Committee by the host country of the session and elected by the Committee. He shall continue as Chairman between one session and the next regular session.

6. If the Chairman of the Committee ceases to be the Minister designated as *ex-officio* member of the Committee by his country, the newly-designated Minister shall replace him as Chairman.

7. At each session the Committee shall also elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who may be Ministers, advisers or experts.

8. The Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Committee in that capacity, and his country shall meanwhile be represented by an alternate delegate.

⁹ In conformity with Decision 65 (ORG-75), the Council will not consider any report exceeding 32 pages.

9. The secretariat of the Committee shall be the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, acting principally through the subregional office in Port of Spain. In the implementation of its work programme, the ECLAC Secretariat may cooperate with the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area, including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community and the West Indies Associated States.

Chapter II FUNCTIONS

10. The functions of the Committee shall be as follows: To act as a coordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and cooperation may be agreed upon and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances.

To this end the Committee will:

- (a) Determine the carrying out of research and studies in connection with the objectives of advancing towards Caribbean economic integration and cooperation and dealing with social and economic development needs, especially in the relatively less developed countries;
- (b) Propose to the participating governments concrete measures directed towards the development of the Caribbean area and greater integration of and cooperation among the economies of the Caribbean;
- (c) Indicate to the Secretariat initiatives which should be pursued with a view to strengthening cooperation between the Caribbean countries and the other countries members of ECLAC and integration groupings of countries of the Latin American region;
- (d) Discuss and propose subregional and multinational technical cooperation programmes and projects to be carried out in the area.

Chapter III SESSIONS

11. The regular sessions of the Committee shall be held once a year.

At these sessions, the Committee, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, shall recommend the date and place of the next session, following the principle of rotation between the member States.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC shall issue the notice of convocation of these regular sessions.

12. In addition to the annual sessions referred to in the preceding rule, the Committee may hold other meetings, attended by the Ministers or their alternates, when this seems desirable from the standpoint of the continuity of the Committee's work.

In such cases, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, on his own initiative or at the request of any one of the members, shall issue the necessary notice of convocation, after consultation with the remaining members and in agreement with the Chairman of the Committee.

13. For sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies not covered by budget provisions approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the host country shall cover the cost of interpreters, translators, secretaries, interpretation equipment, mimeographs, meeting rooms, offices and such other facilities as may be necessary for the normal functioning of the meetings. A standard agreement shall be signed between the host country and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC on the administrative arrangements for each session. For all other matters, the host country shall comply with the principles set down in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

14. Two thirds of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. Each member shall have one vote. Procedural matters may be decided by simple majority. Substantive matters shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Abstentions from voting shall not affect such majority. Should doubts arise whether a matter is substantive or procedural, the Chairman shall decide after consulting the Vice-Chairmen.

15. In all other respects, the conduct of the discussions and the voting procedure shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure and established practice of the Commission.

Chapter IV THE SECRETARIAT

16. The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

17. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for meetings in close contact with the Chairman of the Committee and the authorities of the country serving as the host country for the meeting. At the beginning of each session, he or his representative shall present a report on the work done since the last session. In the periods between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, as far

as possible, the governments of participating countries are kept informed of the progress of the work in hand.

18. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that, at least thirty days before the commencement of each session, member governments receive copies of the provisional agenda and of the reports and documents which are to be considered at the session in question.

This rule may be waived in the case of extraordinary meetings.

Chapter V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

19. The working languages of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.

20. Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Committee provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

Annex III

United Nations
Resolution 1998/3
Review of the regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council
Plenary meeting
20 July 1998

United Nations
Resolution 1998/3

Economic and Social Council

35th plenary meeting
20 July 1998

1998/3. Review of the regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to conduct a review of the regional commissions,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Europe, at its fifty-third session, considered a note by the Executive Secretary on relations with other regional, subregional and global organizations and institutions 1/ and a report on operational activities and cooperation with subregional groupings, interests and initiatives, 2/

Recalling the principles governing the relationship of the Economic Commission for Europe with other bodies as set forth in chapter IV of its Plan of Action, 3/

1. Reaffirms the need to strengthen cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and other bodies according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;
2. Stresses that in order to ensure synergies and coherence, as well as to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, these relationships should be based on regular exchange of information in common areas of work and on mutual recognition and use of the expertise and experience available in each organization and should lead to joint activities, as appropriate;
3. Emphasizes the importance of dialogue among the secretariats of institutions and of consistent messages by Governments in different forums in order to maximize cooperation among institutions;
4. Recognizes that the Commission has acquired over the years considerable knowledge of countries with economies in transition and has developed long-standing working relationships with those countries in the areas of its expertise;
5. Stresses that, in responding to the specific needs of the region, the Commission has two core functions: the development and harmonization of legal instruments, norms

and standards in its areas of expertise, and the production of statistics and analyses in those areas;

6. Welcomes the involvement of interested non-member States in the development and adoption of norms established by the Commission as well as the interest of other regions in using these norms and in adapting them to their concerns and needs;

7. Emphasizes that the technical assistance activities of the Commission are limited in scale and are undertaken in support of the functions mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and are directed in particular towards countries with economies in transition;

8. Stresses that the Commission also has the role of bringing the contribution of the region to the global level and facilitating the implementation of international commitments in the region with respect to its areas of work;

9. Takes note of the information on the relationships that the Commission has built up with other organizations in its areas of cooperation. 4/

Notes

1/ E/ECE/1362.

2/ E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1.

3/ E/ECE/1347 and Corr.1; see also Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 16 (E/1997/36), Annex IV

