

Nineteenth session of the CDCC
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
14-15 March 2002

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.692/Rev.1
26 April 2002
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CDCC**

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PART I

LIST OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following major decisions and recommendations emanated from the discussions of the meeting:

- ◆ Technical briefing notes on various areas of negotiations should be provided to non-CARICOM Permanent Representatives in New York as well as to CARICOM representatives.
- ◆ Representatives from CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC should be present at negotiations in New York and other venues to provide technical support to negotiators, particularly with regard to the implementation of the SIDS POA.
- ◆ A shared definition of “sustainable development” should be devised in the United Nations system to prevent the use of disparate approaches by different United Nations agencies in addressing the related issues.
- ◆ The study on labour markets in the Caribbean in work programme subject area 12.2c should include an assessment of labour markets regionally and internationally and should be linked to production restructuring in the Caribbean.
- ◆ Greater emphasis needs to be placed on developing national capacities to assess damage due to natural disasters through training and the development of local expertise.
- ◆ Consistent and uniform language should be used in the Constituent Declaration to refer to the membership of the CDCC.
- ◆ The ECLAC Subregional Office for the Caribbean should be accorded a more active role in the SIDS review process to ensure adequate balance among environmental, economic and social issues.
- ◆ The SIDS review process and the proposed public awareness strategy for the SIDS POA should also target the political directorate of the countries and should be informed by government activities in the area of sustainable development. Further, the public awareness campaign should include an entry in the Caribbean Song Festival as well as in the national school(s) competitions.
- ◆ The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should resume the initiative commenced in the 1990s to promote the increased participation of its associate members, the so-called NICCs, in the activities of the wider United Nations system.
- ◆ The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to support, through adequate resources, the provision of technical assistance to member countries through activities mounted by the CDCC secretariat.

PART II ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the meeting

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the nineteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at the ministerial level at its Offices in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 14 and 15 March 2002.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. The list of participants appears at Annex 1.

Agenda item 1 - Welcome remarks

The Director of the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC welcomed the delegates and the colleagues from the ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago (Mr Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr Daniel Blanchard, Secretary of the Commission and Director of the Population Division (CELADE) and Ms Miriam Krawczyk, Chief of Programming Planning and Operations. In her statement, she drew attention to the agenda for the meeting and reviewed the context against which the member countries were endeavouring to meet the challenges of sustainable development and within which the secretariat provided support. The text of the Director's statement is attached at Annex 2.

The agenda included the review of the accomplishments over the 2000-2001 biennium and discussions relating to the implementation of the current (2002-2003) biennium's programme of work, and the work of the subregional headquarters for the biennium 2004-2005.

In the Director's presentation, the biennium 2000-2001 was marked by a worsening of economic performance in the subregion and by several challenges including the end of the era of preferential access to European markets and the decline of major commodity exports. The events of 11 September 2001 in the United States delivered the final blow to the subregion, prompting a major tourism summit to address the ongoing crisis in that sector.

The offshore financial regulation procedures imposed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the denial of the North American Free Trade

Agreement (NAFTA) parity to Caribbean economies, as well as the protectionist stance of some developed economies, constituted important stumbling blocks to the export diversification and economic development of Caribbean countries. The movement towards a single market and economy continued to make tenuous progress within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), while the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) thrust towards the free movement of labour was characterized by the troubling, yet understandable, hesitancy of some of its members.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC addressed the issue of globalization and the opportunities, perils and anxieties that it presented to Caribbean countries. In this regard he highlighted offshore banking negotiations, trade preferences and intellectual property rights. He underscored the need for the Caribbean countries to act in concert in their trade negotiations and in their participation in international forums.

Agenda item 2 - Election of officers

The Bureau was elected as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Trinidad and Tobago	
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	First Vice-Chairman:	Antigua and Barbuda
	Second Vice-Chairman:	Netherlands Antilles
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Jamaica	

Agenda Item 3 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as follows:

1. Welcome remarks
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Review of the work of the secretariat:
 - 4.1 Review of some aspects of the implementation of the 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 work programmes of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat;
 - 4.2 Review and consideration of the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium;
 - 4.3 Review and consideration of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium;

- 4.4 Review and consideration of the proposed work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium
- 4.5 Status of ongoing extrabudgetary projects:
- *Projects funded by the Government of the Netherlands:*
 - Project NET/00/035: Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach to a Social Vulnerability Index;
 - Project NET/00/079: Development of a Regional Marine-Based Tourism Strategy (A Study of the Yachting Sector in the Caribbean);
 - Project NET/00/081: Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean (Development of a Trade Database)
 - *Projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):*
 - Project BZE/01/001: Support to the Development of a Human Development Agenda in Belize;
 - Project HAI/01/002: Strengthening of the Civil Registry System in Haiti.
5. Activities of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the area of natural disasters
6. The proposal for *Promoting an Integrated Approach to the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of Sustainable Development*
7. Review of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC
8. Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC
9. Preparations for the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC, Brasilia, Brazil, 6-10 May 2002
10. Regional preparations for the Global Summit on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002
11. Preparations for *Johannesburg 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002
12. SIDS+10: Preparations for the *Full and Comprehensive Review of the SIDS POA 2004*
13. Development and Implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy in respect of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA)
14. Resolutions of the session for presentation to the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC, Brasilia, Brazil, 6-10 May 2002
15. Other matters

16. Dates and venues of the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee and of the twentieth session of the CDCC
17. Consideration of the draft report of the technical level of the nineteenth session of the CDCC
18. Closure.

Agenda Item 4 - Review of the work of the secretariat

The Director affirmed that the approach that characterized the implementation of work programme activities and the delivery of technical assistance was the deployment of resources strategically in support of the needs of member countries.

She informed the meeting on the work implemented in support of subregional goals and objectives over the last biennium (Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC Work Programme for the 2000-2001 biennium, LC/CAR/G.638) and on the programme activities envisioned for the new biennium 2002-2003.

4.1 Review of some aspects of the implementation of the 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 work programmes of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

Comparative data over the last three bienniums showed an increase in output across major categories: technical assistance missions undertaken, publications and the rate of work programme implementation. During the biennium 1996-1997, 60 publications were produced which increased by 57 per cent to 90 in the 1998-1999 biennium and to 126 in the 2000-2001 biennium, an increase of over 94 per cent over the last four years. The number of technical assistance missions increased from 73 in biennium 1996-1997, to 110 in 1998-1999 and to 184 in the last biennium (2000-2001), an increase of over 152 per cent over the last four years.

In addition, the rate of completion of work programme activities moved from 80 per cent in 1996-1997 to 81 per cent in 1998-1999 and to 93 per cent in the 2000-2001 biennium, the latter translating into an effective rate of 100 per cent given the fact that the few outputs not implemented related to the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) activities, for which ECLAC support had been discontinued in the previous biennium, and to an activity under a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) project, which had been discontinued as a result of a change in focus of that organization. That rate of implementation, together with the high level of productivity in all other areas, was an achievement of which the secretariat was proud, a performance which considerably increased the visibility and relevance of the organization to member countries.

The secretariat provided substantive assistance to member countries in meeting developmental challenges by supporting them in several key areas, not only through the

execution of work programme activities but also, in each case, tailoring a portfolio of technical assistance to their individual needs.

In her review of the activities over the 2000-2001 biennium, the Director drew particular attention to the assistance provided in the following areas:

- Capacity building in social and trade statistics. Lack of data in social and trade flows has been a fundamental issue and continues to bedevil the region in its developmental work and in policy formulation. The ECLAC Caribbean Subregional Headquarters has also been actively involved in the area of natural disasters, refining the original ECLAC manual to assess the macroeconomic effects of natural disasters to include the specificities of Caribbean economies and undertaking post-disaster assessments in Anguilla, Belize, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as providing training at the national and regional levels.
- Economic diversification including studies on the offshore and tourism sectors. A project was also undertaken with the objective of building greater understanding and awareness of the potential of the yachting sector to contribute to the economies of some member countries and to articulate policy for the management of the yachting sector at the national and regional levels.
- Strategic policy formulation in the area of physical planning leading to the formulation for Saint Lucia of a new Physical Planning and Development Act. This Act was adopted by Cabinet and the House of Representatives in November 2001.
- Negotiations and trade. Assistance was rendered through conduct of a study analysing the obstacles, internal as well as external, to the process of exploring trade opportunities by the Netherlands Antilles with CARICOM. Strategic assistance was also provided to the Government of Belize by way of a confidential brief to assist in its bilateral negotiations with Mexico.
- Cooperation and integration at the subregional and national levels. The office provided support to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Justice in the review of family laws in the OECS subregion and the execution of a research programme to facilitate modernization of the legal framework dealing with that aspect of law. In addition major support was provided to CARICOM countries, through the CARICOM Secretariat, in preparation for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

In the 2002-2003 biennium, it was observed that the subregion would be faced with the need to negotiate on several fronts: with the European Union (EU) within the post-Cotonou framework of regional economic partnerships; within the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the context of post-Doha negotiations, and within the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Some member countries would continue to pursue the movement towards the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the free movement of labour within the OECS. Each of these initiatives would be accompanied by its own challenges. The secretariat would support those initiatives. The secretariat had begun plans for convening a meeting on trade in services in

support of pending negotiations in that sector and had prepared a background study on Special and Differential Treatment for Caribbean Economies. Support would also be provided by the secretariat to member countries at the regional level in preparation for negotiations with the EU. The secretariat would continue to provide assistance at the hemispheric level via technical support to the FTAA Committee on Smaller Economies and directly to member countries, as well as support to CARICOM and Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) initiatives.

The secretariat would also give priority to the social challenges facing Caribbean countries by providing member countries with a predictive tool through the construction of a social vulnerability index (SVI). That pioneering work had generated a great deal of excitement both in the Caribbean and abroad. Internationally, while work had been undertaken on the construction of both economic and environmental vulnerability indices, construction of a social vulnerability index had not previously been attempted. This represented the third and missing pillar of the sustainability development construct and was of relevance to all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as they continued to provide scientific proof of their vulnerabilities to the wider international community.

Finally, as the secretariat for SIDS in the subregion, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would continue to devote efforts to issues of strategic relevance to SIDS. Having introduced the training of personnel in the use of the ECLAC methodology for the assessment of the macroeconomic and social effects of natural disasters and having also refined that approach to include the environmental component, the secretariat was in the process of developing training materials specific to the needs of SIDS. It was also about to undertake a major public awareness campaign to popularize the SIDS POA in the subregion.

Following the intervention of the Director, the various units of the secretariat made presentations on the implementation of the work programme for the 2001-2002 biennium and the outcomes envisioned for the bienniums 2002-2003 and 2004-2005.

4.2 Review and consideration of the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium

Reports on the implementation of the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium were presented by the substantive units of the secretariat. These presentations supplemented the report delivered by the Director. The presenters explained the context in which their programmes had been conceived and discussed the achievements as well as the challenges encountered.

4.3 Review and consideration of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium

The presentation of this agenda item made clear the sensitivity of the secretariat to global, regional and subregional issues, which were reflected in the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium.

4.4 Review and consideration of the proposed work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium

The proposed work programme for this period was designed on the basis of a view of the future and recognized the possibility of changing scenarios. The foreseen challenges and difficulties were addressed in the determination of programme activities.

Delegates noted that insufficient information on budgetary provisions for the work programmes, as presented, had been supplied. They placed on record the concern that a high percentage of the work programme had to be funded from extrabudgetary sources so that their delivery was not guaranteed. Delegations were concerned about whether the ratio of reduction of the main budget as opposed to the extrabudgetary allocation in the case of the secretariat was representative of the situation throughout the ECLAC system. The need for greater security in the budget allocation was advocated with a view to ensuring a reduced dependence on extrabudgetary financing.

The secretariat clarified that at the moment there did not exist a budget for the 2004-2005 biennium. Discussions earlier in the meeting had been in respect of budgetary provisions for the 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 bienniums. The secretariat clarified the use of ad hoc expert group meetings as an alternative to the convening of regional meetings of 30 or more participants due to funding considerations. This strategy of ad hoc expert group meetings had become necessary in the light of financial constraints.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC acknowledged the concerns expressed and provided a short history of the evolution of the budget for the 2002-2003 biennium. He recalled the sudden 3 per cent cut towards the end of December 2001 and disclosed that New York had taken a larger cut than the other offices, while Africa had sustained a relatively small cutback. He informed that ECLAC was in the process of addressing the problem. The work programme of the 2002-2003 biennium anticipated a more than proportionate cut in Santiago vis à vis the Caribbean and Mexico offices. The Deputy Executive Secretary further informed the meeting that on the subject of the work programme, the Caribbean countries and the secretariat wanted to have Caribbean issues incorporated into chapters of the ECLAC studies. ECLAC had attempted to divide the work programme on the basis of subject matter instead of by country groupings. That approach was problematic and ECLAC had reverted to analysis by subregional offices. That approach was still applied. He also noted that data limitations prevented the inclusion of Caribbean activities in some work areas. He invited the delegates to comment if they thought that Caribbean activities did not appear with sufficient detail in ECLAC documents.

The Deputy Executive Secretary commented on the unique nature of the work programme in natural disasters. In the past, ECLAC had never been considered as possessing excellence in the analysis of natural disasters. In the absence of a measure of the effect of natural disasters, the ECLAC methodology had evolved into a more complex activity.

He recalled the evolution of the role of ECLAC in natural disaster assessments. Work in this area had begun spontaneously and from within ECLAC's staff complement. No post was created to oversee natural disasters and the assessment of damage. The present role of ECLAC

had stemmed from its first mission of two weeks during which period of time a staff member evaluated damage and began to prepare a methodology. ECLAC Headquarters had subsequently brought together teams from Santiago, Mexico and Port of Spain in accordance with the nature of the phenomenon and the damage caused. The secretariat noted that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Swiss Government had provided resources to finance disaster assessments and rehabilitation in the aftermath of natural disasters.

On the subject of capacity building, the representative of Jamaica preferred to have Jamaican personnel trained to conduct assessments rather than to have them receive visits from the ECLAC team in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

The secretariat indicated that the topics of IDB funding for natural disasters and the revised manual on natural disaster evaluation with updated methodologies would be discussed at the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC in Brasilia.

The Deputy Executive Secretary stated that there was no United Nations organization that was the counterpart of a national emergency organization. The ECLAC Session in Brasilia would be an opportune venue to raise the need, if countries wished, for the creation of a post in the area of natural disaster assessment. He identified the issue as being one of attempting to increase resources in response to increased needs.

Delegates registered concern as to whether the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would be participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Deputy Executive Secretary restated the importance of SIDS+10, and expected that priority would be assigned to the convening of a Second Caribbean Ministerial meeting preparatory to that meeting. Delegates expressed concern about the possible effect of the 3 per cent cut in budget on the convening of the proposed Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting.

The secretariat clarified that the funds for the convening of a Caribbean Ministerial Meeting to prepare for SIDS +10, about which the Secretary of the Commission had spoken, were in respect of a meeting to be convened in 2003 after the WSSD.

4.5 *Status of ongoing extrabudgetary projects*

- *Projects funded by the Government of the Netherlands:*
 - Project NET/00/035: Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach to a Social Vulnerability Index;
 - Project NET/00/079: Development of a Regional Marine-Based Tourism Strategy (A Study of the Yachting Sector in the Caribbean);
 - Project NET/00/081: Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean (Development of a Trade Database)

- *Projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):*
 - Project BZE/01/001: Support to the Development of a Human Development Agenda in Belize;
 - Project HAI/01/002: Strengthening of the Civil Registry System in Haiti.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat reported on the progress of three projects funded by the Government of the Netherlands. In relation to project NET/00/035, *The Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach to a Social Vulnerability Index*, the meeting was informed that the subregion suffered from inadequate socio-demographic data and limited resources, including technological capacity for social development. The objective of the project was to build the capacity of social planners and social statisticians at the national level through its two components, namely:

- Fully searchable social statistical databases housed at ECLAC and linked to regional institutions such as the Derek Gordon Data Bank at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and CARICOM; and
- The development of a social vulnerability index. The index could be used to measure the social risk factors that inhibited or constrained the abilities of a country to develop and benefit from opportunities.

The project had been advanced through research, ongoing consultations and expert group meetings that drew on the expertise of national and subregional institutions. It was expected that the project would elaborate a social statistical database from which member countries could store and access social data for analyses, for enhanced evidence-based social policy formulation and trained personnel at the national level

With regard to project NET/00/079, the *Development of a Regional Marine-Based Tourism Strategy*, the meeting was informed that traditionally there had been a lack of recognition and understanding of the yachting subsector by governments, tourism planners and regional organizations, which had translated into a deficiency in policies to facilitate and manage the subsector. The ECLAC/CDCC project was aimed at filling that knowledge gap so that yachting might be more fully incorporated as an element of national and regional tourism policies in the Eastern Caribbean. Through the project activities, it was expected that a framework for the management of the sector would be provided to form the basis for regional cooperation. The project activities focused on the production of national reports on the yachting sector in four member countries and two associate member countries. It was expected that national consultations would be conducted and would draw on those studies for the elaboration of national yachting tourism policies. In a subsequent phase, a regional action plan for the yachting industry would be formulated.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat reported on the third project funded by the Government of the Netherlands, *Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean* (Development of a

Trade Database). Like the Social Statistical Database project, this project was aimed at filling the data deficits identified. The national statistical units were generally poorly staffed and funded, resulting in the production of data which were limited both in relation to their timeliness as well as coverage. Two consequences had been the difficulty of obtaining normalized statistics on external trade and the lack of comparability of trade statistics across the subregion.

That project had been developed to support member countries in the organization of national data for effective use by trade and other negotiators and planners. It aimed to improve the capability of countries to provide current and detailed trade data and also to improve the comparability of the data produced. It was expected that the project would provide a fully searchable database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, with differing levels of access in accordance with the differing status of users. The project was also intended to provide users with improved trade statistics and enhanced analysis on trade performance. The project activities included training seminars for trade policy makers, and the preparation of studies on selected aspects of trade in the subregion. The project, whose execution commenced in May 2001, was scheduled for completion by the end of 2002.

The meeting was also informed of two projects that had been funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), namely, *Support to the Human Development Agenda in Belize* and *Strengthening the Civil Registry System in Haiti*. In relation to the former project, the meeting was advised that through its technical assistance mandate, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was supporting Belize in elaborating a framework for the development of social policy for poverty reduction which would guide the allocation of resources from national and international funding partners. That framework to address poverty eradication was to be integrated with the national development goals. Through the implementation of the project, it was expected that measurable and achievable indicators of success would be derived.

With regard to *Strengthening the Civil Registry System in Haiti*, the meeting was advised that the efficiency and integrity of the Haitian civil registry system were severely hampered by infrastructural constraints, staff and resource shortages and an inadequate distribution of civil sub-registry offices throughout the country. For these reasons, ECLAC/CDCC, in response to a request by the UNDP, Haiti, had undertaken the execution of a project aimed at reform and strengthening of the civil registry system. Execution of this project commenced in June 2001 when ECLAC/CDCC undertook a mission to Haiti during which the scope of the project was clarified. ECLAC/CDCC was in the process of identifying a consultant to proceed with a situational analysis of the registry with a view to making recommendations on the most efficacious way to proceed with reform given resource challenges experienced by Haiti at the moment. The project would be completed by the end of 2002.

Agenda Item 5 - Activities of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the area of natural disasters

The secretariat made no formal presentation of this agenda item since earlier presentations had addressed the topic.

Agenda Item 6 - The proposal for Promoting an Integrated Approach to the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of Sustainable Development

The secretariat presented document CDCC/19/INF.9 entitled "Promoting an Integrated Management Approach to the Caribbean Sea Area in the Context of Sustainable Development".

The meeting was asked to note that the original proposal for a resolution on *International recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development* had been replaced by General Assembly resolutions 54/224 and 55/203 on *Promoting an Integration Approach to the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of Sustainable Development*, which was significantly different. However, SIDS in other regions, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, had embraced approaches that were quite similar to the original formulation.

In light of this, the meeting was invited to consider whether the original proposal or the proposal reflected in the United Nations resolutions should be pursued so that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat could be guided accordingly in the development and implementation of its programme of activities.

Delegates pointed to the need for inter-agency collaboration in bringing together the available information on environmental activities (e.g. management of coastal areas) in the region. The representative of Jamaica articulated the need for a substantive brief following consultations in order to provide the technical and legal support to Caribbean delegations in the Second Committee of the General Assembly to advance the original proposal. The representative of Barbados suggested that it was necessary for a team of experts to be constituted to identify and work on the technical issues involved in the Caribbean Sea Project, particularly in light of the time-frame for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly. The representative also drew attention to the fact that at the Third Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Summit in Margarita, Venezuela, 11-12 December 2001, Heads of Government reinforced the mandate of that organization to continue carrying the project forward.

One delegate observed the need to build support for a resolution from groups such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). He also noted the need to clarify whether a country or an agency would take the lead in advancing the resolution. The delegate was also concerned about the short time-frame available to prepare a draft resolution for submission to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Delegates agreed with the suggestion from the secretariat that although a full articulation of the whole process might not be accomplished in time for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly in September 2002, the commencement of the process and progress to date could be reported to that forum.

The general view was that the CDCC was in favour of maintaining and advancing the original proposal for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was requested to undertake the relevant consultations with a view to providing the technical support for advancing the proposal. In particular, consultations are to be undertaken with the ACS and the CARICOM

Secretariat on the future development and eventual implementation of the proposal, taking into account the lead technical rule envisaged for the ECLAC/CDCC.

Agenda Item 7 - Review of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC

A Revised Draft Text of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC and the Revised Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC were adopted unanimously. Following the adoption of the texts, the Chair recalled to the attention of the meeting that in order to ensure that they conformed with United Nations practice, the secretariat would refer them to the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Member countries would be kept informed of all relevant developments.

Agenda Item 8 - Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC

The secretariat introduced the document, LC/CAR/G.688, containing summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council that might be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC. While the 17 resolutions summarized in the document covered a range of topics, the secretariat pointed to the overall emphasis on “development” issues. The secretariat noted that the forthcoming Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development were two important backdrops informing the formulation of the resolutions. The resolutions presented addressed several issues, including science and technology; international trade and development; finance and development; disabled persons; the external debt of developing countries; the criminal misuse of information technologies; the law of the sea; granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; and human rights education. The secretariat also drew attention to resolution 56/113, which called upon the regional commissions to participate in the preparatory processes for observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands recalled the attention of the meeting to other relevant resolutions which provided the basis and guidance for assistance by the United Nations and the specialised agencies in the economic and social development of non self-governing territories. In this regard the representative of Antigua and Barbuda informed the meeting that the Committee of 24 of the General Assembly had the mandate to consider issues related to decolonization. While there were provisions for representation of four Caribbean member countries on that Committee, at present there were only three. He called for the participation of one of the more developed Caribbean member countries on the Committee. That involvement was particularly important in light of recent developments which had the effect of curtailing the advancement of the autonomy of non self-governing territories.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda also drew the attention of the meeting to General Assembly resolution 56/121 on combating the criminal misuse of information technologies. He referred to the requirement of the OECD that offshore financial facilities provide access to information with the possible consequence of loss of privacy and confidentiality. That requirement was of special concern for those member countries whose economies depended on offshore banking.

**Agenda Item 9 - Preparations for the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC,
Brasilia, Brazil, 6-10 May 2002**

The secretariat introduced document LC/G.2155(SES.29) "Provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC, Brasilia, Brazil, 6-10 May 2002" and urged the Caribbean countries to attend that most important ECLAC meeting.

**Agenda Item 10 - Regional preparations for the Global Summit on
Financing for Development (FfD), Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002**

The Director drew attention to the preparation of a Brief contained in document CDCC/19/INFO.10 on the Global Summit on Financing for Development and indicated that it was intended to inform the preparations of the national delegations in their negotiations.

The Brief identified the following five major themes:

- Mobilizing international resources for development;
- International trade for development;
- Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development;
- External debt;
- Addressing systemic issues.

With regard to the theme of mobilising international resources for development, the Brief noted that the subregion was balance of payments constrained, a fact that highlighted the need for international resources to finance development activities. Moreover, private flows were pro-cyclical, which implied that they increased with the trade cycle and therefore led to fluctuations in growth in the subregion. As a result, private flows should be complemented with concessionary development flows. It was further noted that macroeconomic criteria, such as GNP per capita, should not constitute the sole basis for determining the graduation of countries from the concessionary window of the International Financial Institutions, but that vulnerability should also be taken into account.

In examining international trade as an engine for growth and development, it was suggested that special and differential treatment should be geared towards facilitating export diversification and structural change.

In relation to domestic resources, it was suggested that the main threat to macroeconomic stability came from low growth and high unemployment rather than from internal price changes. The strategy, therefore, should entail measures to upgrade the physical, human and social capital stock of the region to promote competitiveness.

With respect to external debt, member countries were advised that the draft document should focus not only on national strategies for the management of the external liabilities, but also focus on international strategies to deal with external debt reduction in the context of more favourable conditionalities. Two proposals were made in looking at systemic issues: (a) the need for the democratisation of participation in international forums; and (b) the recognition of unity in diversity which gave due weight to countries at different stages of development.

The Chair invited comments on the agenda item. Representatives thanked the secretariat for voicing concerns regarding the imminent Summit. They noted that there was very little scope for the Caribbean to benefit from the process, as AOSIS had not fully addressed issues going beyond environmental concerns. In addition, the donors had shaped the process with little input from the developing countries.

They also suggested, however, that the Financing for Development Summit could be seen as an achievement to the extent that the Bretton Woods Institutions had been brought into a constructive engagement with the United Nations. In addition, developing countries had introduced for discussion: financing for development in a holistic and comprehensive manner; the importance of trade for development; special and differential treatment; economic transformation and capacity building; and the vital role of concessionary flows.

**Agenda Item 11 - Preparations for *Johannesburg 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)*, Johannesburg, South Africa,
26 August-4 September 2002**

The Director invited the representatives to update the meeting on their preparations for the WSSD.

The representative of Jamaica, in her capacity as the Vice Chairman of the Bureau of the WSSD, pointed to the difficulties that had arisen from the lack of timely submissions of country reports in the early preparatory processes. However, by the second Prepcom, national and agency reports had been reviewed and the Chairman's report was now under consideration. Further, she highlighted the difficulty experienced in inserting the concerns of the SIDS into the process, leaving the outcome uncertain. She also expressed concern regarding the approach for bilateral proposals, suggesting that that process might leave Caribbean countries with little support. The representative expressed her unease with a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) led process to the extent that as it might result in too great an environmental focus and suggested that an ECLAC/CDCC secretariat-led review process would result in equal recognition of the economic, environmental and social issues.

Delegates supported the Jamaica representative's analysis of the preparatory process and suggested the need for a greater CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC presence to provide technical support. They also highlighted the need for assistance in the social area on issues such as HIV/AIDS, human resource development and health, all of which were identified as assuming increased importance for the Caribbean SIDS.

Delegates observed that the Caribbean needed to align itself more closely with the African States. The view was also expressed that the social vulnerability index would be useful if it could express the contemporary Caribbean social problems. On the question of sustainability, they suggested that governments should be mindful of the issues which it raised in regard to the sea, drawing their attention to the difficulties arising in the subregion over certain maritime claims affecting the OECS in particular.

One representative suggested that the region needed one clear and focused orientation to galvanise the preparatory negotiations for the WSSD. On the issue of national reports, attention was drawn to the difficulty encountered in some countries in their preparation, due to limited human resource capacity. The representative suggested that the production of combined reports, such as an OECS report, might have been helpful. She further noted that collaboration with African countries should be strengthened.

Another representative reported that the United Nations office which had been established in New York for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), land-locked countries and SIDS should be carefully examined to ensure that SIDS received their fair share of consideration through that office. It was also suggested that the SIDS issue of social vulnerability could be the defining issue that would differentiate Caribbean SIDS from the LDCs and that in order to secure the matter on the agenda, the technical assistance of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was necessary.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean responded that although it was the wish of the office to support the governments as requested, additional resources would be required. The Chief, Programme Planning and Operations of ECLAC, concurred with the delegates over the difficulties of keeping the Caribbean SIDS visible. She further indicated that ECLAC recognised the importance of the WSSD and was seeking to access resources to mount panels and publications, which addressed the key issues of the region and the subregion.

The issues of water, sanitation and health were brought to the attention of the meeting by the secretariat and it was suggested that these might form the basis of which engagement between African and Caribbean countries could be possibly enhanced.

The meeting agreed that the Caribbean needed to work with a greater sense of solidarity on the WSSD. In addition, the secretariat was requested to continue its work on the identification of regional projects for which the countries could actively seek support and to make whatever arrangements were possible to provide the technical assistance requested.

Agenda Item 12 - SIDS+10: Preparations for the Full and Comprehensive Review of the SIDS POA 2004

The Director introduced the discussion by reviewing the SIDS+5 process, which culminated in 1999. She indicated that funds had been earmarked for subregional preparatory meeting in 2003 to be convened at ministerial level, and that a special report on the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (POA) would be prepared. The subregion had made substantive recommendations to widen and deepen the SIDS POA and the full range of SIDS-related issues were to be considered at the WSSD. These included issues relating to financing for development, trade, crime, drugs and HIV/AIDS.

The representative from Jamaica endorsed the remarks of the Director and expressed her own disappointment at the loss of opportunity for Caribbean SIDS to galvanise a sustainable development approach instead of a heavily environmental perspective in the preparatory process. It was suggested that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provide support for the broad and integrated approach required.

Representatives suggested that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat take note of government activities in the area of sustainable development when engaging in the review, since these often reflected the wider framework.

Agenda Item 13 - Development and Implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy in respect of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA)

The Director indicated the secretariat's concern in relation to the lack of public awareness of the SIDS POA. To address this gap, the secretariat was preparing to launch a practical public awareness campaign to meet the needs of the various groups across the subregion. The campaign was intended to increase awareness, enhance implementation and empower various sectors of society to advocate implementation of the SIDS POA.

Representatives concurred that the proposed strategy was very useful and stressed that it include the political directorate. Other activities should include the identification and mobilization of young persons as SIDS ambassadors and the incorporation of SIDS-related elements in the Caribbean Song Festival and in national school competitions.

The representative from Montserrat endorsed the strategy, emphasizing the benefits that could be derived through broadening the notions of "sustainable development" to include economic and social issues in addition to the traditional emphasis on environmental considerations.

**Agenda Item 14 - Resolutions of the session for presentation to the
twenty-ninth session of ECLAC, Brasilia, Brazil, 6-10 May 2002**

The following resolutions were adopted:

- 56 (XIX): Development and implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy for the promotion of the SIDS POA
- 57 (XIX): Development of a Social Vulnerability Index
- 58 (XIX): Capacity building for disaster assessment
- 59 (XIX): Convening of the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action preparatory to SIDS +10, in 2003
- 60 (XIX): Strengthening national capacities in statistics

The text of each is contained in Part Three of this report.

Agenda Item 15 - Other matters

The representative of Puerto Rico informed the meeting of a School for the Management of Natural Disasters, which had been established in that country. He proposed that it be converted into a Caribbean School for the Management of Natural Disasters, to be utilised by member countries of the ECLAC/CDCC. He suggested that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat might wish to meet with the Board of Management of the School, to assist in the design of the courses to ensure their relevance to the needs of the subregion.

The Chair thanked the representative of Puerto Rico for the offer and assured him that it would be considered.

The representative of Jamaica observed that the present session reminded delegations of the uniqueness of the CDCC as a regional forum, which embraced the concept of the wider Caribbean. She noted that the inclusion of the associate member countries in the ECLAC/CDCC and, by extension, their role and participation in the wider United Nations system was especially important and that ECLAC/CDCC was strategically positioned to facilitate this desired outcome. She recalled an activity by ECLAC/CDCC in the 1990s on the integration of the associate member countries in the wider United Nations system, but recognized that the outcome of that exercise had not yielded the anticipated results. The representative of Jamaica requested that the meeting endorse the resumption of that initiative, and requested the secretariat to explore modalities to give effect to this important work.

The Director gave an assurance that the Office would continue to functionally integrate the Non-independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) within the ECLAC/CDCC work programme

and outlined activities and projects, that had been carried out with the NICCs in the area of natural disasters and trade, among others. She also indicated that recently there had been changes in the status of Martinique and Guadeloupe so that they were now able to join regional and subregional bodies. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would be making outreach efforts towards them as well as the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, which had expressed interest in becoming members of the CDCC.

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands supported the proposal of the representative of Jamaica for a resumption of activities in the interest of the NICCs in the wider United Nations system. He acknowledged that work had been done by the secretariat to include the associate members in its work programme, although this was not yet universal. The participation of the NICCs in the wider United Nations system was the main issue, and the earlier activity of ECLAC/CDCC in this regard had held great promise. He noted that it was disappointing to the members of the Working Group of NICCs that this activity had ended without success. He concluded that such an initiative remained an important component of the development process of many NICCs, and all efforts should be made to resume this unfinished work.

Agenda Item 16 - Dates and venues of the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee and of the twentieth session of the CDCC

The Director proposed that the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee be held within the first quarter of 2003. Consultations would be held with the members of the CDCC in this regard.

Agenda Item 17 - Consideration of the draft report of the technical level of the nineteenth session of the CDCC

The time factor militated against the tabling of a complete draft report. Delegates endorsed the portion of the report, which they had the opportunity to examine, and agreed that it would be finalized by the secretariat and disseminated, allowing delegates a period of two weeks to submit comments thereon.

Agenda Item 18 - Closure

The delegates thanked the secretariat for having convened a successful meeting at which much valuable information was provided. The secretariat was congratulated on the high quality of its presentations and received statements of support for and indications of interest in its work.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat thanked the delegates for their participation and brought the meeting to a close.

**PART THREE
RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION**

56(XIX): Development and implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy

Recalling the emphasis placed by the SIDS Programme of Action in its Chapter XV on the importance of *Information and participation* as an important element necessary for its effective implementation;

Recalling also the specific provision of the SIDS Programme of Action according to which “*Efforts should be made to increase the awareness and involvement of non-governmental organizations, women, local communities and other major groups in national planning, the development of environmentally sound and sustainable technologies, and the implementation of sustainable development programmes...*”

Emphasising the relevance of the decision adopted by the 1997 Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action on the need to develop strategies to improve the accessibility of data and information to all sectors of society as a means of promoting sustainable development;

Recognising that the absence of effective programmes of education and public awareness of the Programme of Action continues to present a major constraint to the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action;

Welcome the proposal presented by the Secretariat for the development and implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy for the SIDS Programme of Action

Agree that the main messages of the Strategy should include the building of awareness of the main messages of the SIDS POA across the subregion; and the development of capacity within selected publics to promote the Programme of Action; and that information on the Programme of Action should be made widely accessible to all publics using the most appropriate media;

Further agree to provide technical, logistical and other forms of support to the implementation of the Public Awareness Strategy within the CDCC member countries;

Urge the support of the international community, including donor agencies, for the implementation of the Public Awareness Strategy;

Commend the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for taking this very important initiative taking into account, in particular, the new impetus to implementation that is expected to arise from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and also from the full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action that is envisaged for 2004.

* * * *

57(XIX): Development of a Social Vulnerability Index

Recognising that the SIDS Programme of Action specifically addresses the development of vulnerability indices and other indicators that reflect the status of small island developing States and integrate ecological fragility and economic vulnerability;

Recognising also the social implications inherent in the many disadvantages identified in the Programme of Action as deriving from small size, including those arising from the unduly specialized nature of the SIDS economies and the vulnerability of SIDS to global events and to natural disasters; high population density; costly public administration and infrastructure; and limited institutional capacity;

Recognising further the explicit recognition by the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly of the need for the integration of economic, environmental and social components of action to achieve sustainable development;

Conscious of the need for efforts to be intensified towards the development of an index covering all the recognised aspects of the vulnerability of small island developing States and having it established as a central reference by the multilateral financial and trade institutions and the wider international community in their relations with SIDS, including the grant of assistance on concessional terms;

Recalling the appeal made by the AOSIS Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Singapore, 7-11 January 2002, for international support for the development of a social vulnerability index to complement the development of economic and environmental vulnerability indices for the promotion of the sustainable development of small island developing States and other vulnerable States;

Endorse the initiative taken by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for the development of a social vulnerability index covering a range of social variables, such as the social impacts of the intraregional movement of labour; the impact of poverty on crime and the use of illicit drugs; the correlation between poverty and education and the social costs of natural disasters; the formulation of composite social indicators; and assisting in the construction of a composite vulnerability index for application in developing countries;

Request the relevant international organizations to contribute to the further development of the social vulnerability index, through the provision of technical, financial and other forms of assistance;

Agree to promote the issue of the construction of a social vulnerability index during the remaining phases of the Preparatory Process leading to the WSSD and at the WSSD itself, in collaboration with the SIDS of other geographical regions and the wider international community in general;

Urge the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to make every effort to have the compilation of the social vulnerability index sufficiently advanced to significantly influence the discussions at the WSSD.

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

* * * *

58(XIX): Support the training of national teams to conduct disaster assessment with national human resources

Recognising that the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean subregion are prone to extremely damaging natural disasters in the form of hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, among others;

Aware of the pervasive and long lasting economic, social and environmental impacts of such disasters on Caribbean SIDS;

Keenly aware of the inadequate manpower available within the region to undertake rapid assessments of the impacts of disasters;

Conscious of the recurrent need to undertake assessments of the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of such disasters;

Aware of the probability of damage to many small island developing States of the Caribbean subregion and the inability of ECLAC to provide assistance to many countries simultaneously;

Recalling the initiative of ECLAC in the production and maintenance of its methodology for the assessment of damage due to natural disasters in the region and its update to reflect the situation in small island States;

Endorse the ECLAC initiative and support training in the use of the methodology throughout the member countries of the CDCC;

Request ECLAC to support training at national level to produce a cadre of nationals able to produce an assessment based on the ECLAC methodology for review by an ECLAC team and to provide the resources for such training at the national level.

* * * *

**59(XIX): Convening of the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting
on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action
preparatory to SIDS + 10, in 2003**

Recalling paragraph 17:131 of Agenda 21 which provides for periodic and global meetings on sustainable development of small island developing States;

Recalling also the decision of the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly to the effect that a full and comprehensive review of its decisions and the implementation of the Programme of Action would be useful and required in 2004;

Conscious of the need for effective preparations at the subregional level for the review that will take place in 2004, particular taking into account the convening of the WSSD in 2002;

Recognising the need to ensure that the outcome of the subregional preparatory process for transmission to SIDS + 10 is adopted at an appropriate political level;

Recalling the critical contribution made by the 1997 Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action for the *SIDS + 5* review process;

Request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to convene the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in 2003, to prepare for the full and comprehensive review of the decisions of the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action which is envisaged for 2004.

* * * *

60 (XIX) Strengthening national capacities in statistics

Recalling the mandate of the CDCC operating within the ECLAC system, to monitor the economic and social development of the Caribbean countries and to assist in the integration process;

Recalling further the capability of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to assist in all aspects of strengthening the data supply systems in member countries, including the organizational and modernization aspects of information collection and management;

Emphasising the need for quality statistics of relevance, delivered on a timely basis as being the prerequisite to decisions made on a sound information or knowledge base;

Recognising that the statistics required must of necessity be produced nationally and that the effort should receive the strongest support at national level;

Agree that the secretariat be enabled to carry its information re-organization to member countries in a proactive manner, in collaboration with member countries;

Further agree to provide technical, logistical and other forms of support to the implementation of inventory taking, data mapping and data collection strategies as a means of support to the information initiative;

Commend the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on its dedication to promoting the CDCC member countries as countries in transition to becoming information-based societies;

Agree to the active support of the CDCC governments and the international community, including donor agencies, for the funding and joint input and support of national and subregional project activities;

Urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue to support through adequate resources the provision of technical assistance to member countries through activities mounted by the CDCC secretariat.

* * * *

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Mr. Esteban Perez, Economic Affairs Officer
Mr. Serge Poulard, Regional Census Adviser
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Annex 2**ADDRESS MADE BY MS. LEN ISHMAEL, DIRECTOR,
AT THE OPENING OF THE CDCC NINETEETH SESSION****Introduction**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Nineteenth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. Delegates from 18 countries are assembled here this morning¹, and to you I extend, on behalf of myself and the staff of the Subregional Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, our sincere appreciation for the continuing commitment to Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) which brings you here today.

Permit me a moment to extend a particularly warm welcome to colleagues from our own Headquarters in Santiago: Mr Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Ms Miriam Krawczyk, Chief of Programming Planning and Operations, and Mr Daniel Blanchard, Secretary of the Commission and Director of the Population Division (CELADE). Allow me to also use this opportunity to recognize and introduce to you three new members of staff: Dr Esteban Perez, Economic Affairs Officer with expertise in trade, who joined the Secretariat in December of last year from our office in Mexico; he has in no small way already started to contribute to the work of this office and we are delighted to have him with us. The other officer is Mr Serge Poulard, who has been assigned to this office from CELADE at ECLAC Headquarters to provide technical support to member States in the round of 2000 censuses. Mr Poulard is no stranger to this region having provided much the same type of support to CARICOM and the subregion in the round of censuses taken one decade ago. He will return to his substantive post at CELADE at the conclusion of his support to the subregion. It is good to have him here. The third new member of staff is Ms Veera Deokiesingh, Secretary to the Sustainable Development Unit. She has provided a lot of support to this meeting. On our collective behalf, I wish to welcome these colleagues to the family of CDCC on the occasion of this their first CDCC meeting.

The agenda over the next two days is a particularly full one as we attempt to review our accomplishments over the last biennium, engage in discussions relating to implementation of the current biennium's programme of work, and, looking into the future, discuss the work of this office over the biennium 2004-2005. This we do in preparation for the meeting of the Commission in Brazil in May this year, and the various rounds of United Nation committee meetings which will ratify the 2004-2005 work programme and the resources devoted to its implementation.

¹ Participant member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands.

We have also allocated time within the agenda to speak to issues of critical importance to the continued development of this subregion: the upcoming Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, slated to convene next week in Mexico; the Rio + 10 review of the sustainable development objectives outlined in the seminal Earth Summit to convene in Johannesburg in August later this year; the upcoming review of SIDS +10 in the year 2004, and the process to move the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area, are among some of the issues with which we continue to be preoccupied.

As we reflect on the past, it would be fair to say that the biennium 2000 – 2001 was one of particular challenge and trauma for this subregion. It was with some finality that the sobering reality of the end of the era of preferential access to European markets hit home. The production of bananas in the Windward Islands for example, hit an all time low, with the predictable social and economic effects on producing countries. This could not have come at a worse time regionally. With few exceptions, economic performance in the year 2000 was not half as robust as had obtained previously, but this paled in comparison with the dismal performance of many regional economies in the following year. Well in advance of the events of September 11, tourism dependent economies were suffering from extremely soft markets. September 11th provided the final blow, prompting an unprecedented major Tourism summit at the level of the Heads of State, to speak to the ongoing crisis in that sector. The reality of new banana trade protocols, coupled with the devastating effects of extremely poor performance of tourism, spelt a time of real trauma for several islands as one after the other hotels closed, or in some cases, went into receivership. Recovery is still some time away.

Attempts by member States to diversify economically into the offshore financial services sector, some perhaps in advance of the ability to provide for the comprehensive regulation of the industry, invoked the now infamous "black list" circulated by the OECD. The manufacturing sector in member States such as Jamaica continued to haemorrhage with the loss of thousands of jobs for a number of reasons, including the migration of those jobs to lower-wage Mexico in the wake of NAFTA. Movement towards a single market and economy continued to make tenuous progress within CARICOM, while the OECS thrust towards the free movement of labour among its members was characterized by the troubling yet understandable hesitancy of some of its members.

The consultation and negotiations with respect to the WTO, the EU and the FTAA, presented special challenges to the subregion at all levels – human resources and the lack of a regional strategy to inform such deliberations being among some of the major impediments. On the global front, the inexorable advancement of the doctrine of competitiveness within the framework of globalization and trade liberalization stumbled for the first time with "on-the-street" demands from thousands - that the faceless spectre of the market be infused with sensibilities which safeguard the rights of the world's people to equity, justice and work, as people took violent possession of the streets in Seattle, Quebec City and Genoa, prompting at the same time reservations articulated by developing countries regarding the ability of globalization to spread the world's wealth among those most poor. And while protectionist interventions continue to be viewed negatively, the world's biggest economy - that of the USA - a few days ago proclaimed its intention to protect the jobs of thousands of its steel workers by the raising of stiff tariffs.

This ladies and gentlemen, was the canvass against which member States sought to meet the challenges of development and within which the Secretariat provided support.

PART 1

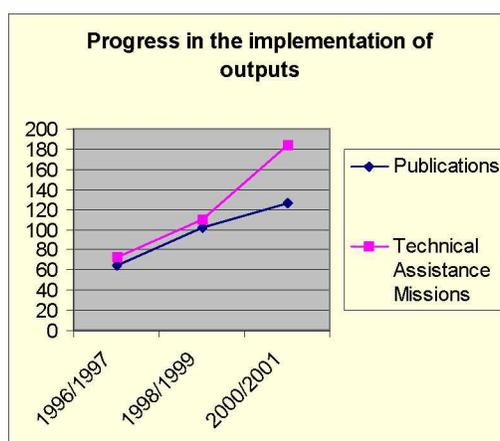
Biennium – 2000-2001

Allow me to share with you some of the aspects of work implemented in support of subregional goals and objectives over the last biennium. This will be discussed in greater detail under the appropriate agenda item and is contained in Document (Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC Work Programme for the 2000-2001 biennium, LC/CAR/G.638)

Some Major Accomplishments

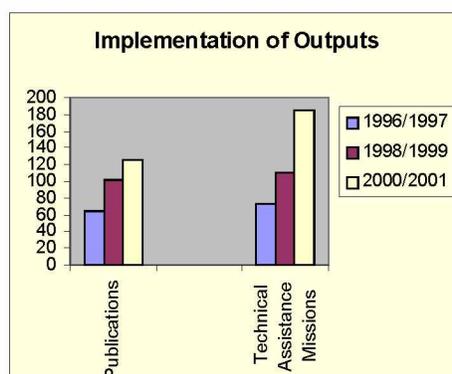
A comparative analysis of the status of some key indicators over the last three bienniums shows an increase in output across major categories: technical assistance missions undertaken, publications and rate of work programme implementation. During the biennium 1996-1997, 60 publications were produced, this increased by 57 per cent to 90 in the following biennium and to 126 in the last biennium, an increase of over 94 per cent over the last four years. The number of technical assistance missions increased from 73 in biennium 1996-1997, to 110 in 1998-1999, and to 184 in the last biennium (2000-2001), an increase of over 152 per cent over the last four years.

	Publications			Technical Assistance Missions			
	1996/97	1998/99	2000/01		1996/97	1998/99	2000/01
Publications - each biennium	65	102	126	Missions - each biennium	73	110	184
% growth per biennium		56.92	23.53	% growth per biennium		50.68	67.27
Growth over the period 1996 - 1997 and 2000 - 2001			93.85	Growth over the period 1996 -1997 and 2000 - 2001			152.05



By the same token, the rate of work programme activities implemented moved from 80 per cent in 1996-1997, to 81 per cent in 1998 – 1999, and to 93 per cent in the last biennium, the latter translating into an effective rate of 100 per cent given the fact that the few outputs not implemented related to CCST activities for which ECLAC support had been curtailed in the previous biennium, and one activity under a UNFPA project which was discontinued by UNFPA as a result of a change in focus of that organization. This rate of implementation, together with the high level of productivity in all other areas is an achievement of which we are truly proud, a performance which, in no small way, increased the level of visibility and relevance of this organization to member States.

	Publications	Technical Assistance Missions
1996/1997	65	73
1998/1999	102	110
2000/2001	126	184



One of the major activities with which we were preoccupied over the last two years was the process of review of the Constituent Declaration of CDCC, now in its final stages, resulting in a document much more reflective of the global and regional realities within which the CDCC functionally operates. This process has been documented and the proposed revised Constituent Declaration has been circulated and will be tabled for discussion in greater detail later on during this meeting.

Assistance to member States

The Secretariat assisted member States in meeting developmental challenges by supporting them in several key areas, not only through work programme activities but also in each case tailoring a portfolio of technical assistance to meet their individual needs. Assistance was provided via activities aimed at capacity building, strategic policy formulation, economic diversification, negotiations and cooperation and integration at the subregional and national levels.

Capacity Building

Key among the attempts to assist with capacity building at a number of levels, were two major new initiatives based on external sources of funding secured from the Dutch government in the areas of social and trade statistics. Lack of access to data has been one of the issues which continue to bedevil this subregion in all aspects of developmental work and policy formulation. For too long social policy formulation has been alarmingly disconnected from data of a type which lends itself to rigorous analysis on which to ground policy. The lack of this functionality has impacted negatively on the ability of this organization, for example, to engage in social policy analysis and policy recommendations for Caribbean countries, commensurate with the approach which has been undertaken for Latin American member States. This was one of the big institutional challenges which we were committed to redressing, which we did, by initiating a project in 2000 to create a major regional data base of all types of social statistics. Later on during this meeting major findings of this exciting new initiative will be presented.

The situation which obtains in the area of social data is mirrored in the area of statistics pertaining to trade in a way which is truly regrettable, given the importance of trade and changes to trade protocols to the region. In response to the real challenges implicit in getting access to trade data on which to base sound policy, this office mounted a major initiative by way of a project aimed at creating a regional data base on trade statistics, and the creation of databases at the national level with provision for training. This process is currently on-going.

Another major initiative introduced during the last biennium, in an effort to build both regional and national capacity, was in the area of natural disasters. Over thirty years ago, ECLAC pioneered a methodology to assess the short, medium and long term macro economic impacts of natural disasters on national economies. This methodology has been in widespread use, most recently in assessing the socio-economic impacts on the economy of Venezuela in the aftermath of the tragic coastal landslides of 2000, and in Mexico, El Salvador and several Central American countries in the aftermath of drought, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural phenomena.

The methodological approach to formulating the manual was one which was oriented towards the peculiarities of geography, natural resources and productive capacities of Latin American countries. Given the regularity of natural disasters such as hurricanes in this subregion, it was clear that there was need to refine the methodology so that it could be adaptable to the realities of small islands. There was also the need to ensure that staff in this office were trained in the use of the methodology so that assessments could be undertaken from this office, and that capacity be built within the islands themselves in the use of this methodology, to jumpstart the process of recovery even in advance of the arrival of outside teams.

It is with much satisfaction that I now report the existence of a trained team in this office who have now conducted assessments in Anguilla, in the wake of Hurricane Lenny, in St Kitts and Nevis after Hurricane Georges, in Belize in the wake of Hurricane Keith in December 2000, and in Jamaica in the wake of Hurricane Iris in October 2001. Even more important is the capacity building which we have spearheaded, first with a regional programme of training of key professionals in the use of the methodology in July 2000, then with the provision of training at

the national levels, starting in the British Virgin Islands with the training of 24 persons in July 2000, and in Belize with the training of 59 persons in June 2001 - an effort which greatly assisted that country in undertaking its own assessment in the wake of Hurricane Iris in November last year. We are in the process of responding to a request from the Government of Jamaica to provide training to a number of public and private sector officials in the use and application of the methodology and in the deployment of assessment teams.

Economic Diversification

Several initiatives were launched in the last biennium in an attempt to assist countries with their attempts at economic diversification. Studies on the potential of both the informatics and offshore services financial sectors for example were undertaken for five countries in the OECS. A project with the objective of building greater understanding and awareness of the potential for contribution of the yachting sector to the economies of some member States, with the goal of articulating policy for the management of the sector at both the national and subregional levels, was initiated with assistance from the Dutch Government in the British Virgin Islands, St Maarten, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago. Already the project is yielding some surprising results. Despite the lack of investment made by regional governments in the sector, yachting contributes more to GDP in several if not all of the countries studied than cruise tourism. On another front, assistance was provided to the Government of Montserrat in the formulation of a tourism policy to guide the recovery process in that sector and to assist in jump-starting the economy.

Strategic Policy Formulation

Assisting countries to cope with the variables of change led to an initiative to provide support to the Island Administration of Nevis in the preparation of their National Strategic Integrated Development Plan which was completed in July last year, as part of a major new area of support to member States in the area of Physical Planning. This initiative led to the formulation of a new Physical Planning and Development Act for St Lucia, which was adopted by Cabinet and the House in November 2001. As part of a package of assistance to the Government of St Lucia, analyses on the new institutional arrangements required to effect implementation of the new Act were initiated resulting in the establishment of a new Ministry of Planning. This office also drafted regulations to implement the new Act, as well as an institutional assessment of the framework required to operationalize the new Act. Training is currently being provided to the Physical Planning staff to assist them in the discharging of their responsibilities under the new Act. A review of planning legislation was undertaken for St Kitts, and a web-based forum for support to Caribbean Planners, the CPN, was launched during the same period, providing support to professional planners in the region.

Technical assistance was provided to the Government of St Kitts and Nevis in the articulation of a policy on returning nationals, as that country sought to formulate an incentive-based framework for attracting overseas nationals and retirees to return home and contribute to development there. Technical assistance was also provided over several months to the Government of Belize in the formulation of their 20-year Human Development Agenda, one of the first in the subregion.

Negotiations & Trade

Assistance was provided to the Netherlands Antilles for example, in undertaking a study which provided that country with information critical to understanding the obstacles, both internal and external in the process of increasing their share of trade with CARICOM neighbours. Also, in this area, strategic assistance was provided to the Government of Belize by way of a confidential brief to assist the country's delegation in their bilateral negotiations with Mexico.

Technical assistance was also provided to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and the OAS, including five briefs to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as they sought to negotiate the text of the United Nations Report on Financing for Development, and two to the Permanent Representatives to the OAS on the issue of vulnerability as they took up the issue of hemispheric security in the context of the special vulnerabilities of the smaller economies. Several briefs were prepared in support of the work of the FTAA consultative committee on smaller economies, and a special workshop on the FTAA, competitiveness, competition policy and standards was packaged and taken through the OECS providing information to both public and private sector groups.

Support to Regional Institutions & Agencies

The office provided support to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Justice, in the review of family laws in the region and the execution of a research programme to facilitate modernization of the legal framework dealing with that aspect of law; support was given to initiatives of the ACS, CARICOM, the OECS Secretariat, UNESCO and UNFPA and UNDP among others. Major support was provided to CARICOM in preparation for the 2000 round of censuses, and technical support was provided to a number of member States in the analysis of the data coming out of the census.

PART 2

The New Biennium – 2002-2003

We approach the implementation of work programme activities and the delivery of technical assistance to member States in this biennium with the same objective which characterized the work of this organizations previously, namely to use resources strategically in support of the needs of member States.

During this period the region will be faced with the need to negotiate on several fronts: with the EU within the post Cotonou framework of regional economic partnerships, within the WTO in the context of post Doha negotiations, and continuing with similar processes within the FTAA. Some members of CDCC will continue to pursue the movement towards the CSME and the OECS free movement of labour. Each of these initiatives will be accompanied by their own challenges. It is our intention to provide assistance within our sphere of competencies to the region. For example, we recently collaborated with the RNM in the production of a report

dealing with the issue of Special and Differential Treatment – an issue critical to continuing negotiation for smaller economies within the FTAA, and are about to embark on an initiative to provide technical assistance to the RNM in a number of areas including an analysis of the implication for CARICOM of bilateral discussions on free trade between Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica.

The Secretariat has initiated plans for a meeting on services in support of pending negotiations in that sector, and has prepared a background study on special and differential treatment for Caribbean economies in support of this initiative. Support will be given to member States at the regional level in preparation for negotiations with the EU, and the Secretariat will continue to provide assistance at the hemispheric level via technical support to the FTAA committee on smaller economies and directly to member States, as well as support to CARICOM and RNM initiatives. Along these lines the Secretariat has recently completed a brief sent to all Prime Ministers and delegations of member States to assist them with their deliberations as they move to the Monterrey meeting on Financing for Development next week.

The issues of social security reform, fiscal policy reform, the FTAA and the CSM are among some of the issues with which the Secretariat will be occupied during this period. These will be complemented by the delivery of technical assistance to member states, as for example the undertaking of a study to assist the government of Puerto Rico with their desire to explore possible trading arrangements with CARICOM.

One of the first outputs of the Social Statistical Database Project was completed last week: this office has produced, as a pilot, a Compendium of Social Statistics for training purposes, the first in a series leading to the production of a fully fledged panorama of social statistics for the region. Later on in the year the database will be instrumental in the construction of a social vulnerability index. This is pioneering work which has generated a great deal of excitement both here and abroad. Internationally, while work has been undertaken on the construction of both economic and environmental vulnerability indices, construction of a social vulnerability index has not yet been attempted. It is the third and missing pillar of the sustainability development construct and is of relevance to all SIDS as they continue to provide scientific proof of their vulnerabilities to the international community. Indeed at a recently concluded meeting of AOSIS in Singapore, requests were made by Pacific SIDS to ensure that the work pioneered here will be transferred to their region. It is within this context that the Singapore Declaration of the Alliance of Small Island States Inter-Regional Preparatory meeting for Johannesburg 2002, called for "international support for the development of a social vulnerability index".

In keeping with our role as the Secretariat for SIDS in the region, we continue to devote efforts to issues of strategic relevance to SIDS. Having introduced the training of personnel in the use of the ECLAC methodological approach to macro-economic and social assessments of natural disasters, and refined that approach to include the natural, economic and social environments of SIDS, we are now in the process of developing training materials specific to the needs of SIDS. The next training programme is slated for delivery in Jamaica in April. It is useful to note that SIDS in other regions have requested that this office transmit those aspects of the methodology geared specifically to the needs of SIDS to their regions as well. Such

interregional cooperation through the umbrella of AOSIS can play a vital role in expanding alliances and cooperation well beyond the shores of CDCC member states to include other SIDS around the world.

We have been concerned for quite some time with the lack of public awareness of the importance of the SIDS POA to this region. As a result, the Secretariat has just initiated work on the elaboration of a major public awareness campaign to popularize the SIDS POA to the people of this subregion. It is expected that by engaging in this type of campaign the SIDS POA will become familiar and well known, translating into the types of support required to keep the flame of the POA alive.

We are in the process of providing technical assistance to the Government of St Kitts and Nevis as they seek assistance in supporting an initiative to engage in some type of divestment from sugar – a decision which will result in painful dislocation for an important section of the labour force, with social, economic and political repercussions. The decision to divest from sugar raises questions relating to land use and land tenure, the absorption capacity of the labour market, and the need for a social safety net to cushion the shock of transition. Consultations have already taken place by this office with major stakeholders. Support will be provided in four major areas: i) in the undertaking of an agricultural census of every worker involved in sugar with a view to understanding the skills levels, levels of education, income and household composition of potentially displaced workers; ii) in undertaking a labour market survey to identify opportunities within the labour market to absorb some displaced workers; iii) in the articulation of elements of a social safety net, involving among other things training programmes which will assist the government to deal effectively with the economic social and political fallout of such a decision; and iv) in the area of land reform.

A hallmark of our work in this biennium is in the area of training. A new initiative based on requests from several member States to engage in training in the area of protocol, particularly in the context of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, and the movement towards the CARICOM SME has been launched. The elaboration of the workshop has already been done, and we look forward to mounting these workshops soon.

In the spirit and intent of CDCC as a forum for integration, and following on the series started with the publication "Barbados as a Model SIDS", we have started work on the elaboration of case studies in Cuba both in terms of their approach to environmental management and their social programmes, to share with other member States.

Conclusion

Allow me in closing to share with you a few concerns. The first is, of course, the fact that resources devoted to offices such as these are dwindling. Over the years, we have lost posts as well as other resources through system wide cuts. This is also true of this biennium in which resources have been lost in several areas. The articulation of your support for the work of this organization within the context of the United Nations forums, within which decisions are made regarding resource allocation, will in some measure be taken into consideration when such decisions are being made. However, given the undeniable reality of diminishing resources, it is

incumbent on member States to ensure that our work programme truly reflects the needs of the subregion, and that careful consideration be given to the process of priority setting. For this, we look to you for your guidance.

Despite these realities we are firm in our resolve to commit our fullest support to this subregion as we seek every day to assist member States in meeting the challenges of development, with every confidence.