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

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PART ONE

LIST OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Agenda item 5

- The work of the secretariat should begin to focus on work related to the marginalization of males.
- Member countries are urged to provide more data and related inputs in order to advance work being done in the area of ageing.

Agenda item 6

- The process of development of the work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat should involve consultations at the national level within the CDCC member countries.
- Studies undertaken by the secretariat should be harmonized to ensure there is synergy among them. The Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) should be included in as many of the studies as possible.
- The number of documents being generated in the Caribbean subregion on sustainable development should be synthesized by ECLAC, to facilitate the clear identification of subregional priorities.
- The secretariat should commission a study to determine the causal elements in the migration of students in academia from science and technology subjects.
- Under subject area 12.2 (Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation), a study on the economic and social impact of the exclusion of the associate member countries from the Free Trade Area of the Americas should be included as well as a study on the access of associate member countries to membership in United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies.
- Under Operational Activities, it was proposed that the following be added: Provision of advisory services to the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to provide a more effective mechanism to support initiatives specifically related to associate member countries.

- In the context of inter-agency cooperation and liaison, two additions were proposed: (i) in the area of tourism, activities would be carried out in close collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO); and, (ii) in the area of assistance to associate member countries, activities would be carried out in collaboration with relevant committees of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in respect of implementation of resolutions calling for participation of these countries in the wider United Nations system.
- Arrangements should be developed whereby regional and regionally-based agencies enjoy reciprocal entry to meetings with a view to avoiding duplication of effort.

Agenda item 9

- Further subregional consultations are required to prepare for SIDS + 10, including the preparation of reactions to the proposals advanced by the developed countries at the International Preparatory Conference in New York, 14-16 April, 2004 and the clear identification of the subregion's priority interests and concerns. Agencies can be of assistance in the development of a consensual position.

Agenda item 10

- The meeting was urged to support the secretariat in its efforts to secure funding to assist in the creation of an inclusive Caribbean Information Society.

Agenda item 13

- A study should be undertaken by ECLAC on "changing family structures in the Caribbean", to examine, in particular, the impact of the increasing divorce rate on family structure.

PART TWO

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the session

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the twentieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at the ministerial level at the Divi Carina Bay Conference Centre, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, on 22-23 April 2004.

Attendance

The session was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were Anguilla, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system were represented at the session: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Agenda item 1 - Opening statements

The Officer-in-Charge of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed delegates to the session and also recognized his colleagues from the ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile: Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Secretary of the Commission and Ms. Miriam Krawczyk, Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division. He then introduced the agenda for the session indicating that the secretariat would present a review of its accomplishments over the past biennium; engage in discussions relating to the status of implementation of the programme of work of the current biennium; and discuss the work envisaged for the 2006-2007 biennium.

He stated that this twentieth session provided an opportunity to review and evaluate the CDCC and its secretariat, with a view to making them more effective and more responsive to the needs of member countries, in particular the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs). The session also provided an appropriate context for the discussion and analysis of some of the main challenges faced by Caribbean countries in a globalized twenty-first century. Among these challenges were the need to revamp economic growth and to determine whether the pillars that sustained growth in the past could be maintained in the short and medium terms.

The Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, the Honourable Charles Turnbull, welcomed the visiting delegates to St. Croix and pointed out that the convening of the twentieth session of the CDCC in St Croix also marked the twentieth anniversary of the entry of the United States Virgin Islands into the Committee. He highlighted the unique characteristic of the CDCC, which embraced the diversity of Caribbean countries and underscored the challenges facing Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including globalization and trade liberalization. Special reference was made to the proposal for the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which excluded the associate members of CDCC. As incoming Chair of the CDCC, his country would seek the assistance of ECLAC in determining the potential impact of the FTAA on the economies thus excluded.

The Governor recognized the contributions made by previous political leaders of the United States Virgin Islands in securing the admission of his country into the CDCC. In addition, the role of the United States Virgin Islands in enhancing the integration of the CDCC associate members into the social and economic programmes and other activities of the wider United Nations system through its chairmanship of the Working Group of the NICCs was identified. Special tribute was also paid to Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Secretary of ECLAC and former Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, for his contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the CDCC. The Governor expressed confidence that the session would succeed in mapping out a strategy for the future development of the Committee and its activities.

The Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Daniel Blanchard, delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr. Jose Luis Machinea. He traced the role of the CDCC since its creation in 1975 as a subregional think-tank and advisory body; an institution which could be accessed by a number of non-independent countries and territories; and an organ that provided a basis for 'circles of partnership'. The circles of partnership related to the West Indian family; the West Indian family and the non-English speaking States; and a partnership encompassing the Caribbean and Latin American economies. This third circle permitted the CDCC, through its membership in ECLAC, to voice the concerns and issues of its members in Latin American forums.

He also suggested that the twentieth session of the CDCC should be viewed as an opportunity to deepen the process of revitalization of the organ, a process which could not be successful without the continuous support of the member countries. He reiterated the importance of this support for the realization of the third circle of partnership.

Finally, he commended the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for its vision in supporting and hosting the twentieth session of the CDCC. He reiterated the support of ECLAC to the member countries of the CDCC.

Agenda item 2 - Election of officers

The Bureau was elected as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	United States Virgin Islands
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	First Vice-Chairman - Dominican Republic Second Vice-Chairman – St. Kitts and Nevis
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Anguilla

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands expressed his gratitude to the session for having elected his country to the Chair. He also expressed his appreciation to the representative of Anguilla for having agreed to assume the duties of Rapporteur; to Puerto Rico for having chaired the Monitoring Committee; and to Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the ECLAC/CDCC Headquarters and for having served as chairman of the CDCC for an extended period.

Agenda Item 3 - Adoption of the agenda

The Chairman observed that the format of the meeting had evolved from annual sessions convened over a three-day period, to the convening of meetings of two days' duration in alternate years. Notwithstanding this development, the number of agenda items had remained essentially constant, with implications for the conduct of the sessions. The following agenda was adopted.

1. Opening statements
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Procedural matters and organization of work
5.
 - (i) Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2002-2003 biennium
 - (ii) Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium as at March 2004
6. Consideration of the draft programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium
7. Status of the review of the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of CDCC
8. Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which may be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC.

9. Preparations for the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
10. Recent developments in relation to the proposal for securing international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development
11. Obstacles to implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society
12. Meeting the challenges of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA): trade trends, export specialization patterns and regional integration in the Caribbean (including the case of the non-independent Caribbean countries)
13. Challenges in social development for Caribbean SIDS
14. Measuring social and economic trends in the Caribbean
 - The Caribbean Social Statistical Database (CSSD)
 - CARIBTRADE: trade flows database
15. Date and place of the twelfth meeting of the Monitoring Committee
16. Other matters
17. Consideration and adoption of the report of the CDCC technical meeting
18. Closure

Agenda item 4 - Organization of work

With respect to Agenda item 6, the representative of the Netherlands Antilles proposed that discussion on the 2006-2007 work programme be deferred to the second day of the meeting to allow delegates sufficient time to review its content in greater detail.

During the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman expressed concern that CDCC sessions were currently of a two-day duration rather than three days as obtained previously. One delegate suggested that the working hours be extended to allow more time for discussion of the respective agenda items. This suggestion was accepted.

Agenda item 5 - (i) Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2002-2003 biennium

The secretariat presented document, CDCC 20/Inf.10; LC/CAR/L.9, *Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium*. The following considerations informed the development of the work programme: (i) ensuring a closer working relationship with member countries; (ii) ensuring relevance, by adequately responding to the needs of member countries; (iii) increasing the coverage and visibility of the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; and (iv) monitoring and evaluating the work of the office. The several areas of activity of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean were then outlined and the building blocks of the assistance provided to member countries, including capacity-building (social, technology, statistics); policy formulation (social, economic, tourism); trade negotiations (Software, FTAA); and support to regional institutions and agencies, were highlighted. The secretariat then presented statistics related to the implementation of the work programme, including the total number of outputs; the number of participants at meetings; the number and range of technical publications; and the extent of implementation of the work programme.

The secretariat advised that it had begun to record the number of times its documents had been downloaded as a means of monitoring the relevance of the activities of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. A total of 37,000 downloads had been registered, with 10 documents having been downloaded over 500 times.

The activities and documentation produced by the office related to three areas of research: economic and social integration; internal economic conditions; and social development. The economic and social integration subject area addresses the participation of the CDCC member States in the World Trade Organization (WTO); the future of preferential trading arrangements; the effects and impact of regional trade agreements; and trade data measurement and analysis. Internal economic conditions related to the process of structural change; the imperatives for economic growth; the process of economic and institutional reforms. Social development embraces poverty; HIV/AIDS; integrated planning with a social perspective; gender relationships and domestic violence; migration and demographic ageing.

Overall, the picture that had emerged from the research undertaken by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat included fewer extraregional markets accompanied by an increase in intraregional trade. However, the intraregional dynamics were not necessarily beneficial to Caribbean countries, as intraregional trade was highly protected and tied to non-competitive conditions. In addition, growth had either stagnated or had been on the lower side of employment creation. Accompanying the increase in foreign direct investment, especially in resource-based economies, was a decline in domestic investment, signalling a crowding out of domestic investment by foreign direct investment. As regards the social indicators, these pointed to relatively high poverty levels and to a population that was increasingly ageing, with concomitant implications for government finances and domestic resources, in general.

In commenting on the regional tourism performance, one delegation suggested that the secretariat should base its analysis on the number of tourist arrivals, in light of the fact that while

the Caribbean may be obtaining a lesser percentage of the market share of tourist arrivals, as presented in the secretariat report, within the wider Caribbean, the actual number of tourist arrivals might be increasing over time, with positive implications for tourism revenue in several countries.

Further, on the issue of the competitiveness of the economies of the CDCC countries, it was proposed that, rather than highlighting the decline of the banana or sugar industries, attention should be directed to the newly competitive industries that were emerging within the Caribbean subregion. While these did not feature in current macroeconomic computations, they might nevertheless assume considerable relevance in the future. Such an approach would yield a truer and perhaps less bleak outlook for Caribbean economies.

A third observation related to the need for data presentations to include, to the extent possible, policy recommendations, together with an analysis of causal factors, in order to permit a more thorough analysis of the economic circumstances confronting the respective countries.

In response, the secretariat pointed out that, in the documentation provided to the delegations, in some cases, policy recommendations and causal factors had indeed been identified. Some deeper analyses had also been done, which indicated that either emerging competitive industries tended to be specific to certain countries, or that competitive products were singular in nature. Moreover, some of these competitive products or industries were found to lose their competitiveness when tariff reductions were applied as required by the FTAA.

The secretariat also emphasised that lack of data or restrictions to data access in some countries prohibited fuller data analysis and the provision of useful policy recommendations. In some instances, this development might actually hinder economic development. The scenario was described in which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was opposed to the provision of fiscal incentives within countries. However with greater data access from Caribbean countries, it might actually be demonstrated that fiscal incentives actually assisted small economies and should therefore be allowed under IMF programmes to small economies.

Another delegation inquired whether the yachting study prepared for Martinique had been funded through extrabudgetary resources, since non-members of the CDCC could not be funded from the ECLAC budget. The secretariat indicated that extrabudgetary financing was in fact used, and that, in many instances, it was valuable to conduct such studies inasmuch as countries with varying economic and administrative structures provided very useful comparisons with other CDCC members. Further, it was the responsibility of ECLAC to always provide comparisons among countries to generate a more in-depth analysis of data. In this regard, the secretariat noted that it was important for member countries to provide feedback on the documentation prepared by the secretariat as this would assist in improving its quality.

In response to a query with respect to the use of the term “non-independent territories”, the secretariat informed that the correct term was non-independent Caribbean countries (NICCs), which was used in all documentation.

On a point of information, the secretariat informed that desk officers had been assigned to each country to provide more efficient coverage of the CDCC membership. The list of desk officers and their corresponding assignments would be provided to the member countries.

The secretariat also reported that it was attempting to determine the efficiency of its expenditure by measuring its outputs in relation to its expenditure. At present, the number of hits to the Office's Web page was used as a preliminary approximation to determine the extent of the use of the Office's outputs by the public. One delegate questioned the validity of this methodology and suggested an alternative approach which involved the greater differentiation of the users of the respective documents in order to arrive at a conclusion that would enjoy greater validity. The secretariat assured the meeting that the approach indicated in its presentation represented a first step in an effort to obtain feedback from clients and that the instrument would be fine-tuned so as to be able to distinguish among the users.

The session was also informed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had acquired video conferencing equipment for use in conducting remote meetings. Member countries were urged to make use of this facility to further improve their communication with the office.

One delegation questioned the non-inclusion of a number of countries in the studies or presentations done by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat even though the necessary data had been made available. The secretariat indicated that, in future, every effort would be made to include all member countries in the presentations. However, it was also pointed out that, in some instances, the studies were specific to a certain subregion, or to a particular country that might have requested the study.

The delegation of the United States Virgin Islands indicated that its country would be providing more information in future as a result of the upcoming collaboration among the Eastern Caribbean Centre of the University of the Virgin Islands and the Bureau of Economics Research with the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

Agenda item 5 - (ii) Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium as at March 2004

The secretariat presented document, CDCC 20; Inf.11 LC/CAR/L.10, *Progress Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium as at March 2004*.

The 2004-2005 work programme highlighted the strategic vision of major work themes: competing successfully in the global economy; the status of intraregional integration; the entry into force of the FTAA; fiscal reform; the social challenges for SIDS; and the global information society. The areas of priority for the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean included the Caribbean Information Society; the Social Statistical Database; the analysis, measurement and impact of services; the update and improvement of the CARIBTRADE database; and cruise ship tourism.

Following the presentation of the work programme for 2004-2005, the secretariat informed the meeting that ECLAC, Santiago, was preparing a study on the economic and social evolution of Puerto Rico. The section being prepared by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean would constitute an input into the ECLAC report for the thirtieth session of the Commission which is to convene in Puerto Rico, on 28 June-2 July 2004. The secretariat also informed that the report on the FTAA, prepared for the consideration of the OECS Secretariat, would be available online once approved by that Secretariat.

With regard to subject areas 12.1 (*Macro-economic policies and economic development*) and 12.2 (*Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation*), the secretariat informed member countries that all requests for technical assistance had been entertained and supported from either the regular budget or extrabudgetary resources, depending on the type of study requested.

Also, with respect to subject area 12.2, the Chairman requested clarification from the secretariat of the references in that section to the effect that “*the execution of operational activities is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.*”

The secretariat confirmed the position as articulated in the document. The secretariat further informed that, given the nature of certain requests received from member countries, it had often felt obliged to secure funding from other sources so as to be able to implement the requested activities.

In response to a query from a delegation with regard to subject area 12.3 (*Statistics and information management for development*), the session was informed that the CARIBTRADE database at present did not contain information on maritime transportation, and that this component would be included at a later stage in its development. Additional information would be provided during the discussion on the relevant agenda item.

In connection with subject area 12.5 (*The application of science and technology to the Caribbean*), the secretariat informed the meeting of the retirement of Mr. Donatus St. Aimee, Economic Affairs Officer with responsibility for Science and Technology, by the end of April 2004 and the retirement, in January 2004, of the Statistics Officer, Mr. Lancelot Busby.

Following the presentation of the work undertaken in the area of science and technology, the Chairman commended the work of Mr. St. Aimee. He also reminded delegates that it was that officer who had been instrumental in having the “C” appended to ECLA to ensure that the Caribbean was recognized in the English acronym of the Commission. His pioneering role in the formation of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was also recognized. The representatives from Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines also paid tribute to Mr. St. Aimee for his accomplishments and expressed their best wishes on his retirement. The session endorsed the sentiments expressed.

In response to a concern expressed by one delegation, the secretariat informed that every effort would be made to ensure that the two vacant posts in the Statistics and Science and

Technology Units, would be filled at an early date. Another delegation suggested that such posts be filled by Caribbean nationals possessing the necessary qualifications and experience.

A major concern articulated by delegations related to the work undertaken in subject area 12.6 (Social development in the Caribbean). Special mention was made of the observation by the Principal of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) that the majority of enrolled students were female. In this regard, one delegate suggested the need to focus on work related to the marginalization of males.

In response, the secretariat informed the meeting that a study on gender socialization would be conducted within the present work programme to analyze the causes of the differences in the education of boys and girls. The secretariat further informed the meeting that a study on education and gender income disparities in the Caribbean would be conducted.

Another delegate complimented the secretariat on its work in the area of ageing. The rapid changes in the age structure of the population in the subregion, as a consequence of the increase in life expectancy and the decline in fertility, were noted. It was also suggested that the work of ECLAC could focus on new issues related to ageing, including the provision of support to member countries in this area.

In response, the secretariat recalled that, in the follow up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing which convened in Madrid, Spain, April 2002, governments had adopted the Regional Strategy on Ageing at the Intergovernmental Regional Conference on Ageing convened by the ECLAC Population Division (CELADE) in Santiago, Chile, in November 2003. The secretariat had prepared a study on policies and programmes addressing population ageing in the Caribbean and was also engaged in the organization of a subregional meeting for the Caribbean to follow up on the implementation of the Regional Strategy in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the UWI and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It urged members to provide more inputs in order to advance the work being undertaken in the area of ageing.

Agenda item 6 - Consideration of the draft programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium

The secretariat presented document, CDCC 20/Inf.12; LC/CAR/L.11, entitled *Work Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium* indicating that it would be submitted to the thirtieth session of ECLAC.

The Chairman opened the floor for general comments on the 2006-2007 work-programme, and urged governments to submit amendments as early as possible, to allow for incorporation by the secretariat before the document was presented to the ECLAC session.

The representative from UNEP informed the meeting that his organization had developed a five-year strategy and enquired whether the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat also took a longer time-frame into consideration when planning its work programme. The secretariat responded that a similar process took place within other ECLAC offices and that this fitted into the overall

ECLAC mid-term work plan. It was emphasized that the CDCC was the only body within ECLAC that reviewed its work programme with its member countries prior to its submission for approval.

The Chairman requested clarification of the presentation of tourism as a new subject area in the work programme, in light of the fact that there were other bodies in the subregion that already dealt with this subject. He further inquired whether ECLAC would seek collaboration with those entities. The secretariat informed that tourism was not, in fact, a new subject area but that it had been located under the subject area sustainable development. Moreover, collaboration with other relevant bodies working in the tourism area would be sought.

An enquiry was made about whether or not there were mechanisms in place to avoid duplication of work done by other agencies and to monitor the impact of studies presented to member governments. The secretariat indicated that mechanisms for inter-agency communication and cooperation, such as regular meetings of heads of agency, provided the avenues through which these issues were addressed.

It was recommended that the secretariat make reference to the Meeting of Agencies, held prior to the session, as a means of clarifying the process of inter-agency coordination. Attention was drawn to specific collaborative activities that were discussed at the Meeting of Agencies and it was suggested that, before the adoption of the 2006-2007 work programme, reference should be made to other partnerships that had been identified for development during 2004-2005.

There was a query concerning the process that was used to establish the relevance of the work programme to the Caribbean subregion, indicating that there should be a process at the national level within the various countries, which would provide inputs towards the drafting of the work programme. In such a case, there would be no need to develop indicators to determine the relevance of the work of ECLAC to the subregion, since the mandate would have originated within the subregion itself. Member States would, therefore, have an opportunity to further examine and comment on the document before this meeting. The meeting was also advised that even after the programme is adopted by ECLAC, member States would have an opportunity for additional comment and revision within the ambit of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Delegates were, however, cautioned that once the programme had been adopted by ECLAC, it would be possible to only revise 20% of the content.

The secretariat indicated that it was sometimes difficult to arrive at a definitive assessment of the impact of studies since (i) some outputs were intangible, and (ii) the impact of studies might not be apparent in the immediate future. However, the example of the yachting study completed by ECLAC/CDCC in 2003 and the study of planning legislation of some CDCC countries had yielded tangible results, such as the drafting of new legislation; the acquisition of funding for certain activities; and the inclusion of recommendations of ECLAC/CDCC in policy documents. In addition, specific studies directed towards a particular country were easier to track than general studies which might encompass a subregion. Further, some ECLAC studies were located within the context of a larger exercise and were thus intended to inform and, not necessarily, to change situations. The methodology used to determine relevance should also be considered. In the latter instance, different methodologies could lead to different conclusions and

ECLAC/CDCC was now in the process of examining different methodologies. Further, in most instances, studies provided by ECLAC/CDCC were used together with technical inputs provided by other agencies, so that the direct impact of each was difficult to assess.

As a means of ensuring that the work programme remained relevant to the needs of the subregion, the secretariat also indicated that the various sections of the work programme were designed by the officers involved in field work who were thus in regular contact with member countries.

There was a call from one delegation for the harmonization of studies across the CDCC subregion to ensure that there was a synergy among them. A call was also made for the inclusion of the NICCs in as many ECLAC studies as possible. There was general agreement on these proposals.

One delegate suggested a role for ECLAC in terms of synthesizing the number of documents on *sustainable development* being generated in the Caribbean subregion. There was a lack of clarity by the various governments as regards the priorities of the subregion. A synthesis, along the lines suggested, would have helped to increase the relevance of the 2006-2007 work programme.

At this point, it was suggested that the work programme document for 2006-2007 be examined page by page so that recommendations could be more specific and directed. It was also agreed that governments should provide their amendments to the secretariat within the next two weeks.

The following specific interventions were made:

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands proposed two additions to subject area 12.2 (*Linkages with the international economy, integration and cooperation*), namely, a study on the economic and social impact of the exclusion of the associate member countries from the FTAA, and a study on the access of associate member countries to membership in United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies.

Under *Operational Activities*, it was proposed that the following be added: Provision of advisory services to the Working Group of NICCs to provide a more effective mechanism to support initiatives specifically related to associate member countries.

Finally, in the context of inter-agency cooperation and liaison, the following were proposed: In the area of tourism, activities would be carried out in close collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the ACS and the WTO; and in the area of assistance to associate member countries, activities would be carried out in collaboration with relevant committees of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in respect of implementation of resolutions calling for participation of these countries in the wider United Nations system.

One delegate suggested that, in light of previous comments from the secretariat, indicator 2 (*Number of Government policy changes influenced by analytical inputs and policy advice provided by ECLAC to Caribbean countries receiving technical cooperation services*) in the table entitled: “*Expected Accomplishments and Indicators of Achievements-biennium 2006-2007*”, might be reconsidered. He undertook to provide the secretariat with written comments embodying his concern. The secretariat indicated that perhaps it would be best to retain the generic indicators, fully aware that they may not be equally applicable to all outputs.

Another delegate suggested that the term “member countries” be used in the nomenclature of the work programme rather than the present term “member States”.

In response to a query on the availability of resources to implement activities, the secretariat informed that should financial resources be unavailable at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters to fulfil a specific request for technical assistance, efforts would be made to access them from ECLAC Headquarters. Alternatively, the secretariat would lend support to agencies in the subregion which were carrying out activities in the areas pertaining to the request. The request from member countries must be submitted in writing for these processes to be initiated.

In response to a query on the study proposed to be undertaken on *sustainable development in human rights perspective*, the secretariat explained that *sustainable development* had been perceived as an integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and that, under each of these headings, there were certain rights ascribed to persons under various international conventions. Further, in certain international forums, the concept had already been articulated that policies executed in the pursuit of sustainable development would be simultaneously promote human rights. This was the context in which the research proposal had been conceived.

With regard to the area of science and technology, there was widespread concern about the overwhelming focus on water issues over the biennium. In response, the secretariat indicated that the responsible officer was not present to provide a response and that the relevant representation could be made to ECLAC, including at the thirtieth session of the Commission.

The representative of UNEP informed the meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) which had produced capability assessments for the 13 participating SIDS. These assessments had been further compiled into a regional profile and the relevant documents were available on the IWCAM page of the Caribbean Environment Programme website. He reiterated his invitation to the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to consult the IWCAM Project, since its objectives and work plan were very relevant to this activity.

One delegate observed that UWI was the only tertiary institution mentioned in the document, to the exclusion of other universities in the subregion. The secretariat indicated that efforts would be made to have the document reformatted to reflect a more inclusive coverage.

The representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines expressed concern about the seemingly narrow focus of the biennial plan of the science and technology section and added that

science and technology development was predicated on capacity building, institutional strengthening and sensitization of the public to the subject matter. He informed the session of the rather disturbing migration of students in academia from science and technology subjects to other areas. He recommended that the secretariat might want to commission a study to determine the causal elements of this trend, which if unchecked, could have detrimental effects on the development of Caribbean societies.

The representative of Jamaica reported that an MSc. Programme in *Water Resources Management* was available at UWI, Mona, and observed that this development had not been taken into account in the science and technology section of the work programme.

In reply to the queries from various delegations, the secretariat indicated that the Science and Technology Unit of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean had executed a number of activities relating to the transfer of science and technology in earlier biennia. It had also attempted to sensitize countries to the importance of science and technology to development. Consultants had been hired to provide institutional strengthening in various CDCC member countries.

One delegation suggested that the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean should broaden its cooperation with the ACS to embrace areas beyond the strictly economic realm, which was the only area of cooperation reflected in the document. He suggested that there were other possible areas of fruitful collaboration such as marine transport; sustainable tourism; and natural disasters.

The secretariat assured the meeting that, with the exception of marine transport which was not within the scope of the ECLAC mandate, cooperation with the ACS had indeed been broadened beyond the economic realm into the other areas suggested. This statement was supported by the ACS representative who informed the gathering that, over the next 10 years, the ACS would be increasingly involved in collaborative efforts with ECLAC.

The representative of UNEP drew to the attention of the session the Memorandum of Understanding which had been concluded between his organization and IOCARIBE. He recommended that other agencies should participate in each other's intergovernmental meetings to facilitate the development of partnerships and the avoidance of duplication of effort.

Agenda item 7 - Status of the review of the Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure of CDCC

The secretariat presented document CDCC 20/Inf.7 and LC/CAR/L.6 which identified three major milestones, namely:

- Resolution 55 (XV111), the Chaguaramas Declaration, adopted by the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation at the eighteenth session of the CDCC, 30 March-1 April 2000, which called for 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;

- The tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee, 6 March 2001, which undertook a comprehensive review of the CDCC on the basis of documentation provided by the secretariat and recommended the adoption of revised texts;
- The nineteenth session of the CDCC, 14-15 March 2002, which adopted, unanimously, Draft Texts of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC and Revised Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC.

As conveyed to the eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, which convened in Puerto Rico, on 10 April 2003, the relevant texts had been transmitted to ECLAC, Santiago, on 3 May 2002, with a request that they be considered at the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC which convened, in Brazil, in late May 2002. The fact that the texts could not be considered at that session of ECLAC had prompted their resubmission, with a request that they be considered at the thirtieth session of the Commission.

The Secretary of the Commission confirmed that this matter would be submitted for consideration to the ECLAC session, in Puerto Rico, in June 2004.

**Agenda item 8 - Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs
of the United Nations which may be of special interest to
member countries of ECLAC/CDCC**

The secretariat made a summary presentation of a number of resolutions that had recently been adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations, which might be of special interest to members of ECLAC/CDCC by drawing attention to document, CDCC 20/Inf.9; LC/CAR/L.8, entitled *Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which might be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC* (which contained summaries of six resolutions that had been recently adopted by organs of the United Nations. Its status as an Information Document was emphasized. As was customary, in the preparation of the document, a number of resolutions had been encountered spanning the areas of trade and development; energy and sustainable development; ageing; the disabled; and youth. However, their content either marked no real advances on the outcomes of the corresponding recent international conferences or had been cast in a global context that did not address specific concerns of Caribbean SIDS. The resolutions that fell within the remaining categories addressed decolonization issues, which, given the structure of the CDCC membership, among other considerations, were deemed relevant; and also the issues relating to the international drug problem; and sustainable fisheries management. These were identified as representing ongoing concerns of CDCC member countries hence their inclusion.

The Chairman of the meeting indicated that the resolutions concerning non-self governing territories excluded Puerto Rico and the Netherlands Antilles as they were not listed as non-self-governing by the United Nations General Assembly. He also indicated that even though the document did not make reference to resolutions related to upcoming world conferences, these

should be taken into account as they were also of relevance to the ECLAC/CDCC member and associate member countries.

The representative of Puerto Rico clarified that the Associated State of Puerto Rico had received support from the Committee of 24 with respect to pursuance of its legitimate options for self-government.

In addition, the Chairman proposed that note be taken of the support of the countries of the OECS, particularly Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their active participation as members of the Special Committee on Decolonisation.

Agenda item 9 - Preparations for the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document LC/CAR/L.2 CDCC 20/Inf.3 entitled *Caribbean Subregional Preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*. Identifying the 11 April 2003 Joint Meeting of Caribbean SIDS and Members of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG) as the first stage of Caribbean subregional preparations for SIDS + 10, attention was drawn to a number of subsequent major developments, among them: the CARICOM-sponsored regional meeting to develop a follow-up strategy for the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and preparations for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), Grenada, 14-16 April 2003; and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting to review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-10 October 2003.

The outcomes of the respective meetings were summarily reviewed and were indicated to have represented important contributions to the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for SIDS + 10 which convened in Nassau, The Bahamas, on 26-30 January 2004. The discussions of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting had been substantially informed by the review documents produced by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (documents LC/CAR/G.749 and its abbreviated version bearing reference LC/CAR/G.750) which traced the subregion's experience in implementation of the BPOA from the time of its adoption in 1994 to 2003, with perspectives also on the International Meeting on SIDS + 10, which is to convene in Mauritius, on 30 August-3 September 2004.

The outcomes of the Interregional Meeting in the Bahamas, namely, the *Nassau Declaration* and the *AOSIS Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA*, were identified as the focus of attention at the International Preparatory Meeting for SIDS + 10 which convened, in New York, on 14-16 April 2004. Caribbean SIDS were urged to stand ready to defend the fundamental challenges that had been raised at the International Preparatory Meeting with respect to the international recognition of SIDS as a category of State that warranted special

treatment; and the respective balance of responsibilities as between SIDS and the wider international community with respect to the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The importance of the identification by Caribbean SIDS of priority concerns for articulation at the Mauritius Meeting was also emphasized.

The Chairman indicated that the AOSIS Strategy Paper had been endorsed by the Group of 77 and China and that it had undergone a first reading by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) acting as preparatory committee of the International Meeting. A number of proposed modifications were made to the G-77 text by the development partners and were being reviewed by G-77. A compilation text was being prepared. In this connection, he praised the work of the Chairman of AOSIS, in his capacity as lead negotiator for G-77, in defending the *Strategy Paper* as a document which should be seen from a holistic perspective and as one which represented the interrelated priorities of sustainable development of SIDS. He further applauded the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) government representatives, in particular Belize, Barbados and Tuvalu, for their efforts during the ongoing negotiations on the outcome document. He concluded that further informal consultations were envisaged on the document in advance of the convening of the International Meeting in Mauritius.

The representative of Saint Lucia suggested that the adjustments being made to the Strategy Paper should be interpreted as a categorical rejection of the ministerial positions adopted in the Bahamas meeting and intimated that the SIDS process had been manipulated by those who had been charged with its management. This had not been to the benefit of the SIDS. Furthermore, insufficient meetings were held at the governmental level to ensure that a consensual position was advanced by the Caribbean subregion. In this regard, assistance could be rendered by the agencies present in the subregion prior to the Mauritius meeting. Saint Lucia was working towards adopting a position whereby there would be no renegotiation on the question of whether there existed a category of countries such as SIDS.

The representative of UNEP indicated that while UNEP was part of an Inter Agency Task Force on SIDS, the agency also had a global mandate to fulfil. Such being the case, while UNEP would be able to render assistance to the SIDS, its wider mandate also had to be borne in mind.

The representative of the ITU pointed out that new and emerging issues had been raised at the Twelfth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) in New York and previously at the Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2003. In neither instance were the relevant experts present to lend their expertise to the discussions. This had weakened the bargaining position of the SIDS. He drew attention to the movement of the POA from an environmentally focused policy document, thence to a *sustainable development* perspective, with the new and emerging issues taking prominence in the later stages. Inputs into the discussions had not always taken cognizance of these developments.

Reference was made by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago to the two sessions being convened to bring the respective negotiating positions of AOSIS and the developed countries closer together. Two days (28-29 August 2004) would be set aside for informal consultations, if necessary. It had also been proposed that a further round of informal consultations should take place towards the middle of May 2004. As such, it was crucial for CARICOM and Caribbean

SIDS to identify a forum to discuss the group's reaction to the new proposals put forward by the developed countries. While this might not be possible before the May round of informal consultations, every effort should be made to ensure that it took place prior to the convening of the Mauritius meeting. The delegation also informed that the CARICOM Secretariat had prepared a briefing document providing an analysis of the issues of concern to CARICOM SIDS. This could be used as the basis to inform any additional concerns that CARICOM and Caribbean SIDS might wish to have included in the final document adopted in Mauritius.

Agenda item 10 - Recent developments in relation to the proposal for securing international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development

The secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document LC/CAR/L.3; CDCC 20/Inf.4, which reviewed *Recent developments in relation to the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development*. The merits of the resolutions earlier adopted by the United Nations on this subject, resolutions 54/225; 55/203; and 57/261, were summarily reviewed, together with developments since the April 2003 meeting of the Monitoring Committee. More specifically, attention was drawn to the assumption by the ACS of responsibility for spearheading the technical work involved in the further development of *the Caribbean Sea proposal*, culminating with its convening of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on 25 March 2003. Arising from the deliberations of the TAG, a work programme had been adopted and provided the basis for a consultancy jointly sponsored by the ACS and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The draft report arising from this consultancy had been received and was expected to significantly inform the report which is to be submitted by the Secretary-General of the ACS at the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/261.

The representative of UNEP informed the session that the Executive Director of his agency and the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme had been invited to report to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on activities taken to support the proposal for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. He sought the advice of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on the form such a report should take in order to be of the greatest utility in the further development of the proposal.

The representative of the ACS indicated that the newly appointed Secretary-General of the Association was very supportive of the Caribbean Sea proposal and that the report of the consultancy mentioned by the representative of the secretariat would be useful in informing the report to be presented by the Secretary-General to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

In response to a query by one delegation with respect to the pace of the development of the proposal to date, the secretariat agreed that the effort to advance the Caribbean Sea proposal

had not been as sustained as it might have been, though it was anticipated that its development would be accelerated in the short term.

Another delegation recommended that, following the review of the report of the consultancy by the ACS and ECLAC and notwithstanding the actions that would arise therefrom, it was important for CDCC countries to take due note of the issues that had been identified in document LC/CAR/L.3; CDCC 20/Inf.4 as constraints on the development of the proposal at earlier stages, so that future action might be appropriately informed.

The secretariat reviewed the major issues that had arisen in the discussion of the item and outlined the path that was envisaged for future action, culminating in the context of the present phase, with the presentation of a report by the Secretary-General of the ACS to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 57/261.

Agenda item 11 - Obstacles to implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society

The secretariat presented document CDCC 20/Inf. 6; LC/CAR/L.5, which addressed the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society, (WSIS), the first session of which convened in Geneva in December 2003. A follow-up session is scheduled to convene in Tunis in November 2005.

The secretariat reviewed the Plan of Action for the benefit of the meeting and focused on the challenges associated with its implementation in the Caribbean. The Plan is intended to create an inclusive information society, which would put the potential of knowledge and information and communication technologies at the service of development, and outlines 10 connectivity, access and content targets to be achieved by governments before the second session is convened. In addition, governments are urged to develop national e-strategies, which would clearly articulate how countries plan to deploy digital technology to promote e-government, e-commerce, human capacity building, and the efficient delivery of education and health care. Governments are also required to initiate dialogue on the issues involving all relevant stakeholders; establish and promote partnerships where feasible; create multi-stakeholder portals having particular regard to the needs of indigenous peoples; establish capacity building mechanisms; and improve the quality of the information and communications infrastructure.

In commenting on the Plan of Action, the secretariat, making a clear distinction between the mere acquisition of the paraphernalia of the Digital Age and the productive deployment of these tools in the service of Caribbean development, stressed that the development challenge must be at the forefront of any plans to create an information society. Systems should therefore be put in place to measure whether increased Information and Communications Technology (ICT) access was used for predominantly productive purposes, or mainly for leisure and entertainment. Efforts should also be made to ensure that increased investment in ICT education would be paralleled by an enhanced capacity of the labour market to absorb the newly skilled persons. The need for the commercialisation of research, the nurturing of fledgling ICT

enterprises, ensuring that e-commerce did not merely mean e-consumerism, and providing an enabling policy and legislative framework were also emphasised.

The secretariat also identified several obstacles, which would need to be overcome if the Plan of action was to be implemented. These obstacles were identified as gaps in knowledge, data and skills, together with the need for integrated planning and proper priority setting.

Finally, the secretariat shared with the meeting, elements of a project proposal, for which funding was still being sought. The project was entitled, *A Caribbean Information Society 2005 - proposal to support the transition*. Among the activities proposed were: the convening of a meeting involving relevant CDCC member governments, agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders; a series of wide ranging national consultations to increase knowledge and awareness of the issues; the preparation of a series of ICT profiles of each CDCC member State; and the commissioning of a short feature film focusing on the successes of young technopreneurs. In closing this presentation, the secretariat emphasised that its intention was to partner with other agencies already involved in this area in order to avoid duplicating the other useful Information Society initiatives which were already underway. The meeting was urged to recognize the growing importance of information and communications to the development process, to increase familiarity with the WSIS Plan of Action and to support the secretariat in its efforts to secure resources to assist in the creation of an inclusive Caribbean Information Society.

One delegate commended the secretariat on its presentation and indicated that there was much scope for collaboration. He suggested that the Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the WSIS (2003) should be made available and proposed that CARICOM should consider its integration into the efforts undertaken to implement the 'Connectivity Agenda'. He further expressed a need for governments in the subregion to provide an 'IT-friendly' environment, which should also include the liberalization of the telecom services market.

In responding to the presentation by the secretariat, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, currently the only English-speaking Caribbean member of the Preparatory WSIS Bureau, commended the secretariat on its presentation and endorsed the proposal to convene a regional stakeholders meeting prior to the proposed inter-sessional meeting in Brazil. She suggested that the study proposed by ECLAC/CDCC should explore the change management implications of the information society, indicating that Trinidad and Tobago had already begun the consultative process. The delegate enquired whether ECLAC/CDCC could provide technical or financial assistance for this process. Regarding the ICT profiles proposed, the delegate reported that much of her country's data had already been collected, although some updating would be required. In terms of the additional research which might be needed the delegation again enquired whether ECLAC would be able to offer technical or financial assistance.

As regards the Caribbean Digital Library, this was regarded by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago as an excellent initiative which would result in synergies with the Trinidad and Tobago government backbone. She also enquired whether consideration had been given to the inclusion of a regional on-line forum to facilitate dialogue between governments in the subregion.

With regard to the compilation of ICT success stories, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago indicated her country's support of this initiative and suggested that the "success stories" concept be expanded to include "best practices". This concept could also be incorporated into the Caribbean Digital Library.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago pledged her country's willingness to collaborate with ECLAC/CDCC towards the development of regional positions, wherever possible, to ensure that the interests of Caribbean SIDS were included in the WSIS Phase II agenda. In this context, three areas were identified as being of particular interest, namely, intellectual property; internet governance; and the establishment of funding mechanisms to advance the Information Society. The hope was also expressed that the Caribbean Diaspora would be tapped as a source of expertise.

Agenda item 12 - Meeting the challenges of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA): trade trends, export specialization patterns and regional integration in the Caribbean (including the case of the non-independent Caribbean countries)

The secretariat presented document, CDCC 20/Inf.5; LC/CAR/L.4, *Meeting the challenges of the FTAA: Trade trends, export specialization patterns and regional integration in the Caribbean (including the case of the NICCS)* which examined the trade profiles of the member countries of the CDCC, paying particular attention to the trends in the trade of the subregion; export specialization patterns; and the progress of Caribbean regional integration. It outlined the effects, issues and potential impact on Caribbean economies of the formation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas in 2005.

Overall, the impacts of the FTAA for member countries were likely to center on trade intensity and trade structure and on the relationship between internal balance and the foreign exchange constraint. For non-member countries, the effects were likely to focus on the terms of trade and on investment switching. For these countries, given the present structure of market access, the possibilities of trade diversion were small.

Finally, the FTAA had a microeconomic dimension that needed to be explored in greater detail since it had been to some extent overlooked in the existing literature. The microeconomic dimension related to the effect of the FTAA on firms and on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in particular.

The presentation was well received as it highlighted implications of fundamental importance of the FTAA for smaller economies and for the NICCs. In the course of the discussion on the presentation and on the document under reference, three major issues were raised.

The first focused on the compatibility between the FTAA and regional agreements such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). From the secretariat's point of view, the FTAA was compatible with subregional free trade agreements in the same way as the WTO

allowed, through its article 24, the formation of regional trading blocs. The secretariat nonetheless stated that the formation of the FTAA might affect the composition of intraregional trade and that Caribbean governments should analyze the possibility of establishing compensation mechanisms for firms and products that would be negatively affected.

The second issue related to the definition and analysis of *export promotion*. In response to a request from a delegation, the secretariat provided a general explanation of the concept, with reference to such elements as the increase in the rate of growth of exports and market penetration. The secretariat then presented a brief overview of export promotion policies in the Caribbean. At the present time, regional and national export promotion strategies coexisted, but with a marked absence of coordination between them. At the national level, CARICOM economies were at different stages in their export promotion efforts. The common denominators (with the exception of small size and the adoption fiscal incentives) that could characterize or encompass their export promotion experiences, were indicated to span the search for niche markets, market segmentation and comparative advantage. An analysis of different national cases including, Barbados; Guyana; Jamaica; the member States of the OECS; and Suriname had indicated that export promotion strategies and in particular the common denominators listed above were significantly shaped and determined by their different stages of economic and institutional development and also, and most importantly, by the structure of their economies.

The third issue raised was that of special and differential treatment and its relevance for smaller economies. In response to a request from a delegation, the secretariat clarified its position on special and differential treatment, indicating that this was regarded as a necessary component of any free trade agreement involving smaller economies. However, this was not to be approached as a dogma. The secretariat reiterated that empirical and microeconomic studies should be undertaken to demonstrate the circumstances in which the maximum benefit would accrue to given countries that received special and differential treatment.

Agenda item 13 - Challenges in social development for Caribbean SIDS

The secretariat presented document LC/CAR/L.7, CDCC 20/8, entitled, *Challenges in the social sector confronting Caribbean SIDS*, which highlighted the following areas: the population dynamics of Caribbean SIDS; gender equality and the HIV/AIDS; and poverty reduction and human development. The challenges discussed in the paper had been identified in the course of research and technical assistance efforts undertaken by the secretariat during the preceding biennium. Specifically, the challenges included: strengthening collaboration efforts for managed migration; enhancing the evidence-based capacity of social policy makers; encouraging the use of gender research and analysis in the efforts to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS; and enhancing the human resource capacity especially in the field of social planning and policy analysis at the national level.

In the area of population and development, the secretariat highlighted its core activities:

- (a) The subregional conference to review the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Caribbean, which was held in Port of Spain, on 10-11 November 2003;
- (b) Population Ageing in the subregion - the secretariat briefly reported on the Second World Assembly on

Ageing (the Madrid Summit), of 2002; the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, Santiago, Chile, November 2003; and the Regional Strategy adopted at the Santiago Conference for the implementation of the commitments made in Madrid. The session was also informed of efforts by the secretariat to organize a follow-up meeting to discuss the regional strategy and to translate it into a programme of action for the Caribbean. Of particular concern in this regard, were the provision of pension schemes and the need for social welfare programmes including the provision of health care services to the elderly; (c) Migration, which was not a new phenomenon in the subregion but had a long history that involved almost all sectors of the society. The phenomenon could be observed within countries; within the subregion; as well as in third countries. Of particular concern was the ongoing brain-drain, as reflected in the departure of professionals in the health and education sectors, with serious implications for the provision of the corresponding services to the people of the subregion. The secretariat also reported on its ongoing collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/Caribbean Programme Coordination (PAHO/CPC) and the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) to develop a joint approach to the forthcoming General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations, particularly in relation to Mode IV.

One delegation indicated that migration had been an area of great concern for the entire region and elaborated on the various population movements to destinations within, as well as outside, the Caribbean. He also drew attention to the importance of the forthcoming liberalization of the movement of people in the framework of the CSME and its social implications, along with legal issues, such as the nationality of foreign born migrants and their descendants and social protection of migrants.

The delegation of Suriname expressed its particular concern with respect to the continued high influx of migrants from Latin America, particularly from Brazil, and the burdens of this on the social services.

The representative of the ACS proposed the execution of a study on changing family structures in the Caribbean, to examine, in particular, the impact of the increasing divorce rates on family structure in the subregion.

Agenda item 14 - Measuring social and economic trends in the Caribbean

- **The Caribbean Social Statistical Database (CSSD)**
- **CARIBTRADE: trade flows database**

The Caribbean Social Statistical Database (CSSD)

In presenting the holdings of the database and demonstrating its use, delegates were referred to document, LC/CAR/G.776, entitled *Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs: an examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean SIDS*.

The secretariat reported that, during the 2002-2003 biennium, the ECLAC/CDCC project had accomplished its objective of establishing a fully searchable database. This had been done in

collaboration with the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and regional institutions such as the CARICOM Secretariat, UWI and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The database included Surveys of Living Conditions (SLC), Population Census Data, and Labour Force Data, from 1990 to the present time.

All countries in the subregion, with the exception of Cuba and the Dominican Republic, had contributed to the database. The Dominican Republic had earlier indicated its intent and willingness to participate. Governments that had completed the 2000/2001 round of the population and housing census had agreed, in principle, to deposit their results with the database and had already begun to do so. The databases currently held the 2000/2001 population and housing census for the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Saint Lucia. Aggregated census data had also been received from the Netherlands Antilles.

The secretariat indicated that the database would have two levels of query. The first could be termed standard queries and the other ad hoc or specialized queries. The first level would be available to governments, researchers and the general public. The mode of access to and use of that level was demonstrated to the delegations. The second level, which was still under construction, would be available to researchers and government policy analysts, subject to the process which is being incorporated in accordance with which approval for such use of the statistical data would have to be obtained from the NSOs. Such recourse served to reinforce the fact that the data sets remained the property of the NSOs.

Delegates were also informed that, apart from the collection and harmonization of the data sets, the ECLAC/CDCC project contained a training component. Forty-five persons, including social planners, social policy analysts and statisticians with responsibility for socio-demographic data from 20 member and associate member countries were trained in 2002. The training had as its objective, the enhancement of the skills of senior technocrats in the field of social development in evidence-based social policy formulation and the workings of the Caribbean social statistical databases.

It was the intention of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat that the database would act as the overarching mechanism to facilitate the more efficient use of social statistics in the subregion, thus strengthening the capacity for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and undertaking subregional and regional comparative analysis.

General satisfaction was conveyed by delegations with respect to the demonstration and explanations provided in connection with the database.

CARIBTRADE: trade flows database

Delegations were also provided with a demonstration of the CARIBTRADE database, which was prepared by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat with funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The database, which drew on data provided by several members of CDCC, normalized to enhance comparability, answered queries on the direction of trade, trade

performance and competitiveness. Other outstanding features of the database, as well as the modalities for access, were explained.

CARIBTRADE, the Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database, was the result of a joint collaboration between the population division (CELADE) of ECLAC, Santiago, and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

CARIBTRADE answered queries on the direction of trade; performance of trade; and competitiveness. The trade and competitiveness indicators included country and product shares, imports and exports by country of origin and destination and by product category.

This database had drawn on the data provided by the several Caribbean countries, which had used different nomenclatures and coding schemes to prepare and process their trade data. The data had been normalized to enhance their comparability. Its location on the Internet represented a contribution from ECLAC towards more widespread access to critical data that had in the past not been as generally available as the present offering. It also represented a contribution to the provision of data that could assist trade negotiators, researchers and the business community to make informed decisions.

The countries whose data were included in the present database were: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Data for most countries were provided for the period 1995 to 2002.

General satisfaction was conveyed by delegations with respect to the scope of the CARIBTRADE database, its processes and the method prescribed for its updating.

Agenda item 15 - Date and place of the twelfth meeting of the Monitoring Committee

It was agreed that the date and venue for the twelfth meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be set following consultations by the secretariat with member countries.

Agenda item 16 - Other matters

Under this item, a resolution co-sponsored by the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico was presented, entitled "*Provision of extrabudgetary resources for ECLAC's Caribbean activities*".

In the ensuing exchange, the representative of one delegation suggested that any other agencies or countries that provided extrabudgetary resources to ECLAC should be identified in the first paragraph of the resolution. The Chair stated that such an addition would be facilitated by the secretariat.

A second resolution addressed “Filling of Posts within the ECLAC/CDCC Subregional Office,” was co-sponsored by the delegations of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Both resolutions were unanimously adopted. The respective texts are attached to this report.

Agenda item 17 - Consideration and adoption of the report of the CDCC technical meeting

The meeting report as generated up to the time set for the closure of the session was presented by the secretariat and a number of modifications were introduced by delegations. The chair then advised the session that the Draft Report would be finalized by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and dispatched to member countries for comment as the basis for the preparation of the final report.

Agenda item 18 - Closure

On concluding discussions on the preceding items, the Chairman expressed his appreciation to the delegations for their participation during the session. He also urged the participation of Caribbean governments at the high level meetings convened by the ECLAC system. In that regard, he expressed concern that the dates for the thirtieth session of ECLAC coincided with those for the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM and suggested that, in the future, all efforts should be made to coordinate the convening of such high level events.

On behalf of all delegations, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda expressed its gratitude to the staff of the secretariat and expressed appreciation in respect of the high quality of documentation received. She also thanked the Government of the United States Virgin Islands for its hospitality.

For its part, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat expressed its gratitude to the authorities of the United States Virgin Islands for their generosity and hospitality in hosting the CDCC session.

PART III
RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION

60(XX) Provision of extrabudgetary resources for ECLAC Caribbean activities

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Recognizing and appreciating the support given by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, through the provision of extrabudgetary resources to that office during the past two years;

Conscious of the importance of such additional budgetary support in order to strengthen ECLAC activities in areas of vital importance to the Caribbean;

Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide such extrabudgetary support for important ECLAC activities in the Caribbean, among others:

The project designed to implement the plan of action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in the Caribbean, entitled “World Summit on the Information Society - supporting the transition.”

61(XX) Filling of posts within the ECLAC/CDCC Subregional OfficeThe Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Noting with concern the number of existing vacancies within the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and its effect on the progress of the implementation process, approved by the CDCC at its nineteenth ministerial meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, 14-15 March 2002,

Encourages the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue to utilize the expertise of the subregion when fulfilling its obligation in this regard, and promote the exchange of experience at the subregional level and to encourage coordination of efforts in this regard,

Encourages further, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to expedite the recruitment process of filling the post of Director and other existing vacancies as soon as possible, taking into account representation of the subregion,

Also encourages, that transparency should be a guiding principle during the recruitment and selection processes,

Reaffirms the need for the secretariat to continue to utilize the experience of the subregion when fulfilling its obligations in this regard,

Requests the secretariat to provide a report to the twelfth meeting of the ECLAC/CDCC Monitoring Committee.

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