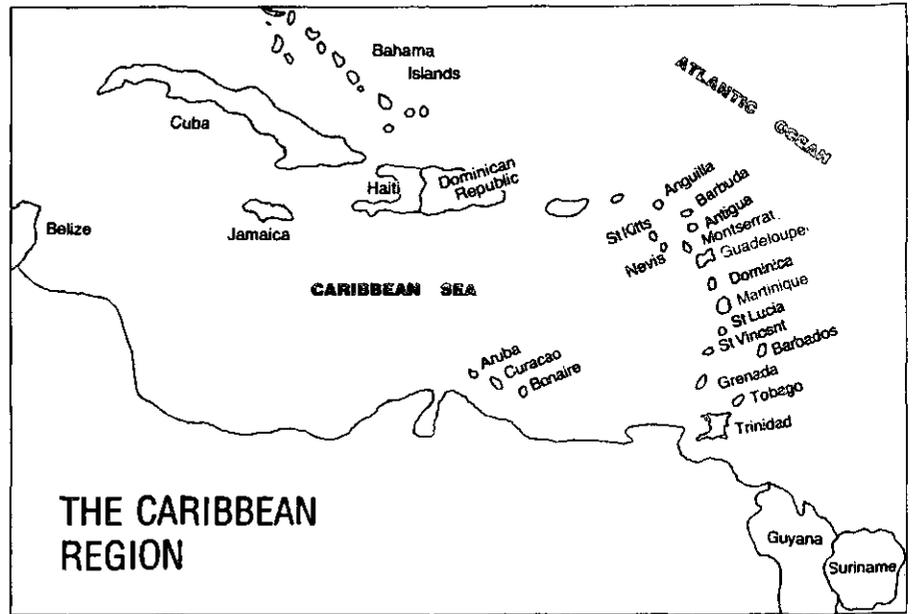


CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT
 AND
CO-OPERATION
COMMITTEE



THE CARIBBEAN REGION

CDCC/CCST/83/14

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
 Subregional Office for the Caribbean
 CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE
 CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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CCST - THE NEXT PHASE



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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CCST - THE NEXT PHASE

Background

At the Inaugural Meeting of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (Barbados, 30 June - 2 July 1981), it was proposed that the initial activities of Council be planned for a two-year period which would be regarded as the establishment phase of the Council. Certain guidelines for the work programme were laid down and a thorough assessment was promised for 1983.^{1/}

During the biennium the situation and prospects changed dramatically, first as a result of the deepening recession in regional economies and secondly because of the recent initiatives in science and technology at ministerial level. In the first instance, the payment of the annually assessed contributions of US\$8,000 for MDCs and US\$2,000 for LDCs have not been made by some member countries, whilst in other cases, funds have been voted but have not been transferred to the CCST because of limited foreign exchange reserves and this has complicated as well as restricted the work of Council.

At the Second Plenary Session of CCST (Jamaica, 3-5 November 1982) members were of the opinion that Council's role should comprise three main facets in descending order of priority:

1. Co-ordinating
2. Advisory
3. Implementation^{2/}

At the First Meeting of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology^{3/} it was decided inter alia that, in the first instance, regional collaboration should be focused on two areas considered critical to economic development, viz: Agro-industry and Information Systems with reference to Transfer of Technology and issuing of patents. An institutional mechanism for translating policy decisions

^{1/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/83, p.17

^{2/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/97, p.10

into action was also established. This was envisaged as an Interim Co-ordinating Committee, comprising representatives from Caribbean and other International Agencies (both ECLA and CCST were identified) which would report to a five member inter-ministerial sub-committee.

Suggestions for Future Action

1. Article 15 of the Statutes requires Council to establish an Executive Secretariat staffed by paid, full-time personnel. As a conservative estimate, this would necessitate a capital expenditure of US\$50,000 and an annual recurrent expenditure of \$150,000. Because of the current financial constraints, it is not anticipated that member governments would favourably consider this level of expenditure either now or in the foreseeable future, so that Council should formally request ECLA/CDCC to continue providing Secretariat services for the next five years. However, Council should create the nucleus of a Secretariat as a first step in establishing its own identity.
2. Member countries should be strongly encouraged to pay their annually assessed contributions, as this tangible evidence of their commitment to the operational costs of Council would assist the advocacy of the Secretariat when seeking financial support from aid agencies.
3. Council should continue in its co-ordinating role in the following areas:
 - i) Preparatory Meetings for the Second Conference of Ministers Responsible for Application of Science and Technology to Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CASTALAC II).
 - ii) Co-ordinating Mission of Experts to the region to appraise Officials of the Comprehensive Plan of major assistance to enhance the marine science capabilities of the Caribbean Island States.
 - iii) Planning a Workshop for Teachers, Film Technicians and Adult Educators in the various methods of displaying and projecting scientific and technological information so that it can be readily understood and appreciated by non-scientists.

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