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Meeting on inter-organizational  
collaboration  
St. George's, Grenada  
7 December 1992

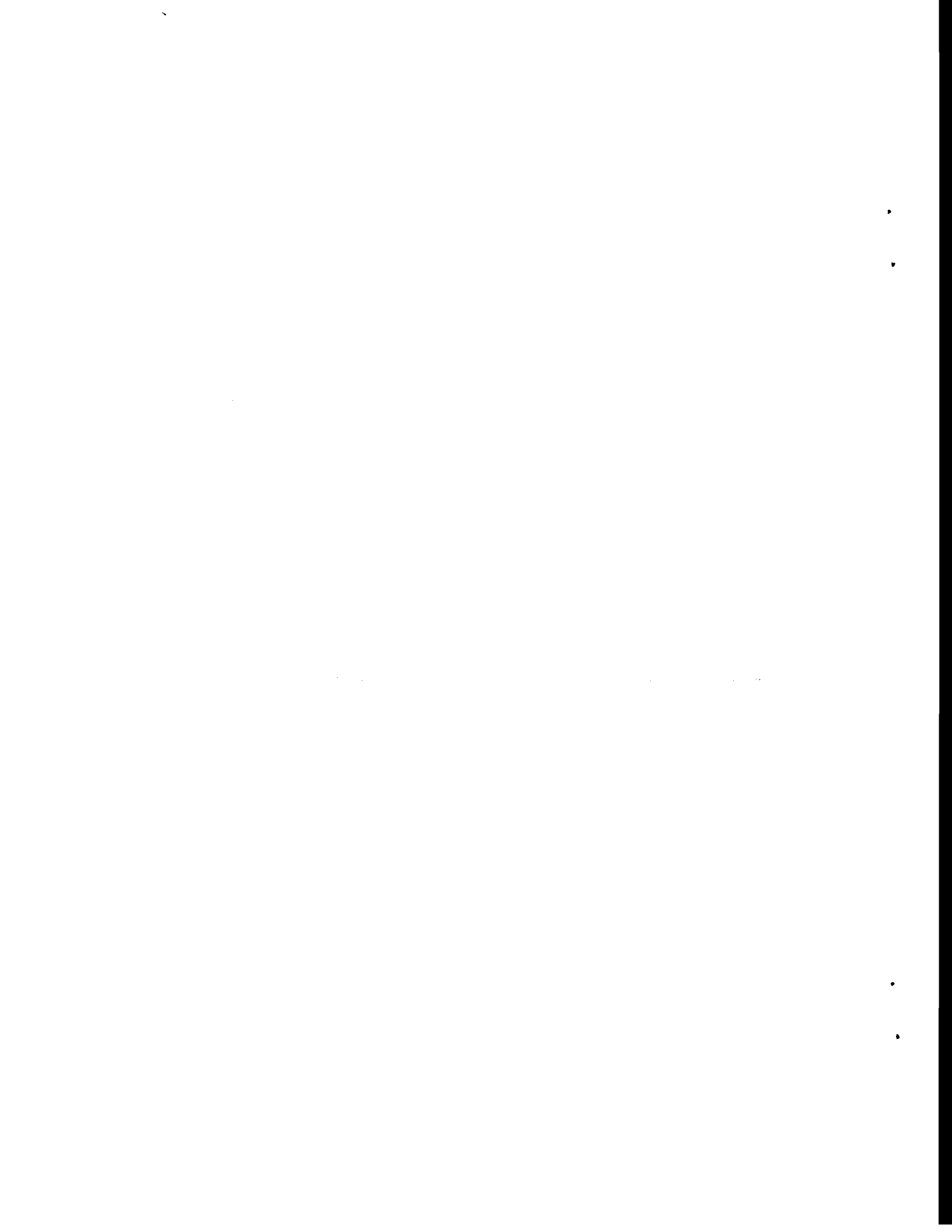
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING ON INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION**

31 AUG 1993





## REPORT OF THE MEETING ON INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION

The meeting on inter-organizational collaboration was held in St. George's, Grenada on 7 December 1992.

A list of participants is attached at Annex 1.

The agenda of the meeting is attached at Annex 2.

The secretariat introduced the main substantive item on the agenda, entitled "Consideration of work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 bienniums, with a view to identification of possibilities for inter-organizational collaboration". It noted that while agency representatives were free to make substantive presentations to the meeting of officials of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in the normal manner, the secretariat had been mandated to provide a summary document which listed those activities in its work programme which were amenable to collaboration with other agencies. It noted that the exercise would help to reduce overlap in the work programme and ensure more cost-effective delivery of services to the region. The secretariat suggested that the work programme might be considered according to the respective programme elements, each of which would be briefly introduced prior to receiving the responses of the representatives of the agencies.

A summary of suggestions and offers for collaboration on the respective programme elements is listed below.

### **ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium**

#### **Economic survey of Caribbean countries**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) updated the meeting on work being done in the area of privatization, notably the convening of an ad hoc group on privatization which would formulate policies for the guidance of governments. This information would be available for informing the work on the subject being conducted by the CDCC.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat recorded its appreciation for CDCC collaboration with its annual economic surveys. It noted the common mandate for the incorporation of social data and looked forward to the extension of collaboration into this area.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) noted the parallel activities of many agencies in the area of economic surveys, suggesting the need for an exchange of work programmes among the various agencies.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) indicated that Guyana had made a request for assistance to develop a new policy framework in the area of privatization and for an implementation strategy. It referred to the recently completed regional industrial strategy developed in conjunction with CARICOM.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adverted to the seeming absence of agriculture from the survey activity, listing its own activities with the University of the West Indies (UWI) on the relationship between that subject and structural adjustment. The participation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was requested in future activities with the UWI as well as the forthcoming update of the regional plan of action for the region.

#### Economic and social planning

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicated its desire to participate in planning activities in the region. It wished to achieve specific goals for women and children and these could only be obtained if they became integral to the planning process.

FAO noted that it had a joint project with ECLAC to conduct a series of case studies on the role of agro-industry in promoting technical change at the level of small and medium-size farms. Similar studies were being proposed for the Caribbean in 1993, and ECLAC/CDCC would be consulted as to which countries might be included.

CARICOM noted that this was another area in which the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) were welcomed to complement their own activities in the area. It looked forward to details of the forthcoming meeting of planners so as to schedule CARICOM participation.

#### Science and technology

UNIDO noted that at the last session of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), a project proposal was endorsed to create a Technology Extension Service due to come on stream in early 1993. Donor funding was being sought.

#### Social development in the Caribbean

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) recorded its concern with the issue of structural adjustment, as it impacted on employers and on unions. In the case of the latter, it was

concerned with safeguarding the interests of its most vulnerable members. It was currently carrying out a joint programme with the social partners and would make the results available to CDCC, in due course.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicated its interest in familiarizing itself with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and to bring them into the mainstream of development activities. It expressed an interest in the methodologies being developed for measuring poverty.

UNICEF drew attention to a project which had been developed with the Jamaican Government to monitor poverty on a continuous basis. The project was deemed to be successful and would be replicated in other Caribbean countries building on their household survey capability.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) suggested that access to family planning and contraceptive services might provide a useful indicator of social equity and quality of life. In consultation with the other partners (UNDP, UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)) in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), UNFPA recommended that these indicators be included in efforts to monitor the impact of structural adjustment programmes and interventions towards poverty alleviation.

The CDB indicated that it was developing a methodology for measuring poverty, in conjunction with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which it hoped would be used by all agencies in the region. Two pilot studies were scheduled after which the results would be shared with the interested agencies in the field.

The representative of the United Nations Secretariat also drew the attention of the meeting to the adoption of resolutions of interest to the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs), in particular draft resolution A/47/L.16 on cooperation and coordination by the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions associated with the United Nations system in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) and the related report of the Secretary-General on the same subject, contained in document A/47/649. It was noted that this resolution took into account relevant resolutions of CDCC concerning the Working Group. It was important to note also that the resolution in question was adopted unanimously.

UNCTAD indicated its interest in this field, noting that a separate division had been established to try to suggest policies for poverty prevention and alleviation. Collaboration in this effort was invited.

### Women in Development (WID)

UNDP informed the meeting of the establishment of a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Office in Barbados headed by Mrs Jocelyn Massiah.

CARICOM expressed the desire to collaborate with the CDCC/WID programme, notably in relation to its databases and bibliographies on the subject.

FAO was sponsoring a regional network of institutions, including those in the Caribbean, which included the participation of women in rural development. The network was expected to come on stream soon.

ILO was collaborating with CARICOM to develop draft model legislation on the employment of women. It was also pursuing an initiative for the establishment of day-care centres.

UNICEF reiterated its interest in the area of WID and enquired as to which agencies were doing research into working and living conditions of women in the free-zones.

UNFPA stated that all its population programmes and projects focused on improvement of the status of women. Mention was made of a recent project in collaboration with UNICEF to study the implications of family size and structure in female-headed households for socio-economic development.

UNIDO indicated that one of its priority themes considered in all project proposals was women in industry. Special emphasis was placed on considering the role of women in all industrial projects.

### Human resources development

UNIDO informed of a study on human resources development, conducted on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago, which would be extended to include all CARICOM countries.

### Language barriers

CARICOM was developing a programme on language and communication which might benefit from collaboration with that being carried out by ECLAC/CDCC.

### Population

UNFPA outlined, inter alia, its support to population-and-development activities in the English-speaking Caribbean. UNFPA would consider possible future assistance in this field on the basis of countries' perceptions, plans and needs as may be

articulated, within the available resources and in accordance with mandates. Reference was made to a UNFPA-assisted project on the 1990 round of censuses executed by CARICOM, and it was stated that data from the census was unlikely to be available before end-1993 for analysis.

CARICOM indicated its interest in a population education project, intended to develop an awareness of population issues.

### Environment and development

FAO was seeking funding for a project to develop national tropical forest development plans. It was also cooperating with CARICOM and especially the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to assist in the management of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

The representative informed of a meeting on sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery development in small island countries, held in April 1992, in Barbados, attended by 25 Caribbean, South Pacific, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean countries in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The United Nations Secretariat drew attention to the proposed meeting on sustainable development for small island States scheduled to be held in Barbados in 1994 and requested that member countries note this event with a view to their participation.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) indicated it was conducting three activities in the area of the environment: a regional oil spill contingency plan; studies relating to the issue of cruise ship garbage, (since this could no longer be dumped at sea), and sensitivity index mapping to better manage oil spills in Caribbean coastal regions.

CDB indicated that its interest in the field related specifically to projects financed by the Bank, in order to maximize the impact of limited resources.

### Information and documentation

ILO offered access to its international labour standards legislation database, which was available on CD-ROM in Trinidad and Tobago. The data might subsequently be available on a network to facilitate users.

FAO indicated that its AGROSTAT database would likely become available to users globally in 1993.

UNCTAD outlined a number of databases which it was developing and making available to the region including SMART, TRAINS and GREENTRAINS.

#### Statistical data bank

A number of the representatives including CARICOM, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), CDB, OECS, and UNICEF commented on the problems of accuracy and timeliness of regional data and the availability of social and human development indicators. There was a general agreement on the need for the appropriate agencies to collaborate to improve data at the national level.

UNCTAD noted its collaboration at the regional level in the project ASYCUDA, which had helped to increase the accuracy and timeliness of trade data in the region.

#### Tourism

FAO indicated that eight national studies were being conducted to identify the linkages between tourism and agriculture, which would culminate in a technical meeting of both sectors to find ways to strengthen the linkages between them. It sought collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC in this programme.

ECCB indicated that it had commenced work aimed at redefining the role of tourism in development and improving the measurement of its contribution to GDP.

UNCTAD noted the importance of services in general, suggesting that the comparative advantage in tourism enjoyed by the region might extend to other tradable services.

#### International trade and finance and global economic issues

OECS noted the similarity between its work programme and that of ECLAC/CDCC, which signified the need for closer collaboration.

CARICOM noted the usefulness of the ECLAC/CDCC newsletter on international trade issues, suggesting that it should receive wider circulation, to include the regional institutions.



## Support for the OECS countries

OECS indicated that a new development strategy for the OECS subregion was being developed, which would pay attention to the issue of implementation. This might require a modification of the present programme of support from ECLAC/CDCC to accord with the new thrust.

UNIDO was providing support to the OECS countries in industrial statistics, industrial training and industrial investment utilizing Puerto Rico S.936 funding.

## **ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium**

### Caribbean/Latin American cooperation

CARICOM suggested that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) should be consulted more extensively in this programme.

FAO intended to identify functional areas where technical transfers might be made in the field of agriculture from Central and South America to the Caribbean.

### Island Developing Countries (IDCs)

UNCTAD expressed support for work in this area, noting the limited inputs received from the Caribbean, compared with those from other regions, such as the Pacific, provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its work on IDCs.

### Economic and social planning

CARICOM suggested that personnel from the ministries of finance should be included in future activities for planners.

### Tourism and industry

CARICOM proposed that future work in the area of industry should take note of the fieldwork being done by CARICOM, the results of which would become available shortly.

**Any other business**

The representative of the United Nations Secretariat suggested that in order to assist the discussions at inter-organizational meetings, organizations could be invited to apprise the ECLAC/CDCS secretariat of their programmes and activities in the subregion, and their responses could be summarized in a report to be prepared by the secretariat for consideration at these meetings. Attention was drawn to similar reports on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The secretariat agreed to look into the possibility of preparing such a paper.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Consideration of work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 bienniums with a view to identification of possibilities for inter-organizational collaboration
5. Any other business

