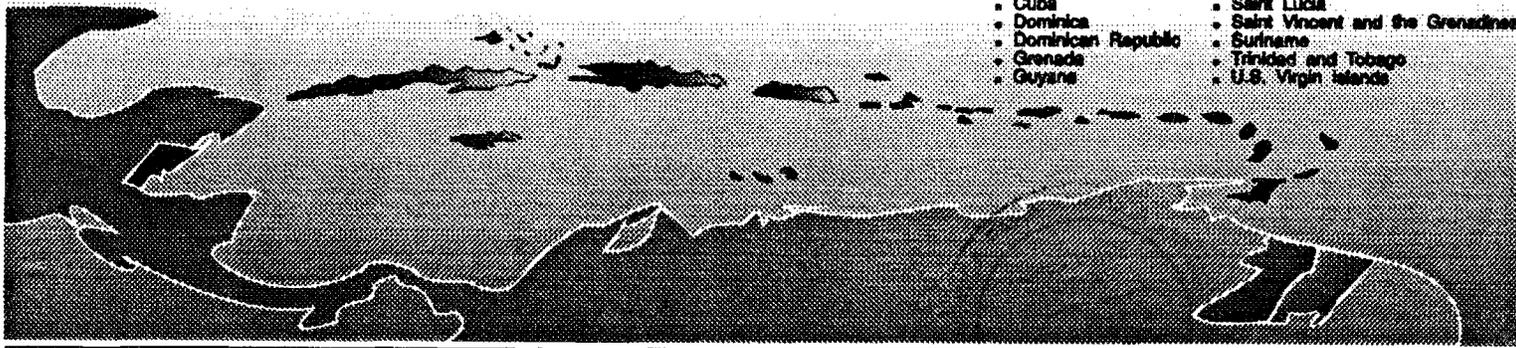




**UN ECLAC/CDCC**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



Meeting on Inter-agency Collaboration  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
28 July 1994

GENERAL  
LC/CAR/G.427  
15 August 1994  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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



**UNITED NATIONS**

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

**CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING ON INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

The meeting was called to order and opened by Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, who outlined its purpose. The meeting provided the forum where agencies could be appraised of each other's work programmes and priorities and could benefit from collaborative work or information generated by others. In both cases, this would involve a more effective use of resources.

Mr. Blanchard drew attention to four main areas where the secretariat would welcome the participation of the agencies:

- (a) The World Social Summit;
- (b) The follow-up activities to the Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which took place in Barbados in April/May 1994;
- (c) The upcoming International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, and its subsequent activities;
- (d) The Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

The Secretary of ECLAC, Mr. Ottone, updated the meeting on preparations for the World Social Summit. He informed that at the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, a document entitled "Basis for Latin American and Caribbean Consensus for the World Summit" was presented. That meeting had agreed to organize three subregional seminars to be held in Central America, the Caribbean and South America to assist governments to prepare national positions to be taken at the Preparatory Conference in New York. The Commission was attempting to secure funds to organize those meetings with the help of identified hosts in the Caribbean and Central America. Several other meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade unions and other organizations were planned.

Mr. Blanchard provided information on the other global conferences. He stated that ECLAC would organize a follow-up meeting to examine the activities at a regional level that emanated from the SIDS Conference. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would arrange follow-up on the aspects of further action that involved technical cooperation. He notified the meeting of an imminent preparatory meeting on population to be held in Jamaica, which would be the final meeting before the Cairo Conference. With respect to Women in Development, he encouraged the widest possible participation in the Mar Del Plata Conference. He invited the representatives of the agencies to inform the meeting of their planned activities and indicate areas where collaboration was needed.

The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) stated that one main activity of his organization was its forum in Santiago, Chile, with ECLAC. IDB had collaborated in meetings held in Lima, Peru, and in Mexico and was assisting five persons to prepare a document for the World Social Summit to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark. On the subject of the environment, IDB had sponsored a meeting of NGOs in preparation for the SIDS Conference in Barbados. No specific follow-up meetings had been planned to date. The IDB had been supporting the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Regional Coordinating Unit to strengthen its information systems on marine and coastal systems to a number of Caribbean countries including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and the Dominican Republic. On the subject of Women in Development, the IDB had been active in several forums, discussing with various institutions the participation of NGOs in women's affairs. The IDB will be represented at the Mar del Plata Conference. IDB has either not been involved or has played a minimal part in preparation for the ICPD.

The representative of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) indicated that the World Social Summit and the follow-up activities to the SIDS Conference were the two main areas of interest to his Organization. On the subject of the World Social Summit, he stated that at the OECS Economic Summit in 1994 the focus had been placed on economic development. A framework for development had been created. The "OECS Economic Development Charter" outlined the vision of the OECS, addressed strategy and identified economic targets and priority areas which included the environment. That Charter had been approved by the Heads of the OECS and donor agencies in Washington. At the same time, the OECS was discussing social development and was interested in working with ECLAC on this subject with a view to participating in the Summit, especially in view of the fact that issues of productivity were so vital. He outlined the integral nature of the importance of the social factor in economic development.

Following are some of the main activities and their status in the OECS work programme:

**SIDS** - The OECS was well represented in Barbados. The Natural Resource Unit participated at a PREPCOM at United Nations Headquarters in New York and tabled a joint country programme in Barbados.

**Population** - Resources do not allow activity in this area, but there is much interest in the subject.

**Women in Development** - There is interest in this topic. The OECS believes that Women in Trade is an important component of the agricultural trade of the subregion, given the significance of the contribution of women in the stages of harvesting and marketing.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) informed the meeting that his agency was keenly interested and involved in the preparation and conduct of the following five major global conferences : The Earth Summit; the SIDS Conference; the International Conference on Population and Development; the Social Development Summit and the International Women's Conference.

UNFPA considered population factors to be integral to all of the above activities and was committed to facilitating the incorporation of population concerns in the above forums in the context of socio-economic development.

UNFPA had facilitated national, subregional, regional and global consultations and the preparation of national reports on population in the context of the ICPD. Five associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC): Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands would be funded to participate in the Conference.

Within the overall mandate of population and development, UNFPA is obliged to accord major attention and priority to areas of family planning, reproductive health and information/education/communication (IEC) activities on these topics. Within the English-speaking subregion, the programme priorities identified related to the improvement of quality and coverage of family planning services, further reduction of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies with special attention to adolescents and teenagers, and strengthening family life/sex education. UNFPA was collaborating with several United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), ECLAC and intergovernmental bodies such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) and OECS as well as NGOs and women's organizations.

UNFPA emphasized the strengthening of national capacities for planning and implementation of population programmes and projects. In support of that thrust, UNFPA had established regional mechanisms for Technical Support Services. The Country Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean is based in Santiago, Chile, and two outposted Advisers (Family Planning/Reproductive Health and IEC) will be located in the UNFPA Office in Jamaica. He also pointed out that the World Bank and the European Economic Community (EEC) attached priority to assistance in the fields of population and family planning. He stressed the need for cooperation and collaboration among United Nations agencies to provide cost-effective technical assistance to the countries and pointed out that governments were critically examining the comparative advantages of the United Nations system vis à vis other options. Collaboration did not necessarily have to involve funding, but could focus on complementarity of inputs and mutually supportive programmes. For

example, in the context of the ECLAC/CDCC Regional Plan of Action on Population, due attention could be paid to other agencies already working in specific population fields to determine ECLAC/CDCC activities. The processes and procedures for programme/project formulation and approval should also be harmonized and simplified.

In noting the usefulness of the meeting, the UNESCO representative outlined his organization's activities in the main areas for follow-up after the SIDS Conference. Because of its knowledge of the vulnerability of small island States, UNESCO had established, at its Headquarters prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio and the SIDS Conference in Barbados, a special unit to focus attention on the development needs of those States. UNESCO disseminated reading material and mounted an exhibition which highlighted its global work in areas of the environment, the oceans, water resources, the development of human resources and low-cost communication techniques, using solar powered FM radio transmission devices, especially suitable for small island States.

Since the SIDS Conference, UNESCO had been working closely with the UNEP Caribbean Environmental Programme. In collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), UNESCO had participated in the sponsorship of a workshop in June 1994 in Saint Lucia on the theme "National Mobilization of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development". The Organization plans to co-sponsor with the CCST and the Caribbean Solar Energy Society, a high-level workshop on renewable sources of energy. That workshop would be held within the context of the World Solar Summit Process, launched by UNESCO in 1993.

UNESCO was sponsoring the "Caribbean Sea Project" involving seven members of the CDCC. That project was being coordinated by the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO.

On the subject of the International Conference on Population and Development, UNESCO has contributed by convening the following meetings:

- An inter-agency meeting on the coordination of population education and cooperation in the field (November 1992); and
- The first International Congress on Population Education (Istanbul, April 1993).

UNESCO continued to develop material that relate to Population Education. To that extent it continued to work closely with UNFPA.

UNESCO has acknowledged the link between social development and strategies to be implemented for economic development. UNESCO regarded human resource development to be a priority area and was prepared to continue collaboration with other

agencies in the promotion of basic education and the development of greater effectiveness and relevance of education at the secondary and tertiary levels. UNESCO and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) were organizing jointly a regional preparatory meeting to the World Summit for Social Development which will take place in Caracas, Venezuela in November 1994. To the extent that UNESCO had paid attention to the development of human resources and regional activities and projects aimed at the social, economic and cultural integration of the region, that organization had financed 11 projects in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC it had organized a regional seminar on Access to Telematics Facilities in Sectors of Public Concern in the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain in June 1994. A subregional workshop on women's access to expression and decision-making in the media and through the media was being organized in Santiago de Cuba for August 1994.

On the subject of Haiti, the UNESCO representative informed the meeting that shortly after the expulsion of President Aristide, his organization had established a programme in Basic Education at the refugee centre in Jamaica. The project was extended to provide agricultural hand tools. UNESCO invited the other agencies to join in the effort to establish similar programmes in new refugee centres to be opened in several Caribbean countries. He reported on the success of a project on Basic Education and skills training for self-employment for rural women, noting that some 35 women had been so trained. UNESCO invited other agencies to join in collaborative efforts to establish similar activities throughout the Caribbean. He applauded the idea that agencies should work in the human development agenda to exchange information and reports of their planned meetings.

The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) reaffirmed the commitment of her agency to continued collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC in a number of specific activities and programmes and indicated willingness, in principle, to collaborate in other areas that cut across the areas of concern of both agencies.

Collaboration in the preparations for the World Summit on Social Development, concern for social justice and a commitment to securing improvements in the quality of life for people and particularly workers everywhere were cited as being at the core of the ILO mandate. In its seventy-fifth year of existence, the ILO was pleased to make a substantive contribution to a forum seeking to find solutions to the seemingly intractable and growing problems of unemployment and under-employment, poverty and marginalisation. At the global level, therefore, ILO would be presenting some of the policy insights and operational guidelines that had come out of its experience in implementing, on a world-wide basis, a project on structural adjustment and employment issues. That project was scheduled for the latter part of 1994. At the subregional level, ILO would continue to collaborate with ECLAC and countries of the Caribbean to articulate a Caribbean perspective on the issues of employment promotion and poverty reduction.

The second area of collaboration was in preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The ILO, recently strengthened by the arrival of a specialist on women's activities, had already been invited to assist in the preparatory process and had indeed participated in the subregional preparatory conference of ECLAC/CDCC member countries in Curacao in June 1994 and would be participating in the ECLAC Regional Preparatory Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The third area of collaboration to which ILO was committed was the implementation of the ECLAC project on Access to Education, Training and Employment for Teenage Mothers in the Caribbean - a project that had been approved for funding by UNFPA.

Apart from the aforementioned areas, a preliminary review of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme in light of ILO's own work programme suggested other areas for formalized as well as informal collaboration. One which readily came to mind was ILO's proposed activities related to the informal sector - a sector that had been growing in size and policy significance in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, the challenge was to develop a transparent, coherent and competitive strategy to meet the needs of that sector. One major component of that strategy was to attempt to make the potentially dynamic components of that sector more productive by moving from less to more productive activities. Possibilities for collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC existed in the tourism and industrial sectors as well as in the area of improvement of the indicators on the labour market. The furtherance of collaboration in these areas of potential joint effort would have to be explored in discussions between the two agencies.

In respect of the World Social Summit, the representative of UNDP stated that the main UNDP activities fell within that framework and that UNDP had collaborated with other agencies. He drew as a reference the collaboration between UNDP and UNESCO in the Dominican Republic. His organization had approved funds for the participation of NGOs in the preparatory conference and the actual conference. The same type of support had been afforded for the Women's Conference. The organization had also worked with UNICEF. It had participated in meetings at the subregional and regional levels and had sought to strengthen the capacity of the various governments.

As regards the Conference on Small Island Developing States, a number of activities had already been carried out by UNDP through the Capacity 21 project. The SIDS Network (SIDSNET), the SIDS Technical Assistance Project, the strengthening of country offices through the modality of advisers were cited as examples of follow-up work being done by UNDP. The organization had placed great importance on sustainable and social development.

The representative of the Department for Public Information (DPI) informed the meeting of the mandate of that organization and of its world network and deployment. Commenting on the four World Conferences, she stated that she would have liked to see an item on Information Strategy that would have communicated information on those

events. She had to rely on help from heads of organizations to gather the required information. As part of the suggested information strategy she suggested the following: public announcements; cartoons; well-known local personalities and freelance writers to disseminate the messages.

She felt that the DPI had been largely ignored. One noteworthy exception was cited in the excellent collaboration between the DPI and PAHO. DPI stood ready to assist all agencies to promote their work.

The representative of UNICEF stated that that organization had prepared an aide-memoire detailing the areas of UNICEF's activities. On the matter of Small Island Developing States, action had been inaugurated in 31 countries. UNICEF had been involved in promotion at country and regional levels. At the moment, the Organization had been involved in work preparatory to the Fourth World Conference on Women. As regards collaboration among members of the United Nations system, two areas were highlighted.

In the area of education, UNICEF's goals were consistent with those of the World Summit on Children in 1992. UNICEF had joined with the World Bank, UNESCO, UNDP and all agencies to bring forward the best results. Much greater collaboration among United Nations agencies was needed so as not to omit any sections of the target groups.

On the subject of Strategy Notes, UNICEF assisted other United Nations agencies to be more relevant, less duplicative and on target. The Notes were viewed as a basic instrument to put human development into the strategy of governments.

The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) stated that his organization had not been engaged in any specific actions in preparation for any of the Global Conferences. The focus of his organization was on the follow-up activities to the SIDS conference in which UNCTAD had had some preparatory input. Most of the activities included in the SIDS work programme were also elements of the UNCTAD regular and continuing work programme. In the area of Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD had launched an exercise on the assessment of the implications for islands of the results of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations (Latin Trade). The paradigm of Flexible Specialization held the promise for export-led growth in the island economies. The Organization was engaged in work in transport and communication. It had interest in work on remote islands. This concern was, however, directed to the Pacific rather than the Caribbean islands. UNCTAD had proposed studies in science and technology to analyze the linkages between appropriate technology and trade.

On the subject of Human Resource Development, work had already been embarked on by UNCTAD. The Organization had launched a programme of training for trade which included studies on policy formulation and identification of export possibilities. The regular programme of economic cooperation remained fundamental to UNCTAD.

UNCTAD expressed the desirability of having an Index of Vulnerability, despite the apprehension of this concept in the academic literature. The representative explained that UNCTAD was not a technical cooperation agency, but that it performed a number of functions in-house to facilitate the data needed by the organization. He cited ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) as an example. Work was being done in the area of competition policy. UNCTAD had conducted a seminar on this matter in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat. On the subject of transnational corporations, UNCTAD had embarked on studies of offshore banking and the assessment of the investment and business climate.

The representative of FAO reminded the meeting of his organization's mandate to address matters concerned with agriculture, forestry and fisheries and stated that his Organization would be participating in the four major world conferences. He informed the meeting that FAO had put in place a programme on Women in the Agricultural Sector. There had been collaboration on a number of projects. For example, FAO had started a project on horticulture in the Dominican Republic. Concerning nutrition, the FAO had been implementing plans to collaborate with governments to prepare National Plans for Nutrition after the Conference on Nutrition in Rome. FAO was engaged in decentralizing its services and would establish a subregional office in the Caribbean.

The CARICOM representative stated that his organization had participated actively in all of the regional initiatives. He expressed satisfaction that the consciousness of the United Nations system on the matter of Small Island Developing States had led to the convening of the meeting in Barbados. Regarding the Latin trade, the CARICOM Secretariat wished to engage in future collaboration with UNCTAD.

The CDCC secretariat was requested to circulate beforehand the dates of forthcoming meetings and the reports of those meetings after the fact. The suggestion was made that at the time of preparing meeting budgets, some allocation be made for DPI activities aimed at communicating information. That should be done as a matter of course. Another suggestion was made that the agencies should focus on serving the countries through collaboration and cooperation either in a substantive manner or through additivity to other agencies' programmes. The suggestion was made that unified project document formats be agreed on.

The secretariat thanked the agency representatives for their active participation.

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