

Joint Meeting of the Small Island Developing States
of the Caribbean and the agencies members of the
Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG)
11 April 2003
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
OF THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AGENCIES MEMBERS
OF THE INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATIVE GROUP (IACG)**

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PART I

LIST OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Efforts should be made to harmonise the execution of the mandate, according to which, the provision of secretariat services for the implementation of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean subregion was the joint responsibility of the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats. That required a greater degree of coordination than existed currently. It also required management at the highest levels.
- The outputs of the present meeting, as well as those of the CARICOM-sponsored Regional Meeting to Develop a Follow-up Strategy for the Caribbean for the WSSD, and Preparations for the Ten-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action, scheduled for Grenada on 14-16 April 2003, should be incorporated into the subregional review process in preparation for SIDS+10.
- The earlier proposed period of August 2003 for the convening of the Caribbean Subregional Preparatory Meeting for SIDS+10 should be retained. The period 25-27 August would be devoted to the Caribbean Subregional Preparatory Meeting, while the following two days would be devoted to the joint meeting of the Caribbean SIDS with SIDS from other geographical regions.
- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat undertook to consult with member countries on the level at which the Caribbean Subregional Preparatory Meeting would be convened.

PART II

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the meeting

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) convened the Joint Meeting of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean and the agencies members of the Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG), on 11 April 2003, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Attendance

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

The following agencies were also represented at the meeting: the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA); the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH); the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Agenda item 1

Introductory remarks

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, welcomed participants to the meeting and recalled that the last joint SIDS/IACG meeting had been convened during the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). She indicated that the convening of SIDS+10 in 2004 represented a major benchmark in the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (POA). This required the compilation of updated national and subregional reports, using the questionnaire that had already been circulated to member countries as well as to the regional and international agencies involved in the implementation of the SIDS POA and related international decisions within the Caribbean. That exercise would assist the subregion in conducting an evaluation of its own progress against previously established targets. Regarding the issue raised in some quarters of a possible

duplication of activities with those of the SIDS Unit in New York, which had also circulated a questionnaire, she informed that the two instruments were complementary inasmuch as their content and objectives were significantly different.

The Director reported that some member countries and regional agencies had already responded to the questionnaire that had been circulated by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and advised that all subregional preparations should be completed by August 2003. The secretariat would maintain contact with member countries in this regard.

The Director also informed the meeting that although an invitation had been extended to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, no representative of that organization was in attendance. Participants were reminded that the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats together constituted the Joint Secretariat for the implementation of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean subregion. In a related development, the CARICOM Secretariat had extended an invitation to the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to be represented at a Regional Meeting to develop a follow-up strategy for the Caribbean for the WSSD and preparation for the ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action. That meeting would convene in Grenada on 14-16 April 2003. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would be represented by its Regional Economic Adviser whose participation would lend continuity to the CARICOM review process, as well as to the one being undertaken by ECLAC/CDCC.

Agenda item 2

Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean: A conceptual framework

The secretariat presented a conceptual framework within which the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean subregion could be reviewed and analysed. The presentation highlighted the following, *inter alia*:

- The context within which the SIDS POA had been conceptualised;
- The intimate and immediate relationship between the WSSD and the SIDS POA;
- The evolution of the implementation process of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean subregion since its adoption in 1994; and
- The convening of the Caribbean ministerial meeting on the implementation of the SIDS POA in November 1997, under the auspices of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in collaboration with a number of regional and international agencies. This meeting was indicated to constitute a watershed in the implementation process within the subregion, by virtue of, *inter alia*, its formalisation of the Caribbean model for the implementation of the SIDS POA.

The secretariat reported that since the 1997 ministerial meeting, five meetings of the IACG, two meetings of the SIDS Bureau and four joint meetings had been convened. It emphasised that the SIDS POA needed to take other considerations on board in order to ensure a paradigm shift from the former environmental construct to a wider one that encompassed sustainable development which required the incorporation of the social and economic

dimensions. The secretariat traced the trends in the philosophy of development from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to the Rio+10 meeting, which convened as the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002, and at which a strong reaffirmation was made of the wider construct of sustainable development.

The secretariat also drew attention to a number of threats to the SIDS process, among them:

- The re-opening of the “SIDS debate” and the preference, in some significant quarters of the international community, for attention to be directed to small States or Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs);
- Questions regarding the link between size and vulnerability;
- Trade liberalization and the loss of preferential access, the erosion of the principle of special and differential treatment, and the “anything but arms” affirmation;
- The new and emerging trade blocs with emphasis on trade in goods.

In the debate that ensued, there was general recognition that the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats had joint responsibility for providing the secretariat for the implementation of the SIDS POA in the subregion and that efforts should therefore be made to harmonise the execution of that mandate. To do so would require a greater degree of coordination than existed currently and effective management at the highest levels. The meeting recommended that the outputs of both the present meeting and the upcoming CARICOM meeting to develop a follow-up strategy for the WSSD and preparations for the 10-year review of the SIDS POA be incorporated into the overall subregional review process.

A number of delegates inquired whether in the context of the review process it would be possible to provide information additional to that collected from the questionnaire circulated by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The secretariat assured the meeting that any information beyond that requested in the questionnaires would be warmly received and that every effort would be made to enhance coordination between the two arms of the Joint Secretariat.

Other delegations reminded the meeting that it was important to bring all agencies into the process since each had a specific mandate that could be relevant to the sustainable development process within the subregion.

One delegation suggested that, at the national level, it was important to ensure that focal points were in place to prepare the material required to advance the review process and to ensure successful preparation by the subregion.

The Secretary of the Commission, reported that he had held discussions with DESA during the week prior to the current meeting. DESA had indicated its intention to organize two regional preparatory meetings, one of which would be held in the Caribbean and the other in the Asia/Pacific region. The Caribbean preparatory meeting would be amplified to incorporate the participation of a number of SIDS from other geographical regions. The dates of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory meeting would be set by the Eleventh Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11). The Secretary also suggested that the meeting propose that

the Caribbean preparatory meeting be held in September 2003, given the absence from duty of many government officials during the August vacation period.

The representative of DESA outlined the preparations that were being made for the 2004 international meeting to review the implementation of the SIDS POA. He recalled the background to the international meeting by reference to the fact that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for a review of the implementation of the SIDS POA. It also listed a number of priority questions. In addition, United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/262 had established a preparatory process that would be coordinated by the SIDS Unit, New York.

With reference to the international preparatory process leading to the 2004 international meeting, reference was made to the General Assembly mandate which:

- Called on SIDS and the international community to provide information on the implementation of the POA;
- Reduced the reporting burden on SIDS;
- Appointed DESA to develop modalities; coordinate preparations including meetings, in consultation with SIDS and SIDS regional organizations; and
- Stressed the need for internal United Nations coordination, thus laying the foundation for the proposed Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

With respect to the regional preparatory meetings to be convened, reference was made to the convening of meetings in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The Caribbean meeting would be extended to incorporate the SIDS of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea Group, for ease of logistics. The meetings mentioned would be held in August 2003 and organized by DESA through the SIDS Unit, New York.

It was further indicated that, within the United Nations system, there would be an IATF to deal with substantive issues; an Inter-Departmental Task Force to address the logistical aspects; and a central focal point. The representative of DESA recommended that similar channels be established at national and regional levels to facilitate an efficient flow of information.

Reference was also made to an interregional preparatory meeting to be convened in early 2004, organized by DESA, through its SIDS Unit. This meeting would bring together the SIDS of all geographical regions to develop concrete suggestions for a strategy for the further implementation of the SIDS POA. The elements for a Mauritius Declaration would also be developed at that meeting.

The International Preparatory Meeting would be held within the context of the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) and would consider, among other things, the presentation of key SIDS concerns and a strategy for the development and implementation of the Mauritius Agenda.

The international meeting that would review the implementation of the SIDS POA was scheduled to convene in Mauritius, in August/September 2004. It would include a high-level

segment; a civil society forum; a SIDS business forum; cultural events; and an eminent persons group. Fundamentally, the meeting would pursue the adoption of the Mauritius Declaration and agreement on the further implementation of the SIDS POA. More generally, it was envisaged that the meeting would assist in building on common and shared strengths, towards the sustainable development of SIDS. It was speculated that this might be the last forum that afforded an opportunity for a special case to be made for SIDS.

After an extended debate on the dates for a possible Caribbean ministerial meeting to be convened prior to the DESA-sponsored regional preparatory meeting, the meeting agreed to the convening of meetings from 25-29 August 2003. The first three days would be devoted to a meeting of the Caribbean SIDS while the following two days would be devoted to the joint meeting between the Caribbean SIDS and the SIDS from other geographical regions.

**Agenda item 3:
Subregional preparations for the 2004 international meeting
that will undertake a full and comprehensive review
of the implementation of the SIDS POA
to ensure the most effective participation of Caribbean SIDS**

The secretariat representative drew the attention of the meeting to document SIDS/IACG/4 entitled, Subregional preparations for the 2004 international meeting that will undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the SIDS POA to ensure the most effective participation of Caribbean SIDS. The document was indicated to cover, inter alia, the antecedents to the international meeting; issues related to the date of the international meeting; objectives of the international meeting; the international preparatory process; and strategic inputs into the interregional meeting to be organized by DESA and into SIDS + 10.

Particular attention was drawn to the fact that with regional preparatory meetings scheduled by DESA to convene in August 2003, the subregion had barely four months to prepare for SIDS + 10. The proposal by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to convene a second Caribbean ministerial meeting along the lines of the successful 1997 event was also highlighted. The Caribbean model for the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action that was formalized at that meeting remained the mechanism of choice for the subregional preparatory process and also for effective participation in the proposed interregional meeting leading to SIDS + 10. The importance of thorough subregional preparation was emphasised, as was the need to put in place or reactivate, as appropriate, modalities for effective interregional coordination, including coordination with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

The secretariat representative also drew attention to the suggested strategic inputs into the interregional meeting and SIDS+10 that were mentioned in the document under review. These included the following:

- Identification of priority areas of concern to the Caribbean SIDS;
- The challenges encountered in the implementation process and the recommendation of measures to overcome these;

- The identification of new and emerging issues; the need to establish benchmarks and other means of measuring progress in the further implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action;
- The urgent need to finalize economic, social and environmental indices; and
- The urgency of honouring the commitments made by the international community at UNCED.

Attention was also drawn to General Assembly resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, which called for, *inter alia*, associate members of regional commissions to participate in the comprehensive review of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action that would be undertaken in 2004 as well as in its preparatory process.

The secretariat observed that many elements related to the subregional preparations for the 2004 international meeting had already been addressed under agenda item 3, particularly by the New York-based delegates. Therefore, discussion of the present agenda item should proceed on the basis of a continuation of information exchange that had effectively commenced under the preceding agenda item.

The representative of St. Kitts and Nevis indicated that the suggested strategic inputs into the interregional meeting and SIDS+10 as highlighted in the documentation were useful. She expressed concern that the difficulty that arose when countries sought to implement these strategies was due mainly to the transition from a purely environmental focus to one that dealt with a more holistic concept of sustainable development.

Clarification was sought as to whether countries were required to prepare national reports, in addition to completing the questionnaire administered by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The representative of the Bahamas indicated that her country had found the questionnaire quite useful in providing guidance to the preparation of its national report.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat indicated that, whereas it was expected that national reports would be compiled by the secretariat, no assurance could be given to governments with respect to their publication, as was done in preparation for SIDS+5. This was due to a reduction in the quantum of resources that had been made available to the secretariat. She, nevertheless, undertook to publish the submissions embodied in the completed questionnaires by member countries and agencies. Such completed questionnaires would provide the basis for the conduct of a subregional analysis by the secretariat. This analysis would be circulated to all stakeholders.

The representatives of DESA, UNDP and UNEP reiterated the commitment of their respective organizations to the Caribbean subregional process. The representative of PAHO/WHO, for his part, indicated his satisfaction at the inclusion of health as a major priority concern in the context of the further implementation of the SIDS POA.

Delegates agreed that the subregional meeting to address the report on the implementation of the SIDS POA since its adoption could be held immediately prior to the

preparatory meeting to be organized by DESA, which is scheduled to be convened in the Caribbean.

**Agenda item 4:
Review of the implementation of the
SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean**

The secretariat drew the meeting's attention to document SIDS/IACG/2 entitled, Review of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean. This document comprised two parts. Part I set out an overall review of the implementation experience and identified the activities pursued; the achievements recorded; and the constraints that were encountered in the process. It also addressed some of the more general issues arising from the implementation process, as the subregion and the international community, in general, sought to come to terms with the SIDS Programme of Action, in search of a more comprehensive sustainable development ethos. The operational implications of those aspects just mentioned over the decade that had elapsed since the adoption of the Programme of Action were also documented. The presentation of the review findings by reference to more or less precisely defined time periods represented an attempt to chronicle the subregional experience in a manner which permitted an appreciation of the evolution of the implementation process.

Part II of the document highlighted details of the implementation process in the subregion by reference to five of the priority areas identified in the SIDS POA namely: climate change and sea-level rise; coastal and marine resources; natural and environmental disasters; freshwater resources; and tourism resources.

The document had been styled "Draft" inasmuch as it represented a work in progress. The final version was envisaged for presentation to the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, which would convene later in 2003. Critical inputs into the final version were expected to be furnished by the responses to the questionnaires which were administered by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to CDCC member countries, as well as to agencies of the IACG, in February 2003.

In addition to a subregional overview of the general aspects of implementation along the lines of Part I of the present document, the final version, as envisaged, would contain details of the implementation in the Caribbean subregion of all 14 substantive chapters of the SIDS Programme of Action. In addition, details of the implementation of socio-economic issues from among those identified by the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 and by the WSSD would be included.

The presentation made under item 2 of the meeting's agenda: Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean: A Conceptual Framework, was identified as being critically relevant to an understanding of the implementation process. The attention of the meeting was also drawn to document LC/CAR/G.727 which had also been prepared for the Joint Meeting, entitled, Framework for implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in the small island developing States of the Caribbean

subregion. That document set out the major substantive, contextual, as well as institutional elements that could comprehensively inform, as well as facilitate the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation from the perspective of SIDS.

With respect to the substantive aspects of the review of the implementation of the SIDS POA, the review was undertaken by reference to activities executed at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, during four periods, as follows:

- **1994-1997:** The period which marked the early beginnings of the SIDS process: a period of intense learning and a search for approaches to solutions that would deliver the promise of Barbados, i.e. the sustainable development of the subregion. This period also witnessed the intense activism of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, a phenomenon, which has become an enduring feature of the subregional implementation process. This activism included the design and introduction of structures and processes, which were subsequently formalised as the Caribbean Model for the implementation of the SIDS POA.
- **1997-1999:** A period that spanned the convening of a number of significant meetings, as well as the launching of a number of other important initiatives at the national, subregional, regional and wider international levels, related to the implementation of the SIDS POA. Particular emphasis was drawn to the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the implementation the SIDS Programme of Action convened under ECLAC auspices, in collaboration of a number of agencies, on 10-14 November 1997. This meeting marked the launching of the substantive implementation of the POA with the adoption of the Caribbean Model mentioned above. Intense recourse was had to the Caribbean Model during this period, in the context of, inter alia, subregional preparation for the Donors' Meeting of 24-26 February 1999; CSD-7, 19-30 April 1999; and the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, 27-28 September 1999. The outcomes of these meetings had different implications for the SIDS of the Caribbean, among others, and for the SIDS process, in general, for example, the Donors' Meeting was agreed by all to have yielded very little by way of tangible result. On the other hand, the outcome of the twenty-second special session with its emphasis on the need to integrate economic, environmental and social dimensions of action towards sustainable development opened new vistas of opportunity for SIDS which had earlier petitioned for remedy to what had been regarded as a major shortcoming of the SIDS POA. The development and intensive utilisation of the Caribbean Model represented an effort to overcome the financial, institutional, manpower and other resource constraints facing the subregion.
- **2000-2002:** A period dedicated to the assimilation and internalization of the outcomes of, in particular, the global meetings that took place during 1997-1999; further implementation efforts; and preparation for the Rio + 10 review which eventually convened as the WSSD. This period also witnessed the development of

a framework by the SIDS of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) subregion, by virtue of the adoption of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS in April 2001 and, subsequently, the OECS Environmental Management Strategy. Another major activity executed during this period, was the adoption of an updated Joint Work Programme (JWP) to replace the original version that was adopted at the 1997 Caribbean Ministerial Meeting.

At the international level, the convening of the WSSD represented the major SIDS-related development in 2002. The adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation at the WSSD, and the considerable attention directed within these documents, to the Millennium Development Goals, is viewed as imparting a greater degree of focus to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the SIDS POA. A re-engineered context has in effect been provided for the implementation process.

- **2003-2004:** Two major activities dominate the Caribbean subregional scenario in the context of the SIDS Programme of Action and its further implementation. The first relates to the development of a further revised JWP, while the second is in respect of preparations for SIDS + 10. The development of the further revised JWP affords the opportunity to Caribbean SIDS, among others, to take into account, the outcomes of the WSSD, in particular Section VII of the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

Following the presentation by the secretariat, a number of country delegations, as well as representatives of regional and international agencies, commented on the subregional process of implementation of the SIDS POA, highlighting aspects of their respective experiences. The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean requested a range of inputs from delegations, such as would facilitate the completion of the draft document.

In particular, information was lacking in respect of the more recent implementation of the POA at the national level. It was also the desire of the secretariat to incorporate the subregional experience in the execution of projects falling under all chapters of the POA, in addition to those social and economic aspects that had been more recently incorporated to constitute a paradigm for comprehensive sustainable development.

A number of delegations indicated that the relevant information would be forthcoming through the completion and return of the questionnaire that had been circulated by the secretariat. Other interventions were directed to the identification of shortcomings of the process with reference to elements of concern which had not been incorporated into the process to date. Delegations were urged to furnish the secretariat with their completed questionnaires at the earliest opportunity.

**Agenda item 5:
Updated Joint Work Programme towards the
further implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action
in the Caribbean, taking into account, inter alia,
the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
and the Millennium Development Goals**

The secretariat drew the meeting's attention to document SIDS/IACG/3, Updating of the Joint Work Programme towards the further implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean, taking into account, inter alia, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Providing the context for the treatment of this item, attention was also drawn to document SIDS/IACG/1, Framework for implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in the small island developing States of the Caribbean subregion. Attention was also drawn to the presentation made under Item 1, Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean: A conceptual approach.

Delegations were also urged to bear in mind the experience of the subregion in the implementation of the SIDS POA, to date, which is set out in the document, Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean subregion, 1994-2004, (SIDS/IACG/2), which is discussed under item 4 of the meeting's agenda.

In summarizing the process envisaged for the adoption of a further updated JWP, the secretariat pointed to the need to incorporate four main elements, namely: the outstanding activities identified in the JWP that had been adopted in 2001 to the extent that they remained relevant; the recommendations of Caribbean SIDS and of the regional and international agencies members of the IACG, as reflected in the responses to the questionnaire earlier administered by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; elements extrapolated from the WSSD Plan of Implementation, with particular reference to Section VII of that document; and proposals articulated during the consideration of the present agenda item.

In the course of the development of a further revised JWP, and building on the discussions that took place under the preceding agenda item, a number of elements were identified by delegates for incorporation into an updated revised Joint Work Programme. The secretariat undertook to compile a consolidated tabulation of the elements in document SIDS/IACG/3, based on comments that had so far been made. This compilation would include inputs from other recipients of the ECLAC questionnaire and would be circulated to the relevant agencies for additional comments.

Those delegations that had not already done so were urged to transmit comments and suggestions to the secretariat to facilitate the development of a further revised Joint Work Programme. A number of agencies had independently undertaken to provide the secretariat with further suggestions in this regard.

**Agenda item 6
Other matters**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

**Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report**

Delegations endorsed the portion of the report that they had the opportunity to examine and agreed that the document would be finalized by the secretariat and disseminated, allowing delegations a period of two weeks to submit comments.

**Agenda item 8
Closure**

Delegations thanked the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for convening the meeting and expressed satisfaction with the documentation that had been presented. They also expressed appreciation for the efforts of Director, Len Ishmael, in directly intervening in issues concerning SIDS and assisting governments over the years to overcome constraints to advance the recognition of SIDS. Delegations reiterated the need for improved collaboration among regional agencies involved in the implementation of the SIDS POA.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of other delegations present, expressed the view that through the efficient work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, Caribbean SIDS were currently in a better position than before.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat thanked delegates for their participation and for the kind sentiments that had been conveyed with respect to her performance over the years. The Chairman then brought the meeting to a close.

Annex 1**List of Participants****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representative

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