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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
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**STATUTES OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BACKGROUND NOTE TO
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The decision of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) at its Second Session in Santo Domingo, March 1977, that the Secretariat should work towards the establishment of a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), was further endorsed and designated a priority action at the Third Session of the CDCC in Belize, April 1978. The Secretariat's activities in carrying out this mandate, supported throughout by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), reached its culmination with the adoption and signing of the Statutes of the CCST at Kingston on 17 April, 1980.

Representatives of eleven participating countries of the CDCC signed the Statutes in the three working languages - English, French and Spanish - thereby setting the stage for pursuing the next steps of operationalising the Council. The signatory countries were Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. By August 1980, instruments of ratification had been deposited by Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The Statutes provide that acceptance or ratification by at least six member countries are needed to permit convening of the first regular session of the CCST.

The CCST is distinctive in that it is a specific definition of an operational mechanism for co-operation and mutual assistance that bridges the language and cultural differences that constitute the Caribbean.

It incorporates features designed to strengthen the national capabilities of the participants in the drive towards higher levels of self-reliance in the Caribbean. Its orientation is to maximize the role of the national institutions, so as to realise the fullest utilization of Caribbean expertise and to ensure that regional co-operation activities accord to the priorities of the participating countries.

Most important of all, the provisions of the Statutes accord with the dictum of the CDCC that co-operation activities should observe the principles of sovereignty, self determination, national independence, mutual benefit, solidarity and non-discrimination on account of differing social, political and economic systems. It is against this background that the countries will co-operate in the mutual transfer of technology and of technological and scientific knowledge, in order to facilitate the adaptation of imported technology and the development of domestic technologies, and to increase the bargaining power of the Caribbean countries in operations involving countries outside the area on these matters.

The CCST is an entirely Caribbean innovation, structured with a high level of decentralization around a 'nucleus' having the functional co-ordinating responsibility. With the Council as the nucleus, and the day-to-day activities effected through the related national institutions, the possibilities are created for mutual support that adds to the capabilities of the national bodies, whether drawn from other participating countries or from the international community. Thus, in assisting the development at both national and regional levels, it avoids the familiar situation of being 'another organization serving as a drain on the limited talent and financial resources of the countries'.

Equally, the CCST has the feature of focussing on co-operation at the practical level, with concentration on those activities that are of greatest common interest and significance to the participating countries. And in doing this, it permits the bringing together of not only the official sectors of Governments, but also the academic communities, professional associations, and productive sectors as appropriate, in the interest of maximizing the utilization of all available resources and know-how. In short, the approach would be to bring collective efforts to bear on the most pressing problems.

STATUTES OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CHAPTER I - ESTABLISHMENT

Article 1

A Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) is hereby constituted in pursuance of decisions of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC).

Article 2

The Council shall promote co-operation in the field of science and technology aimed at furthering the social and economic development of its member countries, including the implementation of provisions of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC to promote efforts to co-operate in the mutual transfer of science and technology in order to facilitate the adaptation of imported technology and the development of domestic technologies and increase the bargaining power of the Caribbean countries in their relations with countries outside the area.

CHAPTER II - OBJECTIVES

Article 3

The Council shall pursue the following specific aims:

- i. to implement CDCC objectives by designing and executing appropriate joint scientific and technological projects, and also advise the CDCC and its member countries on scientific and technological issues requiring attention;
- ii. to identify institutions that could participate in the projects, and establish the mechanisms for co-operation;
- iii. where no relevant institutions exist, to propose measures for the implementation of particular projects;
- iv. to devise procedures for the effective dissemination of the results of Caribbean R+D projects, and their application in member countries;
- v. generally, to promote the establishment and strengthening of appropriate national and Caribbean organs and mechanisms for science and technology development and application.

CHAPTER III - MEMBERSHIP

Article 4

Membership of the Council shall be open to member countries comprising the CDCC.

Article 5

Each member country of the Council is entitled to designate two Council members, one of whom must be a scientist chosen by the respective government from amongst senior officials of national bodies responsible for science and technology policies, or of national science and technology research councils, or, where such bodies do not exist, from amongst leading scientists or engineers in the government sector, the universities, appropriate professional associations or the productive sector. A country may designate only one Council member if it so wishes, in which case he must be a scientist chosen in the manner described above. Voting at meetings shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

Article 6

Council members are appointed by means of government communications addressed to the CDCC Secretariat. Such appointments may be for an indefinite period of time and may be revised at any time

by the government concerned.

Article 7

A government may, if it so wishes, designate an alternate to its Council appointee(s).

Article 8

The Council may establish such specialized committee or ad hoc working groups as may be necessary. These will comprise recognized authorities in the particular field concerned. The Chairman of each such committee or working group shall be appointed by the Council.

CHAPTER IV - OFFICERS

Article 9

The Officers of the Council shall be:

- The Chairman: elected annually at the end of the year's Regular Plenary Session.
- The Vice-Chairman: elected at the end of the year's Regular Plenary Session.
- The Honorary Treasurer: elected at Regular Plenary Session for three years and eligible for re-election.

In electing the officers of the Council, members shall be guided by the principle of equitable geographic distribution.

Article 10

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and one other Council member elected annually at the end of the Regular Plenary Session shall constitute the Council's Executive Committee and represent the Council between the Regular Plenary Sessions provided for in Article 19.

Article 11

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice between Regular Plenary Sessions to review the Council's activities and to consider the Draft Annual Report, the Agenda and the working documents of the next Regular Plenary Session.

Article 12

The Executive Committee shall be competent to act, in the name of the Council in any matter the urgency of which would not permit it to be submitted in sufficient time for consideration of the Council, and it shall report such action to the Council as soon as possible for ratification, informing it of the circumstances and implications.

Article 13

The Vice-Chairman and the Honorary Treasurer, in that order, shall replace the Chairman in all his duties if the latter should be absent from the region or otherwise impaired in the exercise of his duties.

Article 14

Meetings of the Executive Committee are convened by the Executive Secretary provided for in Article 15. In the event that any member of the Executive Committee cannot attend, a Council member will be co-opted by the Executive Secretary to replace him, on the basis of seniority of appointment to the Council.

CHAPTER V - SECRETARIAT

Article 15

The Council shall establish an Executive Secretariat staffed by paid, full-time personnel as might be authorised by succeeding Regular Plenary Sessions. The Secretariat shall be headed by a duly qualified Executive Secretary, and shall be responsible to the Council. The Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Council and its committees.

Article 16

The Secretariat shall:

- i. deal with the day-to-day technical, financial and administrative affairs of the Council;
- ii. maintain links with international governmental and non-governmental organizations as approved by the Council in Regular Plenary Sessions, to which reference is made in Article 17 iii and iv;
- iii. maintain the Council's accounts mentioned under Article 29 hereinafter;
- iv. submit, for approval by the Honorary Treasurer, at least one month before its presentation for acceptance by a Council Plenary Session, the Annual Balance Sheet mentioned in Article 29 hereinafter;
- v. prepare the draft Annual Report and Draft Annual Programme and Budget of the Council;
- vi. prepare all publications, reports, studies, surveys and any other written or audiovisual material required for the Council's operations;

- vii. convene and technically organize all meetings held under the Council's auspices.

CHAPTER VI - OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS

Article 17

To further the attainment of its objectives, the Council may:

- i. institutionalize its operations and draw up an Annual Report and an Annual Programme and Budget;
- ii. conclude appropriate agreements with governments of CDCC members;
- iii. conclude agreements with or establish close working relations with other interested Caribbean regional bodies, universities, scientific and technological organizations and professional associations and societies;
- iv. make arrangements for co-operation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, other entities of the United Nations system, and other appropriate national or international organizations;
- v. make regulations for the conduct of its business;
- vi. institute such other mechanisms as may be consistent with its aims and objectives.

CHAPTER VII - OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS

Article 18

The Council's Work Programme may include:

- i. identification of priority scientific and technological activities suitable for regional co-operation;
- ii. encouragement of the design and adaptation of technology to suit local circumstances;
- iii. advice on the monitoring and control, where appropriate, of the transfer of science and technology;
- iv. devising of measures and appropriate programmes, within selected fields, permitting a better utilization of the internal scientific and technological potential of Caribbean countries with special attention to the contribution of

universities, R+D and technical institutes and scientific organizations or services;

- v. promotion of the use of functional budgeting procedures by governments for scientific and technological activities;
- vi. promotion of measures for enhancing the status of scientific researchers, teaching personnel and other scientific and technological workers;
- vii. action to foster the education and training of specialized scientific and technological auxiliary R+D personnel;
- viii. action to raise the level of public awareness of the implications of science and technology for social and economic development;
- ix. measures to encourage talented and qualified staff to work and remain in the region, thus stemming the exodus of such people to other countries, and to attract Caribbean research scientists and engineers, teaching personnel and other Caribbean scientific and technological workers, for work in the region;
- x. organization of symposia, seminars, workshops and conferences;
- xi. arrangements for the dissemination of the results of its activities through publications and other ways;
- xii. such other activities as may be consistent with its aims and objectives.

CHAPTER VIII - MEETINGS

Article 19

The Council shall meet in Regular Plenary Session once a year in a different member country and the Agenda of such meetings shall include, inter alia: consideration and approval of the previous financial year's Balance Sheet; and of the Council's Draft Annual Report and the Council's Draft Programme and Budget provided for in Article 16 and 29, proposed by the Executive Secretary for the succeeding year.

Article 20

The Council's Annual Report and approved Programme and Budget shall be transmitted to the CDCC and to CDCC Member States.

Article 21

At the request of its Chairman or at least half plus one of its members, the Council may meet in Extraordinary Plenary Session.

Article 22

Regular or Extraordinary Plenary Sessions shall be convened and organized by the Council's Secretariat. Such meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman or the Honorary Treasurer, according to their availability and in that order. Regular Plenary Sessions must be convened with three months prior notice and Extraordinary Plenary Sessions with six weeks notice, stating the Agenda in each case.

Article 23

The First Plenary Session of the Council shall be convened by the CDCC Secretariat, in co-operation with UNESCO as soon as six CDCC member countries have designated their representatives in accordance with the provisions in Articles 5,6,7,31 and 33, thus signifying their wish to form a part of the Council. The First Plenary Session shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and shall conclude with election of the Council's regular officers as provided for in Article 9.

Article 24

Each specialized committee or ad hoc working group shall be chaired by its designated Chairman (cf. Article 8 above) or, in his absence, by a participant designated by the committee or working group concerned.

Article 25

Appropriate regional and international governmental or non-governmental organizations with which the Council has entered into formal working relations may be invited by the Secretariat, with the Executive Committee's prior approval, to designate observers to meetings of the Council, at Plenary Sessions.

Article 26

The Executive Committee shall decide on official representation of the Council at appropriate conferences, meetings or other events related to its aims and work and in which the Council is officially invited to participate. The Executive Committee shall report on its action in this regard, to the Council, at Plenary Sessions.

Article 27

A quorum shall be constituted by a half plus one of the member countries. Each member country shall have a single vote. All decisions at meetings held under the Council's auspices shall be taken

by a simple majority vote of those present and voting. However, proposals for modification of the Statutes must be approved at a Plenary Session by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting, subject to the provision in Article 32 and three months notice having been given to member countries of the proposals for modification, prior to the meeting at which the proposals are to be considered.

CHAPTER IX - FINANCES

Article 28

a) The finances of the Council shall consist of:

- i. Contributions from Member Governments, with additional support from organizations within the United Nations system and other institutions.
- ii. Funds for projects sponsored or launched by the Council, and which qualify for assistance within the framework of activities of organizations of the United Nations system, or any other appropriate international, regional or national organization.

b) The Council may establish a Special Fund for Scientific and Technological Development in the Caribbean, to be used particularly to assist priority R+D projects of an intra-regional nature, within the guidelines set down by the Council. Regulations for the operation of the Special Fund must be laid down by the Council.

Article 29

The Council shall keep proper books of account and prepare an Annual Balance Sheet, properly audited. Funds received and disbursed under the Special Fund referred to in Article 28 b) shall be presented in a separate account.

Article 30

The Council's financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

CHAPTER X - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 31

These Statutes shall be subject to ratification or acceptance by CDDC member countries. Instruments of ratification or acceptance

shall be deposited with the Director of the ECLA/CDCC Office who shall inform all CDCC members of each deposit and the date thereof.

Article 32

Any modifications to these Statutes shall be in accordance with Article 27, and shall be subject to ratification or acceptance by member countries of the Council.

Article 33

These Statutes shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by six CDCC member countries.

Article 34

Until such time as the Council is in a position to establish its own Executive Secretariat, as provided under Article 15, the CDCC Secretariat shall assist in provision of the secretariat services in collaboration with any government or organization specified in Article 17 ii, iii and iv that the Council may designate. The requirement in Article 15 that the Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Council and of all its committees, and that in Article 14 with respect to meetings of the Executive Committee, shall not apply until appointment of the Executive Secretary.

