

BIBLIOTECA NACIONES UNIDAS MEXICO

CONSTITUENT DECLARATION

AND

FUNCTIONS AND RULES

OF PROCEDURE OF THE

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND

CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

UNITED NATIONS



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

C E P A L

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CONSTITUENT DECLARATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Ministers of the countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL Office in Port of Spain and those of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, meeting in the city of Havana from 31 October to 4 November 1975 to inaugurate the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a subsidiary body of CEPAL:

Recognizing that the Caribbean countries share a geographic, cultural and historic proximity that must be taken into account when establishing the forms and mechanisms for co-operation among them, and that they have also inherited similar economic structures and have similarities in the majority of the social and economic problems they face;

Reaffirming that it is necessary to strengthen the unity and co-operation of these countries in order to carry out joint activities that will benefit the sub-region's economic and social development and increase its bargaining power as regards third countries or groupings of countries;

Reiterating that such co-operation constitutes a manifestly useful mechanism for bringing into play the potentialities of the countries of the sub-region with the intention of complementing their economies and achieving

joint policies in such important spheres as trade, the obtaining of financial resources, agriculture, tourism, food, transportation, industry, energy, the transfer of technology and technical know-how, health, education and others;

Recognizing the importance and relevance of the sea and all its resources for the development, co-operation and self-determination of the Caribbean peoples;

Conscious of the pioneering role played by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and continued by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting economic integration within the sub-region;

Confident that economic, political and cultural co-operation among the countries of the Caribbean will contribute to the necessary unity of Latin America;

Convinced that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offers a broad framework for implementing concrete projects and initiatives and for co-ordinating common actions and positions in all fields, thereby facilitating greater identity of interests between the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America;

Emphasizing that it is indispensable to pay special attention, to the relatively less developed and in most cases very small countries of the sub-region;

Affirming that the countries of the Caribbean are essentially raw material producers and should therefore maintain solidarity with the adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with the measures taken by producer associations of developing countries in that regard;

Stressing that all co-operation mechanisms must be guided by the principles of the equality, sovereignty and independence of States, solidarity and mutual benefit, without any discrimination that might arise as a result of differences in political, economic and social systems;

Reaffirming in the spirit of various United Nations resolutions, that the countries of the sub-region have the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure or coercion that might be used against any one of them for having exercised its legitimate rights;

Emphasizing that the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations, must be subject to the aims of development and the national interests of the countries of the sub-region and that it is necessary to exchange information on their activities in the territories of the countries of the Caribbean;

Emphasizing that the execution of joint projects in areas of common interest may be the best way to implement a policy of economic co-operation and complementation among the Caribbean countries;

Recognizing that the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) has vast experience in the field of economic and social co-operation that can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual co-operation beneficial to their economic and social development;

Determined to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of their peoples for development and progress;

Declare their political will and their resolution to:

1. Carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the sub-region, thus promoting its economic and social development and advancing progressively towards better co-ordination of their countries' economies in the future. Based on recognition of the advantages of economic complementation, this policy will give impetus to co-operation among member countries, particularly in the implementation of joint projects, the exchange of experience and mutual aid, and through mechanisms –including trade– which will contribute to this end.

2. Carry out trade analyses, with emphasis on tariffs, customs procedures and other related aspects, with a view to harmonizing and simplifying the mechanisms to promote trade between the countries of the sub-region.

3. Utilize the experience accumulated by CARICOM and other bodies which is of value for the achievement of the aim of co-operation among the Caribbean countries.

4. Analyse the possibility of establishing multinational enterprises within the sub-region, owned and controlled by the Caribbean States and nationals of such States, in fields which are of mutual interests to the Caribbean countries.

5. Implement joint complementation projects in order to facilitate the development and optimum use of the Caribbean countries' human, natural, industrial, technological and financial resources.

6. Co-operate in the field of agriculture, in order to accelerate the development and use of appropriate and efficient techniques in this sector in the Caribbean countries and formulate joint policies promoting the agricultural complementation of the countries of the sub-region.

7. Carry out joint activities for increasing and improving national transportation facilities within the sub-region and with other countries.

8. Facilitate the development of fishing activities in the

sub-region to make them a fundamental factor in import substitution as well as in increasing employment.

9. Examine, in collaboration with those countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL Office in Mexico and the CEPAL Office in Bogotá that have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea, the question of a common Caribbean position on the Law of the Sea aimed specifically at securing international recognition for a special régime for the Caribbean multi-State archipelago within the framework of the new International Convention on the Law of the Sea.

10. Implement joint programme in the field of education and public health and in other areas selected for priority action in the social sectors, at every level, with the aim of promoting the optimum use of the sub-region's scientific knowledge in these fields as well as of its material and human resources.

11. Co-operate in the training and development of the human resources of the sub-region.

12. Co-operate in the field of tourism in order to promote research and other activities of common interest.

13. Co-operate in the strengthening of relations among our countries and peoples by establishing programmes of cultural exchange, including sports.

14. Develop adequate telephone, telegraph, postal and other means of communications within the sub-region.

15. Carry out action aimed at obtaining financial resources from the international community, the governments of the countries of the area, and other sources, for use in common projects for the benefit of the sub-region's economic and social development.

16. 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 increase the bargaining power of the sub-region's countries in operations between the latter and countries outside the area on these matters.

17. Collaborate on the identification and utilization of a complex base of raw materials within the sub-region, especially energy sources and including research on solar energy.

18. Carry out joint programmes and projects aimed at better use and protection of the environment, including the preservation of the flora and fauna of the countries of the Caribbean, as well as their historical monuments and documents.

19. Offer effective economic assistance in cases of emergencies and situations resulting from natural disasters and co-operate in the field of meteorology with a view to reducing the harmful effects of hurricanes and tropical storms to a minimum.

20. Promote the development of activities and projects beyond the scope of this Committee within SELA in order to facilitate more complete identification of the positions and interests of the countries of the Caribbean with the rest of Latin America, recognizing SELA as the proper regional-level framework for co-operation, consultation and co-ordination among the member countries.

21. Observe the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, national independence, mutual benefit, solidarity and non-discrimination on account of differing social, political and economic systems, in all co-operation activities undertaken among the countries of the Caribbean.

22. Exercise solidarity in the face of any type of economic action, pressure or coercion directed against any of the countries of the sub-region that exercise their legitimate right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity; in the face of the actions of transnational corporations which do not observe the aims of economic and social development and do not take into account the interests of those countries; and in favour of the decisions adopted by producer associations of developing countries or groupings of nations, working to achieve equitable and remunerative prices for their products.

23. Co-operate in the adoption of concrete measures aimed at the development of the member countries of the

Committee and promote initiatives to strengthen co-operation among them, aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the present Declaration.

FUNCTIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Chapter I

ORGANIZATION

1. The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee is a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), at the governmental level. As such, the Committee shall report to CEPAL, which in turn shall report to the Economic and Social Council.¹

2. The Committee shall be made up of a Minister designated by each of the countries members of the Commission specified in resolution 358 (XVI), as *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

¹ In conformity with Decision 65 (ORG-75), the Council will not consider any report exceeding 32 pages.

In the event that any of the Ministers is unable to attend a meeting, he may be represented by an accredited alternate representative designated by his Government.

3. The Ministers may be accompanied by such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be designated by their Governments, all with the usual credentials required for international meetings.

Such advisers and experts may represent their respective Ministers, and shall have the right to speak and to vote at any meeting of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

4. The Committee may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned and with the approval of the Commission, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

5. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Minister designated as *ex-officio* member of the Committee by the host country of the session and elected by the Committee. He shall continue as Chairman between one session and the next regular session.

6. If the Chairman of the Committee ceases to be the Minister designated as *ex-officio* member of the Committee by his country, the newly-designated Minister shall replace him as Chairman.

7. At each session the Committee shall also elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who may be Ministers, advisers or experts.

8. The Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Committee in that capacity, and his country shall meanwhile be represented by an alternate delegate.

9. The secretariat of the Committee shall be the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America, acting principally through the sub-regional office in Port of Spain. In the implementation of its work programme, the CEPAL secretariat may co-operate with the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area, including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community and the West Indies Associated States.

Chapter II

FUNCTIONS

10. The functions of the Committee shall be as follows: To act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of CEPAL in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances.

To this end the Committee will:

(a) determine the carrying out of research and studies in connexion with the objectives of advancing towards Caribbean economic integration and co-operation and dealing with social and economic development needs, especially in the relatively less developed countries;

(b) propose to the participating governments concrete measures directed towards the development of the Caribbean area and greater integration of and co-operation among the economies of the Caribbean;

(c) indicate to the secretariat initiatives which should be pursued with a view to strengthening co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the other countries members of CEPAL and integration groupings of countries of the Latin American region;

(d) discuss and propose sub-regional and multinational technical co-operation programmes and projects to be carried out in the area.

Chapter III

SESSIONS

11. The regular sessions of the Committee shall be held once a year.

At these sessions, the *Committee*, in consultation with

the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, shall recommend the date and place of the next session, following the principle of rotation between the member States.

The Executive Secretary of CEPAL shall issue the notice of convocation of these regular sessions.

12. In addition to the annual sessions referred to in the preceding rule, the Committee may hold other meetings, attended by the Ministers of their alternates, when this seems desirable from the standpoint of the continuity of the Committee's work.

In such cases, the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, on his own initiative or at the request of any one of the members, shall issue the necessary notice of convocation, after consultation with the remaining members and in agreement with the Chairman of the Committee.

13. For sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies not covered by budget provisions approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the host country shall cover the cost of interpreters, translators, secretaries, interpretation equipment, mimeographs, meeting rooms, offices and such other facilities as may be necessary for the normal functioning of the meetings. A standard agreement shall be signed between the host country and the Executive Secretary of CEPAL on the administrative arrangements for each session. For all other matters, the host country shall comply with the

principles set down in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

14. Two-thirds of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. Each member shall have one vote. Procedural matters may be decided by simple majority. Substantive matters shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Abstentions from voting shall not affect such majority. Should doubts arise whether a matter is substantive or procedural, the Chairman shall decide after consulting the Vice-Chairmen.

15. In all other respects, the conduct of the discussions and the voting procedure shall be governed by the Rules of Procedures and established practice of the Commission.

Chapter IV

THE SECRETARIAT

16. The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

17. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for meetings in close contact with the Chairman of the Committee and the authorities of the

country serving as the host country for the meeting. At the beginning of each session, he or his representative shall present a report on the work done since the last session. In the periods between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, as far as possible, the governments of participating countries are kept informed of the progress of the work in hand.

18. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that, at least thirty days before the commencement of each session, member governments receive copies of the provisional agenda and of the reports and documents which are to be considered at the session in question.

This rule may be waived in the case of extraordinary meetings.

Chapter V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

19. The working languages of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.

20. Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Committee provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.