March 2000

...in this issue...

FEATURE: CDCC's 25th Anniversary. This article explores the early years of the CDCC and its co-operation with other inter-governmental forums operating in the region, and looks at possibilities for its continued relevance into the new millennium. GO >

The Anguillian tourism sector, while on the steady road to recovery, may still be suffering from the impact of Hurricane Lenny by the end of the year 2000. An ECLAC team examines the impact of Hurricane Lenny on Anguilla. GO >

BOOK: The Caribbean in the Decade of the Nineties. This definitive work attempts to highlight the major economic and social challenges and achievements of countries of the region, during the last decade. GO >

Abstracts and listings of recently produced publications and documents from ECLAC/CDCC. GO >
CDCC: 25 Years of Co-operation and Development

The Eighteenth Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) convened in March 2000. The Year 2000 also marks the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the forum. During the past quarter of a century, since the creation of the CDCC, there have been many changes in both the regional and international political landscape, which have both redounded and been causes of concern to member states.

CLICK HERE for a listing of CDCC member countries...

CLICK HERE for a listing of Past Sessions of the CDCC...

This article explores the early years of the CDCC and its co-operation with other inter-governmental forums operating in the region, and looks at possibilities for its continued relevance into the new millennium.

FOLLOW the links below to read this article...

History | CDCC in the Caribbean | Y2K and beyond

NEXT PAGE: Historical Background

PAGE 1 OF 4 NEXT>>

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS Newsletter by sending mail to focus@eclacpos.org

Copyright © 2000 United Nations ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. All rights reserved. Last modified: July 30, 2001
The CDCC comprises 16 countries with full-member status…

Antigua and Barbuda | Bahamas | Barbados | Belize
Cuba | Dominica | Dominican Republic | Grenada
Guyana | Haiti | Jamaica | Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname | Trinidad and Tobago

…and seven associate members of ECLAC…

Anguilla | Aruba | British Virgin Islands
Montserrat | Netherlands Antilles
Puerto Rico | United States Virgin Islands

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS Newsletter by sending mail to focus@eclacpos.org
In the March 2000, the Eighteenth Session of the CDCC was held at the very venue at which the Committee was inaugurated in 1975, the Chaguaramas Hotel & Convention Centre, Trinidad & Tobago. Following is a listing of past sessions of the CDCC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDCC I</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Havana, Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC II</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC III</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Belize City, Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC IV</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Paramaribo, Suriname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC V</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Kingston, Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC VI</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Technical Session - St. George’s, Grenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC VI</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Ministerial Session - United Nations Headquarters, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC VII</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC VIII</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Port-au-Prince, Haiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC IX</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC X</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XI</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XII</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XIII</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Kingston, Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XIV</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>St. George’s, Grenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XV</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XVI</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Technical Session - Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XVII</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Technical Session - Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XVII</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Ministerial Session - Aruba, Netherlands Antilles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCC XVIII</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS Newsletter by sending mail to focus@eclacpos.org.
Historical Background

Three years after the creation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean again took another bold step towards integration, co-operation and self-determination. In May 1975, at the Sixteenth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (ECLAC), Cuba and Trinidad & Tobago spearheaded an initiative to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as an intergovernmental body that would co-ordinate activities relating to development and co-operation among its member states.

The CDCC was established during a period of considerable international turbulence on the political, as well as economic fronts. It was the period in the immediate aftermath of the first major "oil shock"; amidst a "Cold War" that seemed intractably entrenched. It was also a period of profound, even radical, questioning of the allocation of benefits within the international system and of the structures that were available for international discourse, particularly between the developing countries of the south and their developed counterparts of the North. This was the context in which the concept of a New International Economic Order by countries of the "Third World", a concept that had acquired general currency by that time.

In the context of the Cold War, the incorporation of Cuba into the membership of the CDCC represented a significant development at the regional level, especially bearing in mind that Cuba was also in the vanguard of the movement for the creation of the forum.

The establishment of the CDCC ushered in a period of intense activity and dynamism as member states sought to bring to fruition the ideals set out in the Committee’s newly articulated mission, which was specifically directed to economic and social development through co-operation.

The creation of the Committee also marked a watershed in the management of Caribbean issues within the United Nations system. From that time onward, policies and programmes for the implementation in the Caribbean subregion would be developed and operationalised on the basis of ideas, principles and strategies defined by the subregion itself. Indeed, this drive for recognition of the unique identity of the CDCC countries culminated in 1984 when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) became the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The basic impetus behind the establishment of CDCC was the reality that "the Caribbean countries shared a geographic, cultural and historic proximity" and "have also inherited similar economic structures and have similarities in the majority of the social and economic problems they face". As such, the raison d’être was "to strengthen the unity and co-operation… 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 and groupings of countries".

Those areas identified for achieving joint policies include economic complementarity, trade, obtaining financial resources, agriculture, tourism, transportation, industry, energy, the transfer of technology and technical know-how, health and education.

Since its inception, the CDCC has sought to foster and strengthen technical and economic co-operation among its membership, and between these members and other developing countries. Its activities are carried out under the regular work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which also is the secretariat of the Committee.

As secretariat to the CDCC, ECLAC co-operates with other intergovernmental bodies in the Caribbean area, including the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). While ECLAC and the CDCC are distinct and separate entities, they enjoy a unique relationship. The CDCC serves as a platform for the exchange of experiences and perspectives. As an intergovernmental body, the CDCC provides an essentially political forum for dialogue towards enhanced co-operation in support of the further development of the Caribbean subregion. It is also intended to advance regional integration.

The work programme of the CDCC, for its part, is the vehicle by means of which the benefits of socio-economic development for CDCC member states are explicitly pursued. Whereas the CDCC has had to grapple with constraints over the years, the work programme of ECLAC remained in place. Indeed, ECLAC is regarded as a very important source of technical assistance to member states, in matters related to sustainable development and social issues, among others.
CDCC: 25 Years of Co-operation and Development ... cont’d

CDCC and selected inter-governmental organisations in the Caribbean

- Interactions among the CDCC membership

At the governmental level, a number of Agreements have been concluded among CDCC members, covering such areas as trade, diplomatic relations, and technical assistance, among others. Many of these agreements have been concluded at the bilateral or subregional level.

These include the Free Trade Agreement signed in March 2000 between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic, the result of roughly four years of negotiation.

In addition, CARICOM states, Haiti and the Dominican Republic participate in CARIFORUM; the mechanism generated by the European Union for the conduct of its technical assistance programmes in the Caribbean.

The wider Caribbean region provides the locus of a number of integration movements. Among these are:

1. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which incorporates the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS),
2. The Latin American Economic System (SELA); and
3. The Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

- The CDCC and CARICOM

The CDCC has always worked closely with CARICOM, as a direct result, inter alia, of the considerable overlap of the membership of both entities. The fact that the impetus for the creation of the CDCC arose from within the CARICOM membership might also be relevant in this regard.

This close working relationship was formalised in 1995, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation between both institutions. The Memorandum provides for, inter alia, co-operation, consultation, exchange of information, reciprocal representation at meetings and joint implementation of projects. Invitations to participate in selected meetings of each entity are extended on a reciprocal basis.

- CDCC and SELA

The Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, as well as the Panama Convention by virtue of which SELA was established, were adopted in 1975. CDCC member states have expressed the view that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) offered a broad framework for implementing concrete projects and initiatives, as well as for co-ordinating common actions and positions in all fields, thus facilitating greater identity of interests between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America.

Over the years, since the forum’s inauguration, Ministers of the CDCC member countries have re-stated their resolve to promote the development of activities and projects beyond the scope of the CDCC, within SELA, which was recognised as an appropriate regional-level framework for co-operation, consultation and co-ordination among the member countries.

Collaboration between these two bodies has continued over the years. One of the more tangible examples of this is the Roundtable on “External Relations in the Caribbean in the next Millennium”, which was organised in October 1998. The Roundtable, organised by SELA, was hosted at the Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC/CDCC.

- The CDCC and the ACS

The establishment of the ACS in 1995 has served only to provide new opportunities for collaboration among Caribbean countries and the various regional forums, as they embark upon programmes geared towards sustainable development in an effort to enhance the well being of their peoples. The close involvement of the ECLAC/CDCC in the development of the ACS, is yet another example of its willingness to collaborate and co-operate with the major inter-governmental agencies of the wider Caribbean. The significant overlap of the membership of these bodies and also of their work programmes provides a sound basis for co-operation, which is already in progress in a number of significant areas of mutual interest.
CDCC into the new millennium

The increasing number of processes and initiatives towards further integration in the Caribbean region, offer new and exciting opportunities for regional collaboration and co-operation. For example, the fact that the CDCC and ACS often have overlapping mandates provides the perfect environment for the exploitation and realisation of synergies between both forums.

Additional reasons why the Committee remains relevant to the regional integration process include the following:

1. The full integration of Cuba into the region, as evidenced by the establishment of diplomatic relations with that country by all independent members of the CDCC.
2. The general intensification of "Caribbean-Latin American relations", in the context of a wider ECLAC membership.
3. The recognition, on the part of the CDCC membership of the continuing relevance of an organisation of its type in the regional context, as well as in the context of the United Nations which can, among other things, bring to bear an objective perspective on development issues in the region.
4. The critical role entrusted to the ECLAC/CDCC in the implementation of the SIDS Plan of Action (SIDSP/OA) and similar outcomes of other "World Conferences". This implies an enhanced role for the CDCC, both in the aggregation of national interests and priorities into regional positions for articulation at the global level, and in the translation of decisions taken at the global level into concrete action at the regional and, even, national level.
5. The strategic role that can be played by the organisation as a forum which is smaller than the ACS, that is, specific to the needs of the insular Caribbean, but more inclusive than CARICOM.
6. The forum provided by the CDCC for the exchange of experiences among its membership, recognising that while not all small States are "small" in the same way, they nevertheless, share a unique range of problems.
7. The access provided to a number of non-independent countries and territories to a regional inter-governmental organisation in which full recognition is given to their concerns and their general participation. Such access also facilitates direct participation in a number of global forums.

In response to an unprecedented level of requests within the recent past, the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat has provided invaluable technical assistance in a number of strategic areas to member States, within the limits of its resources. Such assistance has included the execution of projects in areas spanning the strengthening of statistical offices; preparation of regional officials for FTAA negotiations; the execution of studies on specific economic and social sectors; and the evaluation of the impact of natural disasters.

These interventions serve to underscore the continuing relevance of the CDCC, in areas that impact directly and favourably, on the sustainable development prospects of its membership, and the welfare of the people of the region.
The Anguillian tourism sector, while on the steady road to recovery, may still be suffering from the impact of Hurricane Lenny by the end of the year 2000.

This is the prognosis from a recent ECLAC study, carried out on behalf of the Government of Anguilla.

Between December 12 and 17 1999, officers from ECLAC’s Subregional Headquarters in Mexico and Port-of-Spain conducted a fact finding mission, as a co-operative effort, in response to a request from the Government of Anguilla to evaluate the economic, social and environmental impact of Hurricane Lenny on this country.

According to the findings of the mission, substantial infrastructure works are still required, and restoration of beaches will require some time. Much work has already taken place, but full economic recovery is still far off.

FOLLOW the links below to read more on this article...
Lenny, the hurricane

Hurricane Lenny was an atypical hurricane, which developed in the Caribbean Sea late in the season. Its late season strength was not its only unusual feature; it also followed an unprecedented path. The tropical system advanced from the southwest, making its track toward the islands a once-in-a-century event.

Typically, when a tropical system forms at that time of year in the Caribbean, it heads straight north and rarely makes it to hurricane status. However, Lenny made its way across the Caribbean Sea by moving in an atypical west-to-east pattern, which saw it start on the northern coast of Venezuela and move east-northeast toward Puerto Rico and the northern Lesser Antilles.

Furthermore, when Lenny reached the Northern Leeward Islands, movement was stalled and the hurricane remained practically stationary within the Anguilla – St. Maarten – St. Barts area.

Lenny has been classed as a ‘wet’ hurricane. From 8 a.m. on 17 November till 10 a.m. on 20 November 1999, rainfall amounted to 489 mm (19.28 inches). Hurricane José, which preceded Hurricane Lenny, was also a ‘wet’ hurricane. Because of the passing of Hurricane José, the soils in the islands were already loosened and saturated and facilitated the widespread flooding which followed the rainfall from Lenny.

Since 1995, hurricane activity in the Caribbean has intensified. This most recent disaster – Hurricane Lenny -- is part of a series of similar calamities which affected the region in 1999 especially. Prior to Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn in 1995, Anguilla had not suffered a direct hit from a major hurricane (category 3 or above) since Donna in 1960.
The damage

According to the report, storm surges and swells, together with rainfall, resulted in severe flooding, and caused most of the damage to the island’s infrastructure and environment.

Dead and decaying animals, solid waste, sewage, as well as fertilisers and pesticides, among others, contaminated flooded areas. The foundations of several properties were exposed and made more vulnerable by the erosion of beach and dune systems. Even in those cases where there was no direct infrastructural damage, because the coastline has retreated inland, many properties have been rendered much more vulnerable to future hurricane damage, or even the ordinary winter swells.

While all sectors of the Anguillan economy have experienced damage, it is mainly the hotel and restaurant sector which has seen its productive capacity being impaired for much of this year.

Tourism is particularly important to Anguilla. The contribution of hotels and restaurants, which forms only part of the tourism industry, to GDP is about 32 per cent, and travel comprises about 73 per cent of the export of goods and services. Given the island’s dependence on tourism, this impairment of capacity is expected to have repercussions throughout the economy.
The Impact of Hurricane Lenny on Anguilla ... cont'd

Introduction  |  The hurricane  |  The damage  |  The impact  |  The way forward

The Impact on Anguilla's tourism sector

Tourism development began only since the early 1980s, growing from a low 6,498 tourist arrivals in 1981, to 43,705 in 1994. Much of the infrastructure and superstructure development on the island took place during a period in which hurricane activity was below normal. The figure below shows the number of visitors to the island between 1992 and 1999, prior to Hurricane Lenny.

Estimated Loss in Tourism Earnings (US$ million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Season</td>
<td>High Season</td>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>Low Season</td>
<td>High Season</td>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>TOTAL LOSSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Mission estimates.

In examining the impact on employment in the tourism industry, the immediate effect is that employed hotel staff will face a cut in their earnings, because of the loss in service charges. Many hotels on the island have made efforts to retain their full time staff. For the year 2000, it is estimated that the loss of earnings as a result of reduced service charges may exceed EC$2 million.

The Anguilla Government may also find its earnings substantially reduced for various reasons, until the economy picks back up. A reduced tourism plant means less accommodation for visitors, which also translates into reduced revenues from both accommodation and departure taxes. In addition, the government's move to extend duty free privileges on imports for reconstruction of the tourism sector means that its collection of import duties – an important component of its recurrent revenue – will be quite reduced.

For the year 2000, it is estimated that the loss of earnings as a result of reduced service charges may exceed EC$2 million.

Before Hurricane José and particularly Lenny, the outlook for 1999 was favourable, with tourist arrivals running at a 12.4 per cent higher for the January-September period as compared with the same period in 1998. With the December 1999 opening of a major hotel development, and the subsequent expansion of the island’s room capacity, the prospects were for a 13 to 14 per cent higher tourist arrivals in 1999 as compared with 1998. Despite the two hurricanes, total tourist arrivals grew by 6.63 per cent to 46,782. At 1998 prices, the anticipated 1999 total visitor expenditures would have been about 12 per cent above the 1998 level, or roughly US$26.9 million (EC$71.5 million).

The occurrence of Hurricane Lenny late in the year had two immediate impacts, which made the circumstances different from the impact of Luis in 1995. Firstly, the reconstruction period carried further into the high season. Secondly, beaches that had been eroded had loss opportunity to recover, and costly immediate beach restoration works (dredging) became necessary.

The table below shows the number of visitors to the island between 1992 and 1999,

In terms of lost tourism earnings, the mission’s projections are that total losses might be in the vicinity of US$26.9 million (EC$71.5 million). The following table, based on Mission estimates, illustrates this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Season</td>
<td>High Season</td>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>Low Season</td>
<td>High Season</td>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>TOTAL LOSSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Mission estimates.

In examining the impact on employment in the tourism industry, the immediate effect is that employed hotel staff will face a cut in their earnings, because of the loss in service charges. Many hotels on the island have made efforts to retain their full time staff. For the year 2000, it is estimated that the loss of earnings as a result of reduced service charges may exceed EC$2 million.

The Anguilla Government may also find its earnings substantially reduced for various reasons, until the economy picks back up. A reduced tourism plant means less accommodation for visitors, which also translates into reduced revenues from both accommodation and departure taxes. In addition, the government’s move to extend duty free privileges on imports for reconstruction of the tourism sector means that its collection of import duties – an important component of its recurrent revenue – will be quite reduced.

The table below shows the number of visitors to the island between 1992 and 1999,
Apart from Anguilla, other tourism-dependent economies in the region have become more and more vulnerable with each passing hurricane and tropical storm. The incidence of Hurricane Lenny has served to highlight the defencelessness of the smaller islands in the face of such natural disasters. With the region possibly entering a period of high hurricane intensities, Caribbean governments need to focus on reducing their countries’ vulnerability to this type of disaster, especially.

The main effects of this type of natural disaster are flooding in low-lying areas, land slippage, as well as beach and coastal erosion. A combination of effectively adhered to land use policies, economic instruments and island-wide coastal zone management programmes could be amongst the options to reduce these types of exposure.

In addition to disaster mitigation initiatives, these economies also need to explore economic diversification and new sources of government revenue, to reduce their dependence on one economic activity. Among the options that could be explored are offshore-related activities, e-commerce, and other opportunities offered by the overall process of globalisation.
The Caribbean in the Nineties

ECLAC looks at the major economic and social issues in the 1990s and how these have shaped the future of the region

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will be publishing, later this year, The Caribbean in the Decade of the Nineties. This definitive work attempts to highlight the major economic and social challenges and achievements of countries of the region, during the last decade. Following are extracts from this publication.

The mostly small island States of the Caribbean display a number of characteristics which, although common, to some of the larger developing countries tend to put them at a greater disadvantage in their economic and social development efforts. Resource limitations and problems related to smallness and remoteness are among the main factors impacting on the economic performance, sectoral specialisation and vulnerabilities of the small island States. These countries are highly dependent on trade with the ratio of trade to GDP above 100 per cent, in many instances. Their markets are small and their exports are highly concentrated in a narrow range of products and services and markets. Their geographical location makes them particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and pressures of population and economic activity within a limited land space seriously threaten their fragile ecosystems. The development of these countries has been taking place in an increasingly integrated world economy, marked by progressively higher trade and financial flows and increasing competition.

Caribbean countries have undertaken major economic and social reforms in the 1980s and 1990s. These included macroeconomic reforms to correct the balance of payments and fiscal deficits, which had developed in the latter part of the 1970s and early 1980s, and to stabilize the economy. They also included trade and financial reforms to open the economies further and take advantage of the opportunities available in the increasingly liberalized world economy. In addition, increased focus continued to be put on issues related to social equity. Foremost among these were the efforts made to increase employment, improve access to health and education and alleviate poverty, especially in those Caribbean countries which had experienced slow growth or political instability in the decade under review.

Efforts were also made to improve gender equity in the subregion through the implementation of policies and programmes to improve the social and economic status of women, especially in the improvement of women's access to education. However, other issues of social equity, such as poverty alleviation, better access to education and health, are still among the challenges facing the Caribbean. Migration and population growth continued to modify the characteristics of Caribbean population. Other demographic dynamics, including the ageing of the population and their socio-economic implications will continue to require the adoption and implementation of appropriate population policies as well as a major restructuring of the social services, including education, health and social security systems.

The adoption of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS POA) in 1994 focused the attention of governments in the subregion and the world community on the need to preserve the fragile environment of these mostly island States, and adopt sustainable development policies where economic, environmental and social issues are addressed simultaneously. Although there has been progress in some countries, the Caribbean subregion still needs, with the assistance of the international community, to put into place a range of concrete programmes and projects, for the further and more effective implementation of the SIDS POA.

In the 1990s, economic growth generally resumed in those countries, that is, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and the Dominican Republic, after contraction in the 1980s. Growth also continued, although at lower rates in those countries, such as the OECS, whose economies grew at high rates in the 1980s. These economic gains remain fragile, however, given the structure of the economies and their lack of diversification and can disappear very quickly as a result of a hurricane or a decline in the foreign exchange earnings from the main export commodities, i.e. bananas in the OECS. The long-standing objective of diversifying the Caribbean economy remains to be achieved despite progress made in some countries, like Trinidad and Tobago. The moderate rates of growth have not been able to generate enough employment to absorb the labour force seeking employment.

The challenges facing the countries in the next decade include the maintenance of macroeconomic stability, the transformation of production structures with improved productivity, the move towards environmental sustainability, improved income distribution and the improvement in the performance and accountability of governments.

FOLLOW these links to read more highlights from the Report:

- trade performance
- macroeconomic performance
- unemployment
- changing social structures
- poverty
- environment
- information technology

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS Newsletter by sending mail to focus@eclacpos.org.

Copyright © 2000 United Nations ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. All rights reserved. Last modified: July 30, 2001.
TRADE PERFORMANCE

At the end of the 1990s, Caribbean exports continued to be highly concentrated and vulnerable to price fluctuations and the trade policy changes in their main destination countries. Oil and petrochemicals continued to dominate the exports of Trinidad and Tobago while sugar, bananas, and tourism remained the major exports of the OECS countries and Belize. Guyana continued to export mainly rice, sugar and bauxite, while Barbados remained heavily dependent on the exports of tourism services. In addition to bananas, Jamaican exports are still dominated by tourism, clothing and apparel manufacturing.

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

In the 1990s the economic performance of Caribbean countries varied a great deal. Countries, such as Haiti, Cuba, Dominica and the French portion of Martinique, experienced negative average growth rates. Also, growth in the OECS countries and Belize slowed somewhat compared with previous performance in the 1980s. The other hand, there was a marked slowdown in a number of Caribbean economies and the trend towards a net debt of 1 billion dollars either ongoing or planned.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The fluctuating and moderate growth rates achieved by the countries in the Caribbean region have not been sufficient to bring the labour force employment rate to levels that are consistent with the potential of the population. The challenge for the region will continue to be how to use these and other advantages to guarantee an excellent telecommunications infrastructure. The challenge for the region will continue to be how to use these and other advantages to guarantee an excellent telecommunications infrastructure. The challenge for the region will continue to be how to use these and other advantages to guarantee an excellent telecommunications infrastructure.

CHANGING SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Significant changes in the social structures of Caribbean countries, which have been driven by changes in population growth, urbanization and the increasing negative effects of HIV/AIDS. The region has experienced new growth rates in the 1990s. The marked slowdown in economic growth achieved by the countries in the Caribbean region. At the beginning of 1999, the Caribbean region had a generally higher average growth rate of 18 per cent over the period 1994/99 than in the 1980s. The marked slowdown in economic growth achieved by the countries in the Caribbean region. At the beginning of 1999, the Caribbean region had a generally higher average growth rate of 18 per cent over the period 1994/99 than in the 1980s.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The 1990s saw acceleration in the awareness of the importance of coastal zone management, mostly based on the recognition that the issues of past negligence in this area remain relatively high in the Caribbean throughout the decade. In 1990, unemployment rate for all the Caribbean countries were in double digits except for Antigua and Barbuda. The incidence of unemployment varied among the various subgroups of the population, but it is not to be underestimated that young people are not just part of the problem. Despite these significant strides, the Caribbean countries continued to face economic growth rates were somewhat high and there were no major problems of land-based sources of pollution (mostly sewerage) and beach stabilisation. Land-based sources of pollution remain areas of concern.

POVERTY

The marked slowdown in a number of Caribbean economies and the subsequent restructuring and adjustment may have resulted in increasing levels of poverty in some countries. The impact of past negligence in this area remains relatively high in the Caribbean throughout the decade. In 1990, unemployment rate for all the Caribbean countries were in double digits except for Antigua and Barbuda. The incidence of unemployment varied among the various subgroups of the population, but it is not to be underestimated that young people are not just part of the problem. Despite these significant strides, the Caribbean countries continued to face economic growth rates were somewhat high and there were no major problems of land-based sources of pollution (mostly sewerage) and beach stabilisation. Land-based sources of pollution remain areas of concern.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Despite these significant strides, the Caribbean region has yet not arrived at a point where the full potential of the Internet and other modern information technologies is being fully exploited. Whether or not the Caribbean region is able to exploit the full potential of information technologies is being fully exploited. Whether or not the Caribbean region is able to exploit the full potential of information technologies is being fully exploited.

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS Newsletter by sending mail to focus@un.org.
Programme for science and technology management in the Caribbean

LC/CARG-057; CS/CFT-1994; 30 p.
Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1999

This document presents economic priorities of the CARICOM member states and examines the Walker path of the Caribbean. The role of sustainable technology is re-examined in the region of the Caribbean where problems arise related to land use, population distribution and natural disasters. Emphasis is placed on initiatives in marine resources and the discipline of a country's financial positions and economic welfare which guarantee the sustainability and complement liberalization with prudent supervision of regional integration and sectoral development. It is recommended that countries pursue policies aimed at reforming their economies and industries are examined as well. The relationship between culture and technology is also explored.

Economic profiles of Caribbean countries

LC/CARG-072; 69 p.
Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1999 ; Bbls.

This document presents the economic profiles of the following Caribbean countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Canada (Caribbean provinces), Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States Virgin Islands and the Virgin Islands (British). The information is summarized in four sections: a) economic status (basic economic indicators, economic activity, fiscal operations, external debt and balance of payments); b) industrial sectoral activity; c) the role of science and technology in regional development; and d) scientific and technological institutions.

The report also discusses the current financial crisis and its potential for disrupting or enhancing the Caribbean region's development. The study also highlights the current situation of the financial and economic policies of the countries in 1999. The countries studied in this report are Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. The evolution of these countries is examined and the prospects for financial globalization are discussed. The report is divided into three main sections: a) the macroeconomic policies of the countries in the 1990s; b) the role of science and technology in regional development; and c) the role of science and technology in the development of the Caribbean region.

Globalization of financial markets: implications for the Caribbean

LC/CARG-059 ; 5 p.
Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1999

The report assesses the implications of financial globalization for the Caribbean region. It examines the potential impacts on financial stability, economic growth, and poverty reduction, as well as the challenges facing policymakers in diversifying and strengthening the region's financial systems. The report also analyzes the role of science and technology in promoting economic development and fostering innovation in the Caribbean region.

The report analyzes the potential impacts of financial globalization on the financial stability, economic growth, and poverty reduction in the Caribbean region. It also examines the challenges facing policymakers in diversifying and strengthening the region's financial systems.

Reformation of the inter-agency collaborative group meeting preparatory to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD/POA) and the meeting on the examination of the follow-up to the Rio Summit in the context of sustainable development.

LC/CARG-090 ; 14 p.
Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1999

The report focuses on the reformation of the inter-agency collaborative group meeting preparatory to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD/POA) and the meeting on the examination of the follow-up to the Rio Summit in the context of sustainable development. It also examines the progress made in the implementation of the WSSD and the social development agenda in the Caribbean region.

Globalization of financial markets: implications for the Caribbean

LC/CARG-059 ; 30 p.
Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1999

The report focuses on the reformation of the inter-agency collaborative group meeting preparatory to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD/POA) and the meeting on the examination of the follow-up to the Rio Summit in the context of sustainable development. It also examines the progress made in the implementation of the WSSD and the social development agenda in the Caribbean region.

Please share your questions or comments about FOCUS CSR by sending mail to focus@eclacpos.org.