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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE
(CDCC)**

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PART I

LIST OF MAJOR DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following decisions and recommendations emanated from the discussions of the meeting:

Agenda item 4: Consideration of the Report of the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

- The meeting report was unanimously adopted.

Agenda item 5: Redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean Regional Development

- The meeting stressed the need to strengthen links with SELA.
- The meeting stressed the need for collaboration with CARICOM, SICA, OLADE and ACS.
- The regular financial budget of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean should be optimized and attention directed towards securing extrabudgetary funding.
- CDCC meetings should be used to forge a common Caribbean position for presentation at major United Nations conferences.
- CDCC should continue to serve strictly as an intergovernmental forum for the benefit of the member and associate member countries.
- CDCC should examine the situation of middle-income countries in the subregion.
- The focus of the CDCC should be on traditional knowledge and genetic resources, as well as on patents and trademarks.
- The creative industries and intellectual property are also attractive areas for foreign direct investment and joint ventures between Caribbean and Latin American countries; the focus should be on traditional knowledge and genetic resources, as well as on patents and trademarks.
- Relations with institutions such as MERCOSUR should be strengthened.

Agenda item 8: Report of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)

- The meeting approved the work programme of TAC.
- The meeting also agreed that the next meeting of TAC will be convened one day before the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee in 2009.

Agenda item 9: Public-private partnerships for development – a Caribbean perspective

- Public-private partnerships (akin to the social partnership model in Barbados) should be formally embedded in the Caribbean tourism development strategy.
- Public-private alliances should be explored as a model for addressing development challenges in the region.

Agenda item 10: Impact of the United States subprime crisis in the Caribbean

- The region needs to devise practical solutions to problems in the tourism sector.
- There is further need to promote and diversify tourism links between the Caribbean and Latin America.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programmes

- ECLAC subprogramme 12, on subregional activities in the Caribbean, should be made more flexible in order to respond to the current needs of the subregion.
- Studies on the Millennium Development Goals, and migration and remittances should be conducted by regional agencies.
- Climate change and its impact on tourism, as well as renewable energy, particularly biofuels and solar energy, are important areas to be examined by ECLAC.
- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should partner with UNEP to study the cumulative impact of natural disasters.
- Further work should be undertaken on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcomes of summits and conferences, and how they affect middle-income countries.
- The CDCC should promote awareness for strengthening the status of the associate member countries in the coming biennium.

**Agenda item 12: Climate change, vulnerability and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean
– High-level panel discussion**

- Further work should be carried out in the areas of geographic information systems, vulnerability assessment and capacity-building.
- Risk reduction efforts by developing countries must take into account the joint responsibility of industrialized nations in the face of increasing man-made threats.
- Disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as public and private investment policies, must be mainstreamed in national development planning.
- The information media, industry, the scientific community and the private sector should be actively involved throughout the disaster-mitigation cycle.

Agenda item 13: Consideration of applications for associate membership of the CDCC

- The meeting agreed to admit the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of CDCC.

Agenda item 14: Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee

- The next meeting of the Monitoring Committee should be held at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. The secretariat should consult with the Chair and member countries to decide on a date for the meeting.

PART II

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the session

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the twenty-second session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at the ministerial level in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 22 and 23 April 2008.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles and Puerto Rico. Turks and Caicos Islands, an associate member of ECLAC, was also present at the meeting. The list of participants appears as an annex to this report.

Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the session: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Secretary of the Commission and senior staff from ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the ECLAC Office in Washington were in attendance.

Agenda item 1 - Opening statements

The representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, welcomed all participants to the twenty-second session of CDCC. She applauded the contributions of Dr. Eric Williams and Dr. Fidel Castro, whose vision had resulted in the establishment of the CDCC and noted the pivotal role which the Committee had played over the previous 30 years in providing a forum for intraregional discourse and the axis for cooperation in achieving the development priorities. She welcomed the attempt currently being made to revitalize CDCC and transform it into a more dynamic and collaborative forum.

In addressing the main topics for consideration by the meeting, she noted that public-private partnerships could have a significant impact not only on poverty reduction, but also in the field of the environment. The inherent vulnerabilities of the Caribbean to natural disasters and climate change were evident. Indeed, the effects of climate change were already being experienced in the region in the form of rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Adequate preparations must be made to mitigate and, where possible, reverse those effects in order to increase resilience at the national, regional and global levels.

The Honourable Minister spoke of the formidable, but not insurmountable challenges that the region confronted, namely transnational crime, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, rising food prices and called for urgent measures to combat these problems.

Minister Gopee-Scoon observed that a proactive approach to ongoing United Nations reform was needed and would require CDCC to put its own house in order to ensure that resources were utilized efficiently and that countries had the necessary support to achieve their development objectives in a changing global and regional environment.

In closing, the Honourable Minister urged member countries to take up the mantle of leadership and recommit their support and resources to CDCC as a matter of priority.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Mr. Neil Pierre, welcomed participants and provided a brief summary of the CDCC mandate. He said that the twenty-second session, coinciding as it did with the sixtieth anniversary of ECLAC, provided an opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the work of CDCC and its secretariat in the region. The stage for the deliberations of the current session was set by the outcomes of the discussions of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the follow-up of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

He outlined the major challenges the region would have to face in the area of economic development. Countries would need to put practical short-term measures in place, such as means-tested food subsidies for the most vulnerable citizens in the region, to cushion the effects of the unanticipated hike in food prices; devise strategies to mitigate the potential adverse fall-out of recession in the United States occasioned by the effects of the subprime mortgage crisis; address the fiscal imbalances and high levels of indebtedness affecting a number of Caribbean countries; fashion a strategic and Caribbean-wide response, which should be developed in close collaboration with regional and global partners; and tackle at the root the high levels of crime, poverty and youth alienation through evidence-based policies and programmes that would contribute to sustainable development in the region.

In reassessing the policies and options available to countries in the pursuit of their development goals (beyond merely economic requirements), development policies should take into account socio-political, environmental and technological considerations and trade-offs.

Policy makers should recall that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all prescription for development, but that development was highly dependent on country and regional circumstances.

In closing, the Director said that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat stood ready to provide the critical support and objective analyses needed to meet those challenges and come up with joint approaches for their solution. He thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the meeting and representatives of all other countries and institutions for participating.

The Secretary of the Commission, Ms. Laura Lopez, extended greetings to participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr. Jose Luis Machinea, and thanked the countries for their continued support in helping to advance the development process in the region. In reflecting on the impact of the Commission's work in the past, she said that ECLAC had played a critical role in shaping the approach to post-war economic and social development. In the Caribbean, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters had been recognized for its applied research in numerous areas and had been instrumental in refining the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology for use in the wider region. The Port of Spain office was also well respected for its training programmes for upgrading the services provided by the Documentation Centre and for the recent addition of the Knowledge Management Centre.

ECLAC fully supported the initiative to improve the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of CDCC as a springboard for improving coordination with Caribbean partners. The thirty-second session of the Commission to be held in a country belonging to the Caribbean family of nations, the Dominican Republic, would be a vital forum on current and future priorities and she urged countries to seize the opportunity to articulate their position on priority activities and the support required to advance Caribbean development in the forthcoming biennium. The main document to be presented at the session, *Changing Production Patterns 20 Years Later: Old Problems, New Opportunities*, would examine the role of public-private partnerships in the development process in the light of the comparative experiences of different countries and regions, including those of the Caribbean, and in terms of how such alliances could be brought to the forefront of export development models.

The Commission would continue to advocate greater degrees of freedom for countries in determining their development options. In that regard, reforms and restructuring would need to be sequenced in such a manner as to allow countries to benefit from linkages with the global economy and to build up their competitiveness, even as they opened up to trade and financial flows; to enable them to carve a niche for themselves especially in light manufactures and services; and to call for technical assistance and trade facilitation support for countries to realize some of the trade and investment gains anticipated by the Doha Development Round. In concluding, she assured participants of the Executive Secretary's pledge of continued support for the work of advancing Caribbean development.

Agenda item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

The following agenda was adopted for the twenty-second session of CDCC:

1. Opening statements
2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Procedural matters and organization of work
4. Consideration of the Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee
5. Redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development
6. Update by the ECLAC secretariat on preparations for the Thirty-second Session of the Commission, Dominican Republic, 9-13 June 2008
7. Consideration of matters of special interest to member countries of the CDCC: Status of resolutions adopted by the CDCC and issues considered by organs of the United Nations
8. Report of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)
9. Public-private partnerships for development – A Caribbean perspective
10. Impact of the United States subprime crisis in the Caribbean
11. Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programmes
 - (a) Report on the implementation of the 2006-2007 work programme
 - (b) Preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 work programme
 - (c) Consideration and adoption of the draft work programme for the 2010-2011 biennium
12. Climate change, vulnerability and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean – High-level panel discussion
13. Consideration of applications for associate membership of the CDCC
14. Date and venue of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee
15. Other matters
16. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the twenty-second Session of the CDCC
17. Adoption of decisions and resolutions
18. Closure of meeting.

Agenda item 3 - Procedural matters and organization of work

The Bureau was elected as follows:

Chair: Trinidad and Tobago

Vice-Chairs: First Vice-Chair – Barbados

Second Vice-Chair – Turks and Caicos Islands
Third Vice-Chair – Cuba

Rapporteur: Puerto Rico.

Agenda item 4 - Consideration of the Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

The secretariat made a brief presentation on the outcome of the thirteenth Meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee, which had been held in Port of Spain from 23 to 24 August 2007. The report of that meeting, as contained in document LC/CAR/L.132 (10 September 2007), was adopted unanimously.

Agenda item 5 – Redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development

The Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Economic Development of Barbados, presented document LC/CAR/L.163 entitled *Report of the CDCC Working Group: Redefining and Revitalizing the Role of the CDCC in Caribbean Regional Development*. The report is the culmination of four meetings of the Working Group that were convened during the period December 2007 to March 2008.

The Minister recalled that delegates attending the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of CDCC (23-24 August 2007, Trinidad and Tobago) agreed to the establishment of a Working Group to explore ways of improving the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the Committee. The need for the establishment of the Working Group arose out of the recognition that CDCC had been handicapped by the following: (i) a loss of its original vision and mission as a result of its changing operational context; (ii) institutional overload in the regional institutional architecture as a result of the deepening of CARICOM and the creation of the ACS; (iii) difficulties in securing high-level representation at meetings; and (iv) continuing concerns by the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean about their lack of representation/inclusion in the work of the wider ECLAC system.

The presentation explored the outcome of previous consultations on the matter and explained the rationale for the initiative to redefine and revitalize CDCC for a more effective role in regional development. Achieving greater coherence, collaboration and effectiveness in the regional work of United Nations agencies and the Caribbean regional partners was also seen as an urgent goal.

The Honourable Minister's presentation was followed by a general debate on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Working Group's report.

The representative of Cuba commended the Working Group for its work in preparing a forward-looking report, which he supported wholeheartedly. He stressed the need to strengthen links with the Latin American Economic System (SELA) (which might itself be entering a period

of revitalization) and collaborative ties with CARICOM, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and ACS; to optimize the regular financial budget of ECLAC and extrabudgetary funding (United Nations agencies, donor countries, funds, etc.) with the greatest impact on vulnerable Caribbean countries; and to ensure that CDCC meetings were used to forge a common Caribbean position for presentation at major United Nations conferences. He sought clarification as to how the strategic guidelines adopted at the twenty-first session of CDCC would be implemented. He also underscored the need to examine the integration processes being carried out in Latin America and assess their impact on the Caribbean.

The representative of Guyana said that CDCC should continue to serve as an intergovernmental forum for the benefit of the member and associate member countries. She, therefore, could not support the recommendation for broadening the membership of the Committee to include representatives of civil society and the private sector. She expressed the view that the proposed expansion of the Committee's membership did not necessarily mean that it would be any more effective. Nonetheless, she felt that there was ample scope for consultations with such representatives.

The representative of Barbados underscored her support for the full complement of the Working Group's recommendations and said that CDCC should set up negotiation platforms and advocacy groups to promote the Caribbean's specific interests in the United Nations. In particular, the Committee should create a negotiating platform for the developmental concerns of middle-income developing countries; establish an interest-based alliance of countries which had complied with the majority of the Millennium Development Goals (that is Goals-plus countries), and, in that connection, contemplate the formulation of a regional human development index; identify strategic areas where the development partners had not complied with their responsibilities under the internationally agreed development goals; and formulate a viable vulnerability index.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles suggested that the creative industries and intellectual property also qualified as attractive areas for foreign direct investment and joint ventures between Caribbean and Latin American countries. In his view, the focus should be on traditional knowledge and genetic resources, as well as on patents and trademarks. He also stressed the need to strengthen relations with institutions such as MERCOSUR. He commended the report of the CDCC Working Group and emphasized that the Netherlands Antilles fully approved of the significant role a revitalized and redefined CDCC had to play in the development process of Caribbean countries.

The meeting commended the Working Group for the excellent report and requested the secretariat to prepare an implementation plan to include a timeframe for follow-up and to report to the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Agenda item 6 - Update by the ECLAC secretariat on preparations for the Thirty-second Session of the Commission, Dominican Republic, 9-13 June 2008

The Secretary of the Commission informed delegates that the theme of the forthcoming meeting will be based on a study carried out by ECLAC, entitled *Public-Private Partnerships for Export Development*. The study will examine the role of public-private partnerships in the development process in the light of the comparative experiences of different countries and regions, including those of the Caribbean, and in terms of how such alliances could be brought to the forefront of export development models. The study will be the main document presented for discussion at the meeting, which will convene over four days at official and ministerial level. The meeting will observe the sixtieth anniversary of ECLAC and will take the form of a number of high-level panel presentations and discussions. All CDCC member and associate member countries were encouraged to attend.

Agenda item 7 - Consideration of matters of special interest to member countries of the CDCC: Status of resolutions adopted by the CDCC and issues considered by organs of the United Nations

The representative of the ECLAC secretariat presented the information document LC/CAR/167, which provided a summary of selected resolutions adopted at successive sessions of CDCC since the eighteenth session and other relevant ECLAC and United Nations resolutions. He said that a distinction should be made between “decisions”, which were taken at the meetings of the Monitoring Committee and “resolutions”, which were adopted at the CDCC sessions. The latter served as a guide in the preparation of the programme of work and the day-to-day functioning of the secretariat and were an essential source of information for policy formulation and planning by the member countries.

The Committee took note of the information document.

Agenda item 8: Report of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)

The representative of the secretariat presented the conclusions of the inaugural meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which had convened on the eve of the CDCC session. She provided background information on the Committee and the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) and noted that its overarching responsibility was to ensure the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

The key challenges of the work of TAC and RCM were the uneven capacity of countries to generate appropriate data and the continued perception of the Mauritius Strategy as a framework for action within the environment sector only.

In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Barbados urged member countries to participate actively in the discussions at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to the Caribbean Sea Initiative, the objective of which was to have the Caribbean Sea declared a special area in the context of sustainable development. She said that the biennial resolution was

important for furthering the case for the sustainable development of the wider Caribbean region and that CDCC should assist Caribbean countries in the relevant negotiations.

The representative of Guyana suggested that governments should identify their national focal points, which would be charged with the responsibility of keeping the RCM abreast of their activities. The representative of Barbados drew attention to the proposed Caribbean Sea Initiative and requested assistance in bringing it to fruition.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles commended the work of the TAC, recalling the inception of the process to create the RCM. He indicated that the report of the TAC showed that great progress had been made since the conceptualization of the RCM.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean indicated that the RCM secretariat currently consisted of one regional adviser, funded by ECLAC, but should eventually be expanded into a small unit. He appealed to Governments and agencies to mobilize additional resources to have the unit fully established.

The meeting approved the work programme of TAC and agreed that its next meeting would be convened one day prior to the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Agenda item 9 - Public-private partnerships for development - A Caribbean perspective

The panellists for the session shared information on country experiences and provided a Caribbean perspective on the issue of public-private partnerships for development.

The first panellist, Robert Devlin of the ECLAC Washington, DC Office, briefed the meeting on the preliminary findings of an ECLAC study on Public-Private Alliances and Export Development. The study compared the experiences of 11 high-performing, small- and medium-sized countries with those of seven Latin American and Caribbean countries. It revealed a number of constraints in that area: weak public institutional capacity; a paucity of support programmes; limited evaluation of impact; and problems of transparency. In the Caribbean, the medium- and long-term strategic vision was often missing; and macroeconomic and national plans focused only on the short term. Moreover, public-private alliances were either sporadic and fragmented or incipient and fragile, Barbados being the exception in that area. Such partnerships must, therefore, be based on a forward-looking strategic vision centred around clear medium- and long-term goals for export development and economic convergence. He added that public-private partnerships were fundamental to the formation and implementation of strategies to boost competitiveness in an era of globalization and must be underpinned by political leadership, civil society participation and the building of consensus among stakeholders.

The second panellist, Roberto Machado, presented the findings of an ECLAC study on *Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) as a Determinant of Tourism Competitiveness: The Case of the Caribbean*. The study highlighted the need to expand the use of public-policy incentives beyond the mere tax/duty/customs exemptions that had been practised by the tourism industry for the past 50 years. The panellist drew attention to the role that such partnerships could play in helping the

region to address future challenges in the tourism sector, including the reduction of import leakages and the cost of doing business in Caribbean tourism

The third presenter, Basil Springer, described the experience of Barbados and its development strategy with respect to the role of its tripartite partnership. The Barbados model brought together the public sector, a dynamic private sector and effective trade union and NGO movements, among others, to formulate and implement medium- to long-term strategies for development. Those strategies were implemented in a traditionally stable political environment with a sound educational system and an enabling colonial administration legacy. Among other factors, the bedrock of the model was prudent fiscal management and caring social programmes.

The model promoted diversification to enhance export development and investment. The productive sectors of emphasis featured areas such as financial services, tourism and its linkages, agriculture and agro-processing and renewable energy. The model also fostered regional partnerships with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) to enhance regional integration through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The Barbados model compared well with the Irish model for development and Barbados was poised, particularly because of its historical ties with Ireland, to learn several important lessons from the latter. Under the theme of good governance, the panellist recommended that the social compact should be integrated into the governance structure and legislative framework of Barbados. In the area of marketing, it was recommended that the model should be promoted and replicated regionally to enable regional partners to emulate that philosophy.

In the discussion that followed, the representative of Suriname pointed out that her country was unique in terms of culture, language and ethnic composition. While clear economic benefits could be derived from tourism, the question was whether these would be achieved at the expense of the country's cultural identity or environmental sustainability. The representative of the British Virgin Islands enquired about the impact of crime on tourism and sought guidance from the panel as to how to build partnerships to protect that sector against such negative trends. One panellist responded that, given the fact that young men (aged 17 to 24) seemed to be the main perpetrators of crime, the needs of that segment of the population would have to be addressed through continuing education and employment. In response to a query from the representative of Trinidad and Tobago as to how best practices at the international level could be replicated in the Caribbean, one panellist advised that countries such as Singapore could provide a useful model.

The representative of Jamaica advised that the country was currently in the process of formulating a national development plan which included the use of PPPs in the provision of public goods. However, the partnerships have been uneven, where used. In the instance of the construction of the Portmore Highway in Jamaica, the public was particularly dissatisfied. She requested the advice of the panel as to how the benefits of such partnerships could be better managed.

Dr. Springer expressed the view that PPPs needed to be set up infrastructurally: government, private sector, trade unions, church and civil society would all need to be involved.

Then, it would be wise to look at the role each was to play towards development: the government was designed to provide services, the private sector was doing the business, the trade unions induced harmony between the two, and the media ensured that there was good communication between the populace and other actors.

Agenda item 10 - Impact of the United States subprime crisis in the Caribbean

The secretariat made a presentation on the impact of the United States subprime crisis in the Caribbean. The policy brief suggested that the United States recession brought about by the subprime mortgage crisis would have a negative impact on Caribbean economies, particularly in the areas of trade, tourism, remittances, finance and foreign direct investment. Specifically, the impact on tourism would be most severe in the Bahamas, Anguilla and Antigua and Barbuda while the impact on remittances would be most severe in Guyana and Jamaica. The financial sector impact would be felt strongly in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Anguilla and St Kitts and Nevis and the impact of any contraction in foreign direct investment (FDI) would be most severe in Anguilla, St Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Suriname.

According to recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, the world economy was projected to slow to 3.7 per cent growth in 2008 and 2009 (i.e. a downward revision by 1.25 percentage points) attributable primarily to the economic downturn in the United States. Hence, the report concluded that Caribbean economic growth would also contract as a result of the trade and financial linkages between the two regions. The entire region would be affected by a contraction in the United States' demand for imports, which would affect their terms of trade. The CARICOM countries other than those belonging to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), together with St Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, would be especially hard hit.

The representative of Barbados complimented the secretariat on its presentation and said that the region should offer concessions directly to cruise-ship passengers and not only to cruise-ship operators. In addition, PPPs should be facilitated to improve transportation links in the region. Both large and small service providers would stand to benefit.

The representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands noted that her country had not been included in the report, although it would undoubtedly be as hard hit as the other tourism-dependent economies of the subregion. She said that the Caribbean and Latin America needed to strengthen ties in order to boost tourism flows from the latter.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands said that the experience of the Cricket World Cup had demonstrated the region's ability to collaborate in areas of common interest. Transportation remained a sore point in the region and needed to be tackled. Moreover, the cruise ship industry had managed to establish negotiations with individual countries at the expense of other Caribbean destinations. The region therefore needed to set up a think tank to propose practical solutions to problems in the tourism sector. The presenters agreed that PPPs could help to increase intraregional trade and create sustainable employment in the region. As regards the Turks and Caicos Islands, that country had not been taken into account given the fact that the report focused mainly on the CARICOM countries.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean explained that the non-independent countries were not included in the report on the subprime crisis partly due to the lack of time and data. Nevertheless, he gave the assurance that the Turks and Caicos Islands would be included in a revised report to be circulated subsequently. Intraregional tourism was on the rise, but there was further need to promote and diversify tourism links between the Caribbean and Latin America, particularly with the recent air links established between Panama City and Port-of-Spain.

The representative of the secretariat expressed pessimism about the chances of a quick recovery in the United States, since the crisis was mainly a solvency issue rather than a liquidity issue. Moreover, it was unlikely that central banks in Asia and other countries would invest in United States treasury bills to finance a bail-out of the subprime market in the United States.

Agenda item 11 - Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programmes

(a) Report on the implementation of the 2006-2007 work programme

The Programme Officer of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean presented document, CDCC 22/3, LC/CAR/L.162, *Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium* and said that the secretariat had sought to develop a closer working relationship with member countries and institutions; to respond to the needs of member countries to inform policy options; to increase the coverage and visibility of the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; and to monitor and evaluate the work of the office. He reported that the Subregional Headquarters had provided assistance to member countries in the areas of capacity-building (social, technology, statistics, trade); policy formulation (social, economic); and support to regional institutions and agencies. He also presented statistics relating to the implementation of the work programme, including the total number of outputs; the number of participants at meetings; the number and range of technical publications; and the extent of implementation of the work programme.

He drew attention to the United Nations Integrated Management and Document Information System (IMDIS) and encouraged member countries to utilize it in order to keep abreast of the status of implementation of the secretariat's programme activities.

(b) Preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 work programme

The secretariat presented document, CDCC 22/6, LC/CAR/L.83/Rev.2, *Preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 work programme*.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in presenting the 2008-2009 work programme, informed delegates of the expected accomplishments for the present biennium, especially in the area of improved human resource capacity and technical expertise for economic and social policy-making in the Caribbean. In order for CDCC to achieve success, there must be synergies in teamwork, an articulated practice of genuine institutional partnership and the development of a feed-back mechanism with Governments. The critical areas of concern were the United Nations reform process, climate change and sea level rise and their impact on small island

developing States (SIDS), global warming and environmental conservation, vulnerability and sustainable livelihoods, disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean, and public-private partnerships for development. Other important developments were the Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM and the European Commission, the price of petroleum and petroleum products, and supporting the implementation of the CARICOM CSME, among others.

In closing his presentation, he identified several areas that would have an impact on the implementation of the current programme of work such as the lack of accurate data and the inability to commit existing resources to overcome the problem; the need to establish effective systems for monitoring and evaluating the programme of work, supported by formal mechanisms for systematic feed-back; and the need to ensure that the programme of work was aligned with member countries' current development realities. He added that collaboration with regional partners would be crucial for the successful implementation of the programme of work. Lastly, he underscored the need for additional staff and financial resources to improve the delivery of services to member countries and urged member Governments to make appropriate interventions at the highest level of the United Nations.

During the ensuing discussion, the representative of Cuba said that notwithstanding the fact that the expected accomplishments of the work programme for the 2008-2009 biennium were valid, (i.e. strengthening participation at events and using relevant information for sustainable development and integration in the Caribbean, as well as capacity-building of human resources and technical expertise for economic and social policies in the area), it was also true that this approach should embrace the Caribbean Basin as a whole, where all proposals were considered valid, such as agreements between Cuba and CARICOM, ACS initiatives on integration, as well as the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) proposal, which was already being implemented in the energy, health and education sectors.

He further advised that attention should be paid to the fact that the ECLAC programme of work was prepared a few years beforehand and it should therefore be flexible enough to adapt to emerging realities of the subregion, together with Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole. He said that the approved work programme for 2008-2009 only fulfilled requirements of ECLAC Headquarters, in line with interests expressed two years ago by countries of the region. He then enquired as to whether or not the current work programme responded more meaningfully to the current realities in the Caribbean.

He also queried whether there would be sufficient financial resources available to face those realities through the execution of country-specific projects. He concluded his remarks by observing that if CDCC was created, and its Constituent Declaration updated, to respond to current realities, why did its programme not relate more to cooperation and integration rather than to analysis and research (which were also necessary).

In response to the questions raised by the representative of Cuba, the Director said that there was some degree of flexibility in adapting the programme of work to changing circumstances in the region and that technical assistance support could be financed through extrabudgetary resources.

The representative of Guyana indicated her support for the ECLAC/CDCC work programmes for the next two years and expressed satisfaction at the inclusion of a study on costing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as there was currently insufficient base-line data. Her delegation was also interested in the study on migration and remittances since the presentation on the United States subprime crisis had shown that Guyana would suffer the most and it would be important to ascertain whether the exchange was fair in terms of the export of their human resources. She was also of the view that studies of this nature executed by external, independent bodies would give the Government more clout in instituting the necessary policy decisions.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands noted the Caribbean Development Report and asked how it would differ to the Human Development Report. The Director of the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters responded that the Human Development Report was set against established indicators while the Caribbean Development Report would treat with specific topics and be a vehicle for writers and analysts to publish their work and promote dialogue. It was therefore a review type publication.

The representative of Barbados said that her country was interested in having some of the priority recommendations arising from the Working Group incorporated into current and future work programmes, as appropriate. Member countries should provide feedback on adjustments to be made by the secretariat's projects and work programme to ensure that the economic development needs and requirements of countries were better served. She called on ECLAC to give attention to renewable energy sources and the outcomes of major international conferences, particularly as they related to middle income countries.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands expressed concern about the paucity of Caribbean information in ECLAC flagship publications and enquired about the reasons for this.

The representative of UNEP underscored the need for a study on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, as well as studies on the impact of environmental degradation on the living standards of households and informed the meeting of efforts already in train to develop environmental indicators.

The Director said that the ECLAC methodology for Assessing the Socio-economic Impact of Natural Disasters captured social, economic and environmental damage but did not develop indicators. On the issue of the paucity of Caribbean data in ECLAC flagship publications, there were ongoing consultations with Santiago to identify appropriate solutions for improving coverage of the subregion.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Division of Programme Planning and Operations of ECLAC advised that the Executive Secretary and the Directors of ECLAC attached the highest priority to expanding coverage by increasing the level of coordination between the subregional office and ECLAC headquarters. He noted that, in fact, the Caribbean had received greater coverage in recent flagship publications than in the past. He also reminded participants that trends in the region were led by the largest economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, though this diminished the validity of the concern for greater coverage. To overcome the scarcity of data, ECLAC was planning to embark on a project designed to build capacity within the national

statistical offices in the Caribbean. With respect to the need to adapt the programme of work to changing realities in the subregion, he specified that the actual degree of flexibility for adjusting work programme activities was 33 per cent. He also pointed out that the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the inclusion of new and emerging needs provided a further opportunity to apply flexibility to the work programme process.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that her delegation recognized the constraints within which ECLAC worked and was pleased to note that there was now a proposal for additional staff for the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. She indicated Government's willingness to assist ECLAC in advancing the proposal by taking full advantage of the country's resources in New York, as well as utilizing the stature of Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of the G77 and Haiti on the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council. She welcomed the flexibility of the already approved work programmes, given that the region could ill-afford to wait until 2010 to take action on certain matters.

The following issues were then raised: (i) regarding the proposed study on energy issues, a request was made for the specific focus of the study; (ii) with respect to the imminent Financing for Development meeting in Qatar, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed concern that the region had not sought to coordinate preparations and she asked the secretariat whether it planned to introduce an activity before the meeting; and (iii) reference was made to Korea's entrance into ECLAC which followed that of Japan (2006), Germany (2005), Italy (1990), Portugal (1984) and Spain (1979). She affirmed that these countries gained a lot of leverage through membership of organizations such as ECLAC and asked if any of these countries had come forward or had been approached concerning budgetary assistance.

The secretariat responded that the study on energy issues had been deliberately phrased very generally to allow for manipulation at a later date. However at this point, the particular slant that the secretariat hoped to take would relate to sources of renewable energy and technology which may be applicable to the Caribbean. Insofar as working towards the formulation of a common regional position for the Financing for Development meeting, the Director of the Subregional Headquarters affirmed that the secretariat was the servant of the Governments and would seek to organize an activity since there was a clear interest. He also confirmed that talks were being held at the level of Headquarters (Santiago, Chile) with regard to financial assistance from Japan and Korea but nothing had yet materialized. He stated that Germany was a main bilateral donor of ECLAC and both Italy and Spain had been funding projects.

(c) Consideration and adoption of the draft work programme for the 2010-2011 biennium

The Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean presented document, CDCC-22/4, LC/CAR/L.160, entitled *Proposed draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 2010-2011 biennium*, and said that it would be submitted for endorsement by the thirty-second Session of the Commission, scheduled to take place in the Dominican Republic, 9-13 June 2008. The endorsed work programme would then be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for its approval. A matrix containing short descriptions of key work programme outputs was circulated at the meeting.

During the 2010-2011 biennium, the CDCC secretariat would seek to strengthen capacities in the area of socio-economic development planning and integration both within the subregion, and between the Caribbean and the wider Latin American region. In addition, the subprogramme would enhance technical expertise to follow up on the major international programmes of action in the economic, social and environmental fields, particularly those related to SIDS and the Mauritius Strategy.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles pointed to the need to enhance the status of associate member countries in the 2010-2011 biennium and requested ECLAC to conduct studies on the vulnerability of the tourism industry to climate change. The representative of Suriname suggested that long-term forecasting methodologies should be included in relevant studies. The representative of Puerto Rico welcomed the studies on biotechnology and the impact of science and technology, particularly as they related to competitiveness.

Agenda item 12: Climate change, vulnerability and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean – High-level panel discussion

The panellists on this agenda item shared information on country experiences and provided the meeting with a Caribbean perspective on the issue of vulnerability and climate change.

The first presentation, entitled *Climate Change, Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Reduction*, focused on Paramaribo and Wanica in Suriname, with reference to climate change, temperature and rainfall, and the role of human interventions; vulnerability of the coastal area; and disaster risk reduction measures.

The second presentation, entitled *Jamaica's Response to Disaster Risk Reduction*, underscored the fact that the increasing incidence of hurricanes over the past 20 years had a cumulative negative impact on the country's population and GDP. The problem had been compounded by prolonged droughts and bush fires resulting in social dislocation, disruption to livelihoods and worsening poverty. Jamaica was seeking to achieve development in harmony with the natural environment and build hazard risk resilience.

The third presentation examined the potential impact of climate change on vulnerable groups and communities based on existing knowledge of human vulnerability in Caribbean SIDS, the role of social policy and public policy interventions for increasing the population's resilience and adaptive capacity to the effects of climate change.

During the discussions, one participant emphasized the need for multilateral commitment in combating climate change and requested that further work should be carried out in the areas of geographic information systems (GIS), vulnerability assessment and capacity-building. Another participant enquired about putting in place hazard mitigation policies for future generations.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands indicated that the presentations were not only insightful but also very frightening. He stated that the region was not the main perpetrator and yet suffered disproportionately. In a very real sense, he continued, despite the efforts the

Caribbean could make to reduce its vulnerability, much of it was still out of the region's hands. He made a call for a case to be brought to the International Court of Justice.

The representative of Barbados said that the main priorities of small island developing States in a post-2012 climate agreement should be the achievement of substantial and legally-binding emission reductions by all major emitters, with developed countries taking the lead, in the shortest time frame possible and the availability of significantly higher resources for developing countries, particularly SIDS to assist them in adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. The effectiveness of the United Nations system should be assessed by its capacity to deliver the required assistance to build capacity in vulnerable countries; CDCC member countries should persevere in calling for such action by the United Nations.

The representative of Cuba said that poverty and underdevelopment increased the vulnerability of States to the impact of natural disasters, which was exacerbated by environmental degradation. The poor and underprivileged suffered most acutely from such disasters and were the least equipped to deal with them. The implementation of national strategies for disaster mitigation was hampered by the debt burden, hence the need to find solutions such as debt reduction or forgiveness and the transfer of resources from developed countries. Risk reduction efforts by developing countries must take into account the joint responsibility of industrialized nations in the face of increasing anthropogenic threats.

Disaster risk reduction strategies and public and private investment policies must be mainstreamed in national development planning. Such strategies and policies must be underpinned by the following measures: foreseeing future risk, and creating and strengthening early warning systems; promoting risk awareness; preparing detailed action plans for response and recovery; and preventing environmental degradation, which could result in man-made natural disasters. Technical cooperation should ensure that developing and least developed countries had free and timely access to the technology required for disaster prevention and mitigation. The information media, industry, the scientific community and the private sector should be actively involved throughout the disaster-mitigation cycle.

The meeting welcomed the presentations and urged the secretariat to accelerate efforts in its work programme to these areas of grave concern.

Agenda item 13 - Consideration of applications for associate membership of the CDCC

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided delegates with a brief background on the request by the Turks and Caicos Islands for associate membership of the CDCC. He reminded delegates that the overseas territory had been admitted as an associate member of ECLAC at its thirty-first session in 2006.

The meeting welcomed the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of CDCC.

Agenda item 14 - Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee

The Committee agreed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should consult with the Chair and member countries to decide on a date and venue for the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Agenda item 15 - Other matters

No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda item 16 - Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the Twenty-second Session of the CDCC

The draft report of the meeting was presented by the Rapporteur. The Chair advised the session that the revised draft report would be prepared by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and dispatched to member countries for comment as the basis for the preparation of the final report.

Agenda item 17 - Adoption of decisions and resolutions

The Committee adopted resolutions 67(XXII), 68(XXII), 69(XXII), 70(XXII) and 71(XXII), which are presented in Part III of this report.

Agenda item 18 - Closure of meeting

The representative of Cuba, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of all the other delegations in attendance, thanked the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for an excellent meeting and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for its hospitality and good will. He looked forward to continued collaboration.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the session. He also expressed his thanks to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for their untiring efforts and support in convening the twenty-second session of CDCC, and to the staff of ECLAC for their hard work in making the meeting a success.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Foreign Affairs expressed her congratulations to the participants for the amicable atmosphere in which the session had been conducted. In closing, she thanked all the participating delegations for making this twenty-second session such a success and urged all member and associate member countries to participate fully in the ECLAC session in the Dominican Republic in June 2008.

PART III**RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION****67 (XXII) REDEFINING AND REVITALIZING THE ROLE OF THE CDCC IN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the twenty-second session of the CDCC,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 358 (XVI), which established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the objectives of promoting and strengthening economic and social cooperation, information sharing and coordination among Caribbean countries;

Recalling also CDCC resolution 29 (XII) on the role and functioning of CDCC and resolution 55 (XVIII) which recognised the continuing validity of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC;

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the Committee as a regional forum that is equipped to assist its member countries in meeting the challenges presented by the ongoing transformation of the international political and economic environment with its ramifications at hemispheric and regional levels through, *inter alia*, the development of consensus towards the implementation of cooperation policies and programmes, including the sharing of experiences, in areas of critical importance to their sustainable development and for coordination in the articulation of positions to be adopted in relation to common global and regional challenges, as addressed in other regional forums, conferences, and meetings of the United Nations and other regional and international bodies;

Recognising the need for the CDCC to play an enhanced role as a forum for dialogue and collaboration among Governments on regional development priority setting of the wider Caribbean with the support of the civil society and the private sector, regional institutions, development partners, the United Nations system;

Recognising also the importance of bringing greater coherence and effectiveness to the regional work of the United Nations system in the Caribbean, involving other development partners in support of the aims and priorities of the CDCC;

Taking into account the continuous cooperation relations between the member countries of the Committee and their counterparts in Latin America;

Taking into account also the proposals made at the twenty-second session of the CDCC with respect to redefining and revitalising the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development, as contained in report LC/CAR/L.163;

DECIDES:

1. To emphasize the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges and to inform the articulation of positions in regional and international forums through the elaboration of issue-based negotiating platforms in specific areas of key interest to the Caribbean;
2. To reiterate the importance and relevance of the Committee as a subregional entity for cooperation to fulfil their development objectives with the support of the ECLAC secretariat in the Caribbean and in recognition of its necessity as a mechanism whose basic ideas are enshrined in the Constituent Declaration;
3. To optimize regular and extrabudgetary resources through, *inter alia*, further consultations with development partners, donors and other key stakeholders with a view to ensuring the greatest impact on the countries and bearing in mind the inherent vulnerability of the subregion;
4. To acknowledge the technical assistance that the secretariat has provided to countries and the need to identify priority areas through concrete proposals so that they may receive greater attention from the Committee;
5. To reinforce the CDCC forum by establishing strategic alliances with Caribbean regional offices of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, donors, private sector and civil society actors and other concerned development partners to ensure their participation in its work on a regular and continuous basis;
6. To enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring mechanisms to gauge progress in implementing the Committee's decisions including the priorities, next steps and timelines;
7. To develop various strategies, programmes and incentives targeting investment, including joint ventures between Latin America and the Caribbean;
8. To examine possibilities for cooperation in tourism, including multi-destination tourism, and the cooperation between CDCC member and associate member countries and Latin American countries in music and entertainment, and sports;
9. To underscore the importance of creative industries as a dominant feature of future economic development in the Caribbean;
10. To take into account the consequent need for a comprehensive policy on intellectual property to support sound development of creative industries, genetic resources and traditional knowledge;

11. To facilitate the establishment of links between Caribbean institutions and the Andean Development Corporation secretariat, in pursuit of collaborative research and technical cooperation projects;
12. To strengthen institutional relations among the ECLAC/CDCC, ACS, SELA, CARICOM, SICA and OLADE with a view to promoting dialogue and developing concrete actions to further functional cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America;

Request the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC to review the implementation of these proposals and to report its findings to member governments for discussion at the twenty-third session of CDCC.

68 (XXII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the twenty-second session of the CDCC,

Recalling that the Ministers of the Caribbean member States of ECLAC established the CDCC, as a subsidiary body of ECLAC, in order to enhance cooperation among the countries of the region;

Recognizing the particular needs of the CDCC member countries, which face special development challenges, the result of their relatively small size, open, narrow and undiversified economies, fragile ecosystems and vulnerability to natural hazards;

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat;

Convinced that for the most efficient and effective implementation of the development programmes for the Caribbean subregion, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should continue to cooperate closely with the ACS, CARICOM, the OECS, SELA, OLADE and other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations;

Express appreciation to the Director and staff of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the assistance provided to the ECLAC/CDCC members and associate members through implementation of the work programmes for the 2006-2007 biennium and the modified work programme for 2008-2009;

Reiterate the desire of the ECLAC/CDCC members and associate members to participate meaningfully in all elements of the work programme of the ECLAC system for the 2010-2011 biennium;

Recognize the need for flexibility to include additional activities within the work programme, which would reflect new and emerging priorities of member States;

Request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue its regular contact with the ECLAC/CDCC members and associate members to promote more integral involvement in the development efforts of national governments and to ensure more effective dissemination of information during implementation of the work programme;

Commend the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for its extensive contribution to the work of CARICOM and the ACS and requests that such support be continued.

Take note of the Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 23-24 August 2007;

Approve the draft proposed programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 2010 - 2011 biennium, as amended;

Request the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC to review the implementation of these proposals and to report its findings to member governments for discussion at the twenty-third session of CDCC.

**69 (XXII) ADMISSION OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AS AN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the twenty-second session of the CDCC.

Considering the desirability that the economic, social and cultural relations among all peoples in the Caribbean area should be strengthened;

Bearing in mind the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;

Aware that the Turks and Caicos Islands was admitted as an associate member of ECLAC by resolution 628(XXXI) at its thirty-first session held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 20 to 24 March 2006; and that this issue was subsequently brought to the attention of and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council as an integral part of the Biennial Report of ECLAC (3 July 2004 to 24 March 2006) (ECOSOC Official Records, 2006, Supplement No. 20) (E/2006/20) (LC/G.2317-P);

Noting that the Turks and Caicos Islands also participates as an associate member of the OECS, and is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB);

Taking into account United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining non-self-governing territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories;

Also taking into account United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997 which, inter alia, called on member States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

Cognizant that the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997 endorsed, inter alia, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of non-self-governing territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that territories may benefit from the related activities of the United Nations system;

Welcome the participation of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the works of this Committee and for the first time in its biennial Meeting as an ECLAC/CDCC associate member.

70 (XXII) STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN STATISTICS

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the twenty-second session of the CDCC,

Recalling the mandate of the CDCC as a specialized subsidiary body of ECLAC, to monitor the economic and social development of the Caribbean countries and to assist in the integration process;

Recalling further the capability of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies, to play a major role in all aspects of strengthening the data supply systems in member countries, including the organizational and modernization aspects of information collection and management, including database design and management using the REDATAM software;

Noting the lack of progress achieved in securing continuation of such assistance and transferring of knowledge of the REDATAM software despite several resolutions made at earlier sessions of the CDCC;

Emphasising the need for relevant statistics of a high quality, delivered on a timely basis as being the prerequisite to decisions made on a sound information or knowledge base;

Recognising the call by the TAC of the RCM for the need for statistics (data) to support the activities (monitoring and evaluation) including decision-making to advance the MSI ;

Further recognising that the statistics required must of necessity be produced nationally and that the effort should receive the strongest support at the national level;

Agree to provide technical, logistical and other forms of support to the implementation of inventory taking, data mapping and data collection strategies as a means of support to the information initiative;

Commend the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies for their dedication to promoting the ECLAC/CDCC members and associate members as countries in transition to becoming information-based societies;

Agree to the active support of the ECLAC/CDCC governments and the international community, including donor agencies, for the funding and joint input and support of national and subregional project activities;

Urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to identify as a matter of priority adequate resources necessary for the preparation of technical assistance to member countries through activities mounted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to transfer complete knowledge of the REDATAM software in all its aspects, including file creation, query design and web page presentation to a significant number of Caribbean statistical personnel, in advance of the completion of preparations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses;

Request ECLAC/CDCC and the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular UNFPA, to strengthen further coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies and regional entities in supporting the national preparations and implementation of the 2010 Round of Censuses, and in strengthening national statistical capacities;

Further request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to put in place such training for selected personnel in the ECLAC/CDCC member countries that would ensure the sustained preparation of trade and population statistics using REDATAM;

Also request the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to report to the twenty-third session of the CDCC on the success in the implementation of this resolution.

71 (XXII) APPROVING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE RCM

Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating at the twenty-second session of the CDCC,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 65 (XXI), which agreed to the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (MSI);

Recalling also that the thirteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 23-24 August 2007 agreed that a work programme for the RCM should be developed on the basis of regional and national priorities, and should reflect a holistic approach to sustainable development, taking into account the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the MSI;

Recognising the importance of bringing greater coherence and effectiveness to the policies, programmes and activities in meeting the commitments to the implementation of the MSI;

Referring to the First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the RCM, which met in Port-of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 21 April 2008 to elaborate the work programme of the RCM for the period 2008 and 2009;

Resolve:

To endorse the work programme of the RCM;

To support the resource mobilisation efforts of the RCM Secretariat in order to effectively undertake the work programme of the RCM;

To assist in the maintenance of strong national linkages with the secretariat of the RCM;

Decide that the next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will take place one-day prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Port of Spain, 2009.

Annex**List of Participants****A. Member States****BARBADOS**Representative:

Senator The Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister with responsibility for CSME, Office of the Prime Minister, Government Headquarters, Bay Street, St. Michael. Tel: (246) 228-4768. E-mail: maxine.mcclean@barbados.gov.bb

Delegation member:

Simone Rudder, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business, 1 Culloden, St. Michael. Tel: (246) 431-2296; Fax: (246) 429-6652; E-mail: srudder@foreign.gov.bb

BELIZERepresentative:

Emil Joseph Waight, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, NEMO Building, Belmopan. Tel: (501) 822-2110; Fax (501) 822-2854; E-mail: eewaight@btl.net, eewaight@yahoo.com

CUBARepresentative:

Ramiro Leon Torras, Especialista Principal de nuestra Dirección, Ministerio para la Inversión Extranjera y la Colaboración Económica, Ave. Primera No. 1803 Esq. 18 Miramar, La Habana. Tel: (537) 202-4218; Fax: (537) 204-3183; E-mail: ramiro.leon@minvec.cu

DOMINICAN REPUBLICRepresentative:

Jose Ortiz, Head of Mission/Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Dominican Republic, Suite 8, 1A Dere Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 624-7930; Fax: (868) 623-7779; E-mail: embadom@hotmail.com

GUYANARepresentative:

Honourable Carolyn Rodrigues, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Takuba Lodge", 254 South Road & New Garden Street, Georgetown. Tel: (592) 226-9080; Fax: (592) 223-5241; E-mail: carolynr@gol.net.gy

Delegation member:

Navin Chandarpal, Presidential Adviser, Office of the President, Vlissengen Road, Georgetown, Tel: 592-223-5233; Fax: 592-223-5186; E-mail: navinc51@yahoo.com

JAMAICARepresentative:

Cherett A. Campbell, Counsellor, Jamaican High Commission, 2 Newbold Street, St. Clair, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 622-4995; Fax: (868) 622-9043; E-mail: jhcom@tstt.net.tt

Delegation member:

Claire Bernard, Director, Sustainable Development, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), 16 Oxford Road, Kingston. Tel: (876) 906-4464; Fax: (876) 906-5011; E-mail: claire_bernard@pioj.gov.jm

SURINAMERepresentative:

Fidelia Graand-Galon, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname, 11 Maraval Road, Tatil Building - Fifth Floor, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 628-0704; Fax: (868) 628-0086; E-mail: bimafi@yahoo.com

Delegation members:

Shefferon A.R. Kartowikromo, Second Secretary at the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname, 11 Maraval Road, Tatil Building - Fifth Floor, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 628-0704/8402; Fax: (868) 628-0086; E-mail: surinameembassy@tstt.net.tt

Sieuwnath Naipal, Researcher/Lecturer, University of Suriname, Leysweg 86, Adekus 16/57. Tel: (597) 465558; Fax: (597) 495005; E-mail: s.naipal@uvs.edu

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGORepresentative:

The Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Knowsley', 1 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain. Tel: (868) 623-4116; Fax: (868) 627-0571

Delegation members:

Edwina Leacock, Permanent Secretary. E-mail: permsec@foreign.gov.tt

Margaret King-Rousseau, Director, Multilateral Relations Division. E-mail: rousseau@foreign.gov.tt

Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds, Foreign Service Officer. Ext. 2241; Fax: (868) 623-7247; E-mail: hindscsa@foreign.gov.tt

Jerome Joseph, Foreign Service Officer. Ext. 2244; E-mail: josephj@foreign.gov.tt

Melana Henry, International Relations Officer, Multilateral Relations Division. Ext. 2243; E-mail: henrym@foreign.gov.tt

Tracey Ramsbagh, International Relations Officer. Ext. 2343/753-7275; Fax: 623-7247; E-mail: ramsubaght@foreign.gov.tt

Sian Martinez-Browne, International Relations Officer, Sunjet House, 26-32 Edward Street, Port of Spain. Tel: (868) 623-3895; Fax: (868) 623-2170; E-mail: brownes@foreign.gov.tt

Dana Wallace, International Relations Officer. E-mail: caricomtt@yahoo.com

Cheryl Ramsubeik, Sustainable Development Specialist, Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment, 16-18 Sackville Street, Port of Spain. Tel: (868) 623-1912 ext 304; Fax: (868) 623-5007; E-mail: cramsubeik@yahoo.com

Kimberly Hewitt, Economist I, Ministry of Finance, Eric Williams Plaza, Independence Square, Port of Spain. Tel: (868) 627-9700 Ext. 5116; E-mail: kimsorhew@yahoo.com

B. Associate Members

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Representative:

Clyde Lettsume, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, Road Town, Tortola. E-mail: clylettsume@gov.vg

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Representative:

Roland Antonius, Advisor to the Council of Ministers, Fort Amsterdam 17, Curacao. Tel: 005999 690-0824; Fax: 005999 461-5077; E-mail: rcmantonius@gmail.com

Delegation member:

Louise de Bode-Olton, Counsellor for Netherlands Antilles, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 69-71 Edward Street, TRINRE-Building, 3rd Floor, Port of Spain. Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 625-1210 Ext. 0218; Fax: (868) 625-1704; E-mail: louise-de-bode-olton@minbuza.nl

PUERTO RICO

Representative:

Zamia Baerga Torres, Secretaría de Estado Auxiliar para Relaciones Exteriores, Calle San Jose esquina San Francisco. Old San Juan, P. O. Box 9023071, San Juan 00902-3271. Tel: (787) 721-1751; Fax: (787) 723-3304; E-mail: zbaerga@gmail.com

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Representative:

Arabella Smith, Advisor to the Premier, Office of the Premier, NIS Francis Bldg., Grand Turk. Tel: (649) 946-2801; Fax: (649) 946-2777; E-mail: ara_smith@hotmail.com

Delegation member:

Deveraux Malcolm, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education, Pond Street, Grand Turk. Tel: (649) 946-2801 Ext. 40603; Fax: (649) 946-2722; E-mail: DCMalcolm@gov.tc

C. United Nations Bodies

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Florita Kentish, Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname, 1st Floor, Winfield Scott Trust Building, 134-138 Frederick Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 625-0467/8; Fax: (868) 623-0995; E-mail: florita.kentish@fao.org.tt; FAO-TT@fao.org

Marion Alleyne, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme), E-mail: marion.alleyne@fao.org.tt

PanAmerican Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Dr. Avril Siung-Chang, Environmental Health Advisor, 49 Jerningham Avenue, Belmont. Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 624-7524; Fax: (868) 624-5643; E-mail: changavr@trt.paho.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Stein Hansen, Deputy Resident Representative, UN House, Marine Gardens, Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados. Tel: (246) 243-0438; Fax: (246) 429-2448; E-mail: stein.hansen@undp.org

United Nations Environment Programme/Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP CAR/RCU)

Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer (Environment), 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica. Tel: (876) 922-9267; Fax: (876) 922-9292; E-mail: cjc@cep.unep.org

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Jaime Nadal-Roig, Deputy Representative, Office for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean 60 Knutsford Blvd., 8th Floor, Kingston 5, Jamaica. Tel: (876) 906-8591; Fax: (876) 906-853; E-mail: nadal@unfpa.org

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Niloufar Pourzand, Deputy Representative for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, United Nations House, Marine Gardens, Christ Church, Barbados. Tel: (246) 467-6151/6000; Fax: (246) 436-2812; E-mail: npourzand@unicef.org

D. Other Intergovernmental Organizations

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Watson Denis, Political Advisor, 5-7 Sweet Briar Road, St. Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 622-9575; Fax: (868) 622-1563; E-mail: wdenis@acs-aec.org

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, Deputy Secretary-General, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana. Tel: (592) 222-0116; Fax: (592) 222-0173; E-mail: odsg2@caricom.org

Garfield Barnwell, Director, Sustainable Development. Tel: (592) 222-0001-75; Fax: (592) 222-0154; E-mail: gbarnwell@caricom.org

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Gregg C.E. Rawlins, Representative, IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago, #3 Herbert Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel. (868) 628-4403; Fax: (868) 628-4562; E-mail: gregg.rawlins@iica.int

Organization of American States (OAS)

Dr. Riyad Insanally, OAS Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, 15D Wainwright Street, St. Clair, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 622-9272; E-mail: rinsanally@oas.org

E. ObserverUniversity of the Virgin Islands

Professor La Verne E. Ragster, President, 2 John Brewers Bays, St. Thomas, USVI 00802. Tel: (340) 693-1000; Fax: (340) 693-1005; E-mail: lrage@uvi.edu

F. Panellist

Basil Springer, Change-Engine Consultant, Caribbean Business Enterprise Trust Inc., 3 Golf Club Gardens, Rockley, Christ Church, Barbados. Tel: (246) 231-9770; Fax: (246) 435-9911; E-mail: basilgf@caribnet.net

G. Secretariat**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**Headquarters

Av. Dag Hammarskjold 3477, Vitacura, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile. Tel: (56-2) 210-2000 or 471-2000; Fax: (56-2) 208-0252 or 208-1946

Laura Lopez, Secretary of the Commission. E-mail: laura.lopez@cepal.org

Raul Garcia Buchaca, Officer-in-Charge, Division of Programme, Planning and Operations. E-mail: raul.garcia-buchaca@cepal.org

Valerie Fonseca, Translator, English Unit, Editorial and Translation Services Section. E-mail: valerie.fonseca@cepal.org

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1 Chancery Lane, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 623-5595; Fax: (868) 623-8485

Neil Pierre, Director. E-mail: neil.pierre@eclac.org

Radcliffe Dookie, Associate Programme Officer. E-mail: radcliffe.dookie@eclac.org

Charmaine Gomes, Environmental Affairs Officer. E-mail: charmaine.gomes@eclac.org

Michael Hendrickson, Associate Economic Affairs Officer. E-mail: michael.hendrickson@eclac.org

Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer. E-mail: asha.kambon@eclac.org

Roberto Machado, Economic Affairs Officer. E-mail: roberto.machado@eclac.org

Sylvan Roberts, Statistician. Email: sylvan.roberts@eclac.org

Karoline Schmid, Population Affairs Officer. E-mail: karoline.schmid@eclac.org

Maria Liz Vera, Officer-in-Charge, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre. E-mail: marializ.vera@eclac.org

Ronald Williams, Economic Affairs Officer. E-mail: ronald.williams@eclac.org

ECLAC Washington

Robert Devlin, Regional Advisor, ECLAC-Washington, 1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 1120, Washington D.C. Tel: (202) 955-5613; Fax: (202) 955-0826; E-mail: Robert.Devlin@eclac.org