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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF ECLAC/CDCC
FOR THE 1994-1995 BIENNIUM**

(July 1994 - December 1995)

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SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

During the 1994-1995 biennium, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), focused its attention on the analysis of issues of special relevance to the economic and social development of the Caribbean subregion.

The work programme accorded high priority to the promotion of cooperation in functional and sectoral areas (of cooperation) both among CDCC member and associate member countries and between them and the countries of Latin America. This was evidenced by the Office's active participation in the establishment of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) among other activities under this programme, and formulation of a Caribbean /Latin American Cooperation Project jointly with the ECLAC Office in Mexico. City. With respect to the special circumstances and needs of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) successful representations were made to allow for their participation at the United Nations world conferences.

Among the priority objectives during the biennium, mention might be made of the preparatory work for and follow-up activities to the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), (Barbados, 1994); the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), (Cairo, Egypt, 1994); the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the Fourth World Conference on Women(FWCW), (Beijing, China 1995). As a consequence, a significant share of the secretariat's resources was devoted to providing advisory services and technical assistance to regional governments and institutions in their preparations for these conferences with a view to maximizing their usefulness to the Caribbean countries. The effort resulted in the development of national and subregional perspectives and positions on the core issues dealt with at these conferences.

As a means of putting mechanisms into place for member countries to follow up on issues dealt with at these conferences, the secretariat convened meetings of experts to consider actions to be taken on recommendations adopted at the ICPD and the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, both held in 1994. These meetings were convened with substantial financial support from a number of international donor agencies.

The secretariat convened the fifteenth session of the CDCC to review the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC. A number of resolutions were adopted at the session and recommendations were made regarding the programme of work. The seventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC was also convened to review the programme of work. In addition, the second meeting of

CDCC Focal Points was held with the aim of promoting awareness of the functions and aims of the CDCC. This meeting also sought to provide a Caribbean perspective on the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development. The sixteenth session of the CDCC was postponed to early 1996 due to the financial constraints affecting the United Nations.

Various reports were produced reviewing the economic performance of the CDCC member countries, which also served as inputs for the Commission's Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean. Studies were prepared on issues relating to economic and social development, sustainable economic development, public sector reform, structural adjustment and privatization policies in the subregion. Technical support was provided to member governments, and regional and subregional institutions on issues related to environmentally sustainable development in the subregion.

The secretariat continued its preparation of documentation on the Caribbean interests in the unfolding hemispheric and global economic developments. In particular, it was very much involved in the Working Group on Smaller Economies in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and contributed a paper examining the Caribbean interests in the proposed hemispheric free trade area.

As interim secretariat of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), the Office was involved in the convening of the annual plenary sessions and meetings of the CCST Executive Committee, including collaboration with the Simón Bolívar Programme and the publication of the CCST quarterly newsletter. The CCST in supporting the activities of member countries in the formulation of their science and technology policies, convened a workshop for scientists on project preparation, monitoring and evaluation.

A major aspect of the population programme was the convening of a meeting to review the recommendations of the ICPD and plan follow-up actions for implementing these recommendations. Another feature of the population programme was the conduct of surveys on teenage fertility in selected countries. Technical assistance continued to be provided to member countries in the formulation of national population policies, analysis of census data and making population projections.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is updating its in-house capacity to respond to the increased demand for information from member countries in its move to the information super-highway. As a result it is putting into place mechanisms to ensure that new information technology is made available to users through the secretariat's Electronic Information Exchange System and the various in-house databases. The coverage of the Office's database continued to be amplified in terms of countries and subject matter, particularly with the establishment of new databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environmental information.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CDCC RESOLUTIONS

Introduction

Resolutions adopted at the fifteenth session of the CDCC in November 1994 have been receiving the attention of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and action has been taken on all resolutions with a view to implement the mandates of the member governments.

Resolution 41(XV): Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean

Mandate

CDCC Resolution 41(XV) endorsed the ECLAC/CDCC project as elaborated in the final project document entitled "Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean". The resolution requested, inter alia,

"the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to work with member governments in securing financial support for the quickest possible implementation of the project."

This resolution also endorsed the proposal to locate the Caribbean Language Institute in the Netherlands Antilles.

Implementation

The secretariat has advised member countries of the difficulty in attracting funds for the implementation of this project. However, an alternative method has been proposed with the expectation that the project will be implemented during the 1996/97 biennium.

The Government of the Netherlands Antilles has agreed to the location of the Caribbean Language Institute in that country. The Government provided support to the secretariat in obtaining funding for the initial phase of the Removal of Language Barriers Project from the European Union (EU). Regrettably, the EU has expressed reservations about its support for the project, unless support and financial commitment from other CDCC member countries and associate member countries was forthcoming.

In the meantime, CDCC member and associate member countries have been encouraged to support the project wholeheartedly, to establish National Language Chapters in their countries and to develop language plans and policies, which would eventually lead to the establishment of the Regional Committee.

The project proposal was presented to a special meeting on "Cultural Integration through Languages", hosted by the Executive Secretariat for the Andres Bello Covenant (SECAB) in Colombia. The mandate of the meeting was to "discuss and define mechanisms for the coordination of the elimination of language barriers in the region and increase collaboration between those

institutions and organizations so involved.”

Both the CARICOM Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) considered it to be the master project for the Caribbean subregion . In that regard, the UNESCO, Kingston Office, has indicated its willingness to seek funding for its implementation and CARICOM indicated its willingness to seek the project’s endorsement by the Ministers of Culture.

Resolution 42(XV): Enhancement of the capability of the CCST

Mandate

In adopting Resolution 42(XV) the meeting reiterated “its conviction that the CCST remain an important mechanism for the promotion of science and technology in the subregion” and requested,

“the CDCC secretariat, together with CCST, to make an evaluation of the work of CCST during the last 10 years and make a revision of its mission, objectives, functions and structure, taking into consideration the CDCC’s development strategy, the main scientific and technological problems in the subregion and the financial situation of CCST member countries, and to propose the appropriate amendments to the CCST statutes;”

The meeting expressed

“its appreciation for the support that the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean provides to CCST, including the provision of regular budget posts and administrative and substantive backup.”

This resolution also agreed that the secretariat continue

“to maintain the attention and control which CCST requires, in accordance with United Nations regulations and, at the same time, to establish an adequate coordination and coherence between its objectives and those of the CCST until such time as CCST’s statutes can be revised and approved;”

and further requested:

“the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to endeavor to seek ways to reinstate to (the) P-5 level post previously allocated to the science and technology in the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the provision of CCST secretariat services.”

Implementation

CDCC resolution 42(XV) was considered at the sixteenth meeting of the CCST Executive Committee held in Port-of-Spain, 20-21 October 1994, under Agenda Item 4.

Most members of the Committee, expressed displeasure with the ideas presented in the resolution.

It was emphasized that the spirit of the resolution was to strengthen the work of the CCST via a thorough examination of its work, administration, objectives and statutes. It was further emphasized that there was a need for a clear mandate to be given to the CCST secretariat to take action with regard to the secretariat arrangements, and that any initiatives would require strong political support.

The structure of the CCST was considered at the thirteenth plenary session of the CCST held in Cuba, 23-27 September 1995, and it was felt that the present operating structure of the secretariat did not allow for the best possible functioning of the Council. In this regard, the meeting sought to find a solution whereby the posts currently allocated for science and technology at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters could be transferred to the CCST in a more formalized manner.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat informed that any changes regarding staffing and budgeting would need to be pursued through the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was suggested that a recommendation could be presented through the CDCC to initiate the appropriate mechanism. However, this could not be introduced until the 1998-1999 biennium.

Discussions have continued between the Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the CCST regarding other aspects of the resolution.

The meeting agreed that the Council would present a proposal to the sixteenth Session of the CDCC on the structure for the secretariat.

Resolution 43(XV): The situation in Haiti

Mandate

In resolution 43(XV) CDCC member governments reiterated:

"the importance of the restoration of constitutional order and democracy and respect for human rights as conditions necessary for the promotion of development"

and pledged:

“to provide assistance in the development of human resources for the creation of democratic institutions and the creation of the necessary infrastructure to provide education and

health for the people of Haiti;”

They agreed:

“to explore the possibilities for cooperation and training in tourism, environment, agri-business;”

and endorsed:

“the need for the continued provision of humanitarian assistance by the international community in accordance with the need to make optimal use of available resources;”

Member Governments requested the secretariat:

“ to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this resolution.”

Implementation

Given the nature and extent of the problem and the many international efforts underway to address development issues in Haiti, the secretariat’s efforts have been limited for the time to providing technical assistance on request from various departments of the Government.

The secretariat was able to obtain funding to ensure that Haiti participated in a science and technology training session which was organized by CCST and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Funding was provided for representatives from Haiti to attend meetings convened to consider aspects of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Haiti participated in the follow-up meeting on the SIDS Programme of Action.

Resolution 44(XV): Participation of Associate Members of CDCC in United Nations World Conferences

Mandate

In resolution 44(XV) member governments noted with satisfaction “ the Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) and took note of ECLAC Resolution II/8 of 27 April 1994 calling for observer status of ECLAC associate members in future world conferences, in particular, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.”

The resolution requested the

“support of CDCC member governments at the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) levels for provisions for CDCC associate members to participate in the capacity of observer in United Nations world conferences, consistent with ECLAC Resolution II/8 of 27 April 1994;”

And requested the CDCC secretariat:

“to take note that matters of particular interest to associate member countries, as referred to in the work programme of 1994-1995 include an analysis of rules of procedure on United Nations world conferences and eligibility for participation in voluntary funds, an overview of respective constitutional arrangements, an analysis of the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement, analysis of preferential market access to the European Union and the potential for regional integration within the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).”

The resolution further requested the Chairman of the Working Group to report to the sixteenth session of CDCC on progress of its work.

Implementation

In an effort to carry out this mandate, the secretariat secured the services of Mr. Carlyle Corbin, Chairman of the Working Group of the NICCs to assist the secretariat in carrying out activities relating to the implementation of resolution 44(XV).

The secretariat drafted, in consultation with member countries, amendments to the Rules of Procedure of several United Nations world conferences. The secretariat was able to secure amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the World Summit on Social Development and to the Rules of Procedure for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The secretariat continued to take account of the interests and circumstances of the NICCs in the execution of all areas of its work programme, and prepared and distributed a monthly newsletter providing information about activities of concern to the NICCs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

July 1994 - December 1995

This section of the report summarizes the main activities carried out by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean during the period since the fifteenth session of the CDCC held in the Dominican Republic in July 1994.

13.1 Promotion of cooperation among member countries of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America

The secretariat's programme of work under this subprogramme covers a range of activities geared towards improving cooperation in the region.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- The secretariat contributed to the process of the establishment of the ACS through participation in technical meetings, preparation of documentation and provision of information on budgetary and institutional questions.

Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

- The secretariat drafted, in consultation with member countries, amendments to the Rules of Procedure of several United Nations world conferences and was able to secure amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- A monthly newsletter providing information on activities of concern to the NICCs bringing them up-to-date on actions of the United Nations and other international bodies was prepared and distributed to member countries.

Regional integration

- A document analyzing the integration practices and options for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was being prepared for distribution to member countries.

Intra-CDCC trade

- Responding to a previous mandate of the CDCC, the secretariat completed work on document LC/CAR/G.445: Intra-CDCC Trade.
- The paper reviews the state of intra-CDCC trade and presents an evolution of the trade in the last

decade, examining the trade policy reforms which have been undertaken by member countries.

Removal of Language Barriers

- The secretariat followed up a decision to continue work on the removal of language barriers project which is aimed at the furtherance of language communication in the region.
- Discussions are continuing with officials from the Netherlands Antilles, CARICOM, UNESCO and other regional bodies in an effort to secure funding for the project.

Technical missions

- Responding to a request from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the secretariat conducted technical assistance missions to Suriname in order to assist in the preparation of proposals for a Management Support Unit (MSU) to manage the economy, including the implementation of structural adjustment policies. Similar assistance was provided to the Government of Aruba, with support from UNDP.
- A study on the possibilities for increased cooperation between Suriname and other countries of the Caribbean was prepared by a consultant attached to the secretariat - "Economic relations between Suriname and other member countries of the CDCC".

Trade and investment

- A regional project on the promotion of trade and investment is being carried out in collaboration with the ECLAC Offices in Mexico City and Santiago.

13.2 Island Developing Countries

With a view to encouraging coordinated actions towards implementation of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened a Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action as a follow-up to the 1994 United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Caribbean Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action

- The meeting, held in Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 May 1995, was organized by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme's Special Unit for Technical cooperation among Developing countries (UNDP/TCDC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED), and the CARICOM.

- The purpose of the meeting was to review progress towards implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action; to discuss constraints on the effective implementation of the Programme; and to agree on priority areas for action.
- The main discussion document revealed that Caribbean countries had not identified opportunities for implementing the SIDS/POA nor had significant new resources been either identified or allocated for this purpose.
- It was emphasized that governments must accept responsibility for implementing the SIDS/POA, and the need for a regional coordinating mechanism to implement the SIDS/POA was highlighted.
- It was noted that there was a need for an adequate regulatory framework to support and facilitate integrated development planning, as well as a need for greater coordination in the area of strategy and policy formulation.
- The ECLAC/CDCC and CARICOM secretariats were requested to jointly provide a regional coordinating mechanism, on an interim basis, for one year; and that other these organizations should, for this purpose, seek the full cooperation of other organizations, particularly the UNDP, UNEP and UWICED.

Follow-up activities

- A follow-up ad hoc working group meeting was convened at the ECLAC Port of Spain Office on 23 November 1995 to consider proposals for a coordinating mechanism for implementing the SIDS-POA as recommended by the Meeting of Experts. The meeting examined proposals submitted by ECLAC/CDCC and several recommendations have been incorporated into a final draft proposal, details of which are provided in document “Activities at the Caribbean subregional level in relation to the United Nations World Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries: Regional Coordinating Mechanism for implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action” (LC/CAR/G.467).
- Provision of support to the CARICOM and ECLAC secretariats is included in a project proposal to be submitted to the European Union. This would considerably facilitate the work of the regional coordinating mechanism.
- The secretariat’s efforts was assisted by the provision of a senior professional staff member from mid-1995. This was the outcome of action on one of the recommendations of the 1994 Global SIDS Conference.

13.3 Women in Development

The subprogramme on Women in Development (WID) focused its attention on a range of issues leading up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), held in Beijing, China, in 1995. A considerable amount of time was devoted to providing technical assistance and advisory services to member countries, regional and international organizations and NGOs in preparing National Status Reports and a regional position for purposes of preparatory conferences and the FWCW.

Preparatory activities to the FWCW

- A number of preparatory activities were carried out as a means of preparing member countries and NGOs for participation in the FWCW, including document preparation, national and regional consultations, and the provision of
- The secretariat is working with subregional institutions in follow-up activities to the United Nations FWCW.

Technical assistance

- Assistance was provided to member countries, NGOs and to subregional organizations in drafting the Caribbean position paper for the FWCW and to member countries in preparing their presentations on the draft documents as well as on the use of the United Nations Guidelines for the Conference.
- Substantive support was provided to the Secretariat of the Conference and to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in preparing the draft Global Platform for Action which was presented at the FWCW.

Follow-up activities

- Dissemination of the United Nations documents and statements arising out of the FWCW relevant to work of government and non-governmental WID focal points in the region.
- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened an inter-agency meeting on follow-up activities to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for equality, development and peace. The meeting was held at the ECLAC Conference Room, Port-of-Spain, 25 October 1995.
- The meeting sought to provide a mechanism which would assist governments in implementing the Platform for Action adopted at the FWCW and to ensure that the momentum generated by the conference and its preparatory activities were carried over into the process for future action.
- Activities to be pursued include: gender training, employment creation and expansion strategies, education, health education and services and elimination of violence against women.

- The meeting stressed the need for information sharing between agencies and the public and noted the overlap of activities among agencies.
- It was agreed that representatives of agencies should meet in early 1996 to more closely examine the work programmes of all agencies relative to the implementation of the FWCW Platform for Action.

Documentation

- Among the documentation prepared for use by member countries was the preparation of document (LC/CAR/G.442) which reviewed the status of women in the Caribbean, in relation to achieving social justice, equality development, and peace, focusing on the critical areas of concern for future action as outlined by the guidelines for national reporting.
- Recognizing that most participants were not familiar with the procedure to be adopted at United Nations conferences, a paper titled "Caribbean position on clustering of bracketed elements in the Platform for Action: A guide for negotiations at the United Nations Fourth World Conference for Women" (LC/CAR/G.449) was made available to member countries for their attendance at the FWCW.
- The secretariat prepared reports on outcomes of the FWCW and possibilities for follow-up in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.457), and of the inter-agency meeting on follow-up activities to the UN-FWCW: Action for equality, development and peace (LC/CAR/G.458).

13.4 Economic and social analysis and planning

In the field of economic analysis and planning, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean prepared reports and working papers on various issues related to economic and social developments in the subregion. The secretariat initiated research on social indicators for countries in the Caribbean subregion.

Documents prepared

- Document (LC/CAR/G.438) provided a summary of global economic developments in 1994.
- Document (LC/CAR/G.444) reviewed the economic performances of the CDCC member countries in 1994.
- Integration and Caribbean development: Reconciling regional policies with global trends LC/CAR/G.464.
- Caribbean economic performance - Synopsis for 1995 (LC/CAR/G.465). This document was

based on an analysis of data from January to June, with comments on the economic prospects for the period July to December 1995.

- Activities at the Caribbean subregional level in relation to the World Summit for Social Development (LC/CAR/G.469).

Working papers

- Working papers were also prepared focusing on sustainable economic development, public sector reform, structural adjustment and privatization policies.

World Summit for Social Development (WSSD)

- The Second ECLAC/CDCC Meeting Preparatory to the World Social Summit was convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 6-8 December 1994, as a means of providing a forum for member states to discuss issues in preparation for the United Nations WWSD which took place in Denmark, 6-12 March 1995. Co-sponsors of the meeting were UNDP, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the OECS.
- The meeting was attended by officials from the public and private sectors of member countries as well as representatives of NGOs.
- The meeting deliberated on the following topics: Poverty, Employment and Social Integration, focusing on the increase in poverty levels, rise in unemployment and the alienation of various groups in the society .

Documentation

- The principal working document LC/CAR/G.430: "The World Social Summit for Social Development: A Caribbean Perspective" analyzed the Caribbean experience with respect to poverty, unemployment and social integration.
- The meeting adopted by consensus the document LC/CAR/G.431:"Social Development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action" which provided a basis for determining the position of Caribbean countries at the World Summit for Social Development.

Follow-up activities

- ECLAC/CDCC has been requested to intensify the collection of social statistics from Caribbean countries, and will continue to provide technical advice and assist in mobilizing resources to help strengthen national statistics capabilities.
- The secretariat provided assistance to Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago in their national

consultations preparatory to the Summit.

- As part of its follow-up activity to the Summit, the secretariat prepared the document “Activities at the Caribbean subregional level in relation to the World Summit for Social Development “ (LC/CAR/G.469).
- The secretariat participated in an inter-agency meeting aimed at improving inter-agency coordination in poverty reduction measures.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Jamaica in conducting a national workshop "Towards the eradication of poverty in Jamaica: A community-based partnership approach".
- Work has progressed on the review of data in the social field, which includes studying the question of social indicators as these pertain to the Caribbean.
- The secretariat intends to broaden existing insights with regard to specific vulnerable groups in Caribbean society.
- A meeting will be convened in early 1996 for consultation and follow-up to the Caribbean Programme of Action and it will focus on priorities within the context of current social scenarios for the subregion.

13.5 International trade and finance

The work programme is geared towards addressing issues related to developments in international trade and finance and bringing them to the attention of member countries.

Finance

Documentation

- The document, LC/CAR/G.441: “Offshore Financial Centres in the Caribbean” provides information on the nature, extent and implications of the offshore banking industry in select countries of the Caribbean. It offers clarification on the concept of the offshore banking industry with the aim of contributing to policy-making decisions and comments on the contribution of the offshore financial centres to national development.
- The paper on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.450) presents an overview of foreign investment flows in the Caribbean and reviews the situation in selected countries of the region.

International Trade

External developments

- As part of our ongoing review of global and hemispheric economic developments, and as a follow-up to the papers presented at the last three sessions of the CDCC, the secretariat prepared a document examining the eligibility requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the light of recent undertakings and expectations of CDCC member countries under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO).
- The document “The Caribbean and the outcome of the Uruguay Round in the context of NAFTA and FTAA” (LC/CAR/G.460) constituted the third in a series of documents on hemispheric and global developments.
- The secretariat along with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organisation of American States (OAS) was given certain responsibilities to assist countries in the implementation of the decision taken at the 1994 Summit of the Americas which called for the establishment of Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA).
- Following the First meeting of the Working group on Smaller Economies, the secretariat prepared a paper entitled "Factors affecting the participation of smaller economies in the Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) (LC/CAR/G.459)". This paper was presented to the media and was widely circulated.
- The paper identified the characteristics of the smaller economies which affect the nature and efficacy of national economic management, and which may also have a bearing on the ability of these countries to take advantage of the expanded opportunities for trade and investment which the proposed free trade area will provide.
- The paper also offered an analysis of the potential consequences of such an arrangement given the small size of the countries of the subregion.

>>>>Sheldon Nicholls paper

The secretariat prepared a paper on.....

13.6 Industry and Tourism

In the field of industry and tourism, the secretariat focused on aspects dealing with industry and development. No additional work was carried out in the area of tourism since the transfer of the staff member with responsibility for this subject matter.

Industrial developments

- The study “Industrial Policies for the CARICOM subregion” examines the implications of existing

trade policies for industry and takes into account national, hemispheric and global economic developments and makes recommendations for an industrial policy for CARICOM.

- This is in addition to work already prepared on the status of export processing zones in selected countries of the subregion.
- Another study entitled: "A Critical Review of the Performance of the Manufacturing Sector in Trinidad and Tobago" analyzed how the sector performed in the context of incentive measures and facilitating mechanisms which have been in place for over 40 years.
- The report identifies the constraints and challenges which the sector faces and prerequisites for its survival in the new economic environment.

>>>> Hayden Toney's paper

13.7 Environment and development

With regard to the implementation of the programme on environment and development, the secretariat concentrated on aspects of the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS/POA). Taking into account the need for environmental information, the secretariat has continued to focus its attention on enhancing the stock of data pertaining to environment and development.

SIDS/POA

- The secretariat continued its follow-up to the Global Conference on SIDS with the convening of a meeting of Caribbean Subregional Experts on the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action.
- The secretariat obtained additional resources to secure the services of a consultant in recognition of the need for strengthening its capacity to respond to the needs of the region.
- This individual assisted the secretariat to successfully carry out its responsibility with respect to the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action.
- The recommendations of the follow-up meeting were discussed by an Ad Hoc Working Group to consider the establishment of a joint mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Environment database

- With financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and UNEP, ECLAC/CDCC and UNEP have implemented the first stage of a project on access to information for the purpose of Coastal Zone Management, one of the most important

objectives of the SIDS-POA for the Caribbean.

- The environment database will provide information on environment statistics in the region and offer a directory on the sources of the information.
- This involves an assessment of the level of environmental information system development and networking in the Caribbean subregion with particular focus on integrated coastal zone management.
- Identification of data and information gaps and management needs of the region has been completed.
- Work has started on the analysis of initiatives in the region in order to identify areas of effective cooperation among the various regional actors.
- The next stage will be to develop a concept proposal for a regional strategy for strengthening the capability of Caribbean governments and regional institutions in environmental data and information management.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- A document is being prepared which makes a critical examination of the availability of environmental information in the Caribbean.
- It will also provide an assessment of implications for planning and decision-making.

Technical collaboration

- The environment and development subprogramme maintains active collaboration with UWICED, UNEP Caribbean Environment Plan (CEP) and the UNDP.
- The secretariat provided support to the UNDP, Trinidad and Tobago, in implementing the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- The programme is a collaborative international programme that provides grants to developing countries for activities and technologies that contribute to the protection of the global environment.

13.8 Science and technology

The programme on science and technology is carried out in collaboration with the CCST. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to serve as the secretariat of the CCST.

CCST activities

- The thirteenth Plenary Session of the CCST was held in Havana, Cuba, 24-26 September 1995, to review the work programme of the CCST . Barbados was admitted into membership of the Council.
- The session identified funding mechanisms for renewable energy and efficiency projects, and the application of raw materials to human settlements in the context of disaster preparedness as key areas for continued work of the CCST.
- The present structure of the CCST was debated and called for the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the CCST.
- The meeting agreed that the CCST should present a proposal on the structure of the secretariat to the next session of the CDCC.
- A proposal was presented to member countries requesting their assistance in resource mobilization and in the implementation of specific projects.
- It was also proposed to establish a formal cooperation agreement with CARICOM.
- The meeting was informed that a draft cooperation agreement with COLCYT was finalized and will be made available to members of the CCST; discussions with the Latin American Economic System (SELA) on a cooperation agreement are ongoing.
- A report of the meeting is available in document LC/CAR/G.455.

Projects

- A number of project proposals for implementation by the CCST were considered at the meeting taking into account the difficulty in accessing funding to implement these projects.
- Among the projects is one on the establishment of a technology extension service which is expected to be executed in 1996.

Renewable Energy

- ECLAC, through the CCST, has concentrated its efforts in the areas of renewable energy and training in project formulation and management.
- CCST in collaboration with UWICED and UNESCO organized the Caribbean High Level Workshop on Renewable Energy Technology, held in Saint Lucia, 5-9 December 1994.
- The workshop sought to bridge the gap between utilities, private sector renewable energy technology suppliers and developers, researchers and government energy planners.

- The meeting adopted a model energy policy for the Caribbean and a resolution on renewable energy and resulted in the initiation of a number of projects in renewable energy.
- A meeting of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Association was convened in Guyana, 28-30 June 1995, to look at follow-up activities to the Workshop on Renewable Energy.

Project preparation

- A “Workshop on analysis of science and technology projects and their implementation in the Caribbean” conducted in Barbados, 18-28 April 1995, in collaboration with the CDB and the TCDC Unit of UNDP.
- Participants from 20 member and associate member countries received an introductory course in the application of the project cycle as a planning tool, including project identification and preparation of the project document as well as implementing and evaluating project activities.

Programa Bolivar

- Support was offered to member governments in accessing the benefits of Programa Bolivar.

Newsletter

- The quarterly newsletter provides member countries with recent developments in the field of Science and Technology, including information on upcoming meetings.

13.9 Information and Documentation

An integral part of the information and documentation programme was the expansion of services beyond servicing the information needs of the office to increased support to member countries in the field of infomatics. Among the activities carried out were:

Electronic information

- The secretariat continued its maintenance and expansion of the electronic information facilities including the introduction of new information technologies.
- Follow-up actions related to the IDRC-funded Caribbean computer-based communication development project.
- Training in the use of the computer as a tool to improve the access to and exchange of information emphasizing the use of the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System.

Documentation

- The Caribbean Documentation Centre prepared and distributed issues of the CARISPLAN Abstracts and Current Awareness Bulletins to users of its facilities.

Workshops

- Training workshops in selected member countries to bring users up-to-date in the use of the Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems (CDS/ISIS) software. This software is used for preparing data for entry into the database and for remote access.
- Maintenance and hosting of bibliographic and full-text databases for remote access as well as statistical and other databases.

Statistics information

- The secretariat issued Volume VII of the statistical publication "Selected Statistical Indicators" of Caribbean Countries.
- This publication sought to amplify the coverage of its database in terms of countries and subject matter information on member countries.
- A soft copy version of this publication is now available for review by member countries.
- The secretariat published Volume III of the document LC/CAR/G.434 "Major Statistical Publications - Abstracts."

Statistical databases

- The secretariat is currently developing additional databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environment information.
- A new software package based on the Statistical Query Language (SQL) architecture, designed to ease the process of capturing and searching trade data is being tested for use by users of the ECLAC/CDCC databases.

Statistical workshop

- The secretariat had planned a workshop/seminar on statistics, with a view to addressing the problem of data collection in member countries of the subregion, but this had to be postponed due to the current administrative difficulties being experienced by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

Technical advisory services

- The secretariat, through the Statistics Unit, delivered technical advisory services to the Government of Suriname under a UNDP project of Support to the ABS (Statistical Office).
- Project funding has been made available through UNDP for rehabilitating the statistical office. Activities started in July 1995.
- The secretariat provided technical assistance to the Department of Economic Affairs, Statistics Office and Tourism Authority in Aruba, on the request of the Minister of Economic Affairs, with support from UNDP.
- After an appraisal of the data management needs of the Department of Economic Affairs, the secretariat was able to introduce methodologies for creating and maintaining sector profiles for maximized efficiency in the writing of Government plans.
- Assistance was also offered in organizing the collection and storage for common access of a number of frequently requested tables.

13.11 Servicing of CDCC meetings

- The secretariat convened its fifteenth session of the CDCC to review the work programme for the current biennium and to consider the work for the 1996-1997 biennium.
- Resolutions were adopted to guide the secretariat in carrying out its programme of work.
- The seventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC was convened in Tobago, 14 July 1995, to review the work of the current programme of work.
- The second meeting of CDCC Focal Points was convened in Tobago, 13-14 July 1995, with the aim of promoting awareness of the functions and aims of the CDCC and offered a firmer basis for collaboration with, and among, member countries.
- The meeting discussed three international issues of concern to the Caribbean and gave government officials from the Caribbean countries exposure to leading experts representing different currents of thought in the region.
- A full report of the meeting is provided in document LC/CAR/G.452.

13.12 Population and development

Activities of the Population and Development Unit concentrated on the United Nations ICPD which was held in Cairo, September 1994. During the past few months the secretariat has also

been actively engaged in the execution of an UNFPA-funded project CAR/94/PO2: Integration of Population in Development Planning for the Caribbean.

United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Preparatory activities

- The secretariat acknowledges the assistance provided by UNFPA in carrying out all activities related to the ICPD.
- Technical assistance was provided to member countries in the preparation of their national reports for presentation at the preparatory conferences and at ICPD.
- Substantial resources were mobilized, mainly from UNFPA, allowing member countries and NGOs to fully participate in the preparatory meetings and at the ICPD.
- Immediately prior to the Conference the secretariat convened a special ECLAC/UNFPA Subregional Preparatory Meeting of Country Delegates to the ICPD, in Jamaica, August 1995.
- The meeting reviewed the Caribbean population and development issues requiring special attention at the Conference and developed a Caribbean position on population and sustainable development.
- Delegates to the meeting recommended actions and positions which set out coordinated strategies for use by Caribbean delegations at the ICPD.

ICPD Conference

- At the ICPD, the secretariat assisted in the coordination of the participation of member countries and the formation of strategies for intervention of Caribbean position.
- During the Conference, member countries identified the need to prepare a post-Cairo Plan of Action for implementation at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Post-ICPD - Caribbean Programme of Action

- With financial support from UNFPA, the secretariat convened “The Caribbean Population and Development Meeting- follow-up to ICPD” in the Bahamas, 3-5 May 1995.
- The meeting, which was hosted by the Government of the Bahamas, provided a forum for consultations on follow-up activities to the ICPD Programme of Action.
- Seventy participants from 18 CDCC member countries including government officials,

representatives from NGOs, regional institutions and international agencies, reviewed the recommendations from the ICPD, the World Summit on Social Development and the Preparatory Document to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

- These conclusions are included in the Report of ECLAC/CDCC/UNFPA Caribbean Population and Development Meeting (LC/CAR/G.446).

Proposed actions

- Delegates prioritized programmes and activities and devised mechanisms for translation into national and subregional programmes.
- Included in the priority areas for the Caribbean subregion were: migration; population policy; adolescent fertility; reproductive health and family planning; advocacy (IEC) programmes and interrelations between population and sustainable development.

Caribbean Plan of Action

- The meeting prepared and adopted a Draft Caribbean Subregional Plan of Action on Population and Development, Follow-up to ICPD, for consideration and implementation by governments of the subregion. At the request of participants, the document was presented to the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting held in Guyana, 4-7 July 1995, for endorsement.

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action

- Substantive support was provided to member countries at the Latin American and Caribbean - CEGAN - Regional Meeting convened in New York, 15-26 November 1994, to revise the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action in light of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Information/Communications - Caribbean Newsletter

- The secretariat is preparing a Caribbean Newsletter to facilitate the exchange of information on country experiences on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- The publication of the newsletter emerged from a special request of governments at the Bahamas follow-up meeting to the ICPD and is expected to promote continuity in follow-up actions to ICPD.

Teenage fertility surveys - Addressing adolescent fertility problems

- Activities related to this subject were carried out under the UNFPA project.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- A survey on teenage fertility was carried out in collaboration with the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The aim was to collect in-depth information required to increase understanding of the causes and consequences, develop intervention programmes, provide recommendations for more efficient resource allocation and strengthen collaboration among implementing agencies.
- The data processing and a preliminary analysis were completed by the secretariat.
- The preliminary findings of the survey were presented to the National Population Council in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Completion date is December 1995.

Grenada

- A similar exercise was started in Grenada in collaboration with the Grenada National Population Council and Department of Statistics. Field work has begun and publication of the final studies is expected by April 1996.

Trinidad and Tobago

- Assistance was offered to the National Population Council of Trinidad and Tobago in the design of strategies for the conduct of a teenage fertility survey.

Migration research - Meeting of Working Group on Migration

- A meeting of a Working Group on Migration and Development was convened 13-15 September 1995, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, at the request of governments during the Caribbean ICPD follow-up meeting in the Bahamas held in May 1995 and as an extension of the research activity of the project.
- This meeting represented the first step towards the implementation of the migration section of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- It also served as the first stage of the process in preparation for the regional and international conferences on migration and development as recommended in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development and the ICPD Programme of Action.
- The objectives of the meeting were to develop strategies for implementation of the *Caribbean Plan of Action - Follow-up to ICPD*; outline an approach for fulfilling the research and data needs required by governments for decision-making; and initiate action on the preparation of

background materials needed for meaningful participation of Caribbean governments at the forthcoming regional and international conferences on migration and development.

- The meeting reviewed data and information on the current migration situation for selected countries, which was then used to assess the migration-related problems facing the Caribbean region today.
- New directions for its study were identified, within the context of changing patterns and the new development paradigms and trading policies of the region. Three areas were recognized as requiring more in-depth review in the Caribbean: the impact of immigration on small island countries and coastal States; the role of remittances and the contribution to development; and new trends in return migration and the implications for development.

Migration research

- Work has begun on the collection of data and analysis for the first two subjects.
- The secretariat has begun work on the conduct of a study on the “Impact of Immigration on Small Island Countries and Coastal States in the Caribbean”.
- The main objective is to conduct a systematic analysis of the impact of immigration on small islands and coastal States for the following countries: Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten and United States Virgin Islands. The aim is to provide policy makers with the appropriate data and analysis needed to assist in their decision making and problem solving. It will include an assessment of data availability; analysis of the social, demographic and economic characteristics of immigrants and identification of the impact on the social sectors.
- Follow-up activities will include the conduct of the research studies; convening of a follow-up working Group Meeting in the first half of 1996, and the organization of a Caribbean subregional meeting on migration and development during the second half of 1996. The outcome of this work is expected to provide inputs into the preparatory exercises for the international conference on migration scheduled for 1997.

Database - Generation

- Census data sets of Caribbean countries are being converted into reduced formats (REDATAM) which can help to strengthen the integration of population in development planning and enhancing overall planning exercises, through the analysis of census data in smaller geographical areas.
- So far, four such databases have been completed.
- A training manual on the use of the revised REDATAM software, prepared by the Latin America and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), was translated for use by

participants in a training seminar on this subject in 1996.

Regional Digest of Socio- Demographic Statistics

- The secretariat published “The Regional Digest of Selected Demographic and Social Indicators for CDCC countries - 1960-1994” (LC/CAR/G.456).
- The document contains national and regional level tables and graphs on demographic trends; fertility, mortality and migration statistics; and selected population-related social indicators including health, employment, education and gender-related data.

Population policy formulation

- Technical support was provided to the National Population Council of Trinidad and Tobago in the finalization of its population policy and the design of strategies for its legal adoption.

Population projections

- A Regional Training Workshop on “Population projections” was conducted by the secretariat in Belize City, Belize, 11-15 December 1995, for demographers responsible for the collection and analysis of demographic data in their respective countries.
- The basic goal of the course was to strengthen the capabilities of planners and statisticians in preparing population projections.

Other activities

The secretariat continues to work in close collaboration with regional and national NGOs in developing their programme of work and provides technical support in their preparation for regional and international conferences. With regard to this aspect of cooperation, the secretariat assisted in ensuring that the NGOs were represented at various preparatory meetings leading up to the Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, The Fourth World Conference for Women and the World Summit for Social Development.