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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
CARIBBEAN MEETING OF EXPERTS ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

17-19 May 1995, Holiday Inn Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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**Introduction**

The Caribbean Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 May 1995 was convened to review progress towards implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS-POA), to discuss constraints on the effective implementation of the Programme and to agree on priority areas for action.

It was organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC), 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 Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

A copy of the programme and a list of documents are attached to this report as Annex I and II respectively.

**Attendance**

Representatives from the following CDCC member and associate member countries were present: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The Turks and Caicos Islands attended as observers. A list of participants, including representatives from the United Nations system, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other experts is provided at Annex III to this report.

**Opening Session**

Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed participants to the Meeting on behalf of the United Nations sponsoring agencies.

He made specific mention of the role played by Her Excellency Ambassador Annette des Iles - Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) - in the process leading up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and in the Conference itself, and for supporting the ECLAC proposal to convene a Caribbean Meeting to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the SIDS-POA.

He adverted to the main objectives of the meeting, among which were: to evaluate progress made in the implementation of the SIDS-POA; and to designate priority areas for action within the broad series of recommendations emanating from the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994).

He stated that the main working document of the meeting, which was being presented by Mr. Hollis Charles, would address these issues. The other working documents for the meeting would focus on specific issues related to the implementation of the SIDS-POA, and make recommendations for the resolution of problems encountered.

He expressed the hope that after the meeting, participants would be better informed of the factors which affected the implementation of the SIDS-POA, and be more cognizant of the priority areas for resource allocation.

Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, alluded to the actions taken by the regional grouping to deal with issues relating to environment and sustainable development. Mention was made of the activities of regional institutions established for this purpose and their role in developing a regional strategy for environment and sustainable development, particularly for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

He stated that the President of Guyana continued to be responsible for Environment and Development matters to the CARICOM Heads of Government. He informed that funding was being sought for the work of the CARICOM Task Force for Environment and Development which was first convened preparatory to UNCED and continued through to the Global SIDS Conference. The Heads had requested that it should continue its work.

He recognized the need for the countries of the Caribbean to re-examine their priorities and reallocate resources for the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the national and regional levels. He also informed the meeting that one of the fifteen programmes in the CARICOM Secretariat's Work Programme specifically focussed on Sustainable Development.

Mr. Dennis Pantin, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, apologized for the unavoidable absence of Mr. Bishnodat Persaud, Director, UWICED.

He expressed the hope that the deliberations of the meeting would be fruitful and called for greater private sector participation in decisions relating to the environment and sustainable development. He also emphasized the need to increase productivity and to prioritize activities in order to make optimal use of existing resources.

Mr. Pantin concluded by expressing the hope that the deliberations of the meeting would lead to agreed actions towards a strategic program of action for implementation in the countries.

In her feature address, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, commented that since small island developing states were limited in size, had vulnerable economies and were dependent both upon narrow resource bases and international trade, they were obliged to address the constraints to sustainable development. She was of the view that the international community had a responsibility to facilitate the efforts of the SIDS to minimize stress on their fragile ecosystems.

The Minister suggested that the SIDS turn away from a narrow focus on environmental degradation and examine its human causes and sources. She argued that human beings must be at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. While the SIDS-POA stipulated that the primary responsibility for implementation lay with each country's own public and private sectors, supported by the international community, most SIDS were unable to fund themselves and therefore had to seek external sources of funding.

She stated that it was through education and the assumption of individual responsibility that the problems which beset SIDS today could be solved. She also added that environmental salvation for small islands could never be put in place by these islands acting alone and she concluded that cooperation across borders must be seen as crucial for sustainable development.

### **Review of Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action**

On the basis of a working document, "Operational Review of Implementation of SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean", which was presented by Mr. Hollis Charles, Consultant, the meeting agreed that:

(a) It appeared that the priorities of the SIDS-POA and/or the adoption of sustainable development approaches had not been explicitly integrated at the national level, even though the primary responsibility for the implementation of the SIDS-POA, like Agenda 21, rested with the governments;

(b) There was a misconception by governments that abundant resources were available for environmental issues and that the SIDS-POA was a United Nations document. Hence the lack of acceptance of responsibility, at the regional and national levels, for its implementation. This lack of "ownership", by governments and the people, of the SIDS-POA, was seen as one of the main reasons for the slow pace of implementation;

(c) It was necessary to involve NGOs, the private sector and other major groups in all aspects of sustainable development, and to improve public awareness, education and understanding in respect of sustainable development;

(d) There was a need for an adequate regulatory framework (with standards and codes) to support and facilitate integrated development planning, which should include physical planning and environmental considerations;

(e) That the SIDS-POA required not just an "environment" but a "sustainable development" focus, which included the need to address issues of gender equity, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods;

(f) Because the implementation of the SIDS-POA required a "self-help" or "self-reliance" approach by SIDS governments, they needed to reflect on their priorities and identify "gaps" for which resources needed to be mobilized;

(g) It was necessary for governments to re-direct priorities towards sustainable development activities.

The meeting recommended that:

(a) Governments should accept responsibility for implementation of the SIDS-POA, which should be assigned at the highest level in institutions such as those responsible for development planning;

(b) Governments should attach high priority to the training of planning and finance officials and sensitizing them to the need to integrate environmental considerations into the planning and budgetary processes;

(c) Physical planning should be incorporated, from the inception, into the overall integrated development planning process, and should take into account environmental concerns, such as waste generation and management;

(d) An appropriate regulatory framework should be instituted at the national level. Consideration may be given to establishing a broad-based committee, such as a Sustainable Development Council (SDC) at the national level, to implement the SIDS-POA;

(e) Recognizing the role of NGOs in sustainable development, including environmental management programmes, provision should be made to strengthen their capacities at all levels, particularly in fostering public awareness;

(f) The recommendations contained in the Report of the Caribbean Regional Technical Meeting (July 1993) , as well as the decisions taken by AOSIS on the SIDS-POA, should be taken into account in the formulation of projects for the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(g) Discussion on environmental issues should take place at the highest political level with a view to the enactment of legislation aimed at the protection of the environment;

(h) The resource-rich coastal zones and EEZs of SIDS need special attention. Efforts should be made to strengthen the management of development in these areas;

(i) Action should be taken to prohibit the transshipment of hazardous and toxic materials through the region;

(j) The private sector should be involved in discussions and negotiations in international forums so that they might become informed and sensitized to environmental requirements enshrined in various international trading agreements, and might be alert to the possibility that those requirements do not operate as effective barriers to trade;

(k) For the effective implementation of the SIDS-POA, efforts should be made to integrate island issues into all ongoing parallel processes in the United Nations System;

(l) There was need for a collective vision at the regional level, support for which could be elicited at the national level, by such mechanisms as popular and cultural activities, the media and the formal education system.

### **Key Issues in Implementation of SIDS Programme of Action (in the context of Agenda 21)**

On the basis of a presentation by Mr. Erik Blommestein of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, "Key Issues in the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action", the meeting agreed, in regard to **capacity building**, that:

(a) There was a critical need for capacity building, including training and information management, which could be enhanced by the use of information and communications technology to create "virtual" critical mass, for the implementation of the SIDS-POA;

(b) Capacity building was not limited to governments but should apply to all segments of the society that are to be involved in the implementation of the SIDS-POA. An integrated sustainable development strategy should draw and build on already existing economic, social and environmental strategies;

(c) The capacity building process for sustainable development in the Caribbean had two dimensions: organizational and behavioural. There was a need to restructure institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of the SIDS-POA. The human dimension should be central in order to achieve social equity;

(d) In light of the scarce human and technological resources in the Caribbean subregion, mobility and transfer of skills should be actively encouraged in order to enhance the capabilities within countries and in the region as a whole, as well as avoid dissipating energies through unnecessary duplication of effort;

(e) Emphasis should be given to the role of education in the process of sustainable development, in recognition of its place in national development and in keeping with its potential for capacity building;

(f) The donor community should play a supportive role by providing assistance for capacity building for all sectors involved in promoting sustainable development;

(g) Regionally available expertise should be mobilized and rationally used, along with information and communications technology, to reinforce national capacity for achievement of the goals of sustainable development;

(h) Governments should be pro-active in their role of facilitator by instituting measures such as fiscal incentives, which encouraged activities that advanced sustainable development and penalized those which did not; and

(i) The implementation of the SIDS-POA and the achievement of sustainable development at the national level, should be facilitated by the creation of a suitable national mechanism, such as a Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) which should provide an overarching strategy that represents the collective goals of all social partners for sustainable development. The SDC should be given constitutional and legislative status similar to that of national commissions responsible for elections, public servants, teachers and the judiciary.

Regarding **information**, the meeting agreed that:

(a) Information sharing was important for capacity building and facilitating decision-making in the region, and that efforts should be made to continue development of information systems in support of designated priority areas in the SIDS-POA;

(b) Information management and training were crucial for the full and effective utilization of information technologies in the region, and ECLAC was capable of providing leadership in this area;

(c) There may be some hesitation in committing to SIDSNET on the part of governments, because they were not yet fully informed of its potential benefits, and that an inventory of information needs should be undertaken to help determine the appropriateness of SIDSNET for the subregion;

(d) There was a need for cost effectiveness while meeting the needs of the users of information. Databanks needed to be further developed as national and regional integrated system; and a sustainable development newsletter and a popularized version of the SIDS-POA needed to be produced.

The meeting noted that:

(a) SIDSTAP would seek to satisfy "unmet" priorities, and that SIDSNET would not create any new networks or databases but provide connectivity and access to existing international information networks;

(b) The guiding principles for implementation of SIDSTAP and SIDSNET required them to be managed by SIDS, with no duplication of activities, and no new institutions;

(c) The UNDP proposed to initiate SIDSTAP, in the Caribbean and other SIDS regions, by undertaking an assessment and project formulation exercise to identify unmet priority needs for

technical assistance, in particular, for capacity building, through the use of appropriate national and regional institutions and experts knowledgeable about the priorities of SIDS.

The meeting recommended that:

(a) A survey of information resources and information needs should be undertaken for the designated priority areas of the SIDS-POA. Based on the results of the survey, a proposal should be prepared for implementation of national and regional information management programmes, for sustainable development, which would include data collection and analysis, repackaging and dissemination of information for decision-makers at all levels and utilizing new information technologies, where appropriate. The proposal should be prepared with inputs from multidisciplinary teams at national and regional levels;

(b) The Port-of-Spain Office of ECLAC should be designated the coordinating institution for regional and international initiatives in information for sustainable development;

(c) Regional and international programmes and projects emanating from the SIDS-POA, including SIDSNET and SIDSTAP, should be available to and accessible by associate member countries of United Nations regional economic commissions;

(d) Information management and training should be promoted since this was crucial for the full and effective utilization of information technologies in the subregion;

(e) Popular forms of communication for image creation and message diffusion, e.g., Carnival, radio and television, should be utilized to advance national and regional efforts for public education on aspects of sustainable development.

Regarding **science and technology**, the meeting agreed that:

(a) Science and technology should be an integral part of the culture of people of the region and it should be incorporated into the curricula at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of the formal education system, in addition to programmes in the non-formal education system;

(b) To counteract the low level of technology employed in several sectors, it was recognized that new technology should be injected to increase wealth. Such new technology should be obtained not only by direct importation but by the development and utilization of local technology. Prior to being imported, the new technology should be examined to ensure that it would not adversely affect the sustainable development of SIDS. Choice of technology, therefore, should be based on existing technical information and the specific situation requiring attention;

(c) The technology gap between the modern/export sector and the domestic/informal sector should be reduced by positive action at the national level;

(d) To facilitate dissemination and/or utilization of newly-developed local technologies it was suggested that at the national level a system of Technology Extension be employed.



The meeting recommended that in order to increase the Science and Technology capacity of the region:

(a) Greater investment should be made in scientific research and development;

(b) The utilization of externally-available technology should be based on informed consideration of the suitability of the specific technology for the particular circumstance; and

(c) Formal and non-formal educational programmes should promote science and technology thereby resulting in science and technology becoming an integral part of the culture of the people of SIDS.

Regarding **financing**, the meeting noted that the UNDP had established a framework for cooperation within each of the five SIDS regions and was providing support through its Resident Representatives, using Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) and Special Resources, Capacity 21 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The meeting agreed that:

(a) In view of the reduced availability of funding for the implementation of the SIDS-POA, there was need for governments to re-order their budgetary priorities and introduce innovative approaches for financing sustainable development;

(b) In light of the fact that additional financial resources might not be forthcoming, existing financial arrangements needed to be examined. Innovative financial instruments needed to be developed and applied in order to effect implementation of the SIDS-POA;

(c) Current financing mechanisms were not sufficient to fund the activities envisaged in the SIDS POA. Consideration should be given to “greening” of government budgets, removal of policy distortions and establishment of national environment funds. In view of concerns that additional Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) funds might not be forthcoming the region should ensure that externally-funded programmes reflected national and regional priorities;

(d) Governments should formulate policies and strategies which would attract external funding, taking into account the fact that, while funding to developing countries was diminishing, the proportion allocated for environmental projects had increased;

(e) Regional and national research and other organizations should become market oriented in providing paid services to the region, which would reduce their dependence on governments for financing;

(f) The region should institute innovative methods for financing national and regional research and development, to address areas that are region-specific, as well as facilitating the transfer of external technology which should be adapted for local use;

(g) In view of the fact that it had already been acknowledged that implementation of Agenda 21 and the SIDS-POA would require additional resources, the prevailing signals that no additional resources were available, as required for this purpose, should not serve as a deterrent to the formulation of projects for external funding;

(h) The productive sectors should be included in the implementation process for the SIDS-POA, since they had a role in generating the internal resources necessary for growth, and in attracting external funding for sustainable development.

### **Priority Areas for Action**

On the basis of presentations by Mr. Dennis Pantin and Mr. Frank Granger entitled, respectively, "A Policy Framework and Action Plan for Sustainable Economic Development in the Small Islands of the Caribbean", and "Implementation of the Programme of Action - Proposals for Priority Action", the meeting took note of the suggestion from Mr. Pantin that:

(a) The criteria which should inform the identification of priorities should be two-fold: existing or projected socio-economic activities (or natural phenomena) which are likely to have a significant negative (or positive) impact on Caribbean peoples as measured by (i) the impact on human life, health and other quality of life indicators; and (ii) the monetary costs (or benefits) to the society;

(b) There might be a two-track implementation approach based on the determination of priorities and the use of case studies of best/worst practice to inform policy instruments which would help to identify challenges and opportunities.

The meeting also took note of the suggestion from Mr. Granger that an approach should be adopted which involved the identification of activities required to meet the requirements of a particular programme area, within the SIDS-POA, and determined the impact of these activities on other Programme areas. The Programme areas with the widest spread of impact on other Programme areas would be selected as priorities. Using this approach the following might be considered to be priority areas for action:

(a) Natural and environmental disasters, with emphasis placed on reforestation and watershed management, together with hazard mapping, risk assessment, contingency planning and the development of effective land use policies and plans;

(b) Waste management, with emphasis placed on the elaboration and implementation of waste reduction strategies, including the review of agricultural and industrial processes and, where appropriate, facilitating retrofitting of plant and equipment to ensure continued waste reduction as well as the identification of, and management requirements for, adequate landfill sites; and

(c) Land resources, with emphasis on the elaboration and implementation of comprehensive land policies.

The meeting also took note of an approach used by NGOs in Jamaica which sought to achieve sustainable development via consultative mechanisms, which recognized NGOs, the private sector and communities as critical partners with government. This approach attempted to persuade the government to recognize sustainable development as a goal for the use of resources which were viewed as inputs to development.

It was agreed that:

- (a) While the meeting could not set national priorities, it could provide guidelines for advancing the prioritization process at national and regional levels;
- (b) Careful consideration should be given to the approaches proposed by Messrs. Pantin and Granger, to the determination of priority areas for action;
- (c) Among the priority areas for action should be those which impacted on the greatest number of countries, and those actions which would improve the poor implementation capability of Caribbean countries; and that there was need to emphasize pro-active rather than reactive approaches to implementing the SIDS-POA;
- (d) Note should be taken of the five priority areas within the broader categories identified in the SIDS-POA, which had been identified by the OECS countries namely, coastal management, integrated development planning, protection of the Caribbean Sea, waste management and capacity building;
- (e) There were additional areas which might be considered to be priorities, due to their implications for other programme areas - availability of capacity, donor interest or their importance in the Caribbean SIDS context. Those priorities would include coastal and marine resources, human resource development, institutional capacity building and information gathering;
- (f) As a first step in implementing participatory approaches for development, technical information should be put into a form that was easily understood by the general public;
- (g) Caution should be exercised in prioritizing areas of the POA for the Caribbean, since this could lead to reducing the scope of activity by international agencies;
- (h) In addressing these priority areas, there was the need to analyze activities and outputs of the international agencies with a view to determining how they could be integrated with the activities of regional agencies and governments;
- (i) It was possible to categorize areas in the SIDS-POA as being sectoral or cross-sectoral. In this approach, natural and environment disasters, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resources, land resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources were categorized as sectoral issues. Climate change and sea-level rise, energy, national institutions and administrative capacity, regional institutions and technical cooperation, transport and communication, science and technology, human resource development, implementation, monitoring and review were categorized

as cross-sectoral issues. In identifying priorities due consideration should be given to these important cross-sectoral issues which were all relevant to the sectoral areas; and

(j) It was necessary to seek to ensure consistency between the principles enshrined in the SIDS-POA and those emanating from other international conferences such as the World Social Summit and the International Conference on Population and Development. This would facilitate improvement of the poor record of governments in meeting commitments made in various forums.

### **Mechanisms for coordination and implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action**

On the basis of presentations by Mr. Byron Blake (CARICOM Secretariat), Mr. Cletus Springer (Resource Person) and Mr. Deo Oodit (UNDPCSD), the meeting agreed that there were three important considerations, namely:

(a) There was need for greater coordination in the area of strategy and policy formulation. This would call for consultation and interaction at the national, regional and international levels. The SIDS-POA should form an organic part of the national programme for sustainable development. Resources would also need to be allocated for the implementation of projects and programmes;

(b) Coordination should also take place across and within regional and international institutional bodies which have multi-sectoral functions;

(c) Efforts should be made to surmount obstacles to coordination such as, conflicting objectives among the donor community, competition among states seeking resources, lack of a coherent approach in the securing of funds (i.e. timing, requirements for project proposals and procurement), territorial imperatives and the absence of a culture of coordination in a number of situations.

It was suggested that:

(a) At the national level there should be a broad based committee or council comprising all the major stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples, women, youth, NGOs, industry, business and academics). The period of membership should be for a period of seven years to ensure continuity. At the political level, an inter-ministerial coordinating committee (embracing all the relevant ministries) should be established to develop and coordinate sustainable development policy. Ideally, this committee should be coordinated by the Minister of Planning at the political level, and the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry at the technical level;

(b) At the regional level, representatives of national governments, the relevant regional agencies, international donor agencies, and international agencies charged with providing support for the implementation of the SIDS-POA, should be responsible for coordinating and implementing the SIDS-POA. There was however a need for this machinery to be allocated the resources required. Critical to this, was the need for the machinery to encompass the entire geographic area of the

Caribbean, possess the relevant disciplines and be capable of influencing decision-makers. Given the tradition of cooperation between ECLAC/CDCC and the CARICOM Secretariat, which had recently been formalized with the signing of a cooperation agreement, those two organizations should be tasked with developing the machinery for regional coordination. This machinery, however, would require the allocation of specific resources, and the definition of their respective functions.

The meeting took note:

(a) That in Saint Lucia, a broad-based, multi-tiered approach had been developed to ensure a coordinated approach to that country's sustainable development and that this approach might be replicated at the regional level. Among institutions, there was need for more systematic networking and greater collaborative effort;

(b) That there was scope for the sharing of expertise, which could be accessed through sources such as the CARICOM Directory of Technical Expertise;

(c) That the DPCSD had assumed responsibility for the development of a Sustainable Development Index, compilation of sources of funding available to SIDS for environmental projects, including modalities for accessing funds and guidelines for developing proposals, and that the SIDS unit of DPCSD was also exploring with UNCTAD the possibility of preparing a paper on the long and short-term impact of the Uruguay Round on SIDS;

(d) Of a suggestion that the Heads of Government of the region should meet to discuss the activities, and inter-relationships between activities, which should be pursued for sustainable development within the Caribbean subregion.

The meeting agreed:

(a) That the absence of a coordinating mechanism at the Caribbean regional level was a critical factor affecting the slow pace of implementation of the SIDS-POA at national and regional levels and that mechanisms should be established at the regional level, to facilitate coordination and implementation of the SIDS-POA;

(b) That the establishment of new regional institutional arrangements, to facilitate implementation of the SIDS-POA, would require much preparatory work and resource mobilization for this purpose. Therefore, the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats, which had recently signed a cooperation agreement and which were both involved in the implementation of aspects of the SIDS-POA, should be requested to jointly provide a regional coordinating mechanism, on an interim basis, for one year; and that the secretariats should, for this purpose, seek the full cooperation and support of other organizations, particularly the UNDP, UNEP and UWICED.

The meeting recommended that:

(a) Coordination should not only take place at the national (local and community), regional and international levels but across and within regional and international institutional bodies which had multi-sectoral functions;

(b) The institutions identified to coordinate the implementation of the SIDS-POA should be provided with the resources required to enable them to fulfil their mandates. This should occur at both national and regional levels;

(c) Efforts should be made to surmount obstacles to coordination such as, conflicting objectives among the donor community, competition among States and institutions seeking resources, lack of a coherent approach in the securing of funds (i.e., timing, requirements for project proposals and procurement), territorial imperatives and the absence of a culture of coordination;

(d) A broad-based committee, such as a Sustainable Development Council (SDC) should be established at the national level, to implement the SIDS-POA;

(e) There should be stronger SIDS representation in negotiations on environmental issues, at the international level;

(f) Resources should be allocated for the continuation and enhancement of the work of AOSIS;

(g) The interim regional coordinating mechanism, to be provided jointly by the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats, should:

(i) Support and facilitate the implementation of the SIDS-POA at the national level by serving as a source of information and technical assistance on aspects of its implementation, including resource mobilization;

(ii) Serve as a focal point for information and for regional and international liaison;

(iii) Identify and take action on transboundary and other regional issues of sustainable development in the Caribbean, including the formulation of regional projects and the mobilization of resources for same;

(iv) Encourage political support for the SIDS-POA and ensure that relevant aspects are brought to the attention of policy makers in the various sectors and in international forums;

(v) Serve as the secretariat for an appropriate regional consultative or advisory body, which would include NGOs and other interest groups; and

(vi) Examine the feasibility of a permanent arrangement for the coordination of the implementation of the SIDS-POA, at the regional level and, depending on the outcome of this examination, seek the funding required for its establishment.

(h) In accordance with the above, the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats should present a jointly agreed proposal to the next meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers and the ministerial session of the CDCC for the establishment of this joint interim coordinating

mechanism. This proposal should include information on the supplementary resources required to effect the coordination and promotion of the SIDS-POA; and

(i) Consideration should be given to adopting , at the regional level, the approach used by the OECS/NMRU, which combined coordination with programme execution and the provision of technical expertise.

Annex I

PROGRAMME

**Wednesday 17 May 1995**

8.00 a.m. - 8.45 a.m.

Registration

9.00 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.

Opening Ceremony:

Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Director, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat

Mr. Dennis Pantin, UWI Centre for Environment and Development

Her Excellency the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Consumer Affairs

and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

**9.45 a.m. - 10.15 a.m. Break**

10.15 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

**Session 1:** Review of Implementation of SIDS Programme of Action

Moderator: Mr. Rashleigh Jackson, Consultant

Presenter: Mr. Hollis Charles, Consultant

Discussants: Mr. Brian Challenger, OECS/NRMU  
Mr. Frank Granger, CARICOM Secretariat  
Ms. Vernese Inniss, Government of Barbados  
Mr. Bernabe Garcia, UNDP/TCDC Unit

**1.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. Lunch**

2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

**Session 2:** A Policy Framework and Action Plan for Sustainable Economic Development in the Small islands of the Caribbean

Moderator: Mr. Swinburne Lestrade (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat)

Presenter: Mr. Dennis Pantin, UWI, Trinidad

Discussants: Mr. Michael White (NEST, Jamaica)  
Mr. Cletus Springer (Resource Person)

**Thursday 18 May 1995**

9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. **Session 3:** Key Issues in Implementation of SIDS Programme of Action, (in the context of Agenda 21)

Moderator: Mr. John Ashe, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Antigua



and Barbuda to the United Nations

Presenter: Mr. Erik Blommestein, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

Discussants:

- (a) Capacity building
  - Mr. P I Gomes, CARICAD
  - Ms. Maureen Rowe, CPDC
- (b) Information
  - Ms. Wilma Primus, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat
  - Mr. David Brewster, UNDP/Barbados
- (c) Science and technology
  - Mr. Donatus St Aimee, Secretary, CCST
  - Mr. Harold Ramkisson, Caribbean Academy of Services
- (e) Finance
  - Prof. Bishnodath Persaud, UWICED

11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

**Break**

11.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. **Session 3:** Continued

1.00 p.m - 2.30 p.m.

Lunch

2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

**Session 4:** The SIDS Programme of Action: Priority areas for action

Moderator: Mr. Leo Heileman, UNEP

Presenter: Mr. Frank Granger, CARICOM Secretariat

Discussants: Mr. Franklin McDonald, Natural Resources Conservation Authority, Jamaica  
Mr. Brian Challenger, OECS/NRMU  
Ms. Jocelyn Dow, NGO, Guyana

4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. **Session 5:** Mechanisms for coordination and implementation of SIDS Programme of Action

Moderator: Ambassador Annette des Iles, AOSIS

Presenters: Mr. Cletus Springer, St Lucia  
Mr. Deo Oodit, DPCSD  
Mr. Byron Blake, CARICOM Secretariat

**Friday 19 May 1995**

11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. **Session 6:** Conclusions and Recommendations; and Closure

Moderator: Mr. Swinburne Lestrade, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

Presenter: Mr. E. Lance Carberry, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

## ANNEX II

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LC/CAR/G.443 Provisional agenda  
 LC/CAR/G.443/Add.1 Notes on agenda and documentation  
 Draft programme

#### *Working/discussion papers*

SIDS/95/1 Operational review on implementation of SIDS programme of action in the Caribbean - Hollis Charles, Consultant to ECLAC  
 SIDS/95/2 Issues in the Implementation of SIDS programme of action - Draft by Erik Blommestein  
 SIDS/95/3 A policy framework and action plan for sustainable economic development in small Caribbean islands - by Dennis Pantin, UWI  
 SIDS/95/4 Science and technology dimensions of the SIDS programme of action - by Donatus St Aimee, Secretary CCST  
 SIDS/95/5 Implementation of the programme of action - proposals for priority action - C. F. Granger, CARICOM

#### *Information papers (including submissions by countries for circulation at the meeting)*

INF.1 Progress achieved in the implementation of the SIDS programme of action - submitted by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Natural Resource Management Unit, Castries, St Lucia  
 INF.2 Position Paper of the Netherlands Antilles: Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS  
 INF.3 UNCTAD's Role in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS  
 INF.4 Environmental information infrastructure initiatives in the wider Caribbean - submitted by the Islands Resources Foundation, St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands  
 INF.5 Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean - A proposal for Caribbean action - submitted by the Organization of American States, Department of Regional Development and Environment  
 INF.6 Contribution to the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean Region - submitted by UNESCO  
 INF.7 Natural and environmental disasters: Regional actions for the sustainable development of SIDS - submitted by CEDERA, Barbados  
 INF.8 PAHO/WHO Position paper on the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action  
 INF.9 The World Bank - Since SIDS: Progress achieved and constraints encountered  
 INF.10 The Commonwealth Consultative Group on Small States: Second Meeting, 1 May 1995, London  
 INF.11 Draft Report of the special body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at its Third Session - submitted by ESCAP  
 INF.12 Involvement of ECLAC/CDCC in the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action - submitted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat  
 INF.13 Highlights of the Informal Meeting as a follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS 8 May 1995, United Nations Headquarters, New York - submitted by DPCSD

INF.14UNDP information note - submitted by the United Nations Development Programme

INF.15Presentation on the implementation of the SIDS programme of action in Montserrat - submitted by the Government of Montserrat

INF.16Position paper of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute - submitted of CEHI

INF.17Contributions of UNEP in support of the Global Conference on the sustainable development of SIDS and implementation of the resulting programme of action - submitted by UNEP

INF.18Overview and status report - submitted by CARICAD

INF.19Provisional list of participants

INF.20South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

INF.21Barbados position paper on the implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of SIDS - submitted by the Government of Barbados

INF.22Issues in Information for sustainable development - submitted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

INF.23Jamaica's response to the plan of action for the sustainable development of small island states - draft - submitted by the Government of Jamaica

INF.24St Kitts and Nevis position paper - submitted by the Government of St Kitts and Nevis

INF.25List of documents

INF.26Progress report on action programme related to sustainable development of SIDS - submitted by the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

## Annex III

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