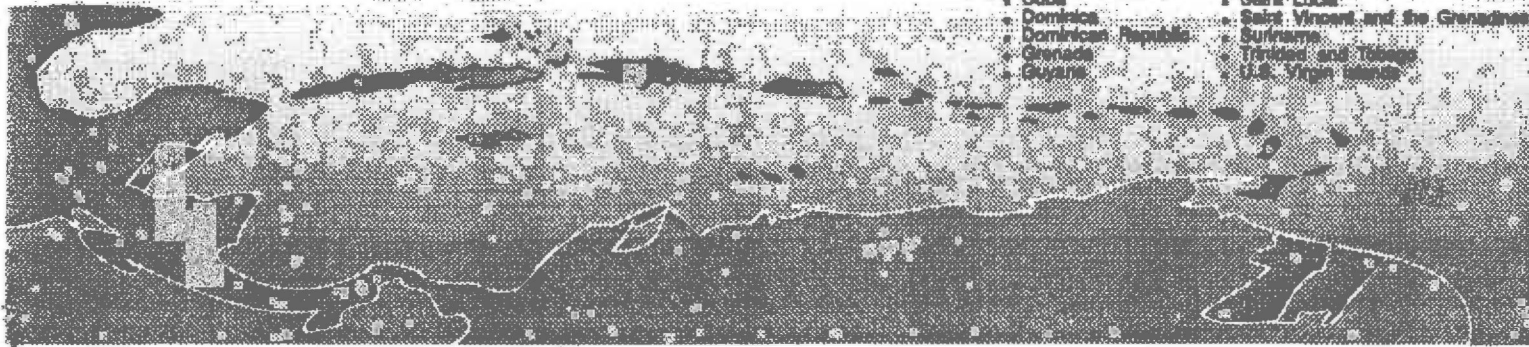




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**ECLAC/CDCC AND THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
 THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
 SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

ECLAC/CDCC AND THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which took place in Barbados on 25 April-6 May 1994 had a special significance for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC). As the subregional headquarters for a grouping of small developing countries, most of which are islands, ECLAC/CDCC has always considered that it has a special responsibility in this area. A paper on the subject was prepared by the secretariat and discussed at the fourteenth session of the CDCC; the office was an active participant in the preparatory process leading up to the Global Conference; and it has been allocated special responsibilities in the follow-up to the Conference. This paper will deal briefly with the substantive outcomes of the Global Conference and with their implications for the work of the secretariat.

Background

First, a word on the background to the SIDS Global Conference and on the secretariat's involvement in pre-Conference activity. We begin the story with the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the largest United Nations conference ever -- 10,000 delegates from 150 countries; 15,000 activists in a parallel Global Forum of non-governmental organizations (NGOs); 7000 journalists. Issues of environment and development had taken centre-stage as never before. Rio produced Agenda 21 -- a comprehensive and far-reaching programme for sustainable development, intended to constitute the centrepiece of international cooperation and coordination activities within the United Nations.¹

¹ Also coming out of the Earth Summit in Rio was the Rio Declaration (27 principles on environment and development), The Statement on Forest Principles, (a set of principles to support the sustainable development of forests worldwide), and two legally binding conventions -- The Framework Convention on Climate Change (aiming to prevent global climate change), and The Convention on Biodiversity (aiming to prevent eradication of biologically diverse species).

One of the outcomes of Rio, of particular interest to member countries of the CDCC, constituted the specific basis for the SIDS Conference. In the section of Agenda 21 dealing with protection of oceans and seas, there is a section on "sustainable development of small islands". This was a significant achievement. For many years, there has been a debate as to whether or not small developing countries, in particular small island developing countries, faced development problems which were in some ways more intractable, or at any rate, of a different order from those faced by larger developing countries. Were the development issues which faced this group of countries "unique" or at least "special"? Much of this debate turned on the notion of vulnerability -- were these small countries intrinsically and on the evidence, more vulnerable than other developing countries to both natural disasters and unfavourable economic circumstances? While the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) succeeded in gaining recognition as a distinct grouping within the United Nations system, with a recognized special need for concessionary development assistance, the island developing countries succeeded only in securing, with biennial regularity, resolutions of the General Assembly calling on the international community to give special consideration to the island developing countries.

Rio then was a considerable achievement. It recognized small island developing States as a special case for environment and development, as ecologically fragile and vulnerable, as having a high share of the world's biodiversity, as extremely vulnerable to global warming and sealevel rise, and as requiring international assistance to meet the various environmental challenges facing them.

Building on the Rio achievement, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) group of countries succeeded in getting the United Nations General Assembly to call for a special global conference which would focus the attention of the international community on small island developing countries and their special needs and circumstances. It is this conference

which took place in Barbados on 25 April-6 May 1994 the main outcome of which was the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.²

Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Essentially this document provides a "basis for action" (a statement of the problem), and recommends action at national, regional and international levels in respect of each of the 15 issue areas it deals with: climate change and sealevel rise; natural and environmental disasters; management of wastes; coastal, marine and fresh water resources; land, energy, tourism and biodiversity resources; national administrative capacity; regional cooperation; transport and communications; science and technology; human resource development and implementation.

The Programme of Action constitutes the major outcome of the Global Conference. Much as AGENDA 21 did in relation to the Earth Summit, the Programme of Action has done in respect of small island developing countries -- it provides a comprehensive programme of activities for action by the entire international community, including the small islands themselves, towards the enhancement of the sustainability of approaches to the development of these small islands. It takes account of their special disadvantages and needs and commits the international community to provide support to the efforts of these islands to achieve sustainable development. (A summarized version of the Programme of Action is attached to this document as Annex 1.)

Regarding the critical issue of finance, the Programme of Action places responsibility for its implementation at the national level primarily on governments. Financing for its implementation is to come primarily from, "the public and private sectors of small island developing States", but "various financing channels ... need to be explored...". The Programme places the onus on the SIDS to reappraise the allocation of resources at the

² The Conference also adopted the "Declaration of Barbados", which affirmed the principles which formed the basis of the Programme of Action.

national level: they are urged to "optimize the impact of available resources" and to make increased use of economic instruments, to promote private sector investment and "the use of innovative financial mechanisms", including small-scale grants and micro-enterprise loans.

At the regional level, regional development banks are encouraged to increase their technical and financial assistance in support of the sustainable development of SIDS. At the international level, it is recognized that, "the implementation of the Programme of Action will require the provision of ... adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources...". To this end, it is deemed essential "to honour all financial commitments contained in Agenda 21". The international community is urged to "provide concessionary financial and technical assistance, and grant assistance, at the levels necessary to support sustainable development". In this respect the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Capacity 21 Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are particularly applicable.

Role of ECLAC/CDCC in relation to the Programme of Action

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was actively involved in the preparatory process leading up to the Conference. In particular it co-organized with the CARICOM Secretariat, the Regional Technical Meeting (RTM) for the Caribbean, Atlantic and Mediterranean, preparatory to the Global Conference. This meeting took place in Port-of-Spain in July 1993. The secretariat contributed two papers to this meeting: Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing Countries, and Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean: Proposals for Action, in addition to contributing substantively to the main working document for the RTM. The secretariat hosted a technical working group meeting to review the draft working document for the RTM, and provided administrative and secretarial support to the two consultants who were working on the draft document.³

³ The secretariat provided material on its activities to UN headquarters for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General for purposes of the Global Conference.

At the Conference itself, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was represented by: the Executive Secretary and the Director (who attended the high-level segment), the Deputy Director (at the technical meeting), the Economic Affairs Officer (Environment), who participated in the NGO Forum and the Science and Technology Officer who collaborated with the Programa Bolivar at SUSTECH. The Social Affairs Officer (Women and Development) gave technical support to the NGO community in preparation of its position document. The representative of ECLAC made a statement to the plenary session of the Conference.⁴

Quite apart from activity directly related to the Conference, the secretariat has been actively involved in areas of direct relevance to its subject and purposes. These activities are reported in paper LC/CAR/G.410 (Implementation of the Work Programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 biennium: January-December 1993).

The role of regional institutions, and in particular their subregional commissions, is explicitly provided for in the implementation provisions of the Programme of Action. Every one of its 15 chapters identifies activities which are recommended for execution at the regional level in support of "national actions", and these activities have possible implications for the work programmes of United Nations and non-United Nations organizations.

Chapter XV (Implementation, Monitoring and Review) of the Action Programme explicitly recognizes that "the sustainable development of SIDS will require the development of national and regional strategies, plans, policies and processes", and that "international cooperation will be essential to support and complement such efforts". In particular, "the United Nations system has a key role to play in close cooperation with and in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, which are called upon to contribute in large measure to that effort". Along with regional development banks, and regional and subregional economic, environmental and technical cooperation organizations,

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A copy of the ECLAC statement to the Global Conference is contained in Annex 2.

the regional commissions have been identified as contributing to the promotion of the sustainable development of SIDS by: (a) promoting regional and subregional capacity building; (b) promoting the integration of environmental concerns in regional and subregional development policies; and (c) promoting regional and subregional cooperation, where appropriate, regarding transboundary issues related to sustainable development.

Specific attention is paid in the Programme of Action to the subregional offices of the regional commissions:

"Each of the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations should be enabled to support regional activities to coordinate the implementation of the conference outcomes at the regional level, including through the provision of necessary autonomy and of adequate resources to their subregional offices and operational centres taking into account the ongoing process of decentralization".

These offices are, *inter alia*, expected to act as, "points of liaison between the United Nations agencies and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, and between the United Nations agencies at the regional and subregional level".

The Secretary-General in his report to the forty-ninth United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the Programme of Action is to include a section on action taken by the regional commissions, particularly at the subregional level.

All told, the activity and reporting requirements of ECLAC/CDCC in respect of the Programme of Action appear to be considerable. Given the multisectoral composition of the staffing and work programme of the Office and its Caribbean-wide constituency, ECLAC/CDCC may be very well positioned to carry out the role which is envisaged for it. The secretariat would, however, require additional financial and staff resources in order to

carry out this mandate with the highest level of effectiveness. The extent of the additional requirement can be determined more definitively after a more careful perusal of each of the chapters of the Programme of Action with a view to informing an identification of those activities which the secretariat may be best placed to carry out. Such identification should also be informed by an inter-organizational discussion of the subject, involving United Nations and non-United Nations agencies.

By way of providing an urgently needed response to a request of the Global Conference, the secretariat prepared a note on resource implications for the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat of decisions taken at the Conference. This note is reproduced as Annex 3 to this paper. It calls for additional staff (1 environment officer, 2 junior professionals, 1 research assistant and a secretary), in addition to computers and an operating budget. Preliminary indications are that the additional resources to be provided to the secretariat will fall short of this requirement. The secretariat expects to be able to discuss this issue with the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in New York, with a view to clarifying its responsibilities under the Programme of Action and the extent of the additional resources which may be available in order to carry them out.

In the meantime, the secretariat will be making every effort to take account of the activities and mandates of the Programme of Action in the course of the execution of its own programme of work. The SIDS Programme of Action, within the context of a wide focus on sustainable development, makes pointed reference to a number of the issue areas which constitute elements of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC. In addition to extensive coverage of environmental matters, it deals with population, poverty, women's issues, social development issues, science and technology and issues of international trade. Quite apart from the need for additional resources to carry out its mandate with the desirable level of comprehensiveness, the secretariat will seek to ensure that it incorporates, to the maximum extent possible within the limits of the resources available to it, the recommendations and proposals contained in the Programme of Action.

Basis for action

The Programme of Action provides SIDS with a large platform from which to adopt an approach which was suggested by the secretariat in its paper on "The issue of special status for island developing countries" (LC/CAR/G.374), which was prepared for consideration at the fourteenth session of the CDCC in December 1992. That paper had critically reviewed the progress of this group of countries towards achieving special international status akin to that achieved by the group of least developed countries, and had observed:

"It would be interesting ... to review the extent to which (UN) resolutions have resulted in specific actions in favour of IDCs. There is evidence from a number of United Nations agencies ... of some sensitivity to the situations of IDCs. What seems certain is that there is a measure of dissatisfaction with the outcomes, on the part of the IDCs, and that there is a sense that the issue of the special situation of IDCs may be slipping off the agenda of international attention".

In relation to questions of strategy the paper had argued that, "too often IDC recommendations are in the nature of generally applicable development prescriptions and appear to be too unfocused for purposes of concentrating the attention of the international community"; and that "there may be need for a greater degree of precision as to what the issues are as they pertain to IDCs, and precisely in which areas or for what kinds of programmes these countries would wish support from the international community". The ECLAC/CDCC paper recommended that,

"IDC efforts to win special consideration from the international community may now need to become more targeted on issue areas which are more identifiably IDC issue areas, which apply more specifically to IDCs or which apply to them with exaggerated effect. IDC-specific projects need to be formulated for the consideration of identified segments of the traditional

and non-traditional donor communities. Efforts need to become more sector-focused where it appears that circumstances may be conducive to such an approach; and more project-oriented in areas where IDC relevance can be more easily demonstrated".

This approach appears to be reflected in the Programme of Action in a comprehensive way, even as its focus is unavoidably largely environmental. It still remains, however, as was recommended in the earlier ECLAC/CDCC paper for programmes and projects to be formulated for presentation to identified donors based on the numerous and varied recommendations contained in the Programme of Action, if the resources sought by the SIDS are to be elicited. In this process there is an undeniable role for the international community; and as we suggest above, the Programme of Action constitutes an excellent and welcome basis for this.

ECLAC/CDCC, for its part, is collaborating with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the formulation of a project on environmental information, which would build on ECLAC AMBIONET, to be executed by the subregional headquarters of ECLAC. This project is intended to go a long way towards filling the gap which exists in the availability of accessible environmental information for use by decision makers in the Caribbean. ECLAC/CDCC expects to collaborate with other interested agencies in the formulation of projects in aspects of sustainable development which have been identified in the Programme of Action.

**SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

I. Climate change and sealevel rise

Basis for action

The very survival of certain low-lying countries would be threatened by sealevel rise; as most populations, agricultural lands and infrastructures of small island developing States exist in the coastal zone, any rise in sealevel will have significant and profound effects on the economies and on the living conditions of the population of those countries.

National action

Ensure early ratification or accession to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol and other related legal instruments.

Regional action

Create and/or strengthen programmes and projects to monitor and improve predictive capacity for climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise and to assess the impacts of climate change on marine resources, freshwater and agricultural production, including pests.

International action

Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for monitoring and coping with climate variability and change and sealevel rise.

II. Natural and environmental disasters

Basis for action

SIDS need to be better prepared for the impact of natural and environmental disasters since small island developing States are prone to extremely damaging natural disasters.

National action

Establish a national disaster emergency fund with joint private and public sector support for areas where insurance is not available in the commercial market.

Regional action

Increase access to telecommunication links and satellite facilities for disaster monitoring, assessment and information exchange.

International action

Assist small island developing States to establish and/or strengthen national and regional institutional mechanisms and policies to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, improve disaster preparedness and integrate natural disaster considerations in development planning.

III. Management of wastesBasis for action

SIDS are especially vulnerable to waste management problems since in these States there is limited land area and limited resources for safe disposal, growing populations and increasing imports of polluting and hazardous substances.

National action

Develop fiscal and policy incentives and other measures to encourage environmentally sustainable imports and local products with low waste content.

Regional action

Establish regional mechanisms to protect the oceans, seas and coastal areas from ship-generated waste, oil spills and the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste.

International action

(i) Support the strengthening of institutions to provide assistance to Governments and industry in the adoption of clean production technologies as well as for the prevention of pollution and in the handling, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.

(ii) Provide improved access to financial and technical resources to assist small island developing States in establishing regional centres for training and transfer of cleaner production technologies and management of hazardous wastes, and for the development of inventories of training and technical activities of international organizations related to waste management and cleaner production.

IV. Coastal and marine resourcesBasis for action

The development and management of programmes designed to achieve ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources are major challenges for small island developing States.

National action

Establish and/or strengthen institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated coastal zone management plans and strategies for coastal watersheds and exclusive economic zones and their implementation.

Regional action

Develop and/or strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to undertake activities in coastal and marine areas, and their capabilities for the effective surveillance and monitoring of activities in the exclusive economic zones of small island developing States.

International action

Support small island developing States in establishing national and regional capabilities for effective surveillance and monitoring of activities within their exclusive economic zones, in the setting up of regional and other joint-venture fishing enterprises, in developing inventories of marine resources and regional approaches to the sustainable management of their exclusive economic zones and in the strengthening of regional marine research centres.

V. Freshwater resources

Basis for action

Inadequate protection of freshwater resources can set limits to sustainable development. Inadequate action to safeguard watershed areas and groundwater resources poses a further long-term threat, while in urban areas rapid population growth, changes in economic strategies and a growing per capita use of freshwater are important challenges.

National Action

Adopt appropriate standards for the management of freshwater resources, and develop and strengthen low cost monitoring and assessment capabilities; and strengthen procedures to monitor and respond to the impacts of natural and environmental hazards.

Regional action

Develop and strengthen initiatives for regional cooperation in training and research to assist Governments in the development and implementation of integrated water resource plans.

International action

Enhance small island developing States' capacities to develop and implement integrated water resource plans, including water resource allocation and management, conservation and rehabilitation of watersheds, protection of groundwater, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.

VI. Land resources

Basis for action

A major long-term land management issue is the degradation of the land area due to a variety of factors, including overuse because of high population pressure on a limited resource base; deforestation due to unsustainable commercial logging or permanent conversion agricultural or grazing pursuits; and other episodic events, such as fire.

National action

Formulate and enforce laws, regulations and economic pricing and incentives to encourage the sustainable and integrated use, management and conservation of land and its natural resources.

Regional action

Collect, synthesize and share relevant information, knowledge and experience among small island developing States on sustainable land-use practices and policies in a structured and systematic way.

International action

Support the improved availability of shelter and the economic and environmental quality of human settlements for small island developing States; and facilitate the development and improvement of national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups.

VII. Energy resourcesBasis for action

Small island developing States are heavily dependent on imported petroleum products and on indigenous biomass fuels for cooking and crop drying yet these fuels tend to be highly inefficient. Increased efficiency through appropriate technology and national energy policies and management measures will reap both financial and environmental benefits for small island developing States.

National action

Promote the efficient use of energy and the development of environmentally sound sources of energy and energy efficient technologies.

Regional action

Assist in the formulation of energy policies, standards and guidelines for the energy sector applicable to small island developing States, and enhance national capacity to effectively plan, manage and monitor their energy sectors.

International action

Encourage international institutions and agencies, including public international financial institutions, to incorporate environmental efficiency and conservation principles into energy-sector-related projects, training and technical assistance and, where appropriate, to provide concessionary financing facilities for energy-sector reforms.

VIII. Tourism resources

Basis for action

Tourism has contributed much to the development of small island developing States and is one of only a few development options for small island developing States. However, if not properly planned and managed, it could significantly degrade the environment on which it is so dependent.

National action

Adopt integrated planning and policies to ensure sustainable tourism development, with particular attention to land-use planning and coastal zone management, requiring environmental impact assessments for all tourism projects; continuous monitoring of the environmental impact of all tourism activities; and the development of guidelines and standards for design and construction taking into account energy and water consumption, the generation and the disposal of wastes and land degradation, the proper management and protection of eco-tourism attractions, and the carrying capacity of areas for tourism.

Regional action

Ensure that tourism and environment are mutually supportive in cooperation schemes at the regional level including, where appropriate, harmonization of standards and regulations.

International action

Promote recognition of the value of tourism in small island developing States to the international community as well as the fragility of the resources on which tourism in small island developing States depends and the need therefore for international support to encourage its sustainable development.

IX. Biodiversity resources

Basis for action

Owing to the small size of SIDS, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems, their biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world. Lack of information collection in the past has been the basis for inaction, but there is enough information in some cases for in situ conservation.

National action

Formulate and implement integrated strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, and promote community support for the conservation of biological diversity and the designation of protected areas through concentration on education strategies.

Regional action

Promote the establishment of regional gene-bank centres for research, seeking the development and introduction of more resistant and productive varieties of species, and provide the appropriate legal and technical procedures for the use of these biological resources and coordinate information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national efforts to establish and manage conservation areas and for species conservation.

International action

Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for the conservation of biological diversity, including funds for basic institutional and logistic support for the conservation and management of biological diversity, with priority to be accorded to terrestrial as well as coastal and marine biodiversity, such as coral reef ecosystems.

X. National institutions and administrative capacityBasis for action

The integration of environmental considerations into national decision-making processes is the single most important step to be taken by small island developing States to ensure that these problems are addressed and that the principles of sustainability guide all future development.

National action

Strengthen institutional arrangements and administrative capacity, including cross-sectoral/inter-ministerial committees and task forces, to integrate environment and economic policy in national planning; establish or strengthen environmental agencies with adequate financial and staff resources; provide adequate resources for the enforcement of environmental regulations; enact domestic legislation required for the implementation of international environmental conventions.

Regional action

Assist with the preparation and implementation of national environmental strategies and plans.

International action

Improve access to financial and technical assistance to strengthen national institutions and administrative and operational capacity.

XI. Regional institutions and technical cooperationBasis for action

Regional institutions and technical cooperation are essential, in light of their small size. Regional organizations, both United Nations and non-United Nations, can play a key role to facilitate efficient and effective assistance. Regional organizations can be useful vehicles for implementation of regional programmes.

National action

Support regional organizations through membership and budgetary contributions; and encourage improved coordination and collaboration among regional bodies and between the international community and regional programmes.

Regional action

Develop a SIDS technical assistance programme to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation on sustainable development issues, and support regional sustainable development centres.

International action

Improve access to financial and technical resources for the development and/or strengthening of regional bodies.

XII. Transport and communicationsBasis for action

Transport and communications are the lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world, with each other and within their own countries, and are an important means of achieving sustainable development.

National action

Continue efforts to strengthen transport services and facilities at both the national and local levels and to upgrade domestic communication facilities, including radio and telephone coverage to remote rural and outer island communities.

Regional action

Foster increased cooperation in civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications, and encourage the application of appropriate communication technologies to promote sustainable development in areas such as education, health eco-tourism and other areas critical to sustainable development, including the promotion of greater public awareness.

International action

Improve access to financial and technical resources in support of regional organizations which are coordinating and advising SIDS in the fields of transport and communications; and promote improved international telecommunications at the lowest possible cost.

XIII. Science and technologyBasis for action

Science and technology are crucial for the achievement of sustainable development. There would be considerable benefit if all countries incorporated environmentally friendly technologies to a greater extent. Scientific and technological capacity remains underdeveloped both in terms of research and development institutions and of the availability of scientists to serve such institutions on a sustained basis.

National action

Ensure that science and technology policy is closely linked to national environmental strategies and sustainable development plans and is responsive to local and sectoral sustainable development needs.

Regional action

Assist small island developing States to assess technology, develop databases on environmentally sound technologies, conduct relevant research, development and training and develop appropriate information systems to share experience within and between SIDS.

International action

Encourage development within the international community of appropriate programmes in support of regional and national efforts to build the science and technology capacities of small island developing States.

XIV. Human resource developmentBasis for action

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and thus significant attention must be given to projects which will enhance the quality of human life in small island developing States. Environmental education and science training, particularly are essential to developing environmental awareness.

National action

(i) Infuse sustainable development ideas into education curricula at all levels and promote participation by all groups, emphasizing the link between environment and social and economic issues, and continue to improve access to scientific, mathematics and technical training;

(ii) Incorporate population issues into the mainstream of decision-making and planning mechanisms of government, including the development of comprehensive population policies consistent with sustainable development objectives; and

(iii) Improve the quality of education, training and human resource development by upgrading basic education and technical/vocational skills training and by making improvements where necessary to national management and planning capacities and labour market linkages.

Regional action

Support national efforts to develop appropriate curricula for sustainable development at all levels.

International action

(i) Provide appropriate resources to meet the particular population concerns of small island developing States, including implementation of outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(ii) Support programmes aimed at increasing the involvement of community-based organizations in conservation and natural resource management programmes;

(iii) Provide assistance for the training of policy makers in the area of natural resources management; and

(iv) Support small island developing States in their efforts to improve urban/rural settlements through the promotion of projects aimed at human development and the elimination of poverty and by ensuring that such projects have adequate resources.

XV. Implementation, monitoring and review

As recognized in Agenda 21, Governments will be primarily responsible for the implementation of the programme of action. The sustainable development of small island developing States will require the development of national and regional strategies, plans, policies and processes. International cooperation will be essential to support and complement such efforts. The United Nations system has a key role to play in close cooperation and coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, which are called upon to contribute in large measure to that effort.

National implementation

At the national level, countries have to ensure that environmental considerations are given appropriate significance, in particular at central levels of decision-making, and that there is full integration of environmental and developmental considerations at both micro- and macro-levels. Considerable emphasis has been placed on building endogenous capacity throughout the programme of action.

The decisions of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will depend ultimately on the resources small island developing States can mobilize from internal and external sources to meet the great challenges of sustainable development in general and capacity-building in particular.

While in general the financing for the implementation of the programme of action at the national level will come from the public and private sectors of small island developing States, various financing channels, including those referred to in Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, need to be explored.

Resources at the national level should be further increased by optimizing the impact of available resources and by exploring increased use of economic instruments, the promotion of private sector investment, and the use of innovative financial mechanisms. Among possible innovative financial mechanisms, small-scale grants and micro-enterprise loans for sustainable development activities at the community level should be explored.

Regional implementation

A number of important programmes and measures are necessary at the regional level to support national priorities. In particular, regarding finance, coordinated approaches should be developed to the mobilization of financial resources for national and regional efforts including improved access to financial resources and continued encouragement of private investment and the identification of opportunities for introducing innovative financial mechanisms.

Regional development banks and other regional and subregional organizations should be encouraged to increase their technical and financial assistance in support of sustainable development in SIDS.

International implementation

The programme of action is part of the process of the implementation of Agenda 21.

It is essential to honour all financial commitments contained in Agenda 21. In particular, there is a need to activate the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to maximize the availability of adequate, predictable, new and additional resources using all available funding sources and mechanisms, as laid down in chapter 33 of Agenda 21. In this respect, there is a need to ensure better and more efficient use of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and other existing external sources of finance. In addition, the use of innovative financing mechanisms, should be explored. Furthermore, there is a need to coordinate the efforts of donors and recipients.

The international community should provide to small island developing States concessional financial and technical assistance, and grant assistance, at the levels necessary to support their sustainable development.

The restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF) should be seen as an important channel of assistance in these areas, through the provision of new and additional resources. UNDP's Capacity 21 programme is also particularly applicable.

**STATEMENT BY MR. SWINBURNE A. S. LESTRADE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me, Sir, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to offer our congratulations to you on your election to the presidency of this historic conference, and to join other delegations in praise of the inspired efforts of Barbados in successfully hosting our Conference on Small Island Developing States.

I must also apologise, Sir, for the absence of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr Gert Rosenthal, who joins the Conference next week, and who was prevented from being here earlier because of his participation in the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC now taking place in Cartagena.

Mr President, there has been much discussion as to whether small size constitutes a special challenge of development; of whether the small size of countries, especially when these countries are islands, makes them uniquely deserving of special consideration from the international community. I am happy to note that in most of the statements delivered so far in this conference, there has been explicit or sometimes implicit acceptance of the need for special treatment. Because while small developing countries face similar kinds of economic, social and environmental problems as those faced by developing countries generally, there are aspects of the development problem of small countries that are more difficult to deal with in a way that is effective, long-term and sustainable.

Mr President, this Conference has already been a success in at least one sense -- the preparatory process and the Conference itself have served to highlight the special needs of small island developing countries and to place them on the agenda for international action in a more emphatic way than had previously been achieved by a succession of biennial resolutions of the un general assembly. We hope that this success has affected the administrations and peoples of the small islands themselves as much it is expected to affect the international community.

The issue of resources is destined to occupy much of the time of this conference. The SIDS may be well served by including in their approaches to this question, a strong project concentration. This might consist of identifying elements of their countries' development situations which stand them apart from other countries, and formulating projects and programmes structured to deal with these. In other words we need to formulate sids-specific projects for the attention of the donor communities; generally, we need to become more project oriented in areas where sids-relevance can be more convincingly demonstrated.

There are already a few examples of such SIDS-specific project areas. One of these is access to international capital for development on concessional terms. The need for continued financial inflows on the most concessional terms for as long as possible, derives from the high per capita cost of development projects and of public administration, which is a characteristic of SIDS and especially of the very small SIDS.

Secondly, appropriately designed export compensation schemes, supported by the international community, take account not only of the export dependence which affects SIDS in a particularly telling way, but also takes account of the narrow concentrations which characterize these exports. Related to this export vulnerability is a consequential economic vulnerability which appears to argue for specially targeted programmes of export and economic diversification. Such programmes are necessarily of long-term duration, a fact which should be taken into account in donor supported programmes.

Thirdly, arrangements for overseas representation also come to mind as an example of programmes which could be tailored to address a difficulty which the very small SIDS experience in satisfying the international imperatives of life as independent countries in the world of overseas representation and international diplomacy. The example of the support given to small states of the Commonwealth for purposes of representation at the United Nations, is an example to be emulated.

Finally, in response to the acknowledged human resource situation of SIDS, innovative approaches are needed to deal with this problem. The provision of certain administrative and technical services at regional or subregional level, has been attempted with success in some of the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. There appears to be scope for additional joint services in the Caribbean at subregional and regional levels. In this context regional integration is an obvious mechanism for SIDS to use to achieve greater effectiveness in economic and non-economic areas. These approaches should commend themselves to the international community, as approaches which are in certain identifiable ways specially relevant to the scale and manpower deficiencies in SIDS. In these areas however, the SIDS themselves may need to bring to the table greater will and creativity.

The Caribbean SIDS included in the scope of this meeting, along with the low-lying States of Guyana and Suriname, are a part of the constituency of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and comprise the total constituency of the Caribbean office of ECLAC. Thus, all of the work of that office deals with development problems of the small developing countries of the Caribbean. Through the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the intergovernmental forum that is an associated institution of ECLAC, representatives of the 22 member countries meet annually to discuss issues of development. Since the issue has already emerged in the course of this Conference, it should be noted that the membership of ECLAC and the CDCC includes six of the non-independent countries of the Caribbean -- Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. These countries participate equally in decisions on the work programme of ECLAC, and in deliberations of the CDCC, which is the most pan Caribbean of Caribbean intergovernmental forums.

Mr President it is part of the purpose and mandate of the regional commissions of the United Nations to adopt an approach to development that is multidisciplinary. Thus besides economics, the staffing structure and work programme of the Caribbean office of ECLAC are intended to bring to bear on our development work, perspectives from the environment, population, science and technology, women's issues, social development issues and information technology. Much of our work is also directed towards the promotion of development cooperation among the countries of what some persons call the wider Caribbean, and between the Caribbean and Latin America. I might add that in more recent times ECLAC has increased its collaboration with non-governmental organizations in core areas of its work, notably in preparing the Caribbean's preparations for purposes of the world social summit scheduled to take place in Copenhagen in 1995; and the office is currently examining the scope for extending its relationship with non-governmental organizations into other aspects of its work.

Sustainable development is about protecting the environment, about promoting human development and fostering economic development. Our work in the area of the environment has taken us in the recent past into collaborating with PAHO and other organizations in project formulation and development in environmental health and tourism, and in environmental statistics. In collaboration with the International Development and

Research Center of Canada and the United Nations Environment Programme, ECLAC's Caribbean office has implemented an information system called the ECLAC/Ambionet electronic information exchange system. ECLAC/Ambionet includes a regional environmental data bank to provide users identified in Agenda 21 with access to environment-related data on Caribbean countries for decision-making at all levels. It is an on-line information exchange system which facilitates access to regional and international communications and network systems, thereby strengthening the capacity of existing regional networks and other users to access databases and exchange information rapidly.

Through our economic surveys and analyses, which are a stock-in-trade of ECLAC, we keep Caribbean governments and people informed on performance, problems and prospects in the economic and social sectors of all of our 22 member countries. Regarding social development issues, ECLAC's Caribbean office is an acknowledged center of excellence in the area of population and development; and we are currently very busily engaged in helping Caribbean countries to prepare and coordinate their positions preparatory to the upcoming world summits on population and development, on social development and on women's issues. Preparation for the social summit has involved us in researching poverty, unemployment and social integration, the three themes of the social summit, which as this conference has already acknowledged, constitute essential components of sustainable development.

In science and technology, critically important to capacity building which is viewed as an important imperative in the context of Agenda 21, I might mention one recent initiative which is especially important to SIDS, that is Programa Bolivar. This programme, a non-governmental international programme sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank, seeks to promote technological, industrial and scientific cooperation between public and private companies and research institutions at regional, subregional and international levels, with the aim of stimulating the technological, scientific and response capacity of each country. The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, which is located in ECLAC's Caribbean office, is the regional focal point for this programme. Programa Bolivar has considerable potential to assist SIDS in building their technological capacity with a view to producing goods and services competitively for export to the world market, in the unfolding context of hemispheric and global liberalization.

Finally, Mr President, - regarding implementation of the action programme and of Agenda 21, UN General Assembly resolution 47/191 requests the regional commissions to submit reports on their specific plans to carry out Agenda 21. Agenda 21 itself calls for the regional commissions to play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities by sectoral and other un bodies. Subject to decisions to be made at this conference on the issue of implementation of the action programme for the sustainable development of the SIDS, ECLAC stands ready to respond to the mandate in Agenda 21 to review the need for modification of its ongoing activities to give effect to the action programme.

Thank you, Mr President.

28 April 1994
Bridgetown, Barbados

Annex 3

ROLE OF ECLAC/CDCC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES:

***RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF ECLAC***

DRAFT

The implementation provisions of Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries envisage a role for the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) which consists, *inter alia*, of the following:

1. Promoting capacity-building at the subregional level;
2. Promoting the integration of environmental concerns in regional and subregional development policies;
3. Promoting subregional cooperation, where appropriate, regarding transboundary issues related to sustainable development;
4. Assisting subregional organizations and mechanisms involved in the promotion of sustainable development, as appropriate; and
5. Acting as a point of liaison between the United Nations agencies and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations, and between the United Nations agencies at the subregional level.

The Programme of Action also provides for the United Nations Secretary-General in his report to the forty-ninth United Nations General Assembly, to report on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, "including a section on the action taken by regional commissions to implement the Programme of Action, particularly at the subregional level".

ECLAC/CDCC considers itself well positioned to carry out the role envisaged for it in the Programme of Action -- by virtue of its existing multi-disciplinary capability, consisting of expertise in a range of skill areas including environment and development, science and technology, population, social development, women's issues, statistics, economics and information technology. ECLAC and its intergovernmental forum, the (CDCC), include 22 countries of the Caribbean in its membership, including six non-independent countries and the low-lying mainland countries of Guyana and Suriname. The CDCC is the Caribbean's largest intergovernmental forum, at which the implementation of the Programme of Action can be reviewed by governments annually (at full sessions of the CDCC), and semi-annually (at meetings of the CDCC's inter-sessional committee).

In order to carry out the responsibilities envisaged under the Programme of Action, the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC would need to be strengthened by the provision of additional staff. Essentially, it is envisaged that ECLAC/CDCC would be enabled to enlarge its Environment and Development Unit so that it would consist of a Senior Environment and Development Officer (Head of Unit), an Economic Affairs Officer (environment and development) - already in place, a research assistant and a secretary/computer

clerk. Regarding capacity-building, it is envisaged that the Head of Unit would assume this responsibility, working in collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC's existing science and technology capability, which would need to be strengthened by the addition of one junior professional (P2/3).

It is envisaged that the Head of Unit will be a well-qualified individual, with the appropriate level of experience, and with necessary managerial and inter-personal relations skills. The level of the responsibilities involved, also taking into account the inter-agency and accountability responsibilities, suggests that ideally, this post should be at a level not lower than P5. ECLAC/CDCC's existing capability (P4) in this area is in environmental economics. This would constitute an essential component of the Unit.

One of the activities listed above calls for the promotion of subregional cooperation in sustainable development. Given the range of subjects involved in sustainable development, (environment, technology, population, social development, women's issues and economic development), it may be best for this particular responsibility to be assumed by the Deputy Director of the Office, who has responsibility for the overall coordination of the secretariat's work programme. For this purpose, the Deputy Director should be provided with the services of a Junior Professional (P2/3) to assist in this activity.

Needless to say, the secretariat would require that appropriate provision be made for overheads.

In summary, the additional resource requirements envisaged to implement the Programme of Action, in keeping with the role envisaged for the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC, are as follows:

1. 1 Senior Environment and Development Officer P5;
2. 1 Junior Professional (capacity building) P2/3;
3. 1 Junior Professional (S-D coordination) P2/3;
4. 1 Research Assistant G6/7;
5. Secretary; G4/5;
6. Equipment: 3 computers and peripherals
7. Travel
8. Overheads

The above requirements are considered to be necessary to do the job at a desirable level of competence and completeness. It is, however, subject to a fuller appreciation of the extent of the responsibilities envisaged for the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the Programme of Action.

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UN ECLAC (Caribbean Headquarters)

1 May, 1994