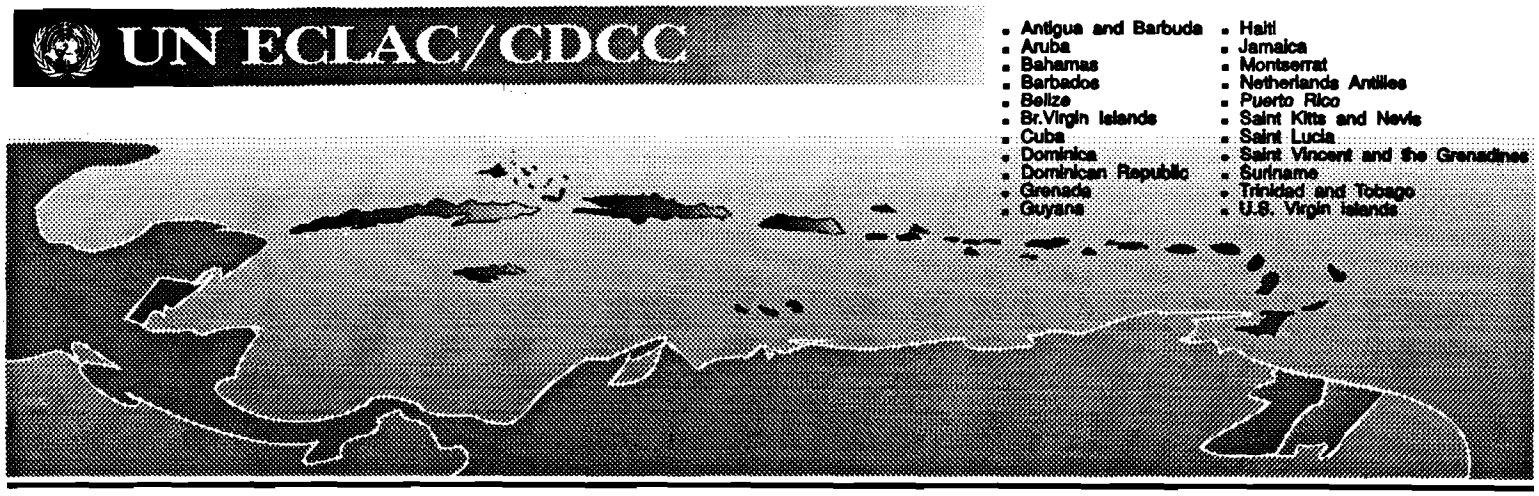

Meeting of the Working Group
on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries
St. George's, Grenada
7 December 1992

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs)

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

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs)

The Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) welcomed participants to the meeting, which he stated was in conformity with resolution 33(XIII) of the thirteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). He observed that the NICCs included three groups of countries, the Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs), the Self-Governing Territories (SGTs), and the Integrated Territories (the French Departments). The mandate of the Working Group in the context of the CDCC was restricted to the first two groupings, the NGSTs and the SGT.

The following countries and organizations were present at the meeting: British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Grenada, Netherlands Antilles, the United States Virgin Islands, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of Chairman

3. Presentation and consideration of Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries

4. Any other business.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Representative for External Affairs of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group.

Agenda item 2 - Election of Chairman

The Representative for External Affairs of the United States Virgin Islands assumed the chair by virtue of his chairmanship of the Working Group.

Agenda item 3 - Presentation and consideration of Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries

In presenting his report, the Chairman provided the legislative authority for the participation of NICCs in programmes and activities of the United Nations system based on resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the CDCC. He presented the interests and expectations of the NICCs in three areas:

1. Participation in activities, projects, studies of the regular ECLAC work programme and in funding from extrabudgetary sources;

2. Associate membership or observer status in specialized agencies of the United Nations;

3. Participation in programmes of technical organs as well as those of the General Assembly.

The Chairman provided information on recent activities undertaken by the Working Group, and those affecting the members of the Working Group, including the attainment of observer status for associate members of Regional Economic Commissions in activities of the United Nations, and the accession of several members of the working groups to observer status in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and one member of the working group as a full member of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).

He also referred to current and future initiatives of the working group for the attainment of observer status in the United Nations Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory meetings, and in a similar capacity in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The meeting noted the effort and success of the Working Group in the direction of greater participation of the NICCs and wished an evaluation of its success in gaining greater access to the resources of the United Nations system. The Chairman clarified that success had been reasonable, particularly on matters of constitution. Less success had been achieved in the area of assistance to NICCs to facilitate attendance at conferences. He proffered the opinion that success in participating in various forums might be the key to the eventual securing of access of the NICCs to those resources.

The meeting noted that the efforts of the Working Group had been instrumental in obtaining observer status in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and attributed the receipt of resources for environmental protection to this participation. It further noted that observer status in UNCED might well lead to accessing additional resources to be channelled through AOSIS.

The notice of the meeting was drawn to a number of resolutions made at the last session of the General Assembly which reflected explicit attention to the concerns of the CDCC. The report of the Secretary-General identified specific actions of the Governing Council of ECOSOC, which had presented a comprehensive set of figures on the resources of the United Nations system utilized for activities concerning those NICCs which are NSGTs. The report had also recommended that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in its biennial report, should examine the special concerns and problems of the NSGTs. The meeting was informed and noted that additional resolutions emanating from the Fourth Committee have been introduced by Grenada on behalf of the CARICOM States and had been passed by consensus. The Chairman was urged to pay particular attention to that resolution. A request was made for the secretariat to be furnished with the documents referred to.

The Chairman indicated that the Working Group was examining the terms of reference of ECLAC, and their applicability to the French Overseas Departments in the Caribbean, in view of their changed administrative arrangements, which now allow for greater autonomy. He suggested that the formation of a new category of observer status in ECLAC might be explored in light of those developments following consultations with the relevant officials.

The secretariat observed that ECLAC/CDCC's commitment to the concerns of the NICCs was reflected by success in integrating the issues of the NICCs into the mainstream of the proposed ECLAC/CDCC 1994-1995 work programme. That activity had nevertheless remained subject to the sourcing of extrabudgetary funding. The meeting was notified that the secretariat had prepared a working paper on the matter of possible widening of the Caribbean, based upon the proposal of the Independent West Indian Commission. The Chairman expressed pleasure at that initiative, which he considered to be extremely important to the NICCs.

The Chairman notified the meeting that information on the type of approach made by ECLAC to the United Nations system, with a view to gaining wider access to resources had been carefully articulated in the recommendations emanating from UNCED.

The secretariat informed the meeting of the possibility of establishing linkages between non-independent countries in the Caribbean and Pacific through the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ECLAC on the basis of resolutions of the CDCC.

The representative of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs stated that the Chairman of the Decolonization Committee was well placed to establish such linkages, since the NSGTs were primarily located in the Caribbean and Pacific. He suggested that the Working Group enjoin him to examine that possibility and to use the South Pacific forum, CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC to support each other in establishing linkages between both areas.

The Secretariat noted the possibility of the use of the AOSIS framework in furthering the cause of the NICCs. The Chairman responded that the narrow focus of AOSIS on environmental issues would have to be taken into account.

The similarities in characteristics of the associate members and member countries of the CDCC were explained to the meeting. With respect to the problems of the Small Island Developing Countries (SIDCs), satisfaction was expressed at the report of the move towards closer linkages among this group of countries and at the possible enhanced access to United Nations programmes and activities.

In referring to the question of resources, the Chairman revealed that the Special Committee of 24 had recorded on many occasions substantial under-utilization of budget allocations, and noted that unused resources were subsequently returned to the general fund of the United Nations. He emphasized the importance of utilizing these and other such resources in furtherance of the socio-economic development of non-independent countries in the Caribbean as well as the Pacific, and in this connection called for a collaborative effort between the Committee on Decolonization and the CDCC with a view toward achieving this objective.

The CDCC secretariat was encouraged to increase its efforts to open avenues and expand its role and resources with regard to assisting the participation of the NICCs in various United Nations forums, in conformity with the mandate established by the General Assembly and decisions and resolutions of the CDCC.

The Chairman thanked the secretariat and participants for facilitating and participating in the meeting.

A copy of the Report of the Chairman of the Working Group is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

WORKING GROUP OF NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

I. BACKGROUND

Composition of the non-independent Caribbean

The Non-independent Caribbean in the context of international law can be grouped into three categories:

A. Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs)

NSGTs are defined under Chapter XI, Article 73 of the United Nations (U.N.) Charter which refers to "...territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government...".

Currently, seven of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) are NSGTs:

Bermuda
Turks and Caicos Islands
Montserrat
United States Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Anguilla
British Virgin Islands

These territories are the subject of United Nations jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 11 of the United Nations Charter, and the constitutional and economic advancement of these territories are reviewed annually by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

B. Self-Governing Territories (SGTs)

This second category of NICCs is the self-governing, or free associated, territories. This group is categorized under international law in the annex to UNGA Resolution 1541 (1960), which refers in Principles VI and VII to "...a territory which has reached a full measure of self-government," and which is associated with an independent state, "free to modify" its status with the "right to determine its own constitution in accordance with due constitutional processes."

Currently, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are the self governing territories in the Caribbean, having attained a free association arrangement with the Kingdom of Holland.

Puerto Rico, originally conceived as a self-governing model of free association as a result of constitutional changes in 1952, was removed from the United Nations List of NSGTs in 1953 via UNGA Resolution 748. This action removed that territory from formal NSGT status some seven years prior to the approval of the internationally recognized definition of free association contained in UNGA Resolution 1541.

C. Integrated Territories

The third and final set of NICCs is the group of integrated territories, so designated because of their incorporation into another country, consistent with Principle VIII of UNGA Resolution 1541 which refers to a territory integrated "on the basis of complete equality" with "equal status and rights of citizenship," and equal rights and opportunities for representation and effective participation at all levels of the cosmopolitan country.

At this time, the French Overseas Departments of Guadeloupe and its dependencies, and Martinique (generally known as the French West Indies) are the integrated territories in the Caribbean.

It must be noted that participation in international affairs by the self-governing territories tends to be as a result of a mutual agreement in a broader area of international activities, rather than in the case of the non-self-governing territories where participation takes place under a delegation of authority from the cosmopolitan country, normally on a case-by-case basis.

II. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The participation of non-independent countries in the work of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and technical organs is based on decisions of the General Assembly which focused historically on the non-self-governing territories.

Current self-governing territories were formally in the NSGT category, and as such, were covered by the resolutions on NSGTs prior to the attainment of self-governing status.

Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly since its sixth session, as well as resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, have approved the participation of non-independent countries, in particular non-self-governing territories, in programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

Recent Resolutions of the General Assembly

Resolutions of the General Assembly consistently "reaffirmed the responsibility of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all necessary measures" to provide assistance to people of NSGTs.

By Resolution 45/18 of 20 November 1990, the General Assembly recalled the relevant resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee which expressed the concern of the Caribbean region for the need to increase "the access of (non-independent Caribbean countries) to programmes and activities of the United Nations system."

Resolution 45/18 also called for the facilitation of the participation of NSGTs "in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the territories may draw the maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system."

Most recently, the Assembly adopted on 11 December 1991 Resolution 46/65 recalling its 1988 resolution calling for specific measures by the United Nations system in favour of island developing countries (Res. 43/189), and its application to NSGTs.

The resolution also recalled "relevant resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) "concerning the access of... territories to programmes of the United Nations system."

Resolution 46/65 went on to "express its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned."

Resolution 46/65 also requested these United Nations and regional bodies "to examine and review conditions in each territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories."

The resolution "also requests these United Nations bodies to "strengthen measures of support and formulate adequate programmes of assistance to the people of (the)...territories, bearing in mind that such assistance should not only meet their immediate needs, but also create conditions for development..."

The resolution further requested the United Nations system to provide, through an inter-agency framework, the necessary assistance to...territories in order to alleviate the adverse conditions arising from the interplay of a combination of factors reflecting the vulnerable character of their economies.

The General Assembly also approved during the 46th Session Resolution 46170 of 11 December 1991 on Cooperation and Coordination of Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated with the United Nations in their Assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this resolution, the Assembly identified the problems faced by the remaining NSGTs as similar to those of other small island developing countries, and recalled Resolution 24 (XI) adopted at the Eleventh Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on a Programme of Assistance to Small Island Developing Countries, in which the Committee began an examination of the "access of the non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within that system which could provide technical and other assistance to those countries in furtherance of their development process."

The resolution also invited the organs of the United Nations system to apprise the General Assembly of its development of programmes in these territories, and requested the Secretary-General "to take the necessary measures for promoting and expanding cooperation among the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to NSGTs."

Recent Decisions of the Economic and Social Council
1990

The Economic and Social Council ECOSOC has also kept the item of assistance to NSGTs from the United Nations system on their agenda.

At its 36th Plenary Meeting on 26 July 1990, ECOSOC approved Resolution 1990/60 which, inter alia. expressed its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate in various forms and degrees with the United Nations and the regional organizations concerned for their focus on assistance to NSGTs, and recommended that these United Nations bodies intensify their efforts in this regard.

The ECOSOC resolution also requested these United Nations bodies "to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance" (to the NSGTs) within the framework of their respective mandates." The Resolution also asked these United Nations bodies "to take appropriate measures within their spheres of competence in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories."

The ECOSOC resolution also welcomed "the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Proqramme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and in coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies in extending effective assistance" to the NSGTs, and requested the United Nations system, "as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in the NSGTs affected by natural disasters."

The 1990 ECOSOC resolution also called for the facilitation of "participation of the representatives of the Governments of NSGTs at the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the territories may draw the maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system."

The resolution also urged the executive heads of these United Nations bodies "to formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals" to assist the NSGTs, and "to submit the proposals as a matter of priority to their governing and legislative organs."

1991

At its 32nd plenary meeting of 26 July 1991, ECOSOC approved resolution 1991/68 which, inter alia, bore in mind the "extremely fragile economies of the small island territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes and cyclones," as well as the recommendations of the Meeting of Government Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in June, 1990.

Resolution 1991/68 also repeated many of the requests for action called for in the resolutions of the General Assembly, and called on the Secretary-General to "follow the implementation of the...resolution, with particular attention to coordination and integration arrangements, for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system..."

The resolution of ECOSOC approved at its 1992 substantive session also reiterated many of the calls for action in the previous ECOSOC resolutions on the matter.

Mandate for Assistance to Self Governing Territories

Following the attainment of self-governing status by previous non-self-governing territories, the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council were no longer applicable to these new territories. However, since these territories .were not fully independent states, a number of specialized agencies and economic commissions of the United Nations, in modifying their terms of reference to include participation of non-independent countries, provided for either observer status or associate membership for "a territory or group of territories which is not responsible for the conduct of its international relations," to be admitted "upon application made on its behalf by the member nation or authority having responsibility for its international relations."

Additional criteria varied depending on the specific United Nations agency concerned. In the case of one Pacific non-independent country, full membership has- been granted in a number of specialized agencies, upon the request on behalf of that Territory by the United Nations member state to which it is associated.

Decisions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

At its Ninth Session in 1985, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) approved Resolution 18 (IX) mandating a programme of action on small island developing countries (SIDCs), and the CDCC held its first planning meeting to this effect in 1987, August in St. Lucia.

The report of that planning session led to the approval of CDCC Resolution 21 (X) on a programme of support for SIDCs) which, inter alia, "directed the CDCC Secretariat to examine the access of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of their development process."

Pursuant to this Resolution, an official mission was undertaken from April through August, 1988 to the British Virgin Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda Cayman Islands. Bermuda and Anguilla.

Discussions were held at the highest level, and relevant information was obtained on the degree of participation on these NICCs in the United Nations system.

The governments concerned were advised of the activities of the CDCC and its statutory authority as the United Nations institution for the coordination of Caribbean participation in the United Nations system.

The conclusions of the initial mission indicated that the NICCs governments were interested in pursuing functional cooperation and coordination offered within the ECLAC/CDCC system, and agreed that the role of CDCC should serve as a complement to the coordination activities provided by the United Nations Development Programme.

The NICCs Governments also viewed with favour the CDCC initiative in expanding their participation in the United Nations system which could lead to associate membership or observer status in the specialized agencies, and urged the continuation of the initiative.

A Report on the mission was presented by the Chairman of CDCC at its Eleventh Session in 1988, November, and CDCC adopted Resolution 24 (XI), inter alia, directing the continuation of the activity.

In a Report to the Twelfth Session of CDCC in 1989, December, the outgoing chairman indicated that, after further examination, many United Nations institutions had not taken any action consistent with this mandate to facilitate the participation of the NICCs in their work programme, consistent with the terms of reference of many of these institutions, and with relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In order to intensify the activity of the CDCC in this regard, Resolution 27 (XII) was approved creating the Working Group on Non- Independent Caribbean Country Access to the United Nations System. Subsequently, at its Thirteenth Session, the CDCC approved Resolution 33 (XIII) on Support for Working Group on Access of Non- Independent Caribbean Countries to the United Nations System.

This Resolution, inter alia. "note(d) with satisfaction the activities carried out by some member governments in conformity" with previous resolutions on the matter, and request(ed) the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the parent body of the CDCC to seek the resources to assist the Working Group in carrying out a number of activities including:

a) The continuation of its analysis of the criteria for NICCs participation in programs and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of providing this information to the NICCs Governments.

b) The convening of a meeting of the Working Group.

c) The initiation of contact with the Governing Councils of the United Nations specialized agencies/technical organs to determine the modalities for increasing NICCs participation in their respective work programmes.

CDCC Resolution 33(XIII) also called for a report to the Fourteenth Session on the implementation of its action plan.

III INTERESTS/EXPECTATIONS OF THE NICCs

The interests and expectations of the NICCs within the CDCC regarding participation in the United Nations system are multi-layered:

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

A main focus of the NICCs is to participate as fully as possible in activities, projects, studies, and other elements of the regular ECLAC work programme, and in activities funded from extra-budgetary sources, including

those which emanate from resolutions and decisions of the Ministerial Meetings of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

Regarding activities under the Work Programme, it is recognized that funding generally comes from the regular budget of the Commission, although other proposed activities under the regular budget may come from extra-budgetary sources.

A number of impediments appear to exist for full participation in the Work Programme for all associate members for a variety of reasons, including a lack of familiarity with the particular associate member country, unavailability of information from some associate members, shortage of funds in the regular budget to cover all member and associate member countries in particular programmes, and a reluctance on the part of particular bodies of the United Nations system to permit the utilization of resources which they have provided to ECLAC to include associate member countries.

An example of participation in regular budget activities is illustrated in the annual summaries of the economic performance of Caribbean countries, where data on some associate members is not included because of a lack of resources to acquire the data; and in some cases in interpreting data which may be of a different format than is generally used in the United Nations system.

It is also considered much less difficult in obtaining data from CDCC - member countries which are CARICOM member states, as data may be more readily available from the CARICOM Secretariat.

An example of difficulties in participation in activities funded by extra budgetary resources can be illustrated where a donor country or institution may place restrictions on which CDCC member/associate member countries can participate, often based on subjective political perceptions - hence many CDCC associate members are excluded from being funded to participate.

The uneven implementation of the decisions and resolutions approved by the Ministers of CDCC on the question of NICCs participation in ECLAC programmes can be traced to insufficient resources available for all member governments to participate. It is, therefore, often the case that resolutions cannot be implemented through the regular budget, but rather through the acquisition of extra-budgetary resources which may be provided under certain restrictions which often limit the participation of the NICCs.

Further, it is often the case that associate members are not made aware of the reluctance on the part of some United Nations donor agencies to fund their participation, and an activity may proceed without the knowledge of the associate member governments, or with an insufficiently documented rationale given to the donor agency to permit the NICCs to participate.

It is also noteworthy that,in some cases, the associate members would be willing to fund their participation in an activity, if they were made aware of the specific project.

Specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Another significant expectation of the NICCs is obtaining observer status or associate membership in the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

As outlined in the Legislative Authority section of this Report, resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the CDCC have supported this mechanism as a way of assisting the NICCs in their development process, through such means as amendments to the terms of reference of these bodies.

Preliminary work done by the Working Group of NICCs has determined that of 12 specialized agencies, eight have such provisions in their terms of reference:

International Labour Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Universal Postal Union
International Maritime Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization

Difficulties exist, however, in the participation of CDCC associate members as observers in these bodies, as there are few lines of communication between the associate member countries and the agencies concerned.

That line of communication can be improved by ECLAC/CDCC through its ongoing contacts with these agencies, in order to sensitize these agencies of their mandate to provide associate membership or observer status to non-independent countries.

In this connection, ECLAC/CDCC can effectively serve as a bridge between the specialized agency and the CDCC associate member country. NICCs have expressed the view that this can be done most effectively through contacts with the Governing Councils of the agencies concerned, as indicated in CDCC Resolution 33 (XIII). However, budgetary resources have not been identified to carry out this important aspect of the mandate of the CDCC.

Participation in Programs of technical organs and the General Assembly

Programmes and activities of the technical organs, as well as of the General Assembly often carried out by these organs, have several levels of participation, particularly in the case of conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Meeting of Experts on Small Island Developing Countries, and others.

These various levels include United Nations member states, non-member states, non-governmental organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, and official observers to the General Assembly.

Even though the CDCC associate member countries are already within the United Nations system by virtue of their associate membership in ECLAC, there had been no opportunity up to this point for them to participate in such conferences as those just cited, which are clearly directly related to their socio-economic development processes of these countries.

In the case of UNCED, the Secretariat was directed at CDCC XIII to seek clarification from the UNCED Secretariat as to how the CDCC associate members could participate in the Earth Summit. The Secretariat reported the interest of the associate members in participation,-and requested whether it was possible. It did not, however, include any rationale in support of the request, which was subsequently denied. The Chairman of the Working Group later initiated a consultation process which met with success (see section on Recent Developments).

IV. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

As referred to in Section III of this report, the Working Group undertook to obtain observer status for its members, which are associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as well as of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

Working in conjunction with several members of the Caribbean Group in the United Nations General Assembly, the Chairman of the Working Group prepared a draft resolution (A/Conf. 151/PC/L.57/Rev.1) entitled Observer Status in the Work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of regional commissions, for submission to the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

The draft resolution recalled General Assembly resolutions on specific measures in favour of island developing countries, on cooperation and coordination of assistance to NICCs, and on the importance of participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and in the Conference. The draft resolution also took into account the relevant provisions of the terms of reference of ECLAC which provide for associate membership.

Coordination with other member governments in co-sponsoring the resolution was under the direction of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

As a result, and with the support of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the United Nations, some 20 governments co-sponsored the resolution on 17 March 1992.

Subsequently, during final meetings of the Preparatory Committee of UNCED, which held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters, from 2 March to 3 April 1992, the Committee took up the draft resolution.

At its 70th meeting on 3 April 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft resolution as Decision 4/2 and recommended to the General Assembly that it adopt an amendment to the rules of procedure of the Conference to this effect.

In adopting the amendment on 13 April 1992, the General Assembly provided the opportunity for the associate members of both ECLAC and ESCAP to participate in the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference.

Special Committee (Decolonization) Seminar

Those non-independent Caribbean countries (NICCs) which are also non-self-governing territories (see Background section) were invited to participate in the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Special Development Needs for Caribbean Non-Self Governing Territories held in Grenada from 16 - 19 June 1992.

Members of the CDCC Working Group of NICCs in attendance were the British Virgin Islands. Montserrat and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a NICCs which is also a non-self governing territories (NSGT) but not an associate member of the ECLAC/CDCC (although eligible), attended the Grenada Seminar.

Additionally, non-governmental organizations from the NICCs non-CDCC member countries of Anguilla and Bermuda also attended.

Of note to the member governments of CDCC, and in particular members of the Working Group, is the relevant recommendation contained in paragraph 31 of the final Report of the Seminar which: "...urged the Special Committee (on Decolonization) to seek formal collaboration with the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) on its proposed comprehensive study on the access of (NICCs) to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying appropriate method(s) for increased participation of (NICCs)."

This 1992 recommendation followed a similar recommendation approved at the Special Committee (Decolonization) Seminar held in Barbados in 1990 and contained in the Report of the Seminar which proposed that: "The Special Committee in consultation with the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, should

request the specialized agencies to either implement their provisions for the membership for the (NICCs), or to introduce such provisions where none exist, consistent with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly."

However, there has been no action taken in implementing these recommendations.

Statement of the Chairman of the Working Group to the United Nations Fourth Committee

The Chairman of the Working Group of NICCs provided background to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly under the agenda item on assistance to NSGTs by specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations.

The Chairman provided a history of the development of the Working Group, endorsed the possibility of collaboration between the Working Group and the United Nations Special Committee in furtherance of the mutual goals of increased participation of these countries in the United Nations system, and indicated that the recommendations of the Grenada Seminar on assistance to NSGTs vis a vis cooperation between the Special Committee and the CDCC would be brought to the attention of the Fourteenth Session of the CDCC.

Participation of Governments of NSGTs in Special Committee

Following participation of the NICCs country of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Open-Ended Working Group of the Special Committee (Decolonization) at United Nations Headquarters, created to examine the role and functioning of the Special Committee, and after subsequent statements in the general debate of the Special Committee by the associate member countries of ECLAC (U.S. Virgin Islands) and ESCAP (Guam) favouring implementation of the 1991 decisions of the General Assembly contained in its Plan of Action for International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee adopted guidelines for financial assistance to the elected governments of the NSGTs to participate in the work of the Special Committee or its subsidiary body of the Subcommittee on Small Territories.

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Following consultations between the Chairman of the Working Group and the member governments of AOSIS, an ad hoc group of Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean island countries focusing on environmental issues of particular relevance to island countries the category of "observer" was established, thereby enabling the NICCs, as well as non-independent Pacific countries (NIPCs), to participate in the work of the organization.

Subsequently, the NICCs countries of the United States Virgin Islands and the Netherlands Antilles obtained observer status, while the NIPCs of American Samoa and Guam received the same status.

United Nations Conference on Population and Development

Pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution 1989/91, ECOSOC authorized the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development. By ECOSOC Resolution 1991/93, the Secretary-General of the Conference was directed to convene a series of expert group meetings to discuss population and development issues that require the greatest attention.

Due to the terms of reference of these expert group meetings, NICC Governments were not invited to participate.

The same resolution, however, did invite regional commissions to convene meetings to review the issues from a regional perspective and to propose future action, as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities of the International Conference.

Accordingly, the Regional Population Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be jointly sponsored by ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is scheduled for the Spring of 1993 in Mexico City, to which NICCs which are associate members of ECLAC would be invited.

A preliminary experts meeting was held in St, Lucia from 6-9 October 1992 where a number of papers were discussed including one on the issue of population policies and programmes in the Caribbean.

This meeting was attended by representatives of five of the six associate members of CDCC: British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

As a result of this NICCs participation in the experts group meeting, a recommendation was accepted, and is contained in the conclusions of the report, for the extension of observer status to associate members of regional economic commissions for participation in the Preparatory Committee and the International Conference on Population and Development, similar to that granted for the UNCED process.

This effort was spearheaded by the NICCs Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands.

It is the intention of the NICCs governments, as expressed at the St. Lucia experts meeting, to continue this process by including the issue of NICCs participation in the International Conference on Population and Development in their national statements to the Regional Conference on Population and Development scheduled for the Spring of 1993 in Mexico.

In this regard, a draft resolution has been prepared for circulation to the Working Group, and to CDCC countries, for possible introduction at the Mexico Meeting.

It is also anticipated that, within the context of an omnibus resolution of support for NICCs at the Fourteenth Session of the CDCC, an operative paragraph favouring the participation of the associate members of regional economic commissions in the preparatory process of the Population and Development conference and in the Conference itself would be included.

Caribbean Council for Science and Technology

The Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) held its Eleventh Plenary Session from 12 - 14 September 1992 in St. Lucia, where the NICCs country of the U.S. Virgin Islands, was admitted as a full member.

Also participating in the capacity of observer were the CDCC associate member countries of the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The admission of the U.S. Virgin Islands to CCST sets the precedent for other NICCs to join the Council, with full membership, and it is anticipated that several NICCs will seek this status at the Twelfth Session of the CCST in 1993.

Europe - Caribbean Conference

The Fifth Europe-Caribbean Conference was held from 9-11 November 1992 in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. The opening address of the Conference was delivered by Netherlands Antilles Prime Minister Mrs. Maria Ph. Liberia Peters who examined, inter alia. the policy toward the "overseas countries and territories (OCTs)" emanating from.the Treaty of Rome, and the recent decision which currently governs the association of the OCTs with the European community providing for more relaxed access to the European single market.

Other participation from NICCs Governments was also at the highest level, with a session on the effects of the European single market on the non-independent Caribbean, chaired by Anguilla Chief Minister Emile Gumbs, and with a presentation given by British Virgin Islands Chief Minister H. Lavity Stoutt.

The Curacao Conference followed the Fourth European-Caribbean Conference, held in Brussels, Belgium from 20 - 21 November 1991.

The NICCs of the British Virgin Islands and the Netherlands Antilles also played active roles, with emphasis on the need for more information on how global economic initiatives such as the North America Free Trade Agreement and the European Single Market would impact on NICCs, and for greater consultation between the elected governments of the NICCs and the European governments concerned.

Proposal for an Association of Caribbean States under the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Arising from the Report of the West Indian Commission presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) from 28 - 30 October 1992 in Trinidad and Tobago, CARICOM Heads of Government agreed, inter alia.: "...that CARICOM formulate proposals and initiate action for the establishment of an Association of Caribbean States (ACS) aimed at advancing both economic integration and functional cooperation with other Caribbean Basin countries and providing the basis for even closer co-operation and integration."

It is still too early to determine the relationship between this proposed Association within the CARICOM framework, and the existing Caribbean Developmentt and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), whose mandate and membership is comprised of countries of the wider Caribbean.

United Nations Environment Programme

The CDCC Working Group Chairman, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme, explored the possibilities of associate membership for NICCs in the Caribbean Environment Programme.

Subsequently, at the Ninth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, which met from 12 - 14 June 1991 in Kingston. Jamaica, decided to: "request the Secretariat to prepare a draft of the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings and Conferences of the Caribbean Environment Programme utilized the model provided in the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with regard to the status of territories."

The draft was circulated to the National Focal Points of the Programme for their comments.

The changes in the rules of procedure permitting an associate membership for the NICCs was expected to be taken up at the Tenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and_Special Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties scheduled for 11 - 13 November 1992 in Jamaica.

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Arising from the Plan of Action (Agenda 21) of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, specifically in the area of conservation and management of resources for development, periodic regional and global meetings on sustainable development of small island developing states have been recommended.

In this connection, a resolution on the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was initiated in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) for eventual transmittal to the Group of 77 at United Nations Headquarters .

The Chairman of the CDCC Working Group, as an observer to AOSIS, proposed the following language to the draft resolution:

> "(Requests the Secretary-General to, invite the following to the Conference) : a) ... b) Representatives of associate members of the United Nations regional economic commissions; such representatives would participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/469;"

The draft resolution also provides for a Preparatory Committee of the Conference, which is also to be available for associate members of regional economic commissions.

The draft with the amendments providing for NICCs observer status was approved by AOSIS, and submitted to the Group of 77 countries for adoption and subsequent submission to the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

Miami Conference on the Caribbean

During the meeting of the Miami Conference; a special session was scheduled for the "Non-Independent Territories and Departments."

The Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries was invited to serve on the panel, which was to have included the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles and the Lieutenant Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Recommendations are contained in the draft omnibus resolution on Assistance to Non-Independent Caribbean Countries.

WORKING GROUP NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

At the Twelfth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in December, 1989, member governments approved Resolution 27 (XII) establishing the Working Group of Non- Independent Caribbean Countries.

This Working Group was formed to address the concerns of member governments of the limited access of the non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, and followed the adoption of Resolution 21 (X) of the Tenth Session, and 24 (XI) of the Eleventh Session of the CDCC on this issue.

The Working Group is open to all member governments of the CDCC, with the core group of non-independent Caribbean Countries consisting of Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

The legislative authority of the Working Group, in addition to the relevant CDCC resolutions, is taken from resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which call for the participation of non independent countries in the work of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and its technical organs.

PART FOUR

RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH SESSIONS OF THE CDCC

27(XII) WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS OF NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling resolution 21(X) of the tenth session of CDCC and resolution 24(XI) of the eleventh session of CDCC which called for the examination of the access of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) to programmes and activities of the United Nations System, with the aim of identifying areas within the System which could provide technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions from the sixth through the r sessions calling for the participation in the work of the United Nations by the non-independent territories,

Aware that the first phase of this examination by CDCC was initiated with a mission to Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands to ascertain the current level of participation in the technical organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations,

Desiring to increase the level of participation by these countries in the United Nations System by supporting their fullest access to programmes available to them from the United Nations agencies,

Mindful of Article 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the parent body of the CDCC, in reference to the wide geographic scope of CDCC,

Recognizing CDCC, the only Caribbean organization at the ministerial level directly associated with the United Nations, as the most suitable regional institution to promote the participation of its non-independent member countries in the United Nations System,

Aware of the success of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in achieving the participation of the Non-Independent Pacific Countries (NIPC) in programmes and activities of the wider United Nations System pursuant to relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions,

1. Affirms the role of the CDCC in facilitating the maximum participation possible of the CDCC member countries in the wider United Nations System;

2. Decides to establish a working group of the CDCC to examine the access of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations System, with the aim of promoting from within that System technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process.

33(XIII) SUPPORT FOR WORKING GROUP ON NICCs ACCESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling CDCC Resolution 27(XII) creating the Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Country Access to the United Nations System, with the aim of promoting within that system technical and other assistance to these countries in furtherance of their development process,

Further recalling relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly from the Sixth through Forty-Fifth Sessions which call for the participation in the work of the United Nations by the non-independent countries, and in particular Resolution 45/18 of 20 November 1990 which stresses the importance of such participation to enable these countries to derive the maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations System,

1. Notes with satisfaction the activities carried out by some member governments in conformity with the above-mentioned resolutions,

2. Requests the ECLAC Secretariat to seek the resources to assist the Working Group in carrying out the following activities:

   a) The continuation of its analysis of the criteria for NICCs participation in programs and activities of the United Nations System with the aim of providing this information to the NICCs governments,

   b) The convening of a meeting of the Working Group to carry out its mandates,

   c) The initiation of contact with the Governing Councils of the United Nations specialized agencies/technical organs to determine the modalities for increasing NICCs participation in their respective work programmes,

3. Requests the Working Group to report to the Fourteenth Session of the CDCC on the implementation of its action plan.

A/46/897 7 April 1992

Forty-sixth session Agenda items 8 and 78

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Note bv the Secretary-General

1. The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters, from 2 March'to 3 April 1992. The report of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session will be issued as document A/CONF.151/PC/123. The report contains certain recommendations for action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. It will therefore be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 78.

2. At its 64th meeting, on 30 March 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (see decision 4/1 below).

3. At its 70th meeting, on 3 April 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Envirorment and Development for associate members of regional commissions" (see decision 4/2 below).

4. Also at its 70th meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Status of the European Community at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (see decision 4/3 below).

5. At its 71st meeting, on 3 April 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference" (see decision 4/4 below).

6. The following four draft decisions are transmitted herewith to the General Assembly for action:

4/1. Dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, noting that the Moslem Feast of Eid-Al-Adha will start on 10 or 11 June 1992, recommends to the General Assembly that the dates of the United Nations Conference on Environment ant Development be changed from 1 to 12 June 1992 to 3 to 14 June 1992, with pre-session consultations to take place on 1 and 2 June 1992.

4/2. Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of regional commissions

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/202 of 21 December 1990 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries, in which the Assembly, inter alia, expressed concern about the adverse effects on those countries of sea-level rise resulting from climate change,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991, in which the Assembly endorsed decision 3/12 of 4 September 1991 of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, on participation in the Conference, stressed the importance of the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and in the Conference, and requested the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session to review relevant parts of the annex to section E of its decision 3/11, with a view to ensurlng adequate and full participation of developinq countries in the Conference and in its subsidiary bodies,

Taking into account provisions of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, providing for associate membership,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly that it reopen consideration of agenda item 78 entitled "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", at its forty-sixth session and that it adopt the following draft decision:

Observer status in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for associate members of Regional commissions

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to invite, in addition to those listed in paragraph 9 of its resolution 46/1688 of 19 December 1991, associate members of regional commissions to participate in the work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the capacity of observers,

(b) To amend the draft provisional rules recommended to the Conference by adding the following new rule:

Rule 65 bis

Associate members of regional commissions

Representatives designated by associate members of reional commissions may participate as observers, without the right to vote in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.