



- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands

Meeting of the Working Group
of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
26 July 1994

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.413
15 June 1994
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**WORKING GROUP OF
NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs)**

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN



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

**WORKING GROUP OF
NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs)
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

I. Mandate of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries

Information on legislative authority for the participation of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICC's) in the United Nations system from the 45th and 46th sessions of the General Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council, and on relevant decisions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is contained in Annex 2, Parts I and II of the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of 30 December 1992. 1/

Recent Decisions of the General Assembly

1992

At its 47th session, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 47/22 of 25 November 1992 on "Cooperation and Coordination of the Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated With the United Nations in their Assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories."

The General Assembly resolution recalled CDCC Resolution 24 (XI) of 22 November 1988 on the "Programme of Assistance to Small Island Developing Countries" which called for continued "examin(ation) of the access of 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 the furtherance of their development process, and other (related) resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee."

The resolution also "recommend(ed) that the specialized agencies and international institutions consider the question of the cooperation and coordination of assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories within the context of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary bodies."

The General Assembly had earlier adopted Resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 which "recall(ed) relevant resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee concerning the access of...(non-independent countries) to programmes of the United Nations system."

Resolution 47/16 also "stress(ed) the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the...(non-independent countries) and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard," and "express(ed) 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 (non-independent countries)."

The resolution further went on to request the organizations of the U.N. system, as well as international and regional organizations, "to examine and review conditions in each (non-independent country) so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors," to seek the strengthening of "measures of support" and formulation of "adequate programs of assistance" to the non-independent countries.

The resolution went on to request the "U.N. system to provide, through an inter agency framework, the necessary assistance to small island (non-independent countries) in order to alleviate the adverse conditions arising from the interplay of factors relating mainly to their size and geographical location," and to "recommend that the executive heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund draw the attention of their governing bodies to the present resolution and to consider introducing flexible procedures to prepare specific programmes for (non-independent countries)."

The resolution also supported the facilitation of "the participation of the representatives of the governments of the (non-independent countries) in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that (these countries) may draw the maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system."

1993

At its 48th session, the General Assembly adopted Res. 48/47 which "recall(ed) relevant resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee concerning the access of (non-independent countries) to programmes of the United Nations system, and stress(ed) the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the (non-independent countries) and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard."

The resolution also called for the formulation of programmes within the U.N. system "that will support the sustainable development of small island (non-independent countries)," and for the adoption of "measures that will enable those (countries) to cope effectively, creatively, and sustainably with environmental changes and to mitigate impacts and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources."

Recent decisions of the Economic and Social Council1991

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its 32nd Plenary Meeting of 26 July 1991 approved resolution 1991/68 which, inter alia, bore in mind the "extremely fragile economies of the small island (non-independent countries) and their vulnerability to natural disasters....," and requested institutions of the U.N. system "to strengthen existing measures of support," and "to formulate additional programmes of assistance" to the non-independent countries within the framework of the mandates of these institutions.

The ECOSOC resolution repeated the calls by previous General Assembly resolutions for the facilitation of representatives of non-independent countries "at the relevant meetings and conferences of the (U.N.) agencies and organizations....," and "urge(d) the heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the U.N. system to formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant U.N. resolutions (in this connection) and to submit the proposals as a matter of priority to their governing and legislative organs."

1992

At its 42nd Plenary Meeting of 31 July 1992, ECOSOC adopted Resolution 1992/59 which recalled relevant General Assembly resolutions on the question, and expressed its appreciation to those U.N. agencies which "have continued to cooperate in varying forms and degrees with the U.N. and the regional organizations concerned" in advancing the participation of non-independent countries in the U.N. system, and urged the wider system to comply with the appropriate resolutions in this regard.

1993

At its 45th Plenary Meeting of 29 July 1993, ECOSOC approved Resolution 1993/55 which reiterated the mandates expressed in previous General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions, including the recommendation to the "governing bodies of those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not already done so to include in the agenda of their regular sessions a separate item on the progress made" in the inclusion of non-independent countries in the work of these bodies.

**II. Recent decisions of the
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

CDCC

At the Fourteenth Session of the CDCC held in St. Georges, Grenada from 8 - 11 December 1992, CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV) was approved which, inter alia, adopted the Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries.

The resolution also:

"Reiterated its request that the Secretariat seek the resources to assist the Working Group in carrying out its analysis of the criteria for NICC's participation in the United Nations system, and to assist the Working Group in initiating contact with the governing councils of the United Nations specialized agencies/technical organs to determine the modalities for the inclusion of NICC's in their respective work programmes, and in convening a meeting of the Working Group to carry out its mandates.

Supported the inclusion of provisions extending observer status to associate members of regional economic commissions in the terms of reference of the relevant meetings, conferences, programmes, and activities authorized by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and other organizations of the U.N. system."

The resolution also called for collaboration between the CDCC and the Special Committee of 24 "in furtherance of the ongoing study by the Working Group on the access of NICC's to the United Nations system..

ECLAC

At the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 20 - 27 April 1994, Resolution II/8 was approved which, inter alia,

"Recall(ed) previous U.N. General Assembly resolutions...providing for observer status for associate members of U.N. regional economic commissions at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish

Stocks, and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, respectively."

The resolution also recalled the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision providing for observer status for associate members of U.N. regional economic commissions at the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the Preparatory Committee Decision of the International Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction providing for the same status at that activity as well.

In its operative paragraph, the ECLAC resolution:

"request(ed) the countries members of ECLAC, through their representatives to the General Assembly to seek the incorporation of provisions in the relevant rules of procedure providing observer status for associate members of regional economic commissions at future United Nations world conferences, in particular, the World Summit for Social Development, the World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders."

This Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries focuses on participation by those non-independent Caribbean countries which are associate members of ECLAC/CDCC in programs and activities of the U.N. General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other related activities, as outlined in Section III.

III. Implementation of CDCC resolution 37 (XIV)

Major developments

1. Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Reference is made in CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV) to the approval by the United Nations General Assembly of Decision 46/469 of 13 April 1992 extending observer status in the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to associate members of U.N. regional economic commissions.

Arising from Agenda 21 of UNCED was the convening of a Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks pursuant to U.N. General Assembly Resolution 47/192 of 22 December 1992. The first session of the conference was convened at U.N. Headquarters from 19 - 23 April 1993 at the organizational level, and 12 - 30 July 1993 at

the substantive level. The second substantive session was held from 14 - 31 March 1994, and is scheduled to re-convene from 15 - 26 August 1994.

Pursuant to Resolution 47/192, the Conference seeks to identify, assess, and find solutions to long-standing problems related to the high seas fisheries, with particular reference to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

The Conference also serves as a forum to improve international cooperation in the management of fisheries and formulate recommendations on sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas, in accordance with the mandate agreed upon at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The work and results of the Conference should be fully consistent with the provisions of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular as they relate to the rights and obligations of coastal states and states fishing on the high seas.

A Draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks on the High Seas and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on the High Seas is the subject of negotiation at the substantive sessions.

Using the same criteria for observer status approved for UNCED, associate members of regional economic commissions were invited to participate as observers at these sessions. One associate member country of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) attended the organizational session but no associate member country participated in the subsequent substantive sessions held to date. The absence of NICC participation was primarily due to the unavailability of external resources, as the fund created to assist developing countries to participate in the sessions was not made available to the associate member countries.

2. Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

A second initiative emanating from UNCED was the convening of a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSDSIDS), pursuant to U.N. General Assembly Resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, and held from 25 April - 6 May in Barbados.

Unlike the Conference on Fisheries referred to in Part III Subsection 1 of this Report, the General Assembly in its resolution did not initially provide for non-independent countries which are associate members of regional economic commissions to participate in the Global Conference and in its preparatory process.

The resolution, instead, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to offer proposals for participation of the associate member countries.

The Secretary-General subsequently recommended to the Organizational Session of the Conference held at U.N. Headquarters in New York from 15 - 16 April 1993 that the associate members of regional economic commissions should participate in the same capacity as they had participated in UNCED, but a consensus was not immediately achieved.

With external assistance from the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Chairman of the Working Group of Non Independent Caribbean Countries attended the Organizational Session of the Conference and participated in the informal consultations, providing the member states with background on the legislative authority of participation by non-independent countries in U.N. programs and activities.

With the strong support of CDCC member states, consensus was reached and Decision I was approved at the Third Meeting of the Organizational Session held on 16 April 1993, recommending to the General Assembly that it invite associate members of regional economic commissions to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory process.

This Decision was also reflected as Rule 65 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure entitled "Participation of associate members of regional commissions." Decision III of the Organizational Session recommended to the Conference the adoption of these Provisional Rules of Procedure, which were subsequently approved at the first session of the Global Conference convened in Barbados.

Associate members of regional economic commissions participated in the two regional meetings of the Global Conference. At the Regional Technical Meeting for Indian and Pacific Oceans, held from 31 May - 4 June 1993 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, three associate member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) took part as full participants with U.N. funding: Guam, Niue, and Tokelau.

At the Regional Technical Meeting for the Atlantic/Caribbean/ Mediterranean held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 12 - 16 July 1993, five associate members of ECLAC took part as full participants with U.N. funding: Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally the non-independent countries not members of ECLAC, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands were also represented, though ultimately these two countries could not participate directly in the Global Conference itself.

The Preparatory Committee of the Conference held its first session from 30 August to 10 September 1993 at U.N. Headquarters in New York, where the non-independent Pacific country of Niue, an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), participated in the capacity of observer. The Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands provided external assistance for the Chairman of the Working Group to participate in the first two days of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee.

The endorsement of the decision of the Organizational Session providing observer status for the non-independent countries was subsequently contained in operative paragraph 6 of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993.

The associate members of ECLAC and ESCAP were subsequently invited to participate in the resumed session of the Preparatory Session held in New York from 7 - 11 March 1994.

Associate members of ECLAC participating in the capacity of observer were Aruba, British Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Associate members of ESCAP also participating in the capacity of observer were Guam, Niue, and Palau.

The resumed session of the Preparatory Committee approved a decision (A/Conf. 167/PC/L.11) of 11 March 1994 concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the voluntary fund established to assist small island developing states in attending the Global Conference and its preparatory process. This decision permitted the funding of one representative from each associate member country to participate in the resumed session of the Global Conference held from 7 - 11 March 1994, as well as in the Global Conference itself.

At the Global Conference itself, ECLAC Associate members participating in the capacity of observer included Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Associate members of ESCAP also participating in the capacity of observer included Guam, Niue, Nouvelle Calédonie (New Caledonia), Polynésie Française (French Polynesia), and the Republic of Palau.

Associate member governments present participated fully in the general debate and in the Main Committee, while several participated in the High Level Segment of the Conference including the Ministerial Roundtable.

3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Reference is made in CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV) to support for inclusion of provisions extending observer status to associate members of regional economic commissions in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This represented the first Working Group initiative in an activity emanating from the U.N. Economic and Social Council, as previous initiatives had been in activities authorized by the General Assembly.

The ICPD is scheduled for Cairo, Egypt from 5 - 13 September 1994.

The Conference and its preparatory process was approved pursuant to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, ECOSOC Resolution

1991/93 of 26 July 1991, ECOSOC Resolution 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, and ECOSOC Resolution 1993/4 of 12 February 1993.

Initial resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council authorizing the ICPD, its preparatory process, and its global expert group meetings did not, however, provide for the participation of non-independent countries, although ECOSOC Resolution 1991/93 did invite regional commissions to convene meetings to review the issues from a regional perspective, and to propose future actions, as part of their contribution to the preparatory process of the conference. This was the only level in which the NICC's were initially permitted to participate.

In this connection, the "Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Preparatory to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development" was held in St. Lucia from 6 - 9 October 1992. The meeting was organized by ECLAC and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), and sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

As this was an ECLAC meeting, ECLAC associate members were invited to participate, and five associate member countries attended the St. Lucia meeting, with funding from ECLAC and UNFPA.

The five NICC's advanced a proposal, which was subsequently adopted as recommendation 19, expressing the support of the meeting for associate members of regional economic commissions to be invited to participate in the Preparatory Committee and in the ICPD in the capacity of observer, recalling that such a status was adopted for these countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

This recommendation was made to the subsequent "Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development" held in Mexico City from 29 April - 4 May 1993.

With the assistance of the Government of Mexico, the three ECLAC associate members of the British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, and the U.S. Virgin Islands attended the session.

The associate members present offered a recommendation, which was subsequently adopted and contained in paragraph 10 of the "Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development." The recommendation was approved as follows:

"Mindful that international population and development issues including environmental concerns have an impact on all associate members of ECLAC, and further mindful that the contributions in particular of associate member countries to international cooperation in population and

development enhance the international process in addressing these issues while also assisting these countries in their socio-economic development, the Preparatory Committee of the (ICPD) is urged to include in its rules of procedure provisions for extending observer status in the preparatory process and at the (ICPD) to associate members of regional economic commissions, consistent with the extension of such a status to these countries at the (UNCED)."

This recommendation was taken to the "Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development" at its second session held in New York from 10 - 21 May 1993.

The Chairman of the CDCC Working Group of NICC's, through the external assistance of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, attended a portion of the session, and participated in the informal consultations leading to the ultimate approval of the proposal which was adopted as Decision II of the Preparatory Committee.

The proposal was subsequently transmitted for consideration by ECOSOC at its Substantive Session held in Geneva from 28 June - 30 July 1993. ECOSOC adopted the proposal as Decision 1993/324 at its 46th plenary meeting on 30 July 1993.

As a result of this decision, the associate members of regional economic commissions were invited to participate in the Third Preparatory Session of the Conference scheduled for New York from 4 - 22 April 1994.

The unavailability of external resources for ECLAC associate members to participate in the Third Preparatory Committee resulted in no associate members of ECLAC or ESCAP being able to participate.

The Chairman of the Working Group has communicated to the Secretariats of the ICPD and the U.N. Population Fund the concern expressed by a number of non-independent Caribbean countries for the ineligibility of associate members of ECLAC to access the appropriate funding mechanisms established for the ICPD designed to assist developing countries in participating in the Conference, in a similar fashion to that of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and consultations are ongoing.

4. Caribbean Environment Programme

Reference is made in the "Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries" held on 7 December 1992 to the activities of the Working Group in the association of the NICC's in the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).

The Chairman of the Working Group had provided several options to facilitating the inclusion of NICC's as observers or associate members in the work of the Programme, arising from the decision taken at the "Ninth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of 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 to "request the Secretariat to prepare a Draft Rules of Procedure for the Meetings and Conferences of the Caribbean Environment Programme utilizing the model provided in the Rules of Procedure of (ECLAC) with regard to the status of territories."

The CEP Secretariat introduced the matter at the "Tenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and Bureau of Contracting Parties," convened from 11-13 November 1992, in Jamaica.

It was noted that a revised draft of the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure for the Programme had been prepared by the CEP Secretariat and submitted to the Office of the United Nations Legal Counsel in New York for review. It was further indicated that in light of the comments from the Office of the Legal Counsel, further revision of the rules of procedure were required. In this connection, the "Tenth Meeting of the CEP adopted a recommendation to be considered in advance of the Eleventh Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties." These meeting, originally scheduled for December of 1993 have been re-scheduled for 1994, December.

5. Meeting of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories

A Meeting of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT's), representatives of the European Community (EC), and the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands was held in Tortola, British Virgin Islands from 7 - 9 November 1993.

The Chairman of the Working Group of NICCs participated in the meeting in the capacity of observer, with external resources being provided by the Chairman of the Working Group.

Of the 20 OCT's associated with the EC, seven are in the Caribbean, and four are current associate members of ECLAC, with the other three eligible for such a status.

The meeting was attended by the chief ministers of Anguilla, Montserrat, and the British Virgin Islands, the Premier of Bermuda, the Government Leader of the Cayman Islands, the Deputy Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Minister of Finance of Aruba, and the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles.

The Conference was hosted by the Government of the British Virgin Islands. Participating organizations included the Caribbean Council on Europe, the Caribbean Development Bank, CARIFORUM, the European Investment Bank, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The Conference examined the history and future of the relationship of the OCT's to the EC within the context of the EC's development strategy, and explored new modes of cooperation between the EC and OCT's.

The Meeting also dealt with means of strengthening linkages in trade, investment and tourism, and the development of financial cooperation mechanisms.

The Meeting was held in advance of the Europe-Caribbean Conference scheduled for 10 - 12 November 1993 in the Dominican Republic. Resources were unavailable for a favourable reply to the invitation extended to the Chairman of the Working Group to participate in the Conference.

6. Conference on Constitutional Reform and Democracy

A Conference on Constitutional Reform and Democracy was held at the Bermuda College in Devonshire, Bermuda from 12 - 14 November 1993. The Chairman of the Working Group was invited to present a paper on recent constitutional developments in the non-independent Caribbean. External resources were provided by Bermuda College.

The Conference brought together scholars, legal experts, and political leaders to examine current and future constitutional developments in the region.

The Chairman of the Working Group held consultations with government officials regarding the activities of ECLAC/CDCC with the aim of encouraging participation by the elected government of Bermuda. Potential technical cooperation activities between Bermuda and the wider Caribbean was also explored.

7. Caribbean Energy Conference and Trade Exposition

The Chairman of the Working Group was invited to address the opening ceremony of the Caribbean Energy Conference and Trade Exposition held from 25 - 28 October 1993 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and sponsored by the U.S. Virgin Islands Office on Energy.

The Conference was designed to bring together experts on energy and sustainable development from the public and private sectors to increase regional cooperation in the energy and sustainable development fields. Attending the session were representatives of the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Energy Information Network based in Jamaica, the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, and private sector officials from across the region.

The paper delivered by the Chairman of the Working Group focused on the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) addressed the issue of energy and sustainable development, and referred to the review undertaken by the U.N. Secretary-General on ongoing initiatives of science and technology for sustainable development, the development of environmentally sound energy technologies, and environmental concerns of small island developing countries.

Discussions were held with representatives of the Caribbean Energy Information Network, a programme funded by ECLAC, with the aim of increasing the participation of CDCC member and associate member countries in its program.

8. Meeting of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV) calls for collaboration between the CDCC Working Group and the U.N. Special Committee of 24 in furtherance of the ongoing study by the Working Group on the access of NICC's to the United Nations system..."

In this connection, it may be recalled that the Working Group of NICC's at its First Meeting decided to invite the Chairman of the Special Committee to address the Meeting. Due to scheduling difficulties of the Special Committee Chairman, however, this address was not delivered to the Meeting of the Working Group, but presented to the XIV Session of the CDCC, by special invitation of the Chairman of CDCC.

The Chairman of the Working Group of NICC's addressed the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 14 October 1993, providing a report to the member states on the mandate of NICC participation in the U.N. system, ongoing activities of the Working Group, and projected initiatives.

In his statement, the Chairman urged that when the General Assembly and ECOSOC draft their respective resolutions creating these activities, observer status for non-independent countries be included from the outset, as is the case for non-governmental organizations and other organizations.

The Chairman noted that it was difficult and costly for the Working Group to recommend modifications to the rules of procedure of each activity. Accordingly, the Chairman recommended that the Fourth Committee consider communicating these concerns to the Second Committee of the General Assembly and to ECOSOC, from which most of these initiatives emanate. The Chairman of the Working Group has not been informed as to whether this request was acted upon by the Fourth Committee.

The Chairman further noted in his statement that once observer status is achieved for the non-independent countries, many of these governments cannot participate in these activities due to the need for external resources. In this connection, the Chairman called for the NICC's to be made eligible for accessing external assistance from the formal "voluntary funds" often established to assist developing countries in participating in many U.N. activities.

Subsequently, informal consultations were held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization and with the Secretariat of the Fourth Committee on potential collaboration between the CDCC and those General Assembly bodies concerned, based on the mandates contained in CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV) and in the relevant U.N. General Assembly resolutions.

No encouraging results have emanated from these consultations as a result of the resignation of the Chairmanship of the Special Committee and ongoing re-organization of the Secretariat of the Special Committee/ Fourth Committee. It is the intention of the Chairman of the Working Group to initiate consultations with the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization, a member state of CDCC, in pursuit of these initiatives.

9. United Nations Pacific Regional Seminar on Economic, Social and Political Conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories

By nomination of the Chairman of CDCC, H.E. the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Chairman of the Working Group participated in the "Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic, and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories," held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 8 to 10 June 1993. External resources were provided by the Special Committee on Decolonization.

The Chairman addressed the Seminar on 8 June 1993, presented information on the activities of the Working Group of CDCC, and reported on recommendations on increasing the participation of non-independent countries in U.N. programs, contained in the "Report of the (Caribbean) Regional Seminar to review the Special Development Needs of Island Territories," held at St. Georges, Grenada from 17 - 19 June 1992. A synopsis of the statement of the Chairman of the Working Group is contained in the "Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic, and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories" (U.N. Doc. A/AC.109/1159 of 1 July 1993).

10. World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly by Resolution 46/149 of 18 December 1991 decided to convene a "World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction" scheduled for 23 - 27 May 1994 in Yokohama, Japan.

Following three previous Preparatory Committee meetings held in Geneva, the Conference convened its 4th Preparatory Committee meeting, also in Geneva, from 14 - 18 March 1994 to review, inter alia, the draft rules of procedures for the Conference and other matters.

The draft rules of procedure did not contain a provision for associate members of regional economic commissions to participate in the World Conference and its subsequent programs and activities.

Individual non-independent countries, associate members and non-associate members of regional economic commissions, had been separately invited to participate in the World Conference by virtue of having previously nominated national focal points for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. These countries include Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean and Cook Islands and Palau in the Pacific.

The Chairman of the Working Group, in consultation with other non-independent Caribbean countries, entered into consultations with the Secretariat of the World Conference in Geneva, informing of the interest of all ECLAC associate member countries in attending the World Conference, and of the precedents existing for such inclusion, e.g. the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Chairman of the Working Group obtained the support of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), comprised of island countries of the Atlantic, Caribbean, Pacific, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean regions for inclusion of the relevant category of participation, and the Chairman of AOSIS, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, communicated this decision to the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to Geneva where a draft decision was introduced on behalf of the Working Group at the 4th Preparatory Committee Meeting.

Accordingly, at its 3rd Meeting on 18 March 1994 the Preparatory Committee adopted the following decision in the form of a recommendation to the General Assembly:

"The General Assembly decides that the representatives designated by associate members of the regional economic commissions may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the preparatory process and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group."

The Chairman of the Working Group on 11 April 1994 subsequently communicated with the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), which served as the Secretariat for the World Conference, expressing appreciation on behalf

of the ECLAC associate member governments for its assistance in achieving the favourable decision on NICC participation.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of the Conference to the ECLAC associate members which are "often the most vulnerable to natural disasters," and requested information on potential sources of external assistance for associate member governments to participate in the Conference, citing the extension of the use of the voluntary fund for associate members to attend the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GDSIDS).

By letter of 15 April 1994, the Director of the IDNDR Secretariat informed the Chairman of the Working Group that "The Preparatory Committee (of the WCNDR)...(had) reviewed the allocation of funds provided by donor Governments to facilitate the participation in the World Conference," and had "agreed that priority in the allocation of funding should be given to representatives of the least developed countries..."

It was further pointed out by the IDNDR Director that no provision had been made in the fund established for the WCNDR for access by associate members of the regional economic commissions, in the manner of the voluntary fund for the GDSIDS, and that "the Secretariat was seeking bilateral support from donor governments."

The Director noted, however, that "given time constraints and other factors such as the amount of funding available,...there would appear to be no way in which funds could be made available through the United Nations to facilitate the participation of associate members of ECLAC."

It is the understanding of the Chairman of the Working Group that a few associate members of ECLAC and ESCAP did attend the World Conference through the use of national resources.

Implementation of CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV)

Action by the Secretariat

CDCC Resolution 37 (XIV), *inter alia*, "reiterates its request that the Secretariat seek the resources to assist the Working Group in carrying out its analysis of the criteria for NICC's participation in the United Nations system, and to assist the Working Group in initiating contact with the governing councils of the United Nations specialized agencies/technical organs to determine the modalities for the inclusion of NICC's in their respective work programmes, and in convening a meeting of the Working Group to carry out its mandates."

To this end, an operational activity was included in Programme Element 13.1 entitled "Promotion of Cooperation among member countries of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America" of the Work Programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, for the 1994 - 95 Biennium, on "provision of support to the non-independent Caribbean countries on matters of particular interest to this group of countries within the framework of the CDCC", projected to be undertaken from extrabudgetary resources.

However, no resources have been identified as of the completion of this Report to carry out this activity.

Subsequently, in the Introduction to the "Proposed Draft Work Programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1996-97 Biennium, reference was made that the "Subregional Headquarters will pay attention to the special circumstances and needs of the non-independent Caribbean countries, within the framework of the United Nations system and will convene a meeting of NICC's immediately prior to the next session of the CDCC."

In this connection, the Draft Work Programme for 1996-1997 was discussed at the Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of CDCC held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 25 November 1993, where reference was noted to Programme Element 13.1 on "Promotion of Cooperation among countries of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America," which contained a provision under "non-recurrent publications" for a "Paper on issues of particular interest to the non-independent member countries of the CDCC."

The Draft Work Programme was subsequently amended by the Monitoring Committee to include a new operational activity under the same programme element as follows:

"d) Operational Activities

i)...

ii) Provision of support to the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICC's) to carry out its activities in furtherance of increasing the participation of NICC's in programmes and activities of the U.N. system, and the convening of a Meeting of the Working Group."

Additionally, an operational activity was included in new Programme Element 13.2 entitled "Island Developing Countries" focusing on particular initiatives previously identified by the Working Group.

Projected activities in Programme Elements 13.1 and 13.2 are listed as "subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources."

The 25th Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the Draft Programme of Work for the 1996-97 Biennium in 1994, May.

The Secretariat informed a CDCC Caucus which met during the 25th Session of ECLAC that a draft project proposal formulated in conjunction with the Chairman of the Working Group was on a list of priority projects for which extrabudgetary resources were being sought.

IV. Current initiatives

1. World Summit for Social Development

The General Assembly by Resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 decided to convene a World Summit on Social Development in 1995, designed to express a shared international commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development, and to address the need to attain a balance between economic efficiency and social justice.

The organizational session of the Summit met from 12 - 16 April 1993 followed by the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee which met from 31 January - 11 February 1994, where the Draft Rules of Procedure were introduced. The Preparatory Committee decided to defer consideration of the Draft Rules of Procedure to its second substantive session scheduled for 22 August - 2 September 1994 in New York.

The Chairman of the Working Group has been conducting informal consultations with ECLAC and ESCAP member and associate member governments with the aim of obtaining an amendment to the rules of procedure providing for observer status for associate members of regional economic commissions. It is anticipated that such an amendment would be introduced at the Second Preparatory Session of the Summit, with the support of the ECLAC member governments, in view of the approval of Resolution II/8 of the 25th Session of ECLAC on "Participation of Associate Members of ECLAC in United Nations World Conferences," as referred to in Section II of this Report.

On the regional level, representatives of three ECLAC associate member governments participated in a "Meeting of a Caribbean Working Group on Social Development in Preparation of the World Summit for Social Development," held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 25 - 26 November 1993.

2. Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly by Resolution 46/152, Annex, of 18 December 1991, decided to convene the "Ninth U.N. Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" scheduled for 1995.

The Conference is designed to address the issues of international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law, management and improvement of criminal justice systems, crime prevention strategies, and related matters.

It is noted that by ECOSOC Resolution 1992/24 of 30 July 1992 the Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested to prepare draft rules of procedure for the Ninth Congress, and the regional commissions were invited to become actively involved in the process.

In this connection, it is also noted that by ECOSOC Resolution 1993/32, the Council approved the rules of procedure for U.N. congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, but that Part XI of the rules entitled "Other Participants and Observers" includes provisions for observer status for existing observers of the General Assembly, national liberation movements, and other bodies, but fails to include the category of associate members of regional economic commissions.

Owing to a lack of resources, the Chairman of the Working Group was unable to conduct the necessary consultations in order to attend the Latin American and Caribbean Preparatory Meeting of the U.N. Congress held in Costa Rica 7 - 11 March 1994 for the purpose of securing a decision by Latin America and the Caribbean to support an amendment to the rules of procedure of the Congress providing for associate members of regional commissions to participate in the capacity of observer.

In this connection, the Chairman of the Working Group is currently seeking the resources to attend the next substantive session of the Economic and Social Council from 27 June to 1 July 1994 in New York to facilitate, in consultation with the Chairman of ECLAC, the introduction of an amendment to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Crime Congress permitting ECLAC associate members to participate as observers, in conformity with ECLAC Resolution II/8 of 27 April 1994.

3. Commission for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly by Resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 requested the Economic and Social Council to establish, as one of its functional bodies, the "Commission on Sustainable Development" to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues, and monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. The Commission was established on 12 December 1993 by ECOSOC Decision 1993/207.

As this Commission is instrumental in the implementation phase of Agenda 21, the Working Group would seek to develop an observer status role for the NICC's. In this regard, it is noteworthy that although the rules of procedure of the CSD provide for observer status for non-governmental organizations, no such provision exists for associate members of regional economic commissions.

The Chairman of the Working Group, in consultation with other associate members of ECLAC and ESCAP, is seeking the support from the Latin America and the Caribbean region for inclusion of observer status for ECLAC associate members in the Commission, with the aim of having such a proposal introduced at the next substantive session of ECOSOC scheduled for 27 June - 29 July 1994 in New York in conjunction with a similar related to the United Nations Crime Congress.

4. Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of the Latin American and Caribbean Region

ECOSOC by Resolution 1988/15 of 25 May 1988 requested the Secretary General to take the necessary measures to convene three regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, and recalled ECOSOC Resolution 1987/34 of 26 May 1987 which invited governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in a regional meeting, with a view to establishing regular meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in the region.

The "Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean," was scheduled for 30 May - 3 June in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The Meeting was designed to promote international cooperation and coordination on a regional basis in the field of drug law enforcement and other areas of international drug control.

The Chairman of the Working Group is currently working with ECLAC member governments with the aim of formulating a decision for consideration of ECOSOC at its substantive session in 1994, June to provide for the participation of ECLAC associate members in future meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. Fourth World Conference on Women

ECOSOC by Resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990 decided to hold the "Fourth World Conference on Women" scheduled for 4 - 15 September 1995 in Beijing. This recommendation was endorsed by the General Assembly in Resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990.

The Conference is in furtherance of the emphasis placed by the General Assembly on the importance of the total integration of women in the development process.

The Secretariat for the preparatory meetings and for the Conference is being provided by the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements which is based in Nairobi, Kenya where the preparatory committee for the Conference has been scheduled for 26 April - 9 May 1995.

The Chairman of the Working Group is in consultations with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference with the aim of achieving observer status in the Conference for the associate members of regional economic commissions.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

This Report covers primarily the portion of the mandate given to the Working Group by CDCC XIV which relates to participation in specific programs and conferences of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, potential collaboration with U.N. bodies in furtherance of ongoing initiatives, and other activities.

This Report does not address the more fundamental issue of associate membership or observer status in U.N. specialized agencies or technical organs, consistent with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, ECLAC, and CDCC which would require a comprehensive analysis on the terms of reference of these U.N. institutions with respect to eligibility criteria for associate members of regional economic commissions.

Continued initiatives by the Working Group in the promotion of the participation of associate members of regional economic commissions in world conferences of the U.N. system, consistent with the mandates contained in resolutions of these same bodies cited above, and as identified in Part IV of this Report entitled "Projected Initiatives," would require a fundamental commitment on the part of the U.N. system in implementation of its longstanding resolutions and decisions on this issue of particular importance to the socio-economic advancement of the non-independent Caribbean.

It can be argued that the limited implementation of these and other mandates of the governments by the wider United Nations system is an example of the importance which ECOSOC and the General Assembly have placed on the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the U.N. in the economic, social, and related fields.

In this context, the Secretary-General in his 1992 "Report on Regional Cooperation" (E/1992/65) presented his views on the role of the regional commissions "within the framework of an integrated approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system."

Accordingly, ECOSOC in its Resolution 1992/43 of 31 July 1992:

"Urge(d) the regional commissions to take steps to enable them fully to play their role in assisting member states, in particular the developing countries, to promote accelerated and sustainable development through an integrated approach;

Recommend(ed) that, when preparing regional technical cooperation programmes, all relevant bodies of the United Nations development system coordinate their work with regional commissions with a view to achieving a better and more focused use of available resources, greater coherence of action and, therefore, greater and more concentrated impact;

Urge(d) that priority setting for programming should take fully into account the views of member states;

Also urge(d) the regional commissions, at the request of member states, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with the Cartagena Commitment, to contribute to the identification, preparation and implementation of specific projects to facilitate economic integration and to submit them to bilateral donors, regional economic integration organizations, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration;

Request(ed) each regional commission to study the possibility of assisting member states, as appropriate, to participate fully and effectively at the sessions of the regional commissions;

Stress(ed) the role and important contribution of the regional commissions, within their mandates, in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular those contained in Agenda 21."

In the subsequent 1993 "Report of the Secretary-General on Regional Cooperation" (E/1993/85), the recommendations of the regional commissions were contained therein, in response to General Assembly Resolution 46/235, to strengthen the effectiveness of the commissions. A description was also given of the "steps being taken to decentralize functions and responsibilities to the regional commissions in order to strengthen the regional presence of the Organization and to enhance its effectiveness."

The Secretary-General in his Report noted that:

"Greater recognition of the important contributions that the regional commissions can make, through measures aimed at strengthening their functions and increasing their responsibilities, is an important and integral part of the current restructuring exercise. These measures should include

arrangements aimed at enhancing their contributions, as the regional arms of a single, integrated United Nations programme in the social and economic field, to the global work of Headquarters departments, as well as specific measures of decentralization."

The Report made a number of other relevant observations including, inter alia, the indication by the Secretary-General that the "further restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social sectors would entail the decentralization of activities to the field and to the regional commissions," and that these expanded responsibilities "stem from the role and functions assigned to the regional commissions in several resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council," including the "function(ing of the commissions) as the main centres within the United Nations system for general economic and social development within their respective regions" and the provision of assistance in strengthening regional interregional cooperation.

Accordingly, ECOSOC in its Resolution 1993/61 of 30 July 1993:

"Reaffirm(ed)ed its support for decentralization in order to achieve a more effective distribution of responsibilities and tasks between global, regional, and national entities in the economic, social, and related fields."

It is therefore as a logical result of this decentralization process in the social and economic fields, within the context of revitalization of the U.N. system, that the regional commissions, in particular ECLAC and ESCAP, are seen as strategically placed to carry out the mandates of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, upon which the relevant resolutions on assistance to the associate member countries have been based.

In order to give further emphasis to these mandates in view of the issues faced by limited access of associate member countries' to the U.N. system, a number of actions are recommended:

* The Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of the CDCC should draft a "Programme of Action" with the following major components:

- Identification of the relevant United Nations World Conferences in the economic and social field and the accompanying schedule of respective preparatory, General Assembly, and ECOSOC sessions where the provisions for observer status, associate membership, or full participation in these conferences of regional commission associate members would be proposed. Sufficient support to the Working Group to carry out its mandate in achieving inclusion of the associate member countries in these conferences would be required.

- Identification of the terms of reference of the respective voluntary funds, trust funds, or other financial mechanisms established for the U.N. world conferences with the aim of gaining access of associate member countries to these mechanisms.
- Creation of draft rules of procedure for a voluntary fund for associate members of regional economic commissions to participate in U.N. world conferences and relevant meetings of U.N. bodies in the social and economic field. This activity would be coordinated with ESCAP.
- Analysis of the eligibility criteria for associate member country participation in the U.N. specialized agencies as members, associate members, or observers, with the aim of increasing such participation within the wider U.N. system, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and CDCC/ECLAC. This activity would be coordinated with ESCAP.
- Analysis of ongoing regional programmes of relevant U.N. agencies in the Caribbean to ascertain the level of participation of associate member countries, to identify impediments to inclusion of these countries, and to make the appropriate recommendations to ensure the maximum level of participation possible.