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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC/CDCC WORK PROGRAMME**

2002 - 2003 biennium

[Covering the period 1 January 2002 - 28 March 2003]

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A. INTRODUCTION

Within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat the integrative nature of the *sustainable development* concept is fully recognized and embraced and it is this philosophy that informs the work of every Department and Unit within this Office. Activities of the secretariat continued to focus on issues relevant to the promotion economic and social development in the Caribbean.

The key achievements of the Caribbean office during the year 2002 included the convening of the nineteenth session of the CDCC in Port of Spain during the period 7 and 8 March 2002; implementation of three projects funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands; completion of an extensive audit of the social impact after the closure of the sugar industry in St Kitts/Nevis; conduct of national workshops on assessing the impact of natural disasters in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago and the promotion of the usefulness of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the subregion.

During the biennium, the Port of Spain office continued to respond to the articulated need for greater availability and a better quality of trade and social statistical data and for a comprehensive policy on marine-based tourism. To date, it has established fully searchable databases for trade, transport and social statistics aimed at increasing the capacity of policy makers to formulate, implement and evaluate trade and social policies. Thus far, 51 public sector officials from participating members States have been trained in the use of the trade database and 49 in use of the social statistics database. It is envisaged that the statistical databases will become the engine for enhanced policy capacity in the subregion and a vehicle for analysing the components of the development challenge. Both databases are expected to be fully accessible on the ECLAC website by mid 2003.

The marine-based tourism project, which focused on the yachting sector in the Eastern Caribbean, has identified several options aimed at diversifying economic productive structures in the subregion. To date, national consultations have been held on the reports prepared for Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, St. Maarten and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Reports were also prepared for Grenada, Martinique and Trinidad and Tobago. At a meeting held in December 2002 on the contribution of the yachting sector to the Eastern Caribbean, participants elaborated a regional strategy that would assist in "articulating an effective framework for the management of the yachting sector, so as to maximise its potential contribution to the Caribbean's development goal as well as to regional cooperative approaches".

Another activity of significant interest in 2002 was the preparation of a Social Audit of the Sugar Industry in St Kitts and Nevis, completed at the request of that Government. The audit was completed to ensure that there was an integrated approach to restructuring the sugar industry and therefore took into account the economic and social security of the sugar workers and their households.

The contribution of the services sector to growth and foreign exchange earnings for the subregion was reviewed at a regional meeting on the development of the services sector in the Caribbean. Participants noted that while the trade liberalisation process would have serious implications for the sector, it was necessary for researchers and other stakeholders to strengthen collaborative efforts in order to reduce duplication of efforts in the subregion.

The Disaster Assessment Training Manual for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which was developed by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, has been revised for use in the training workshops held for persons from both the public and private sectors in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. This follows similar workshops conducted in the British Virgin Islands and Belize in 2001.

In 2002, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued its programme of establishing a network of entrepreneurs and institutions in the subregion with the view to providing a mechanism for collaboration among SMEs in the subregion.

Efforts are underway to establish a Caribbean Water Partnership agency in the subregion. This is being done in collaboration with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Global Water Partnership and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It is expected that these efforts will come to fruition in April 2003. The objective is to promote International Water Resource management (IWRM) strategies in the subregion in the context of sustainable development issues in the SIDS Programme of Action (POA).

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES BY SUBJECT AREAS

1. SUBJECT AREA 12.1: LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat implemented this section of the work programme under a number of broad themes, namely economic integration, economic reforms, trade and investment and economic development. This was done within the context of developments that the secretariat monitors at the global, hemispheric and regional levels.

1.1 Economic development issues

The secretariat continued to prepare studies in this subject area in an effort to keep member States abreast of developments, which have implications for Caribbean economies.

- (a) In keeping with the annual programme of reporting on the economic trends in the countries of the subregion, the secretariat published the *"Economic overview of Caribbean countries - 2001"* (LC/CAR/G.697) on 19 July 2002. The report was prepared following a data collection exercise which included visits to a few selected Caribbean countries. However, this exercise was severely affected by the budgetary cuts to the ECLAC system.
- (b) The document *"Notes on the economic performance for the Caribbean subregion - 2002"* was published on 19 August 2002 as LC/CAR/G.699.
- (c) The publication on *"A Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies - 2002"*, LC/CAR/G.714 was published in January 2003. It reviews the status of economic development in selected Caribbean countries to the end of 2002.
- (d) The study on *"Global Economic Developments – 2000-2001,"* published in January 2002 (LC/CAR/G.683) examines the weakening of world economic growth, interest rates and fiscal policies, exchange rates and commodity prices and capital flows. It discusses, in detail, institutional developments such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Trade Promotion Authority, the Doha Ministerial Conference and offshore banking regulations and also looks at global developments and the implications for Caribbean countries.

1.2 Trade and investment

- (a) The study *"Exchange rate regimes in the Caribbean"*, analyses exchange rate regimes in the Caribbean and classifies exchange rate regimes in soft and hard pegs. The document comprises five sections. The first provides an overview of the current debate on exchange rate regimes. The second centers on the choice of exchange rate regime in the Caribbean. The third section deals with the legal

framework of exchange rate regimes. The fourth section describes the trends in nominal and real exchange rates. The last section tries to determine what are the external conditions that are needed for an exchange rate regime to be conducive to stability and growth. This study was published as LC/CAR/G.715.

- (b) The study on “*The impact of direct foreign investment and patterns of specialisation in the Caribbean*” (LC/CAR/G.716), published in January 2003, analyses the trends in Foreign Director Investment (FDI) flows to the Caribbean and assesses the extent to which these flows have led to a dynamic, structural transformation of production and trade. The document points to the resurgence in FDI inflows in the 1990s and some diversification into activities such as maquila-type production and petrochemicals. However, FDI has not led any radical change in specialisation patterns, which remain relatively static. In fact, in many instances, FDI has reinforced static comparative advantage based on natural resources and cheap labour.
- (c) At the request of the Saint Lucia Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on behalf of Permanent Representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations, the secretariat prepared *Briefs on Financing for Development* to assist in the negotiations leading up to the International Conference on Financing

1.3 Meetings

A meeting on the *development of the services sector in the Caribbean* was convened in Port of Spain, 2 to 3 September 2002, in light of the growing importance of services to Caribbean economies in terms of contribution to income, employment and foreign exchange earnings.

- (a) The meeting reviewed the contribution of services to economic growth and examined the potential for further development of specific services subsectors such as finance, information and communication technology (ICT), education and e-commerce. A critical finding was the need for an integrated services database to facilitate research on various issues of importance to the subregion.
- (b) In the report of that meeting, LC/CAR/G.700, published 30 September 2002, it was noted that the liberalisation process was likely to change the whole landscape of the sector with implications for the subregion. Therefore, it was now essential for research institutions and other agencies to conduct studies to point out the costs/benefit of joining the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and similar bodies.

1.4 Technical assistance

The secretariat continued to respond to requests from member States for technical support. This is offered under a special programme with funding support from ECLAC Headquarters.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2)

2. SUBJECT AREA 12.2: LINKAGES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

Member States have been responding to the challenges of globalisation by pursuing the deepening and widening of regional integration and cooperation. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has been facilitating these efforts through its research and technical assistance activities. The secretariat assisted in fostering regional cooperation through its response to requests from associate member States of CDCC for assistance in activities such as trade and social policy. In addition, the secretariat undertakes the preparation of studies, at the request of member countries, to evaluate the possible impact of trade liberalisation on their economies.

2.1 CDCC meetings

A significant activity in the work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat during 2002 was the convening of the nineteenth session of the CDCC over the period 7 to 8 March 2002. Deliberations of the meeting are provided in document LC/CAR/G.692, published 25 April 2002. The next plenary session of the CDCC will be held in 2004.

The working documents at the meeting were:

- (a) *"Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 2001 - 2002,"* which presented a detailed report on the work undertaken in the 2001-2002 biennium. Document CDCC/19/INF.3, LC/CAR/G.686.
- (b) *"Proposed draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean: Biennium 2004 - 2005, by subject areas"*, which details, by subject area, the proposed draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium 2004-2005. Document CDCC/19/INF.5, LC/CAR/G.687. The work programme was adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission at its meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil, 6 to 10 May 2002 and will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly for approval at its next session in 2003.
- (c) *"Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council which may be of special interest to Member Countries of the CDCC "* presents information on resolutions recently adopted by

the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These range from resolutions on science and technology for development; human rights education; and policies and programmes involving youth to those on international trade and development. All resolutions tabled are considered of special interest to member countries of the CDCC. Document CDCC/19/INF.7/LC/CAR/G.688.

- (d) Document CDCC/19/INF.6, entitled *Review of the Constituent Declaration: Objectives, Goals, Structures, Mechanisms, Processes and Institutional Relationships* represented yet another revision of a submission that has featured in reports of 2001 and reflecting the evolution of the process of reviewing the CDCC as mandated by its eighteenth session. This particular version includes the new proposals adopted at the nineteenth session of the CDCC held in Port of Spain over the period 7 to 8 March 2002.
- (e) The revised versions of these documents have since been submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs, New York, which has now advised that they should be submitted to ECLAC, Santiago. This has been done and an outcome is awaited.

2.2 Trade and services issues

- (a) A study entitled "*The Development of the Services Sector in Caribbean Countries*", LC/CAR/G. 717, published in January 2003, examined the contribution of services to output, employment and foreign exchange earnings in the Caribbean subregion. It was found that liberalisation was a significant factor in the growth of the services sector. To further develop the sector, countries would need to adopt a holistic approach focusing on clusters and linkages and negotiating improved access to developed country markets for the provision of services.
- (b) This document was extensively discussed at a meeting on the development of the services sector in the Caribbean held in Port of Spain, 2 to 3 September 2002. The meeting was convened in light of the growing importance of services to Caribbean economies in terms of contribution to income, employment and foreign exchange earnings.
- (c) The report on *Intra-CDCC Trade*, LC/CAR/G.694, published 17 June 2002, analyses the evolution, performance and competitiveness of intra-CDCC trade for the period 1985-2000 and examines global investment flows to the Caribbean
- (d) At the request of member States, the secretariat prepared the special report on the "*Incorporation of special and differential treatment in international trade agreements and the implications for Caribbean economies*", document LC/CAR/G.693, which was published in May 2002.

2.3 Integration issues

- (a) The secretariat is preparing a paper on *"Latin America and the Caribbean in transition towards the information society"*
- (b) The document examines information and communications technology from three vantage points: horizontal layers, vertical sectors and diagonal areas. These relate to respectively to: access to technology, e-business and infrastructure and regulation. A prescription is offered for public policy to facilitate ICT and an information society. Policy measures include equity financing, human resource development and prudential regulation and oversight.

Regional

i. Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

ECLAC/CDCC continued to provide technical support to the FTAA negotiation process through membership, along with ECLAC Mexico, the IDB and the Organisation of American States (OAS), on the Tripartite Committee of the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE). Support takes the form of assistance provided to facilitate the work of the CGSE at its meetings as well as assistance in preparing documents as part of the Hemispheric Cooperation Program.

ii. Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

ECLAC/CDCC continued to work closely with the ACS in the preparation of papers and the convening of meetings.

iii. Others

As part of its ongoing efforts to keep member States up-to-date on development issues, the secretariat continues to hold briefing sessions with subregional representatives at the United Nations and in Washington. The secretariat, through its Director and other staff, addressed CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on three occasions on the activities of ECLAC/CDCC and on issues which were related to deliberations taking place at the time at the United Nations Headquarters.

In other instances, the secretariat assisted member States' representatives to the United Nations in their deliberations at meetings of the various committees of the United Nations by providing information, as requested.

2.4 Information dissemination

The secretariat continued to prepare quarterly issues of the newsletter, "FOCUS", which provides information on the ongoing work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

The *ECLAC Issue Brief* previously issued as the "External Briefing Notes, is a quarterly publication of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat that examines current economic issues and concisely highlights the implications for the Caribbean subregion.

2.5 Trade statistics database

- (a) ECLAC/CDCC continued its efforts to assist member States in addressing perennial problems in the production and dissemination of timely trade information, which, in some cases results in a severe lag in the availability of trade statistics. This poses difficulties for planners and researchers. In response, the secretariat began the implementation of the project NET/00/081: *Support to the Development of Trade in the Caribbean* [development of a trade database], with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- (b) The main objective of the project is the establishment of a trade database at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the provision of support at the national level in selected Caribbean countries' statistical offices. The project will enable the secretariat to provide more support to its member States in the production of trade data in accordance with the new format and also to strengthen, wherever required, the trade units of these offices and its own capacities in this field. It is also expected that there would be general agreement on data collection protocols and common definitions, categories and classifications for various trade characteristics.
- (c) Details on this project are provided in a separate report on the implementation of projects.

2.6 Technical assistance

During the biennium, the secretariat continued to provide technical support which included missions and special studies to advance integration and regional among member States, at request.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2)

3. SUBJECT AREA 12.3: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean continued to work towards providing ready access to national statistics of quality; improving the supply of integrated data with special attention given to the organizational aspects of statistics and information management. In addition, the secretariat continues to work with member States in creating accessible statistical databases with a view to providing reliable information to enable good governance.

Pursuant to the objective of increasing the availability of information to researchers and decision makers, it has provided technical assistance to secretariat staff, Caribbean librarians and students, reaching into the education system at tertiary level in the Caribbean.

It should be noted that in keeping with current trends, publications, including newsletters, prepared by the secretariat are now available online at the ECLAC/CDCC website www.eclacpos.org. In addition to reaching a wider public, this measure was introduced as a means of keeping the cost of publications and dissemination to a minimum.

3.1 Statistics

During the biennium, the secretariat continued to collect economic and some elements of social statistics to service the information needs of staff in the office and researchers in the Caribbean and beyond. The data collected have been re-cast into a form that is amenable to relational database query. At present, most of the time series have been transformed to database format. Actions are proceeding to put the information into a format that can be accessed remotely by users. This format will allow remote users to build the table that they wish to study.

3.1.1 Statistical indicators

- (a) The publication *Selected Statistical Indicators* (Vol. XV), LC/CAR/G.703, published 8 November 2002, is a collection of economic and some elements of social statistics to service the information needs of staff in the office and researchers in the Caribbean and beyond. The data collected have been re-cast into a form that is amenable to relational database query. At present, most of the time series have been transformed to database format.
- (b) The document “*Production of statistical data and information in the Caribbean*”, LC/CAR/G.701, published on 30 September 2002, includes the results of a survey among data producers in Caribbean countries with proposals for increasing efficiency in this sphere.
- (c) This document will be presented for the discussion at a meeting of Chief Statisticians to be convened by the secretariat in the second quarter 2003.

3.1.2 CARIBTRADE

- (a) CARIBTRADE is the Merchandise Trade and Transportation Database prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The database was inspired by the need to provide to a wide variety of users with rapid answers to their queries on Trade Statistics of the Caribbean countries. It is user-friendly and comprehensive in its capabilities. The database provides analysis of the trade data in a relatively novel manner of addressing strategic options, given a country's recent trade performance.

- (b) This database has drawn on the data provided by several Caribbean countries, which have used different nomenclatures and coding schemes to prepare and process their trade data. The data have been normalized to make them as comparable as possible. The database presence on the Internet is ECLAC's contribution to creating more widespread access to critical data that has in the past not been as generally available as the present offering. It is a contribution to the provision of data that can assist trade negotiators, researchers and the business community to make informed decisions.
- (c) Access to the database has been designed at two levels. The first level of access accommodates the queries of a wide variety of users and is provided up to the third digit of the SITS Rev. 3 and HS classifications. Another level of access is accorded to a limited number of personnel at the national level. The Chief Statisticians of the contributing countries will have access to their data at the most disaggregated level of data supplied. Researchers wishing access to data at a lower level of disaggregation than 3 digits may contact the Chief Statisticians of the countries for that level of data. A list of Chief Statisticians is presented on the web page for easy contact.
- (d) The countries whose data are included in the present database are the following: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

3.2 Information management

The Caribbean Documentation Centre has the responsibility for activities carried out under this subject area. The Caribbean Documentation Centre maintains a Virtual Library, and provides web-based access to several of its bibliographic databases. This library is now being accessed at www.eclacpos.org/cdl

3.2.1 Current Awareness Bulletin

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to produce the bimonthly publication *Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)*. The Bulletin provides national planners, policy makers, researchers and libraries with up-to-date information on regional, economic and social issues. The CAB includes the following: a list of documents recently prepared by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC Headquarters and other United Nations agencies as well as the most recent acquisitions of United Nations documents, arranged by subject.
- (b) The bulletin is published bimonthly in English and is distributed free of charge to approximately 100 persons from the private and public sectors in the Caribbean and selected institutions. The Current Awareness Bulletin is also made accessible

through the Web site, www.eclacpos.org, with links to abstracts of some documents where available.

3.2.2 *Current Contents*

- (a) The secretariat also continues to produce the monthly newsletter *Current Contents*, which provides users with an insight into the contents of journals, and other publications recently received in the Caribbean Documentation Centre.

3.3 **Technical assistance**

Technical assistance provided was mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems. In the area of census preparation, assistance was provided to the English-speaking Caribbean countries, through the CARICOM Secretariat, in planning for the Year 2000 round of Population and Housing censuses. In addition, the subprogramme on information and statistics also responded to several requests for support for member States and regional institutions.

In this regard, technical assistance mainly in the area of the reform of national information systems, has been provided to Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba and Montserrat through the Ministry of Planning in both countries.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2).

4 **SUBJECT AREA 12.4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The programme of work under this subject area focused on the issues related to preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002. It also reviews the implementation of the SIDS POA and the establishment of programmes on sustainable tourism. The sustainable development database is being expanded to provide information on sustainable development and the execution of programmes on the assessment of the impact of natural disasters.

4.1 **World Summit on Sustainable Development**

- (a) As part of its preparations for the *World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)*, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean updated the document CDCC/19/INF.8 entitled *Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)* for presentation to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which took place in Guyana during the period 3 to 5 July 2002. This revised paper incorporates a proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development.

- (b) This document provides member countries of the CDCC with a comprehensive brief to facilitate their preparations for the WSSD. It reviews the background to the WSSD from the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and highlights the SIDS Programme of Action as the most concrete expression of Agenda 21 from the perspective of SIDS. The updated version of the document also reflects the outcomes of the Third and Fourth Preparatory Committee meetings for the WSSD, which took place, respectively, in New York, from 25 March to 5 April 2002 and Bali, from 27 May to 7 June 2002. The document also reviews the outcomes of Rio + 5 and sets out the process, including the programme, envisaged for preparations for the WSSD at national, regional and international levels.
- (c) In more detail, attention is paid to the Caribbean subregional preparations for the Summit and to the regional preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, including a review of the outcomes of those meetings. Specific proposals by Caribbean SIDS to the WSSD are then set out. Finally, the issue of *Global Governance for Sustainable Development* is highlighted and a number of recommendations are formulated for the consideration of delegations to inform their participation in the remainder of the preparatory process and at the Summit itself.

4.1.1 Approaches to sustainable development

- (a) The paper on *Conceptual and Definitional Approaches to Sustainable Development: In Search of a Caribbean Convergence* explores conceptual and definitional approaches to sustainable development, with the ultimate objective of identifying what scope there might be for a convergence of perspectives on this very important concept, not only to facilitate dialogue, which is critical, but also to ensure coherent policy-making. The concern for conceptual and definitional convergence is articulated in the particular context of the 23 Caribbean countries that are members of the CDCC, which functions within ECLAC as an organ for cooperation towards economic and social development.
- (b) A major element of that cooperation is directed towards the implementation in the subregion of the SIDS POA which was adopted at the United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNGCSIDS) in 1994. The paper is developed through, inter alia, an exploration of scores of conceptual and definitional approaches to sustainable development garnered from universal sources, including academic publications and the deliberations and outcomes of important sustainable development events that have convened at the global, western hemispheric, regional and Caribbean subregional levels.

4.2 Caribbean Sea

- (a) Document CDCC/19/INF.9, entitled *Promoting an Integrated Management Approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development*

reviews in some detail the evolution of a proposal that has its origin in the 1997 ECLAC-sponsored Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, held in Barbados, November 1997. The original proposal was for *the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of sustainable development*. It is expected that ECLAC will revisit this proposal with member States and other regional agencies with a view of taking its implementation to a higher level at SIDS+10.

- (b) The main purpose of the document was to ascertain whether member countries were satisfied with the progress to date and with the general approach that was being adopted towards its further development and eventual implementation. The origin of the proposal, however, served to ensure that the secretariat maintained a considerable interest in its further development and eventual implementation. The revised document identifies the major difficulties encountered by the subregion in advancing the proposal and, through the development of a proposed work programme, suggests a way forward. It takes into account new initiatives, which bear close relationship to the *Caribbean Sea proposal* sponsored by ECLAC/CDCC and the ACS. The document concludes that the results of the process to date, as enshrined in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 54/224 and 55/203 do not reflect the vast potential that is recognised in the original proposal.
- (c) Discussions are continuing with several member States and regional bodies such as CARICOM and the ACS to ensure that this item stays on our agenda and that of the United Nations General Assembly.

4.3 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- (a) At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, a decision was taken to convene an international meeting in 2004 to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the *Plan of Implementation* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The resolution establishes a preparatory process for the international meeting, including regional and interregional meetings and makes repeated reference to the role of regional commissions in this process. As a consequence of previous agreements, ECLAC/CDCC will coordinate the process in its role as secretariat of the SIDS POA in the Caribbean.
- (b) What is envisaged for subregional preparations for the 2004 International Conference is, necessarily, further support for the Caribbean Model to advance the implementation of the SIDS POA. The Model includes a joint secretariat within which the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean constitutes the technical or operational arm for coordinating implementation of the SIDS POA, while the CARICOM Secretariat is entrusted with political outreach, that is maintaining SIDS-related issues on the international agenda.

- (c) Other elements of the Model are a SIDS Bureau, for political oversight of the implementation process; a Joint Work Programme (JWP) extrapolated from the SIDS POA and related international decisions, for example, decisions of the WSSD; and an Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG) comprising a number of regional and international agencies which have agreed to execute the Joint Work Programme in areas falling within their respective mandates.
- (d) In this regard, the secretariat has embarked on a programme of identifying new elements for implementation which would enhance familiarity with the sustainable development process and, at the same time, serve as a basis for evaluating the relevance of the several recommendations from the WSSD to SIDS of all regions. This process will include a re-examination of existing work programmes and the outcome of any implementation efforts arising from the identification process.
- (e) In the context of its mandate to coordinate the technical aspects of the implementation of the SIDS POA, ECLAC/CDCC is seeking to assist the process of the compilation of the national reports through the administration of a questionnaire following the procedure used, quite successfully, in preparation for the 1997 Ministerial Meeting. The major difference is that its scope has been considerably amplified to embrace social and economic components, in addition to the environmental dimension, in accordance with the decisions adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, in 1999 and, subsequently entrenched at the WSSD. National Reports are critical to ensuring that the specific concerns of the subregion are adequately reflected in all relevant forums.
- (f) The national reports will serve to inform the preparation of an updated report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Already, the ECLAC/CDCC document CDCC/19/INF.12, entitled *The SIDS Programme of Action, Agenda 21: The Road to Johannesburg 2002: Submission of the Caribbean Subregion to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean* has been revised to take into account the outcomes of the Caribbean Subregional Preparatory Meeting.
- (g) The secretariat proposes to convene the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting 9-10 June 2003 to seek overall support for subregional participation in the international meeting in 2004.

4.4 Environmental information management

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has established a sustainable development Website, which provides a substantive description of ongoing and planned SIDS-related projects and programmes in the Caribbean. At present, the database

contains over 1500 SIDS-related projects in the Caribbean subregion. A major output of the database has been the preparation of country and regional reports.

4.5 Disaster assessments and training workshops

- (a) The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued its programme of providing support to member States, upon request, in the preparation of assessments as a consequence of natural disasters. These actions have been followed up by the conduct of training workshops to ensure that the relevant technocrats were sufficiently trained in addressing the difficulties that are experienced by these countries after the occurrence of natural disasters.

4.5.1 Disaster assessment

- (a) Caribbean governments have continued to request assistance for technical support in improving their capacity to make assessments of the impact of natural disasters on their economies. In response to the continued demand for such services from the ECLAC Port of Spain office, a Training Manual for SIDS was developed.
- (b) At the request of the Government of Jamaica, ECLAC Port of Spain conducted a rapid assessment of the damages caused by heavy rains during May and June 2002. There was extensive flooding and considerable damage to several parts of western Jamaica.
- (c) The findings of the assessment were contained in the report "*Jamaica - macro-socio-economic assessment of the damage done by flood rains and landslides*", [LC/CAR/G.698] submitted to the Government of Jamaica on 20 June 2002. The report highlighted the cause of the damages to the infrastructure as well as recommended changes to aspects of physical development planning

4.5.2 Training workshops and Manuals

- (a) The first national training workshop for the biennium on the use of the *Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS* was conducted in Jamaica during the period 23-25 April 2002. Forty senior technocrats, drawn from a wide cross section of the public and private sectors, received training in the use of the revised version of the *Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS*, developed by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for use in Jamaica. (Document LC/CAR/G.690 was published in April 2002.)
- (b) The second national training workshop, for 2002, was convened in Saint Lucia, 17 - 19 December 2002. Fifty senior technocrats, drawn from a wide cross section of the public and private sectors attended the workshop. The Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS, developed by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean was revised for use at the Saint Lucia workshop. (Document LC/CAR/G.709, published 13 December 2002)

- (c) The third national training workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 17 - 19 March 2003. The workshop was attended by 47 senior technocrats, drawn from a wide cross-section of the public and private sectors. *The Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS*, developed by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean was further revised prior to the workshop in Trinidad and Tobago.
- (d) The training involved power point presentations and discussions as well as group exercises. The training manual and materials for SIDS, using the ECLAC Methodology for the Conduct of Post-disaster Macro-economic, Social and Environmental Assessment was developed by a special team comprising staff members and consultants.

4.6 Physical Planning in the Caribbean

4.6.1 Caribbean Planners Network (CPN)

- (a) The secretariat convened a meeting of the Caribbean Planners Network in Port of Spain on 21 January 2002 to update the status of CPN in the Caribbean and to agree on the revised CPN Website. A structure for managing and promoting the site was discussed and a membership policy explored. Report of meeting - LC/CAR/G.689, (25/3/02)
- (b) The CPN will function mainly through two communication channels: an interactive Website for planners and an electronic newsletter.

4.6.2 Saint Lucia

- (a) At the request of the Government of Saint Lucia, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, through its technical assistance programme, completed the preparation of the Draft Plan and Appropriate Standards for the Greater Rodney Bay area (*Local Area Plan*). It is expected that this Plan will be formally adopted under section 5(1)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, Ch.175 or will be declared a zoned area under section 24 of the Land Development (Interim Control) Act, 1971 or the new *Physical Planning and Development Legislation*.
- (b) This was prepared after completion of the revised *Draft Physical Planning and Development (Land Development) Act 2001 - Regulations*

4.6.3 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- (a) At the request of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, through its technical assistance programme, submitted a draft report on the effective management of

the Tobago Cays Marine Park, entitled: *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Evaluation of the Tobago Cays National Park*.

4.6.4 St. Kitts and Nevis

- (a) At the request of the Government of St Kitts and Nevis, the secretariat prepared the Draft *Physical Planning and Development (Land Development) Regulations for St. Kitts and Nevis*.
- (b) At the request of the Government of St Kitts and Nevis, the secretariat prepared the Draft National Land Policy for St. Kitts and a report on the proposed uses of the sugar lands.
- (c) At the request of the Nevis Island Administration, the secretariat provided assistance for the completion of the Draft Nevis Physical Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2003.

4.7 Project implementation

- (a) It was observed that while some progress had been made on the environmental sustainability of land-based tourism much less progress was made on marine-based tourism, moreso, the yachting subsector. As a means of addressing this problem, the secretariat obtained financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to implement the project NET/00/79: *Development of A Regional Marine-based Tourism Strategy [study on the yachting industry]*.
- (b) The main objective of the project is to increase the capacity of Eastern Caribbean governments to promote the sustainability of marine-based tourism. The project will also assist in the development of national and regional strategies and action plans on marine-based tourism and preparation of a regional assessment on economic and environmental impacts of marine-based tourism.
- (c) Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2)

4.8 Technical assistance

During the period under review, the secretariat continued to provide assistance, upon request, to member States in conducting studies and providing other types of support. Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2)

5 SUBJECT AREA 12.5: APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

The work related to the field of science and technology is based on the following premises:

- (a) The need for additional analysis to inform and formulate science and technology policy;
- (b) Improving collaboration on science and technology issues will enhance the capacity of regional and international agencies to effect change;
- (c) The awareness and analysis of new technologies and their impact on development;
- (d) The need to promote technical cooperation among developing countries;
- (e) The need to promote the integrated management of natural resources; and
- (f) The benefits of development of expertise in areas not specifically addressed by existing institutions and agencies.

Within the above parameters, programmes in science popularisation; policy considerations and institution building and strengthening; and new technologies and their impact on development are all elements of the technical assistance programmes that are rendered to member States in their efforts at industrial, economic and human resource development, and the role that science and technology plays in these efforts.

Bearing in mind that a new approach has been suggested for the development and expansion of the productive sectors in the subregion, the secretariat prepared a number of studies discussing these new approaches.

5.1 Development of science and technology indicators for the Caribbean

- (a) The report on the "*The development of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean*", LC/CAR/G.696, was published in June 2002.
- (b) This report is intended to provide the platform for further discussions on the need for these indicators to advance the programme for the determination of sustainable development indicators for the subregion
- (c) It is expected that the measurement of indicators of science and technology would inform policy decisions and assist in the promotion of innovation in the Caribbean even though the exercise of analysis and comparison is relatively new to the subregion.

5.2 Small- and medium-size enterprises [SMEs]

- (a) The secretariat convened a regional meeting on small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 3-5 April 2002. Meeting report LC/CAR/G.695

- (b) The meeting was held with the aim of establishing a network of SMEs in the subregion by bringing together policy makers, institutions and entrepreneurs as well as other key players from countries in the Caribbean.
- (c) Following on the regional meeting on SMEs, the secretariat completed the production of another video on the role and functioning of the SMEs in Haiti.
- (d) It is expected that follow up work will include the implementation of a project on micro credit to SMEs in the subregion, as well as furthering the regional network of SMEs.

5.3 Biotechnology and new technologies

- (a) The secretariat's paper on *The impact of new technologies on the development process in the Caribbean*, LC/CAR/G.719, examines issues of biotechnology in agriculture and health renewable energy, International Water Resource Management (IWRM) and ecosystems maintenance. It also addresses how new technologies can help provide for improved economic activities and competitiveness

5.4 Information technology

- (a) The report on *The adoption and application of information technology in the subregion and its contribution to scientific, technological and human resource development*, LC/CAR/G.716, examines the manner in which the technology was introduced into the subregion and the changes that need to be made at the policy and institutional levels for the subregion to obtain maximum benefits of this new technology.

5.5 Information dissemination

- (a) The secretariat's quarterly newsletter "Info Bits" provides information on selected topics on science and technology. The first issue for 2002 reviewed the topic *Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) policy requirements for a successful sector*. The second issue continued on SME development and was entitled *The Future of SME development in the Caribbean*. Issue number three for the year addressed *Food and Security Issues for Caribbean countries*. The topic covered in the fourth issue was a commentary on biotechnology as a tool for increased agricultural production and followed on the previous issue's theme on food security.

5.6 Technical support

5.6.1 Food Security and Climate Change

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat serves as a member of an Interim Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS) Caribbean Food System Project. In this regard, the secretariat co-sponsored a subregional research identification workshop, Saint Lucia, 17 - 20 October 2002, to formulate a specific research agenda for the Caribbean, with respect to food security response to Climate Change.
- (b) The Committee is expected to review the recommendations of working groups in three thematic areas: climate (precipitation) change, sea-level rise, sea surface temperature changes and the impact on the food systems of the subregion.

5.6.2 SEDNET

- (a) The secretariat continued to support the work of SEDNET, University of the West Indies (UWI) in monitoring a Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded programme on the status of civil society in the subregion and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Agenda, especially WSSD and SIDS/POA 2004.

5.6.3 Water Issues

- (a) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, as a member of the Core Group, continues to support the establishment of a Caribbean Water Partnership (CWP), in keeping with the goals of the Global Water Partnership and the SIDS/POA. The aim of the CWP is to promote an integrated approach to water management.
- (b) It is expected that the Caribbean Water Partnership will work in conjunction with existing institutions, essentially forming a network of existing institutions involved in water and its uses.
- (c) A proposal for funding the establishment of the CWP has been submitted to prospective donors including the IDB and the OAS.

5.7 Technical assistance

Technical assistance continues to be offered, upon request to member States and to regional and subregional institutions.

A detailed list of requests received for technical assistance and implemented is presented in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2)

6 SUBJECT AREA 12.6: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Activities carried out under this subject area cover the full range of social development activities. This includes work carried out in women's affairs, social development, poverty, issues related to gender socialisation, violence and youth, domestic violence, social vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS, equality and non-discrimination legislation in the Caribbean, inter and intra regional migration, and the provision of support to member States that request assistance.

An activity of significant interest in 2002 was the preparation of a social audit of the sugar industry in St Kitts and Nevis, completed at the request of that country's government. The audit was completed to ensure that an integrated approach was adopted in restructuring the sugar industry. This approach would take into account the economic and social security of the sugar workers and their households.

6.1 Global conferences

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to provide substantive and operational support to member States in follow-up activities related to the global conferences with respect to social development.

6.1.1 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+10)

In February 2003 ECLAC/CDCC hosted an interagency meeting between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and ECLAC/CDCC at which the UNFPA Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Director, the UNFPA Caribbean Country Director, a CELADE representative and ECLAC/CDCC were present. This meeting was conducted to coordinate and streamline the provision of support to the CDCC member States in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)+10 Review and Appraisal Process. A work plan for the research and analysis process in the subregion was adopted at the meeting. This work plan will be implemented with financial support from the UNFPA.

6.1.2 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) – WSSD plus 10

- (a) The follow-up to the WSSD continues through technical assistance provided mainly in the area of poverty reduction strategies and the monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies through an evidence-based approach.
- (b) Following the Millennium Assembly, under which many of the commitments and goals of the WSSD were subsumed, resulting in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters has been assisting member governments in strengthening their social statistical capacities for the purpose of using the existing statistical data to track the MDGs. This has been undertaken through the establishment of the Social Statistical Databases for the Caribbean and training in evidence-based social policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation. This is viewed as an essential component of ECLAC follow-up to the Millennium Summit and the WSSD.

6.1.3 Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW)

In 2002, ECLAC/CDCC implemented activities to address the concerns expressed in the Beijing Plan of Action on the paucity of information with respect to gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence. The absence of such data made the elaboration of programmes and monitoring of changes difficult and impeded efforts to design specific intervention strategies.

6.2 Domestic violence

- (a) ECLAC/CDCC undertook the preparation of a model data collection protocol for domestic violence. This work was implemented against a background of regional and international calls for the development of a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families and communities that were free from violence. This protocol is now being implemented in Trinidad and Tobago through the Division of Gender Affairs of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-CARICOM Gender Equality programme.
- (b) In addition, the secretariat has prepared the report on the *Data collection system for domestic violence*, which reviews the various options at developing a reliable data collection system for consideration by governments in the Caribbean. The report was published in April 2002 as document LC/CAR/G.691.

6.3 Gender socialisation, violence and youth

- (a) At the Third Ministerial Conference on Women convened in October 1999, the delegates recommended a closer examination of the causes of violence against women. There is also a growing concern about researching the issue of social alienation among young men in the Caribbean. In response to these two issues, ECLAC/CDCC, in collaboration with CIDA, convened an Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting on *Gender Socialisation and Violence in the Caribbean: Developing a Research Agenda*, at the Conference Room of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 9-10 December 2002.
- (b) At the meeting, the participants reviewed the existing research on gender socialisation in the Caribbean and identified research needs. Participants agreed that violence was considered to be gendered in two distinct ways - firstly, in so far as violence was an expression of unequal power relations between men and women and secondly, violence as an expression of aggression seen as central to the experience of masculinity. The meeting further agreed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies would collaborate closely around the development of a research methodology to look at policy and programmatic responses to young offenders in two to three countries in the subregion.

- (c) Work has already started on the preparation of a study on gender socialisation, violence and youth.

6.4 Migration

- (a) The Subregional Headquarters has begun a study on labour movements in the subregion, including the return of emigrants to the subregion, and their impact on socio-economic policies in the Caribbean (in relation to CSME)
- (b) This study will consist of a framework of research on labour movements in the subregion, including a case study of emigration of health professionals in Trinidad and Tobago with the aim of analysing the impact of the massive exodus of nurses on the public-health system.
- (c) In this regard, working relationships have been established with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) in Barbados, which has undertaken an assessment of the scope of emigration of nurses and its socio-economic implications on the public health systems in the subregion. Also with the WHO Department of Health and Development, which conducts crucial analysis in the assessment of trade in health services.

6.5 Social consequences of globalization

- (a) Recognizing the implications of globalization on social development of Caribbean countries the secretariat acted on a request from the Government of St Kitts and Nevis for ECLAC Port of Spain to conduct a social audit of the sugar industry in St Kitts and Nevis.
- (b) The report, *Report of Social Audit of the Sugar Industry in St Kitts and Nevis* LC/CAR/R.66, October 2002, outlines a number of recommendations for social safety policies and programmes for retrenched workers of the sugar industry.
- (c) The report noted the findings of the social survey and analyses the employment experience of the workers and their flexibility for employment in other sectors of the economy. It also stresses the need for capacity-building among all sectors of workers with particular attention to be given to women, to young people and to those workers with the greatest level of family and household dependency.

6.6 Development of Social Statistical Databases

- (a) ECLAC/CDCC continues to implement the Dutch-funded project *Development of Social Statistical DataBases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States, NET/00/035*
- (b) The main objective of the project is to improve the social conditions of persons living in ECLAC/CDCC member States through the development of fully searchable social statistical databases at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain. It is also expected that the project will be used to build capacity at the national and subregional levels for the monitoring and evaluation of social vulnerability among small open economies of the Caribbean. The project started in January 2001.

6.7 Newsletters

Gender Dialogue newsletter

The secretariat published the three issues of the newsletter *Gender Dialogue* in 2002. The newsletter is being prepared in response to calls from participants at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Trinidad in October 1999 for a more systematic sharing of information and dialogue around policies and programmes for women. The newsletter will be published three times per year and will be available both in printed form and through the ECLAC Website.

- All issues of the *Gender Dialogue* can be found at <http://www.eclacpos.org/gender>

Population and Development Newsletter

The *Population and Development Newsletter* will be available electronically on the ECLAC/CDCC website from April 2003. This newsletter was initially produced with funds from UNFPA. A total of eight issues are scheduled for 2003.

6.8 Technical assistance assignments

6.8.1 Social Audit in St Kitts and Nevis

At the request of the Government of St Kitts and Nevis, ECLAC Port of Spain prepared a *Report of the Social Audit of the Sugar Industry in St Kitts and Nevis LC/CAR/R.66, October 2002*. The report outlines a number of recommendations for social safety policies and programmes for retrenched workers of the sugar industry.

6.8.2 *Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)*

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is continuing its work with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Project with respect to the implementation of its project on *Family and Domestic Violence Legislative Reform Project*. In this regard, ECLAC/CDCC has completed an evaluation of the domestic violence legislation in selected Caribbean countries and is presently undertaking in-depth studies on violence against women initiatives (VAW) in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica Suriname and Turks and Caicos.

- (a) The objectives of the research are:
- i) To provide an overview of the range of end-VAW actions in the regional context, between 1992 to the present.
 - ii) To examine the institutional changes across key institutions, concentrating on the administration of justice (judges, police and related services) and social service (delivery counselling, probation, social work, etc.).
 - iii) Identify strategies, (including media strategies) focuses and alliances that have contributed to progress in the area of VAW - which could guide the future work of UNIFEM and other key actors that work on this issue – as well as possible alliances that were never consolidated and why.

6.8.3 *British Virgin Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos*

Technical Assistance is being provided to the Division of Gender Affairs in these countries, at their request, in the development of National Gender Policies and Plans of Action and on the preparing an analytical report on the status of law and social service delivery around gender-based violence.

6.9 Human development agenda

At the request of the Government of Belize, the secretariat has agreed to implement the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)-funded project aimed at the development of a Human Development Agenda (HDA) for Belize. The secretariat will provide technical assistance, support and guidance to the Working Group for the HDA for development of a National Human Development Agenda for Belize. It is expected that the HDA will provide the framework for monitoring the quality of life for the nationals of Belize over the medium and long terms, based on the premise that human development is the ultimate goal of economic growth.

6.10 Technical assistance

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to member States, most often in response to specific requests. Exceptionally, the secretariat may also, in anticipation of an emerging area of need, embark on a scope of work intended to strengthen its own capacity to provide technical assistance. One such example is the development of a data collection protocol for domestic violence.

Details of the requests received and implemented are provided in document LC/CAR/G.724/Add.2 (MONCOM 11/5/Add.2).