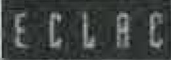




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Twenty-First Session of CDCC

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INFORMATION NOTE

STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CORE GROUP ESTABLISHED AT THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY

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INFORMATION NOTE

STATUS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CORE GROUP ESTABLISHED AT THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY St. Kitts and Nevis, 5-7 October 2005

At the Caribbean Regional Meeting to follow up Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy which convened in St Kitts and Nevis, over the period, 5-7 October 2005, a Core Group was established to give further consideration to the elements involved in the proposed establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for sustainable development in the Caribbean, with particular reference to the Mauritius Strategy.

The initial activities to be pursued by the Core Group included:

- Formulation of recommendations with respect to the composition and functions of the Coordinating Mechanism proposed for establishment at the twenty-first Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC);
- Propose objectives and guiding principles of the RCM, with input from member countries of the CDCC;
- Identification of national focal points for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and elaboration of Draft Terms of Reference to govern their activities

Proposals in respect of these elements were to be elaborated in a report and submitted to member States for comment by mid-November 2005, with a view to their finalisation in time for consideration and endorsement at the twenty-first Session of the CDCC. With the accomplishment of these tasks, the Core Group would have executed its mandate.

Since efforts to advance the work of the Core Group through the convening of its second meeting by teleconference were not successful, recourse was had to round-robin consultations through electronic mail. From these inputs, the following are presented for consideration:

The **Principles** by which the operationalisation of the RCM should be guided are:

- The promotion of sustainable development as a means for the efficient and effective use of human and natural capital, so that human, cultural, historical and natural resources are used and managed efficiently and for the greater good nationally and regionally.
- The supporting, reinforcing and assisting in sustainable development initiatives at the national and regional level.

- The application of the precautionary approach in the management of natural resources.
- The consideration of the special needs of lesser developed countries in the Caribbean.
- The functioning as a clearing house for information flow at the regional level on issues related to the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI).
- Promoting the involvement of, and partnership building among, all stakeholders in the region in the development process.
- Fair and equitable consideration of all member countries regardless of political or sovereign status.

As regards the **Coordinating Committee**, members should be drawn from as wide a cross-section as possible, including member countries of the CDCC, intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The number of members is to be determined.

The Coordinating Committee will have a number of responsibilities including, but not limited to:

- Overseeing of the Regional Work Programme and evaluating its satisfactory delivery to member countries.
- The exchange of best practices, information sharing, transfer of experiences, knowledge technology and techniques among Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- The coordination of activities to ensure maximum efficiency in the use of resources available to the region.
- The provision of technical assistance via policy review and development.
- The promotion of capacity-building and strengthening of the human resource base via training and education.
- The identification of development partners and sources of funding for development activities.
- Liaising with SIDS in other regions in promoting joint positions in international forums..

For the **National Focal Points**, duties should include:

- Ensuring the smooth functioning of the RCM at the national country level.
- Facilitating information flows to ensure adequate coordination of activities with the RCM and among national governments, non-governmental organizations, private sectors and other stakeholders, on issues related to the (MSI).
- Functioning as the principal liaison person and primary point of contact between the RCM, national government and other national stakeholders on MSI issues.

- Promoting the incorporation of SIDS/MSI issues into the national policy-making process.
- Assisting in the monitoring of implementation and reporting functions.
- Functioning as a catalyst to facilitate follow-up and implementation of the MSI at the country level.

Conclusion and recommendations

The convening of the twenty-first Session of the CDCC provides an opportunity for the above recommendations to be further discussed and elaborated. The meeting therefore is requested to:

1. Approve the formation of a regional coordinating mechanism for follow-up and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.
2. Approve the main principles under which the RCM would function.
3. Decide on the structure of the RCM.
4. Provide political oversight and necessary support for the functioning of the RCM.
5. Approve the designation of national focal points for each member country.
6. Designate a Secretariat for the RCM.
7. Decide on the future work or function of the Core Group.

Comments on the RCM received from Belize

Purpose: Coordinating Committee

Its purpose is to advise the RCM on matters concerning the implementation of the Regional Work Programme.

Memberships

Members of the Coordinating Committee shall include an adequate representation from the CARICOM countries' government, regional academic institutions, NGOs and private

Government's representation should comprise more than 50% of the committee membership.

Responsibilities

Oversee implementation of the Regional Work Programme.

Ensure an effective means of communication between the CARICOM, RCM and National Focal Points.

Oversee performance measures and user satisfaction monitoring to evaluate RCM's delivery of work programme.

3. Item 6 of the Agenda: Below please find a general TOR for the National Focal Point for the implementation for the MSI. The National Focal Point for Belize is being identified.

Roles of the National Focal Points (NFP) for the Implementation of the MSI

The National Focal Point will facilitate the smooth functioning of the RCM at the national country level:

1. The NFP serves as the principal liaison person and the primary point of contact between the RCM and the national government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders on all MSI issues.
2. The NFP serves as a catalyst, a driving force behind the follow-up and implementation of the MSI at the country level. To achieve this, the NFP should ideally be at a decision-making level.
3. The NFP serves to facilitate the flow of information and to ensure adequate coordination of activities between the RCM and the national government, non-

governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders. The NFA acts as a clearing house for the wide dissemination of information.

4. The NFP serves as a reference national point for all issues related to the MSI and its implementation at the country level.
5. The NFP coordinates inputs at the country level and facilitates timely and regular feedback on implementation of the MSI for submission to the RCM.
6. The NFA will establish regular networking with other members' National Focal Points, through various means of communication, including the internet.

Comments from OECS/ESDU concerning the RCM

Of the Fundamental Principles that would guide the operationalisation of the RCM, specific reference should be made to the following:

- Consistency with applicable international law instruments and obligations including the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.
- Application of the precautionary approach.
- Advancement of social and economic development.
- Consideration of the special needs of lesser developed countries.
- Recognition of the rights of Member States of CARICOM under this regime shall not be prejudiced by their political/sovereign status.
- Stakeholder participation and consultation.

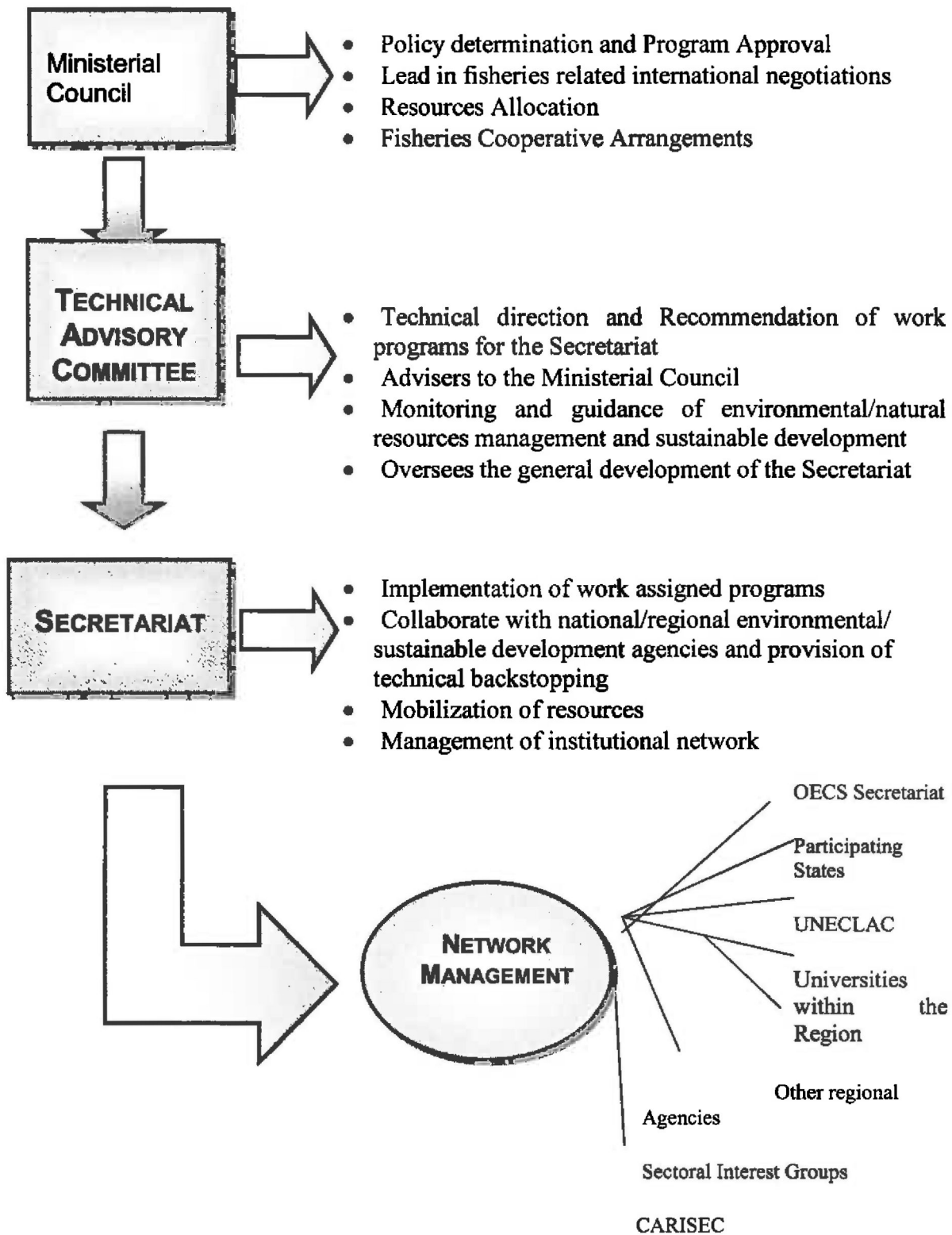
The institutional framework would be three-tiered, comprising a Ministerial Council (MC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC – made up of representatives of Participating States and key agencies) and Secretariat.

The Ministerial Council, which is the oversight body, would have responsibility for, *inter alia*, policies, programme appraisal, resource allocation, cooperative agreements and related decision-making.

The TAC would provide technical leadership to the Mechanism. More specifically it will provide technical direction; advise the Ministerial Council; review and recommend Secretariat work programmes; and provide oversight to the operations of the technical unit.

The Secretariat would have day-to-day responsibility for executing assigned work programmes, collaborating with national environmental/sustainable development agencies, mobilizing resources, and managing the institutional networking to promote optimal involvement and the efficient functioning of the network. The assigned activities of the Secretariat's work programme would essentially be comprised of activities specifically assigned to it by the Ministerial Council (on the advice of TAC) dealing, *inter alia*, with areas that require work at the regional level; it would clearly **NOT** cite the work of other regional agencies as being within its work programme, but rather would identify the linkages with these activities and its role in facilitating these activities, if any. Regional agencies would share their work programmes with the RCM, but there would be no consolidated regional work programme. Under the direction of the MC, and guided by the TAC, the Secretariat would play a coordinating role within the mechanism and serve as the Technical Unit to the MC.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE RCM



SPOKE AND WHEEL REPRESENTATION OF THE RCM

