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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
PROPOSED UP TO
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CDCC



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

Item 5 . PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES PROPOSED UP TO THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE CDCC

a) CDCC Secretariat

The Secretariat proposes for consideration the following work programme for the period between the Second Session and Third Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. This programme will be carried out essentially by the ECLA Office for the Caribbean, but will include such collaboration with other organizations as may be necessary in order to ensure both the implementation of the projects and their maximum usefulness.

I. WORK PROGRAMME MANDATED BY THE CDCC AT
FIRST SESSION, HAVANA, NOVEMBER 1975

A. Technical Co-operation among the Caribbean Countries

1. A Documentation Centre has been established to facilitate the exchange of information related to social and economic development. Further information on this Centre is contained in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/16. On the basis of a survey being carried out by CLADES and of a complementary UNESCO mission, users' requirements and available materials and sources would be identified. It is proposed to convene a meeting of regional experts (librarians and documentalists) to finalise details on the orientation and the scope of the Centre in relation to existing needs for co-ordination and development. UNESCO's support is detailed in a joint ECLA/UNESCO paper E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section I.
2. In an effort to undertake special measures and programmes to overcome language barriers, (a) a joint ECLA/UNESCO mission is proposed in order to establish with Government officials the priority target groups, and also (b) a meeting of about 20 experts be convened in order to advise on teaching methods appropriate to the respective target groups. Details on these proposals are contained in paper E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section II.
3. In order to strengthen collaboration between the different academic systems and other governmental research centres, it is proposed to create Councils for Science and Technology and for Social and Economic Development. Both Councils will initially concentrate their action on stimulating research and the exchange of experience and knowledge among

Caribbean institutions and scholars. The support of UNESCO is detailed in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section III.

4. A joint ECLA/UNESCO project will be formulated aiming at the creation of a multi-country Caribbean enterprise for life-long education (education permanente). It is intended that this enterprise will initiate action in the supply of printed and audio-visual materials to the existing media and in ascertaining their dissemination and accessibility to the public. Discussions will be held with Government officials on the viability and implementation of the project whose scope is described in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section IV.

B. Agricultural Sector

1. As a follow-up to the publication of the Directory of Associations of Producers, Dealers and Exporters of Agricultural and Livestock Products of the Caribbean Countries, an attempt to bring those Associations together and facilitate mutual exchanges will be initiated.

2. Demand projections will be made of selected food crops.

3. Selection of agricultural and livestock products of the region that lend themselves to industrial processing at local and regional level will be made.

4. Work will continue on the biennial publication Agricultural Statistics of the Caribbean Countries and effort will be made to include information on prices.

5. It is hoped to start a study into the working of the land tenure and land taxation systems with the aim of discovering the nature and extent of the constraints on development and employment so as to develop models more appropriate to the needs of the countries. Extra-budgetary finances will be required for this project and a proposal has been submitted by ECLA to Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

C. Industrial Sector

1. It is proposed in the initial stages to take stock of personnel and skills available in the region. The outcome would be to make readily available to the member countries a Caribbean roster or directory of regional expertise, for which co-operation of the Governments will be sought.

2. A prerequisite to a regional industrialization programme is to channel through the CDCC Secretariat the technical assistance given by United Nations Agencies to industry. Efforts will be made to co-ordinate this assistance with private domestic and foreign investment and expertise as appropriate.
3. Efforts will be made in co-operation with UNCTAD, UNIDO and other relevant institutions to assist in providing information on suitable technology for industry; this might take the form of assisting in the establishment of appropriate local institutions in order to develop indigenous technology and to adapt imported technology.
4. In co-operation with other sectors within and outside CDCC an assessment of the supply, present and potential, of inputs for the establishment of expansion of processing industries will be started.
5. The possibilities for the establishment of new industrial projects will also be explored.

D. Social Sector

1. Studies will continue on social structural changes on a country-by-country basis. The diversity of situations existing both between the member states of the Committee and within the countries themselves will be classified and analysed. These studies will assist in the formulation of policy for social development.
2. Studies will continue on the non-demographic aspects of manpower aimed at a diagnosis of the forms of labour utilization within different economic organizations and the planning for an increase in the employment rates.

G. Tourism

There is need for (a) an analysis of the social impact of tourism, (b) the real economic gains, and (c) an analysis of the provision of concessions, incentives and facilities for tourism development with a view to formulating a regional approach. Additional resources are required for these studies; and it is proposed that member Governments provide the necessary experts to carry out these studies which will be co-ordinated by the CDCC Secretariat.

H. Transport and Communications

1. A study is being carried out in association with CARICOM to identify the origin and destination flows by commodity of the inter-island small vessels in the Eastern Caribbean. This information will be provided as an input to the CDB investment study of WISCO. It will be used to provide details of the route structure and vessel types required by that shipping line. Work will continue in conjunction with other appropriate bodies in the region for the design of regular, reliable and efficient services in order to complement WISCO, NAMUCAR, and international shipping lines, and to provide transshipment services in the region.
2. Studies will be carried out to determine the preferred design of equipment for such services with a view to standardization.
3. It is proposed to initiate a survey of the existing state and condition of air transport in the CDCC area with a view to suggesting improvement in the schedules and route patterns of service, type of aircraft and equipment both from economic and technological standpoints, improvements of infrastructure: airports and navigational facilities, and the rationalization of air transport agreements. A series of continuing reports will be prepared.
4. Telecommunication and postal services within the region will be examined by regional experts to provide an overview of the present system with its perceived problems and deficiencies.

This work will be followed by the appointment of small working groups to survey the present system from the standpoint of both the operator and the user. The work will be co-ordinated by ECLA Office for the Caribbean. These groups could organise and carry out a regional survey of the services. Analysis of the results and submission of recommendations for improvements to Governments will occur in the following work period (between the Third and Fourth CDCC Sessions).

I. Marine Resources

In an effort to assist member states of the CDCC to protect their basic rights and essential economic interests as regards marine resources, a special meeting at expert level has already been mandated.

A draft Agenda for this meeting is contained in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/17. Governments are further requested to assist in the preparation of documentation for the meeting.

K. Regional Co-operation

1. It is proposed to undertake an analysis of the efforts and problems of integration by CARICOM with a view to promoting further integration measures. Parallel studies are being undertaken by ECLA in respect to the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Andean Group. A comparative study will be undertaken subsequently with a view to facilitating collaboration among the groupings.

2. Studies will be carried out into the possibilities and implications of forms of association between CARICOM and other Caribbean countries. The assistance of experts from the respective countries - Dominican Republic, Haiti, Netherlands Antilles and Surinam - will be required in carrying out these studies which will be co-ordinated by the CDCC Secretariat.

L. Trade

It is expected that recruitment of a Trade Policy Expert will be made during 1977. It is proposed to initiate -

- analyses of the pattern of trade in specific items between individual countries and third countries;
- studies of obstacles to trade in specific items of interest e.g. tariffs, other barriers, transport;

with a view to formulating proposals for the diversification and expansion of the internal and external trade of CDCC countries. Particular attention will be paid to possibilities under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences.

M. Natural Disasters

It is proposed to initiate studies with a view to setting up a sub-regional network of early warning systems by co-ordinating and organizing the various inputs of media, meteorological services, telecommunications, private radio operators and relief organizations.

II. WORK PROGRAMME MANDATED BY THE CDCC AT
FIRST SESSION, HAVANA, NOVEMBER 1975
BUT FOR WHICH NO IMMEDIATE ACTION IS PROPOSED

Work was mandated under the following heads:

E. Public Health

F. Education and Culture

J. Coastal Area Development

No specific proposals are being submitted with respect to Public Health, but the CDCC Secretariat, in its general co-ordinating role, will liaise with PAHO in the execution of projects in member countries. Additionally, initial efforts will be directed towards studying some aspects of nutrition especially those relating to the traditional resistance to maximum utilization of local products.

Some aspects of Education and Culture i.e. language training, collaboration among universities and research institutions, and adult education are included above under Section A. Technical Co-operation among the Caribbean countries.

Under Coastal Area Development, the Committee had mandated an investigation of beach erosion and sedimentation, utilization of swamps and wetlands, the promotion of recreation, tourism and fishing as well as preservation of the coastal areas. The Secretariat envisages that the first step in carrying out this mandate will be the conducting of on-the-spot surveys to be followed by the convening of a group of experts to formulate recommendations for concrete projects in specific fields. Some preliminary work is being undertaken by the Office of Ocean Economics and Technology at UN Headquarters. There is need, however, for an appropriate expert on the staff of the Secretariat to initiate and co-ordinate action in this subject matter.

III. RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS OF THE ECLA
OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

A. The contribution of analyses of current economic trends in each country and of the region as a whole to the Economic Survey of Latin America will continue. It is proposed to widen the coverage and to update the publication E/CEPAL/CDCC/15.

B. Collaboration with the several substantive divisions of ECLA Santiago in work projects of a regional (Latin America) nature. Among these are the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy and Studies of Energy. Continued assistance and support will be given to the work of other branches of United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

C. Advisory assistance on an ad hoc basis to individual countries and territories, at their request, will be continued.

D. Collaborating with and assisting the regional integration organizations - CARICOM, ECCM, WISA - in carrying out specific studies and projects will be continued. This function involves participation in technical and Ministerial meetings.

E. The work begun on the project identified in the CDCC Work Programme titled "Formulation of a Sub-regional Energy Programme" will continue. A paper is to be prepared on energy resources and uses in the CDCC countries.

F. As a first step in the Programme on Natural Resources a start will be made in early 1978 in assembling and assessing all available data on mineral resources in the CDCC member countries.

G. It is proposed to commence publication of Statistical Bulletins for the region.

IV. ECLA/UNEP PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

A joint ECLA/UNEP project for the development of an action programme for the sound environmental management in the wider Caribbean area has commenced and is expected to run for two years. In the initial stages it is proposed to collect, analyse and synthesize information on the state of environment, including identification of activities and events which have an impact on the environment; and identify existing gaps in knowledge. This would be followed by work on the identification of existing and necessary human and institutional resources within the region to deal with its environmental problems and suggest the guidelines for their inter-disciplinary work. There would then be an identification

of the action already in hand and to be undertaken, at the national and international level, in order to deal with existing problems; and also suggested appropriate mechanisms for co-ordination and implementation of present and future actions within the UN system in this respect.

Finally, the project will seek to develop, in co-operation with Governments concerned, UN bodies, as well as appropriate IGOs and NGOs, an Action Programme for presentation to an inter-governmental conference of the wider Caribbean area countries, to be convened at the highest possible level.

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SUMMARY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 1977/1978

Apart from reviewing the specialized meetings proposed at Havana and recorded in the report of the First Session of the CDCC (E/CEPAL/CDCC/8/Rev.1) the following two new meetings are suggested by the Secretariat for the consideration of member Governments with specific decisions on venue, timing, participants and necessary financing required regarding all meetings:

1. Meeting of Experts - librarians and documentalists

Details of the Documentation Centre which has been established at the CDCC Secretariat are contained in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/16/Rev. 1 and E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section I. It is considered necessary that a regional meeting be held in order to finalise details on the orientation and scope of the Centre.

2. Meeting of Experts on language barriers

Details on measures and programmes to overcome language barriers are contained in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/19, Section II. After a preliminary assessment of needs has been established, a meeting of about 20 experts is proposed in order to advise on teaching methods appropriate to selected groups.



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