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Focus : ECLAC in the Caribbean : the newsletter of
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FOCUS

ECLAC CDCC IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Highlighting the World Summit on Sustainable Development From Johannesburg 2002 to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/199 which was adopted on 20 December 2001, the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will convene at the level of Heads of State and/or Government in an event whose formal nomenclature will be the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Summit will convene at the Sandton Convention Centre just outside Johannesburg, South Africa, over the period, 26 August-4 September 2002. The Summit phase will convene over the period, 2-4 September 2002. A Non-Governmental Forum will take place at the nearby Gallagher Estate.

As expected, the major outcome of the Prep Com was the presentation of *The Chairman's Paper*, embodying what might be viewed as the first draft of the Final Document that will be adopted at the WSSD. This first draft will be further considered and negotiated during the third Prep Com. The Chairman's Paper, in addition to its Introduction, covers nine subject areas as follows:

1. Poverty Eradication;
2. Changing Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production;
3. Protecting and Managing the Natural Resource Base of Economic and Social Development;
4. Sustainable Development in a Globalizing World;
5. Health and Sustainable Development;
6. Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
7. Sustainable Development Initiatives for Africa;
8. Means of Implementation; and
9. Strengthening Governance for Sustainable Development at the National, Regional and International Levels.

Also circulated at the Prep Com was a *Non-Paper* prepared by South Africa for discussion in the course of further preparations for the Summit entitled, *From Rio to Johannesburg: A Global Deal for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 towards Sustainable Development*. The key elements of the Global Deal are indicated to include:

- Political commitment to the Global Deal (political declaration);
- The Johannesburg Programme of Action as the key mechanism for delivering the Global Deal; and

- Institutional arrangements and partnerships to implement the Global Deal.

Final Major Phases of Preparation

The major steps envisaged for the remainder of the Preparatory Process for the WSSD are:

The Third Prep Com in New York over the period, 25 March-5 April 2002 and the Fourth Prep Com which will convene in Indonesia over the period, 27 May - 7 June 2002.

The Third Prep Com will essentially be devoted to the negotiation of the *First Draft* of the *Review Document*. This First Draft is expected to embody an overall review of progress achieved since UNCED; an identification of the major constraints that have been encountered; and recommendations on measures to overcome these constraints. Prep Com III is also expected to address the mechanisms by which the institutional framework for sustainable development might be strengthened.

The main outcome of the Fourth Prep Com is expected to be a *Second Draft Final Document* proposed for adoption, which is expected to embody a reinvigoration of political commitment to sustainable development and to address new challenges and opportunities within the framework of Agenda 21.

The WSSD and its Projected Outcomes in Essence

Finally, there is the Summit itself, which, as indicated above, will convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, over the period, 26 August- 4 September 2002.

It is being convened against a background situation captured in the Report of the Secretary-General, entitled, *Implementing Agenda 21*. Referring to the gap in implementation of Agenda 21, the Secretary-General identifies four main areas, namely: the fragmented approach that has been taken toward sustainable development; the failure to produce any major changes in the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; a lack of mutually coherent policies and approaches in the areas of finance, trade, investment, technology and sustainable development; the fact that the financial resources required for implementing Agenda 21 have not been forthcoming and mechanisms for the transfer of technology have not improved. The Report also emphasises that, since 1992, *official development assistance has declined steadily, the burden of debt has constrained options for poor countries, and the expanding flows of private investment have been volatile and directed only at a few countries and sectors*.

The Summit will also aim at producing a number of time-bound recommendations on ways to overcome obstacles to implementation, together with the institutional and financial requirements attaching to those recommendations. Should it prove feasible, the Summit will also seek to identify likely sources of the necessary financial support. The Summit will also seek to adopt new national, regional and inter-regional and stakeholder commitments that do not require global negotiations.

Development and the perspectives of Caribbean SIDS

Summit on Sustainable Development

As indicated by the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) who is also Secretary-General of the WSSD, the Doha Ministerial Meeting put *development at the centre of the world trade agenda*, while the Monterrey Summit put *development at the centre of the finance agenda*. With respect to the WSSD, the challenge is to put *sustainability at the centre of the development agenda*.

AOSIS prepares for the Summit

Just prior to the convening of the Second Prep Com, The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) held its *Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)*, in Singapore, over the period, 7-11 January 2002.

The principal outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the *Singapore Declaration of the Alliance of Small Island States Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development*.

Significantly, this *Declaration recalls and reaffirms the recognition of SIDS as a special case and deserving of special treatment because they are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable...and their specific physical circumstances often make it difficult for them to benefit from global economic development*.

The Declaration, within its Preamble, identifies, as priority areas for implementation: climate change, oceans, energy, transportation, tourism, natural resources and biodiversity, natural and man-made disasters, and land degradation. Concern is also expressed with respect to such new and emerging challenges as globalization and trade liberalization, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the continued lack of financial resources and institutional capacity, and access to and use of the information and communications technologies. The persistence of poverty as a major obstacle to the sustainable development of SIDS is underscored, as is the need for capacity-building. In the operative paragraphs of the Declaration, the Alliance agrees to accelerate national and regional implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and to request the international community to provide adequate financial resources, including foreign direct investment, official development assistance and debt relief; transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound technologies; and assistance for capacity building.

The Declaration also calls for the early operationalization of the economic and environmental vulnerability indices...and the use of these indices at the levels of inter-governmental and international agencies, as well as international support for the development of a social vulnerability index to complement this work.

Finally, the *Declaration* also recommends that a *decision for a comprehensive review conference on the BPOA in the year 2004 (Barbados + 10)* be adopted at the WSSD, which has been endorsed by Caribbean SIDS.

Caribbean SIDS and the WSSD

Selected Specific Proposals by Caribbean SIDS for the WSSD

Specific proposals articulated by Caribbean SIDS in the context of the WSSD, relate to, inter alia:

1. Restoring the SIDS Programme of Action to a central place on the international agenda;
2. Taking the SIDS Programme of Action to a new phase by placing the required degree of impetus to the socio-economic issues that are recognised to impose severe constraints to the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS, among others;
3. Compilation and implementation of a Composite Vulnerability Index covering all aspects of the vulnerability of SIDS;
4. The incorporation of issues related to the implementation of the SIDS and related international decisions as priority elements of international technical assistance programmes;
5. The need for adequate and predictable financing to support the sustainable development efforts of SIDS and for the reiteration of the financial and related commitments adopted at UNCED with a view to their early implementation;
6. Coastal and Marine Resources;
7. Natural and Environmental Disasters;
8. Freshwater Resources;
9. Waste Management;
10. Human Resource Development; and
11. The Negotiation and Implementation of International Treaties.

Within the region, increased attention is to be focused on the strengthening, at both the national and regional levels, of institutional arrangements for the planning and coordination of the implementation of sustainable development programmes.

While the small island developing States of the subregion accept primary responsibility for their sustainable development, they are nevertheless conscious of the fact, that the greater infusion of resources that has been indicated to be necessary, is also a responsibility that is shared by the wider international community.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE SU

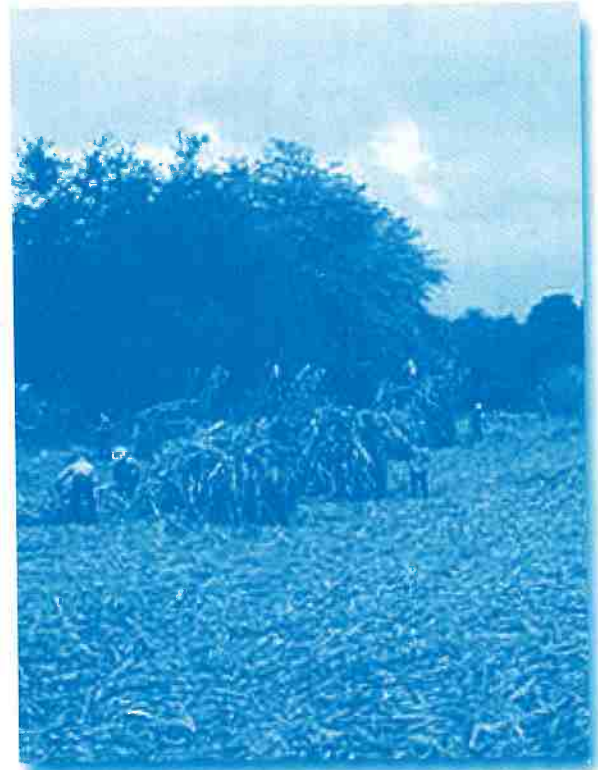
The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has requested the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to undertake a social audit of sugar workers, which includes the following components:

(a) A social survey of the sugar workers, including needs and skills assessments;

(b) A labour market survey to ascertain the absorptive capacity of the labour market, both current and projected, with a view to the placement of sugar workers into other sectors of the economy; and

(c) The development of social safety policies and programmes, which take account of the need to sustain sugar workers during the transition as well as to meet the needs of those who will be leaving the labour force as a result of age.

The social audit is intended to provide necessary information to assist the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis in exploring the way forward for the sugar industry, which has been assessed by a number of previous studies as being unsustainable, as it is presently structured.



The sugar industry employs approximately 12 per cent of the employed labour force. Many of the workers are over 50 years old and more than 50 per cent of them are employed in fieldwork. The remaining workers are employed in the administration, manufacturing and railway sections. The field workers are primarily employed in daily wage labour and earnings fluctuate considerably in 'in-crop' and 'out-of-crop' seasons. The Kittitian sugar industry has also witnessed decreasing levels of interest on the part of the labour force in working in this area and, as a result, the Government has had to rely on imported labour for the harvesting of sugar cane.

GAR INDUSTRY IN ST. KITTS/NEVIS

All components of this social audit have been started. The ECLAC Port-of-Spain office, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), has direct responsibility for the conduct of the surveys, while consultants, Dr. Ralph Henry and Dr. Janice Jackson, have been contracted to implement the other two components of the audit.

The implementation of the social survey began with a four-day workshop in St. Kitts and Nevis, from which 27 interviewers were selected to administer the questionnaires. Interviews were conducted over a period of 10 days, from 17-26 April 2002, with a total of 1,215 workers being interviewed. This exercise was followed by focus group discussions with key groups within, as well as those associated with the sugar industry. These groups included workers

at all levels, the board of the SSMC, the trade unions and small businesses in communities that are directly associated with the sugar industry and its workers. Officers of the ECLAC Port-of-Spain Office and the ILO conducted these focus group discussions.

A draft report arising out of the social survey will be ready for submission to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis by 30 June 2002.

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A REVIEW OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

The meeting was held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain from 14-15 March 2002, and was attended by 12 member countries and six associate members.

The agenda included the review of the accomplishments over the 2000-2001 biennium and discussions relating to the implementation of the current (2002-2003) biennium's programme of work. In the 2002-2003 biennium, it was observed that the subregion would be faced with the need to negotiate on several fronts: with the European Union (EU) within the post-Cotonou framework of regional economic partnerships; within the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the context of post-Doha negotiations, and within the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Some member countries would continue to pursue the movement towards the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the free movement of labour within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The anticipated work of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the biennium 2004-2005 was also presented.

The main activities of the 2000-2001 biennium were focused on the following:

- **Capacity building in social and trade statistics** in an attempt to remedy the inadequacy of data in social and trade flows, which has been and continues to be a fundamental issue and constrains the region in its developmental work and in policy formulation.
- **Economic diversification** including studies on the offshore and tourism sectors, realising that the preferential treatment accorded to products from the Caribbean will not be sustained, thus making it necessary to facilitate greater economic activity in the services sector.
- **Strategic policy formulation in the area of physical planning** to assist member countries in making the best use of the limited geographical space available to them for their development

activities.

- **Negotiations and trade** bearing in the mind the number of trade blocs that now exist and the continued evolution of the proposal that free trade is one of the foundations of sustainable economic development
- **Cooperation and integration** at the subregional and national levels, recognising the necessity to adopt common approaches and policies for the greater integration of the Caribbean region and of presenting a common front in international forums.

The meeting also addressed issues relating to the Caribbean Sea which is a major resource for all the countries of the subregion. Hence with respect to the management of this area of ocean space, the meeting agreed to maintain and advance the original proposal for the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat was requested to undertake the relevant consultations with a view to providing the technical support for advancing the proposal. In particular, consultations were to be undertaken with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) on the future development and eventual implementation of the proposal, taking into account the lead technical rule envisaged for ECLAC/CDCC.

The meeting also reviewed a number of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council that were identified as being of special interest to member countries of the CDCC. While the 17 resolutions summarized in the document covered a range of topics, the overall emphasis was on development.

A point of concern was the imminent Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), due to take place in Monterrey, Mexico from 18-22 March 2002. There was little scope for the Caribbean to benefit from the process, as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) had not fully addressed issues going beyond environmental concerns. In addition, the donors had shaped the process with little input from the developing countries.

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A Revised Draft Text of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC and of the Revised Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC were presented and adopted unanimously. This was part of a process begun some two years ago to amend the rules of procedure under which the CDCC functioned, in order to take into account the present global realities. The approved document is now to be forwarded to the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, New York, to ensure its conformity with United Nations guidelines.

Focusing on upcoming international conferences, the FfD was again brought into focus, though the utility of the conference was questioned in terms of its probable results. It was suggested that the FfD could nevertheless be viewed as an achievement to the extent that the Bretton Woods Institutions had been brought into a constructive engagement with the United Nations. In addition, developing countries had introduced for discussion: financing for development in a holistic and comprehensive manner; the importance of trade for development; special and differential treatment; economic transformation and capacity building; and the vital role of concessionary flows.

On the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) delegates suggested the need for a greater CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC presence to provide technical assistance in the preparatory processes. They also highlighted the need for assistance in the social area on issues such as HIV/AIDS, human resource development and health, all of which were identified as assuming increased importance in the Caribbean.

An upcoming project "Development and implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy for the promotion of the SIDS POA", conceptualised and being implemented by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, received much attention and the delegates concurred that the proposed strategy presented was very useful and stressed that it should be targeted to the political directorate and young persons and occupy a prominent place at Caribbean cultural events. The support for this initiative was endorsed via resolution 56(XIX) - Development and Implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy.

Other resolutions adopted at the meeting included:

- **57(XIX):** Development of a Social Vulnerability Index, which "Endorse(d) the initiative taken by the UNECLAC/CDCC Secretariat for the development of a social vulnerability index covering a range of social variables such as the social impacts of the intraregional movement of labour, the impact of poverty on crime and the use of illicit drugs, the correlation between poverty and education and the social costs of natural disasters; and the formulation of composite social indicators; and assisting in the construction of a composite vulnerability index for application in developing countries" and requested the assistance of other relevant international organizations towards this goal.

- **58(XIX):** Capacity building for disaster assessment, which called for a continuation of the ECLAC initiative in the provision of training in the use of the methodology to undertake an assessment of damages due to natural disasters and the necessity of training nationals of the various member countries in such a methodology.

- **59(XIX):** Convening of the Second Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action preparatory to SIDS +10, in 2003 which recognised the necessity of such a meeting "...to prepare for the full and comprehensive review of the decisions of the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action which is envisaged for 2004".

- **60(XIX):** Strengthening national capacities in statistics since the timely delivery of relevant, quality statistics is a *sine qua non* for policy development and implementation and is an enabling factor in the transition of countries towards the goal of information-based societies.

The meeting agreed that the next session of the CDCC should convene within the first quarter of 2003 at the technical level.

A SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF CONFERENCE ON FINANC

The international Conference on Financing for Development which convened on 18-22 March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico, was the first ever United Nations conference to address the challenges of financing development. The conference was attended by 51 heads of State or governments, 200 ministers (largely those responsible for finance, economic planning and trade) as well as leaders from the private sector, civil society and senior officials of major international organizations. The timing of the conference could not have been more appropriate as official developing assistance (ODA) flows which have been the traditional source of development finance for many developing countries have diminished considerably over the years and private capital flows have become increasingly more volatile and counter cyclical. The conference sought to find comprehensive and innovative ways for mobilising financial resources for development as well as increasing the effectiveness of such resources.

The conference deliberated on five inter-related thematic issues: i) mobilising domestic financial resources for development; ii) mobilising international financial resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows; iii) international trade for development; iv) international financial and technical cooperation for development; v) external debt; and vi) addressing systemic issues.

The Monterrey Conference placed primary emphasis on mobilisation of domestic financial resources for development while external resources were viewed as the means of supplementing inadequate domestic resources, owing to low savings levels in the developing countries. It was reiterated that the successful mobilisation of domestic resources hinged on sound macroeconomic policies, good governance and the rule of law as well as on the strengthening of the financial sector institutions. Some delegates, while recognising the importance of domestic reform, felt that the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the Conference

should have emphasised the importance of a favourable international context for growth and development in the developing countries.

On the issue of mobilising international financial resources for development, the Monterrey Consensus addressed the mobilisation of international private capital flows such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), portfolios flows (bonds and equity) and bank lending. Official flows were treated as a separate issue. However, some participants at the conference argued that the mobilisation of external resources involved both private and public resources for development. After all, private capital flows are volatile and subject to market imperfections which may not allocate resources in an optimal fashion.

Therefore, public flows should complement private flows. This was particularly important for the small island developing States of the Caribbean which have limited access to private international financial markets, owing to their small size and their vulnerabilities. The suggestion by some delegates from the developing countries that developed countries should double their official development assistance was firmly rejected by Japan and the United States of America. As a result, the conference merely urged developed countries to increase their levels of ODA to developing countries. It was maintained that this course of action was vital if the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty by 2015 were to be achieved. Although the text recognised the importance of official development assistance to developing countries, many delegates maintained that the effectiveness of aid should also be addressed if aid was to have a meaningful impact on development. This called for a fundamental change in policy of both donor and recipient countries. Many delegates emphasised the need for increased partnership and coordination between donor and recipient countries. There was also a need to increase coherence, consistency and predictability of donor policies. This required coordination among donor countries to harmonise their conditionality and streamline administrative procedures, which too often undermined the effectiveness of aid. Concomitant to this was the need to promote more ownership of development projects by the recipient countries.

Another noteworthy outcome from the Monterrey process was the announcement by the United States Government that it would increase its development assistance to developing countries by US\$5 billion over the next three years. This, according to the United States Government, would represent an increase of more than 50 per cent over

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THE MONTERREY INTERNATIONAL ING FOR DEVELOPMENT

the current ODA levels. Similarly, the European Union (EU) countries have committed themselves to an average 0.39 per cent ODA target by 2006 with further progress towards the 0.7 per cent target also envisaged. The countries which fail to reach this target would strive to reach at least 0.33 per cent target by 2006. Furthermore, the EU has also decided to cease tying aid to the Least Developed Countries. The conference welcomed these new initiatives by the United States and the EU as steps in the right direction. However, some delegates sounded a note of caution that ODA would still be far below the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GDP as well as the level required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

On the issue of trade, the conference emphasised the clear link between trade and development. Developing countries can generate additional finance for development through increasing exports. However, this vital source of finance for developing countries is hindered by the protectionist policies of developed countries. The conference therefore called for the rapid implementation of the Doha Development Round. The conference specifically called on developed countries to provide enhanced market access to products of special interest to developing countries and to remove subsidies on agriculture. Concomitant to this was the need to provide technical assistance to developing countries to help them overcome supply constraints. Of particular importance to the Caribbean countries was the reaffirmation by the Monterrey Conference of the need for special and differential treatment for developing countries, a position which has been advocated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for many years. Reference was also made to the need to provide multilateral financial assistance to help attenuate the impact of terms of trade volatility on export revenue of commodity dependent developing economies.

The conference also identified external debt as an obstacle to development since resources were diverted away from productive and other priority social activity. Therefore, the conference viewed sustainable debt financing as an integral element of the process of mobilising resources for development. The conference apportioned the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt burdens to both debtors and creditors. Fears were expressed that resources provided for debt relief might be directed from ODA resources. Donor countries were encouraged to take steps to prevent this from happening. As far as Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) were concerned, the conference called for more flexibility in eligibility criteria in

an effort to reduce the debt burden of those countries to sustainable levels.

With reference to the theme of addressing systemic issues, the conference underlined the need for greater coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading system. The delegates saw this as necessary for complementing national development efforts. The conference also reiterated the need for greater transparency in international decision-making and increased fair and equitable participation of developing countries in the international system.

The way forward

Many delegates maintained that the Monterrey Conference marked an important turning point in building a global coalition for financing for development. The delegates agreed that the objectives of the conference were clear and well understood and that the challenge after Monterrey would be to translate the consensus into concrete actions. To keep the spirit of Monterrey alive, the conference recommended that action plans and follow-up mechanisms be developed for implementing its proposals. Suggestions were made that the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Bretton Woods Institutions should coordinate

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such an exercise with the United Nations Secretariat, especially the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) playing a leading role. Some delegates suggested that more work needed to be done in time for further concrete implementation

plans to be agreed upon at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, which convenes in Johannesburg in August 2002. The conference urged delegates to begin building public support among their people for the principles agreed on and commitments undertaken at Monterrey. A call was also made for the establishment of an international task force to examine the issue of global public goods and their financing.

DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED

Selected statistical indicators of Caribbean countries, vol. xiv, 2001. -LC/CAR/G.666, 2001.

Provides statistical data for each Caribbean country under the following headings: national accounts, national accounts expenditure, balance of payments, domestic exports and imports, trade balance, central government fiscal operations and the retail price index. Data provided typically ranges over a seven-year period 1993-2000.

Developing social policy for youth with special reference to young men in Saint Lucia. -LC/CAR/G.667, 2001.

Highlights some issues raised during consultations about the apparent alienation of some sectors of the youth population in St. Lucia. These include rising levels of involvement of male youth in criminal activity and violence, high dropout rates and increased rates of drug abuse. Examines the education system, noting its lack of responsiveness to the developmental needs of contemporary St. Lucia, the lack of economic opportunities on the island and socialisation trends. Recommends a revision of the curriculum, making the education system more technically oriented, teacher training and increased parental involvement in the academic life of children.

Application of the concepts of agro-tourism, agricultural diversification and food and nutrition for the development of Caribbean communities with reference to standards and priority setting. -LC/CAR/G.668, 2001.

Undertakes to identify the factors which determine a successful community-based approach to achieving development. Briefly analyses some of the governing structures in the subregion and their possible impact on the new approach. Examines as well early efforts at a stakeholder and community approach to projects as well as the new development which has prompted the call for a new paradigm.

Trade, environment and development: implications for Caribbean countries. - LC/CAR/G.669, 2001.

In light of the reservations of developing countries in agreeing to negotiate environmental issues in a new WTO Round, this paper explores the relationship between trade, environment and development with specific reference to Caribbean countries. The aim is to understand why developing countries, in particular those in the Caribbean, should be concerned about environmental issues in their pursuit of economic development. Economic growth and development was traditionally about increasing savings and investment to realise increased rates of growth as well as diversifying production and

export structures to enhance the sustainability of growth. Environmental management is now considered to be an important factor in the pursuit of sustainable growth and development. After decades of environmental abuse, developed countries have put in place measures and institutions to regulate the environment. Some of these measures have tended to impinge on trade relations with other countries, in particular developing countries where environmental regulation is either absent or in a nascent stage of development.

Advancing gender equality in the Caribbean: legislative approaches to sex discrimination. -LC/CAR/G.670, 2001.

Notes that the decade of the 1990s was marked by a process of review of governmental policy towards the attainment of the goal of gender equality and equity. Reviews and assesses equality legislation in the Caribbean subregion under the following headings: education, poverty and labour force participation, national constitutions, law reform, sexual harassment and equal opportunity legislation. Concludes that although substantial progress has been recorded, there is much to be done particularly in ensuring legal protection against all forms of sex-based discrimination and that all constitutions are unambiguous and all exceptions to the equality norm are removed. Includes statistical data.

Impact of privatisation on the banking sector in the Caribbean. - LC/CAR/G.671, 2001.

This paper provides an analysis of privatisation in the banking sector in the Caribbean and its impact on the performance of the sector and economic growth. The study attempts to evaluate whether privatisation and liberalisation, in general, have led to significant gains in efficiency and profitability of the sector and whether the depth of the financial system has led to more productive allocation of credit for investment and growth. Section II outlines the rationale that was used to recommend privatisation as an alternate strategy to State ownership of productive activity. Section III of the paper provides an overview of the international experience with financial sector privatisation, while section IV gives the Caribbean experience. Section V is an evaluation of the impact of privatisation on the performance and growth in the banking sector. Meanwhile, Section VI looks at institutional restructuring and the significance of the rising trend of mergers and acquisitions in the regional financial sector. Section VII underscores the importance of strong prudential and regulatory standards and reform in this area. Section VIII examines the impact of privatisation and liberalisation in the banking sector on economic growth. Finally Section IX concludes the paper with some policy recommendations.

Report of the ECLAC/CDCC Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to End Violence Against Women: data collection systems for domestic violence in the Caribbean. - LC/CAR/G.674, 2001.

Reports on the meeting convened in Port of Spain in November 2001, notes that on the issue of domestic violence, with

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appropriate data it is possible to obtain profiles of victims and violators and evaluates the effectiveness of interventions, etc. Discussions revolved around models of data collection, methodological challenges of developing a protocol for domestic violence and the presentation of the data collection instrument. Includes a list of participants.

Problems relating to technology transfer mechanisms in the Caribbean. -LC/CAR/G.675, 2001.

Notes the existence of private technology transfer or transactions but examines in some detail the efforts of UNDP/TCDC; OAS; the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation; USAID; the Peace Corps and the International Development Research Centre, noting that they have been particularly important in both the promotion and implementation of the concept of technology transfer. Examines in detail the types and methods of technology transfer which range from agricultural extensions to seminars and workshops.

Caribbean policy response to the information age: a review of government information and communications technology policy and services in selected Caribbean countries. -LC/CAR/G.676, 2001.

Caribbean governments have been reacting to the phenomenon that is the Information Age with a variety of policy initiatives. Initially governments trained most of their efforts at facilitating the development of an infomatics industry, drawn there by the promise of jobs and foreign exchange earnings. However, the motives for these policy interventions have evolved over time and as a consequence, policy has matured. This paper, which is descriptive rather than analytical, draws heavily on statements made by government decision-makers. It attempts to provide an overview of some of the major activities undertaken by some Caribbean governments and regional organizations in a real and serious attempt to seize the digital opportunity provided by the Internet and the other technological applications which this technology has spawned. Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are included in this review. Information on Grenada, based exclusively on available documentation is also included.

Information, information management and governance. -LC/CAR/G.677, 2001.

Discusses the nexus between information, information management and governance. It focuses on issues relevant to the public sector and outlines a case for reform especially in the area of information systems. Recognizes and applauds the efforts of the IMF and the World Bank to have countries document their methodologies in data dissemination and place quality delimiters on their data.

Status of implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993 in selected Caribbean countries. -LC/CAR/G.679, 2001.

The Caribbean countries have for decades been described as being "data poor". The inability of the countries to provide, in a number of areas, data on certain issues of national or world importance has

its roots in the poor information infrastructure that characterizes the Caribbean countries. The national accounts are designed to provide information on almost every aspect of national life that must be of interest to the administration and citizenry alike. This paper looks at the countries' implementation of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) from the attempt to implement the 1968 version to the contemporary effort to update to the 1993 version, which is more demanding of data from a narrow information infrastructure. It discusses SNA 1968 outputs from a selection of Caribbean countries and examines the prerequisites for the successful implementation of SNA 1993. The issues of information architecture, networking and political will are discussed in an attempt to identify a way forward into implementation.

Quality of life: a compendium of selected social statistics of five Caribbean countries (1995 - 2001). -LC/CAR/G.680, 2001.

Quality of Life: A compendium of selected social statistics of five Caribbean countries (1995-2001), is the second in a series on social statistics to be published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat. This compendium is the first output of the fully searchable subregional social statistical databases, established at the secretariat and is drawn from the national data sets of the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC). It is intended for use as one of the tools to strengthen capacity in evidence-based social policy formulation in the Caribbean subregion.

Netherlands Antilles: trade and integration with CARICOM. -LC/CAR/G.681, 2001.

Provides details of the trends and composition of trade between the Netherlands Antilles and CARICOM. Examines the nature of trade regimes present in the Netherlands Antilles and compares it with CARICOM's Common External Tariff. Identifies barriers to Netherlands Antilles trade with CARICOM. Describes in great detail, the costs and benefits of integration and outlines factors governing accession as well as the criteria and choice of an integration option. Includes statistical data.



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The CDCC functions as an intergovernmental organization and meets annually at the technical level and every other year at the ministerial level. Its operational activities are carried out under the regular ECLAC work programme for the Caribbean, which includes economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, environment surveys, environment, international trade, and trade-in-services, information for development statistics, sustainable development of small islands developing states, science and technology, women in development, tourism, training and assistance with the management of national economies.

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