



E/CEPAL/CDCC/27

13 March 1978

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Third Session
Belize City, Belize
12-18 April 1978

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

28 JUN 1978

10

10

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

CDCC II noted -

"...the importance of the application of science and technology to the development of the subregion and the need for greater involvement of the CDCC in development programmes related to the application and transfer of science and technology and the development of indigenous technology in the sub-region. The Meeting also agreed that the CDCC Secretariat should initiate consultations with member governments and agencies to determine the desirability of convening a specialized meeting in order to formulate a policy on science and technology and to adopt common approaches and strategies as a subregional input for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology to be held in 1979. It was further agreed that a unit should be established within the CDCC Secretariat to work in conjunction with the Caribbean Council of Science and Technology....".
(paragraph 36 of the Report of Second Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, E/CEPAL/CDCC/21/Rev.1:E/CEPAL 1039)

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to three aspects of this subject:

1. Creation of a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology.
2. Adoption of common approaches and strategies as a sub-regional input for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology.
3. Creation of a Unit in the CDCC Secretariat to deal with Science and Technology.

1. Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

In accordance with the mandate on this sub-item, a Consultant was engaged by UNESCO to undertake a feasibility study and to prepare draft statutes for a proposed Council. The feasibility study was undertaken during the first half of 1977 and draft statutes were prepared jointly by the CDCC and UNESCO Secretariats. Copies of the Feasibility Study and Draft Statutes of the proposed CCST are contained in document UNESCO/NS/ROU/399 Prov.3 which have been circulated to Governments.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF CCST

The Secretariat considered it advisable to submit the statutes of the CCST for consideration at Caribbean Meetings on Science and Technology:

- i) Consultation on Science and Technology Policies in the Caribbean Regional Seminar, Georgetown, Guyana, 12-16 December 1977.

This Consultation was called to review, inter alia, science and technology policy trends in the Caribbean, the role of national organs and co-operation at the sub-regional level. The draft Statutes of the CCST were considered and certain revisions were made.

- ii) Caribbean Sub-regional Seminar on Science and Technology for Development, Kingston, Jamaica, 14-17 February 1978.

This Seminar was convened to consider, inter alia, the preparatory activities of the United Nations Conference for Science and Technology, the state of preparations of national papers, type of co-operation required by Governments and sub-regional experts. The following decision was taken on the CCST:

"With regard to sub-regional co-operation in strengthening the capability of science and technology, the ECLA Port of Spain representative gave a brief historical account of events leading to the proposal for establishing a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) and requested the Meeting to consider the Feasibility Report and Statutes before presentation to the Third Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) Meeting which was scheduled to be held in Belize during April.

In commenting on the Feasibility Study the Chairman summarized the recommendations which had emanated from the Consultation held in Guyana during December 1977. He commented that the proposal to establish the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology was a commendable one which had been accepted in principle but that certain modifications seemed necessary before total acceptance. These were:

- (i) Definite programmes for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology would have to be indicated;

- (ii) More use of the already established Caribbean institutions should be encouraged;
- (iii) Existing funding of those Institutions should not be affected if the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology was to be established;
- (iv) Sub-regional co-operation should be based on specific mechanisms;
- (v) A Caribbean scientist with a proven record of involvement in regional science and technology activities should be recruited for the specific purpose of visiting all the CDCC member countries to gauge the reaction of scientists, technologists and policy-makers to the proposed Council;
- (vi) Involvement of other U.N. Agencies especially UNCTAD and UNIDO in preparation for the proposed Council.

After a brief discussion, the Meeting agreed that it was premature to discuss the proposal in any detail at this stage, but after the report from the Caribbean scientist referred to in (v) above has been received."

On recommendation (v) above, the Caribbean scientist has been recruited and he is scheduled to visit CDCC member countries in May and July 1978. On recommendation (vi) above, both UNCTAD and UNIDO have been informed and the matter will also be taken up at the Inter-Agency Meeting scheduled to be held in Belize on 19 April 1978.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee may wish to recommend:

- i) further studies and possibly refinements be done to the CCST especially by Caribbean personnel;
- ii) the Secretariat obtain inputs from relevant United Nations bodies especially UNIDO and UNCTAD;
- iii) the revised statutes be submitted to Member Governments for their comments; and
- iv) a final version of statutes for the CCST be submitted for consideration at CDCC IV.

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology

In accordance with the mandate, the CDCC Secretariat carried out consultations with some Member Governments and established the desirability of convening a sub-regional meeting. Accordingly, under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Conference for Science and Technology and the CDCC Secretariat, a Caribbean Sub-regional Seminar was convened in Kingston, Jamaica, from 14-17 February 1978.

The Kingston Seminar reviewed the state of preparations of national papers, the relevance and suitability of guidelines, procedures for obtaining experts and finance from the UNCSTD Secretariat, accessibility of information in patent documents, and preparations for the World Conference. The Seminar also agreed to convening another seminar to consider a sub-regional paper identifying sub-regional priorities, which has been proposed for 1-3 June 1978 either in Grenada or Barbados (venue subject to confirmation). The report of the Seminar is contained in document E/CEPAL/CDCC/27/Add.1.

The CDCC Secretariat has been requested to prepare for this 1-3 June Seminar a working document from a synthesis of the drafts of National Papers and in consultation with respective member countries.

The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) has been requested to finance the 1-3 June Seminar and its decision will be communicated during the Session.

3. Unit in the CDCC Secretariat to deal with Science and Technology

At CDCC II it was agreed to establish a unit within the CDCC Secretariat to service the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology and to deal with all science and technology matters. (paragraph 36 and Annex 4 of the Report of the Second Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, E/CEPAL/CDCC/21/Rev.1: E/CEPAL/1039).

This recommendation was endorsed, inter alia, by the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL, Guatemala, April-May 1977 (Resolution 372 (XVII), document E/CEPAL/1030/Rev.1).

No provision was made by the United Nations in 1977 in the regular budget of the CDCC for this Unit. Member Governments may wish to re-affirm their recommendation for the establishment of a unit within the CDCC Secretariat to deal with science and technology. The staff requirements for this unit are as follows:

1 Professional Officer	- P-4/5
1 Research Assistant	- G-6
1 Stenographer	- G-3/4

