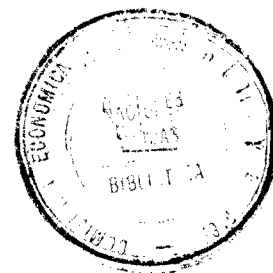


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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

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REPORT OF THE TENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



UNITED NATIONS

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REPORT OF THE TENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was held on 20 and 21 November 1989 at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting was convened by the Chairman of CCST, Dr Gladstone Taylor (Jamaica). Other members of the Executive Committee present were Mr Louis Wiltshire, Vice-Chairman, (Trinidad & Tobago) and Ms Marie-Grace Auguste (Saint Lucia). Also attending were Dr James de Vere Pitt (Grenada) and Dr Winthrop Wiltshire (UNESCO Regional Advisor for the Caribbean). The Treasurer, Mr Tirso Saenz (Cuba) was absent. Servicing the meeting were Mr Donatus St Aimee (Secretary, Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee) and Ms Christine David (Research Assistant, ECLAC).

Opening remarks were made by Mr St Aimee who lamented that due to financial constraints, it had not been possible to hold an Executive Committee meeting sooner.

Although no structured agenda had previously been set, the following agenda was proposed and subsequently adopted:

1. General discussion on CCST
2. CCST budget performance
3. CCST programme budget
4. CCST organizational structure and arrangements:
 - (a) question of a permanent secretariat
 - (b) inter-organizational co-operation
 - (c) relations with governments
5. Any other business

Agenda Item 1: General discussion on CCST

Arising out of the comments of members, it was agreed that the Council, as it currently functioned, was peripheral to the concerns of governments and needed to place itself in a position to be more meaningful. For its smaller member countries, the Council was one of the few links with available regional science and technology organizations and its strengthening was especially important to them.

It was important, therefore, that the Council determine what its focus should be, whether it was to be a think-tank, an advisory body, or an implementing organization.

Agenda Item 2: Budget performance

It was noted that the payment of dues by all member countries except Dominica and Saint Lucia was outstanding. The interim secretariat was requested to produce a paper on outstanding contributions and to renew efforts to obtain payment from members.

A review of the work programme and budget showed that of planned activities only one had been completed within the year: a national consultation in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Agenda Item 3: Work Programme

In view of the above, the Executive Committee formulated the following work programme for 1990:

- (a) Executive Committee Meeting - to be held at ECLAC, Port-of-Spain, between late January and mid-February.
- (b) Plenary session - to be held directly prior to the CARICOM Science and Technology Ministers Meeting, expected to be some time in April.
- (c) National Science and Technology Consultations for Belize and St Kitts and Nevis.
- (d) Continuation of the CCST Newsletter.
- (e) Regional Science and Technology Conference - to be held in the latter half of 1990.
- (f) Two lectures on topics of particular interest by renowned guest speakers, to coincide with both the Regional Science and Technology Conference and the Plenary Session. It was suggested that one guest speaker be Dr Noel Brown, Director of UNEP's Liaison Office in New York, to speak on Environment.
- (g) Make inputs into the CARICOM National and Regional Economic Conferences. The national conferences are scheduled for next quarter. The regional preparatory conferences are scheduled for the second and third quarters, 1990.
- (h) Preparation of a report on the CCST achievements to date - to be completed before the next Executive Committee meeting.

(i) Identify/re-identify the CCST national focal points as part of the national network of science and technology - for personal visits to be made by CCST Chairman and CDCC Secretary, in an effort to revitalize these focal points.

Agenda Item 4(a): Question of a permanent secretariat

Two papers were presented to the meeting regarding the establishment of a permanent secretariat. One was a document prepared earlier (1986) by the interim secretariat. The other was prepared by a consultant. Although it was felt that the consultant's document was not presented early enough to allow for a proper study of the proposal, it was agreed that the basic elements were not different from one of the proposals in the secretariat's earlier document.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Director of the Port-of-Spain ECLAC Office had offered a P-3 post for someone to work with him in Jamaica. Other participants expressed the view that such an arrangement was inappropriate and suggested, instead, that any additional resources available should go towards strengthening the present secretariat in ECLAC/CDCC, until such time as a decision was taken by member countries on a permanent secretariat.

After much discussion, it was agreed that decisions regarding a permanent secretariat should be made by the full Council and that the next meeting of the Executive should provide an opportunity for further discussions and for the formulation of definite proposals for the consideration of member countries. If the Council was successful in carrying out some of its new programmes, that might provide insight into what niche the Council could forge for itself and what type of secretariat would be required to best serve in that new role.

Agenda item 4b: Interorganizational co-operation

Members decided that a meeting with agencies concerned with science and technology and operating within the region should be held immediately after the plenary session in order to assist in rationalizing available resources.

Agenda Item 4(c): Relations with governments

It was felt that activity 9 of the work programme should help to address this matter.

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

The agenda for the plenary session was determined and the Executive Committee set a three-month deadline prior to the meeting for the preparation of documents for the session to be sent at least six weeks in advance. The following agenda was proposed:

1. General discussion on the role and functioning of the CCST
2. Presentation of country reports on progress of science and technology activities since last plenary session
3. Topic for general discussion: Environment
4. Report on CCST activities
5. Budget performance
6. Work programme
7. CCST organizational structure and arrangements:
 - (a) secretariat
 - (b) inter-organizational co-operation
 - (c) relationship with governments
8. Date and venue for next plenary session
9. Any other business.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the members for their hard work over the previous two days, during which a close look had been taken at the problems facing the Council and though all such problems not been solved, a contribution had been made to identifying possible solutions which would provide for a rejuvenated Council.

