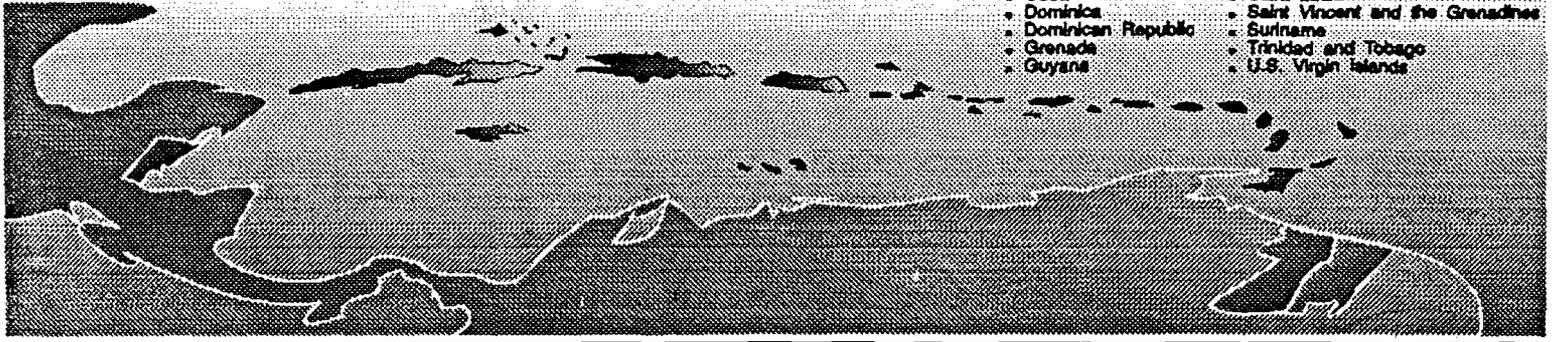




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- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



Seventh Session of the
 Regional Conference for the Integration
 of Women into the Social and Economic Development
 of Latin America and the Caribbean

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 2 September 1997
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**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AT THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL LEVEL
 TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE
 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
 FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1994 TO AUGUST 1997**



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AT THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL LEVEL
TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
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The period under review spans the Caribbean subregional preparatory activities for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) - that is, the Subregional preparatory conference held in Curacao, June 1994, the sixth Regional Conference on Women held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 1994, the Beijing Conference itself and the follow-up subregional conference held in August 1997.

A. Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) convened and provided substantive servicing to the following meetings:

1. The Subregional Preparatory Conference of its member countries in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, 28-29 June 1994, and provided technical assistance to the NGO forum which was being hosted parallel to the governmental meeting, 27-29 June. The objectives of the subregional preparatory conference were:

- (a) To approve the Caribbean subregional report to be tabled at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference, Mar del Plata, Argentina, September 1994;
- (b) To consider the special issue papers which had been prepared; and
- (c) To discuss activities which needed to be undertaken at the national level.

Twenty Caribbean countries attended the meeting, 12 being represented at the ministerial level. Of those which attended, Anguilla and Turks and Caicos had not yet attained observer status in the CDCC. The meeting also attracted a wide cross-section of observers from the following United Nations organizations: the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the World Food Programme (WFP). CARICOM was represented by Mr. Rudy Collins, Assistant Secretary-General (Ag.), and a team of four advisers and resource persons. Special guests came from the British Development Division in the Caribbean (BDDC).

The Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Ms. Gertrude Mongella, addressed the gathering at the formal closing and advised ministers present "to come to Beijing with commitments from their governments and inter-governmental agencies to improve

the status of women in specific areas", only in that way, she advised, would the FWCW neither become an avenue for complaints nor a talk shop.

A parallel NGO forum, to which approximately 100 women from the region attended, took place on 27-29 June 1994. A report of this meeting was presented at the governmental meeting.

2. The First Teleconference of Caribbean Subregional Governments (November 1994) in preparation for the follow-up meeting to Argentina, that is, the twentieth Meeting of the Board of Presiding Officers, Santiago, Chile. Participants at the teleconference reviewed the critical areas of interest to the subregion addressed at other international conferences and the FWCW, discussed the status of preparations at the national level and made recommendations to assist in the preparation of the Caribbean subregion for the FWCW.

3. The Second Teleconference of the Caribbean Subregion in preparation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women Meeting and Final PrepCom for the FWCW, March-April 1995.

4. The UNIFEM/CARICOM/ECLAC retreat on Conference Diplomacy and Negotiations in the Caribbean. Governments were provided with an opportunity to make final preparations for negotiations at the FWCW, 17-19 July 1995, Barbados.

5. The Seventh Monitoring Committee Meeting, 14 July 1995, Tobago. Member governments were updated on preparatory activities undertaken in the region by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for the FWCW as of June 1995.

6. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Follow-up Actions to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Port of Spain on 25 October 1995.

7. The Eighth meeting of the ECLAC/CDCC Monitoring Committee in Port of Spain 21-22 March 1996

8. The Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Poverty Eradication 28 October- 1 November 1996, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

9. The CARICOM/UNECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: A Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference, in preparation for the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Social and Economic Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Georgetown Guyana 6-8 August 1997. The objectives of the meeting were: (a) to arrive at a Caribbean position on the two themes which will be discussed at the seventh session of the Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean; and (b) to arrive at a consensus called the Georgetown Consensus, which would direct the work of the Governments over the period until the year 2000.

Seventy four persons participated in the meeting from sixteen ECLAC/CDCC member countries, ten of which were represented at the ministerial level (two Ministers represented the Government of Suriname). Participants included the Directors of Bureaux of Women's Affairs in the respective countries, the current Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Sharon Haylock, Charge d'affaires, the Bahamas United Nations Mission, representatives of 8 United Nations agencies, a representative of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Gender Studies Department; thirteen NGOs from across the region; 5 resource persons, and CARICOM and ECLAC personnel. Delegations from some countries included Chief Economists in the Ministry of Planning or personnel responsible for macro level social planning, since an important issue for discussion at the meeting was the notion of gender main streaming, and gender planning was viewed as a central component.

The Secretariat provided substantive servicing for the following meetings:

1. The the sixth session of the Regional Conference of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mar del Plata, Argentina, 25-29 September 1994 and at the follow-up meeting which was held in Santiago, Chile, November 1994.
2. The Twenty-first Meeting of the Board of Presiding Officers Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, 3-4 July 1995, Santiago, Chile. The secretariat also organized a Caribbean caucus on Sunday 2 July 1995 prior to the Board meeting.
3. The CARICOM mission staff in New York regarding CARICOM positions in preparation for informal consultations on the draft Platform for Action of the FWCW (New York, 28 July 1995). Provision of substantive advice and servicing to ECLAC/CDCC member governments during the informal consultations (31 July-4 August 1995) on the draft Platform for Action of the FWCW in New York was also carried out by the secretariat.
4. The FWCW, 4-15 September 1995 to the ECLAC/CDCC member governments in attendance.

B. Organization and substantive servicing of meeting of experts

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat organized and provided substantive servicing of the following meeting of experts:

1. The Expert Group Meeting on Gender Planning held on 16-17 July 1997, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. ECLAC/CDCC, in collaboration with the Gender Equity Fund which is a gender specific programme of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), convened the meeting to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform For Action (FWCW-PFA) , with specific reference to gender

mainstreaming. The objective of the meeting was to discern how to integrate the gender planning process within the national planning process. Participants included representatives from the social and economic planning divisions of selected governments in the subregion, and the academic and non-governmental sectors in the region.

C. Non-recurrent publications

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat produced the following publications:

1. *Achieving Social Justice, Equality, Peace and Development: A review of the Status of Women of the Caribbean Subregion in preparation for the fourth World conference on Women, 1995.* (LC/CAR/G.442, 31 January 1995). Presentation to the governments in attendance at the Retreat on the Draft Platform for Action and the reaffirmation of the Caribbean negotiating positions for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
2. *Working document No. 1 in preparation for the informal consultations on the Draft Platform for Action*, 31 July - 4 August 1995.
3. *Caribbean Position on Clustering of Bracketed Elements in the Platform for Action - A Guide for Negotiations at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW): Action for Equality, Development and Peace.* Presentation to donor agencies and governments on request of CARICOM, organized by Ambassadors of Belize and Suriname, during the FWCW, Thursday 7 September 1995.
5. *Building consensus - From the Commonwealth Plan of Action to the United Nations Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.* Presentation to the Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs on 3 September 1995, in Beijing, China, just prior to the FWCW
6. *Activities at the Caribbean Subregional Level in relation to the Fourth World Conference on Women.* Presentation to the United Nations bodies and inter-governmental agencies in attendance at the Inter-Agency Meeting on Follow-up Activities to the Fourth World Conference on Women.
7. *Report on Outcomes of FWCW and Possibilities for Follow-up in the Caribbean.*
8. *Discussion Notes on the question of Strategic Planning for the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.*
9. *An investigative study on women and the micro-enterprise sector in the Bahamas, (Working Paper).* Based on a joint technical mission conducted by ECLAC/CDCC and the ILO Caribbean regional office.

10. *Activities at the Caribbean subregional Level in Relation to the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW)*. (LC/CAR/G.457, 29 December 1995).
11. *Poverty Eradication and Female Headed Households (FHH) in the Caribbean*. (Pov/96/2) 18 October 1996. A paper prepared and presented to the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Eradication of Poverty 28 October 28 - 1 November 1996, Trinidad Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
12. *Actions for Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean: Arriving at a Consensus*. (Pov/96/1), 18 October 1996. A paper prepared and tabled at the Caribbean ministerial meeting on the Eradication of Poverty 28 October - 1 November 1996, Trinidad Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
13. *Proposal to Integrate Gender Planning into National Development Plans*. Sonja T. Harris Consultant paper prepared for the WID Unit of ECLAC/CDCC for presentation at the CARICOM/UNECLAC/UNIFEM Post Beijing Encounter: A Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference in preparation for the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Social and Economic Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Georgetown, Guyana 6-8 August 1997.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat made presentations as follows:

1. On the Future Work of the ECLAC/CDCC on a panel organized by the Regional Commissions on "Beyond Beijing" during the second week of the FWCW.
2. On Review of the Incidence and Characteristics of Violence Against Women in the Caribbean, as reported in the National Reports prepared for the FWCW, to governments of the subregion, in attendance at the OAS/CIM meeting, Port-of-Spain, 25 October 1995
3. On Gender Planning to governments in attendance at the UNIFEM/OAS/CIM/CARICOM Follow-up to Beijing Meeting held in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, 26 - 27 October 1995, Port-of-Spain.
4. On Poor Female-Headed Households and Housing at a Housing Seminar organized by UNIC and UNHCR as part of regional preparations for Habitat II, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 9 April 1996. Participants were Caribbean journalists, housing experts and members of the Caribbean community working in the area of settlements.
5. On the Elimination of Violence Against Women, as part of a panel on the elimination of violence against women, at an Urban Crime and Violence Seminar hosted by IDB in collaboration with the government of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, March 1997.

6. On Strategies to increase women's participation in decision-making, as part of a panel at a workshop on Engendering Local Government. Saint Lucia, June 1997, hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

D. Technical Material

1. The development and design of an electronic database of initiatives for poverty eradication and equity building in Trinidad and Tobago structured on the United Nations Matrix for Social Development (September 1996)

E. Operational activities

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has provided advice and technical assistance as follows:

1. To the governments of the subregion in the preparation of National Reports on the Status of Women, prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in September 1995.

2. To the Division for the Advancement of Women, New York, in the drafting of the FWCW Draft Platform for Action in New York, December 1994. This enabled the secretariat to better advise governments in the subregion.

3. To the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Haiti, in collaboration with UNICEF, Haiti Office, 23 -26 April 1996 regarding establishment of mechanisms for the implementation of the FWCW-PFA and a study on poor female-headed households.

4. To the Government of Suriname as part of a joint UNECLAC/UNDP mission, 6-8 May 1997, re the establishment of the poverty matrix. During that mission explore the needs of the Suriname Bureau of Women's Affairs in their follow-up to the FWCW.

5. To the Government of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis regarding the follow-up to the implementation of the FWCW-PFA and the development of the National Plan of Action. July 10 -12 1996.

6. To the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Minister Extraordinaire and Tobago Affairs, in relation to the orientation of regional officers on sustainable human development and the eradication of poverty with special concern on gender issues. August/September 1996

7. To the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Women's Affairs, regarding the establishment of mechanisms for the implementation of the FWCW- PFA (third quarter 1996)

8. To the Government of the Saint Kitts and Nevis to provide training and orientation to senior executives of the Saint Kitts /Nevis public sector in the area of gender main streaming. The workshop was supported by the Government of Saint Kitts/ Nevis through assistance provided by the CARICAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat (Dec. 1996).
9. To the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, through UNIFEM support, in their development of a National Plan of Action for the implementation of the FWCW- PFA. (January 1997)
10. To the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, supported by UNIFEM, on the development of the country's first report to CEDAW. June 1997.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat participated in the following meetings and made presentations in the following areas:

1. A series of meetings and teleconferences with UNDP, regarding the establishment of a database of poverty alleviation and equity building initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago. (April , May, June). Disseminate 1,000 copies of questionnaire to capture data for the development of a poverty eradication/equity building matrix as part of a joint UNDP/ECLAC project for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Represented ECLAC/CDCC at a CARICOM convened meeting to review the CARICOM Plan of Action, Barbados, June 1996.
3. Represented ECLAC at CIDA seminar to discuss logistics of CIDA gender equity fund in the Caribbean. Port of Spain , 5 July 1996.
4. Represented ECLAC/CDCC secretariat at the Board of Presiding Officers Meeting , Port of Spain, November 1996.
5. Represented ECLAC/CDCC secretariat at the Board of presiding officers Meeting in Mexico, 27-28 May 1997.

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