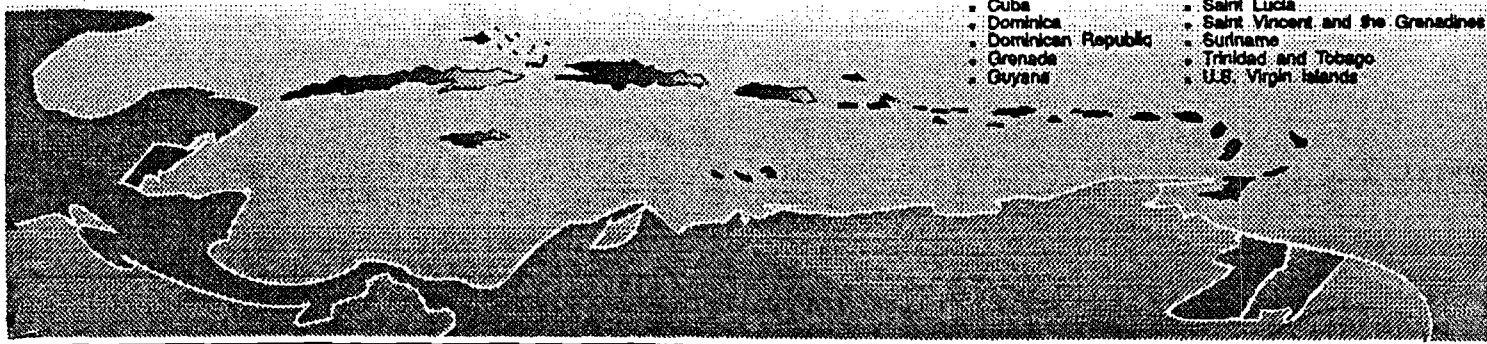




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**WORKING GROUP OF NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs)
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NICCs**



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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JANUARY 10, 1907.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. MANDATE	1
II. ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE	2
A. NICCs participation in United Nations world conferences	2
1. Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	2
2. Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	2
3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)	3
4. World Summit for Social Development	3
5. Fourth World Conference on Women	3
6. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II)	4
B. NICCs participation in hemispheric economic initiatives:	4
1. Summit of the Americas	4
C. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations	5
1. Special Committee (on Decolonization)	6
2. United Nations Fourth Committee	8
3. Organization of American States (OAS)	9
4. Association of Caribbean States (ACS)	9
5. Offshore Governors' Forum (OGF)	9
6. Caribbean/Latin American Action (C/LAA)	10
7. United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands (UNAVI)	10
8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	10
9. Other institutions	11
D. Cooperation with tertiary institutions	11
1. University of Virgin Islands	11
2. British Virgin Islands Community College (BVICC)	12
3. Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC)	12
4. Bermuda College	12

E.	Consultations with non-associate member NICCs	12
1.	Anguilla	12
2.	Bermuda	13
3.	Turks and Caicos Islands	14
F.	Documents and publications	15
1.	Newsletter	15
2.	Published articles	16
3.	Project document	16
4.	Information Paper	16
5.	Background notes: St. Maarten and Anguilla	16
6.	Economic and constitutional profile	16
IV.	CONCLUSION	17

WORKING GROUP OF NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (NICCs) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NICCs

I. MANDATE

The mandate for assistance to Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) is contained in Programme Element 13.1 of the 1994-1995 biennium, Promotion of Cooperation among Member Countries of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America, which called for the provision of support to the NICCs on matters of particular interest to this group of countries within the framework of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

The genesis of this mandate emanates from resolutions of the CDCC beginning at its tenth and eleventh sessions, respectively, which approved resolution 21(X) and 24(XI) that "directed the CDCC secretariat to examine the access of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of their development process."

Subsequently, resolution 27(XII) was adopted at the twelfth session of CDCC which created the standing open-ended Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, and at the thirteenth session, resolution 33(XIII) was approved on "Support for the Working Group on the Access of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to the United Nations System."

The CDCC at its fourteenth session adopted resolution 37(XIV) which "reiterated its request that the Secretariat seek the resources to assist...in carrying out its analysis of the criteria for NICCs participation in the United Nations system, and ... initiating contacts with the governing councils of the United Nations specialized agencies/technical organs to determine the modalities for the inclusion of NICCs in their respective work programmes..." The resolution went on to support the inclusion of provisions extending observer status to associate members of regional economic commissions in the terms of reference of the "relevant meetings, programmes, and activities authorized by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and other organizations of the United Nations system."

At the fifteenth session of CDCC, member governments approved resolution 44(XV) which requested the CDCC secretariat "to take note that matters of particular interest to associate member countries, as referred to in the (CDCC) work programme of 1994-1995, include an analysis of rules of procedure on United Nations world conferences and eligibility criteria for participation in voluntary funds, an overview of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), analysis of preferential access to the European Union, and the potential for regional integration within the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)."

These matters of interest were formalized into a Draft Programme of Action on Assistance to non-independent Caribbean countries.

The above CDCC resolutions, in addition to ECLAC resolution 543(XXV) approved at its twenty-fifth session supporting the participation of associate member countries in United Nations world conferences, are in conformity with the legislative authority contained in relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC related to the participation of non-independent countries in programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

A number of activities were carried out since the fifteenth session of CDCC in an attempt to implement the mandate, and concentrated on particular areas identified by CDCC associate member governments and subsequently adopted in CDCC resolution 44(XV). Accordingly, specific activities were undertaken consistent with the resolution.

II. ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

A. NICCs participation in United Nations world conferences

1. Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

A meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York with officials of the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in relation to the lack of participation of the NICCs in the conference, which first convened in April 1993, and which held a subsequent session in 1993, two sessions in 1994, and one session in 1995 for the purpose of completing a Convention on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks on the High Seas and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

As associate members of regional commissions were granted observer status in these sessions, pursuant to efforts by CDCC, but have not been participating due to their ineligibility to access the voluntary fund provided for developing countries to attend the session, the meeting sought to identify means of ensuring that the NICCs would receive the appropriate documentation of the meetings, including background papers, decisions and reports.

It was agreed that CDCC would serve as the conduit of relevant information between the secretariat of the conference and the NICCs associate member governments. It was also suggested that CDCC begin to monitor the Law of the Sea and its potential impact on the NICCs, as the NICCs were not a part of the Law of the Sea negotiation process nor of its ongoing follow-up activities.

2. Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Modifications to the rules of procedure of the SIDS Conference permitting associate members of regional commissions to participate in the SIDS Meeting in Barbados in 1994, April, in its regional

and global preparatory processes, and allowing access to the voluntary fund for these purposes, have been extended to include the participation of NICCs in the follow-up to SIDS.

In this connection, the ECLAC/CDCC associate member countries of Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico all participated in the Caribbean Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action held in Trinidad and Tobago from 17-19 May 1995. Additionally, the NICCs Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands participated as an observer.

Efforts are underway to ensure the inclusion of the NICCs governments in other follow-up activities and programmes emanating from the SIDS Programme of Action, including the SIDS Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP) and the SIDS Information Network (SIDSNET).

3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Previous modifications to the rules of procedure permitting associate members of regional commissions to participate in the ICPD and in its preparatory process have also permitted these and other NICCs to participate in the follow-up activities to the Conference. Accordingly, the NICCs governments of British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, United States Virgin Islands, and the Netherlands Antilles participated in the Caribbean Population and Development Meeting - Follow-up to ICPD, 3-5 May 1995, held in Nassau, The Bahamas.

A study is currently underway on the effects of migration on a number of the smallest island developing countries. This study includes the British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands, and the Netherlands Antilles (in respect of St. Maarten).

4. World Summit for Social Development

Associate members of regional commissions were eligible for participation in the Summit following changes to the Rules of Procedure during the relevant Preparatory Committee meeting in New York in February 1995. This followed NICCs participation in the Second Caribbean Meeting Preparatory to the World Summit for Social Development held in Antigua from 6-8 December 1994 in which five of the six ECLAC/CDCC associate member governments participated (Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, and the United States Virgin Islands).

However, NICCs were not active in the global preparatory meetings, due to their inability to access voluntary and trust funds set aside for developing countries, and their participation in the Summit in Denmark was limited to one associate member country, the Netherlands Antilles.

5. Fourth World Conference on Women

Following the successful lobbying effort by Caribbean member States of the United Nations General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), meeting from 15 March-4 April

1995 in New York, approved a change to the rules of procedure of the Conference to permit associate members of regional commissions to attend the Conference.

Associate member countries and other NICCs had been particularly active in regional and subregional meetings preparatory to the Conference.

6. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II)

A meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York with representatives of the Secretariat of the Conference in order to present the position of ECLAC/CDCC governments on participation of associate member governments in world conferences, and in order to request the Secretariat of HABITAT II to include the relevant language in the Conference rules of procedure which were discussed at the Second Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for HABITAT II which met in Nairobi from 24 April-5 May 1995.

Since the required modification to the rules of procedure were not made at the Nairobi meeting, the initiative was continued by the member governments of ECLAC at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), which met in Santiago, Chile, from 13-17 November 1995 and which adopted a decision calling for the required amendment to the rules of procedure of HABITAT II providing for observer status for associate members of United Nations regional economic commissions in HABITAT II and in its preparatory process. The ECLAC decision served to confirm the decision of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference which met on 8 November 1995 when the required amendment was ultimately inserted. The entire rules of procedure are before the United Nations General Assembly for adoption.

Accordingly, it is anticipated that CDCC associate member governments will receive invitations to the third session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, scheduled for 5-16 February 1996, and to the conference itself. It was recommended by several CDCC associate member governments that the secretariat of the Working Group of NICCs should assist in the coordination of the associate member participation at the Preparatory Committee within the context of the overall Caribbean delegation coordination, and to continually update those associate member governments which would be unable to attend the session.

B. **NICCs participation in hemispheric economic initiatives**

1. Summit of the Americas

The major economic initiative in relation to the NICCs was identified by member governments in CDCC resolution 44(XV) as the NAFTA. Following consultations among members of the Working Group of NICCs, this was subsequently expanded to encompass the Summit of the Americas which met in 1994 and approved a wide ranging Plan of Action. The Summit conveners, some 34 heads of government of most independent countries of the hemisphere, did not include the NICCs.

Accordingly, a proposal entitled "The Summit of the Americas - Towards a Widening Process" was prepared on the potential modalities for the inclusion of ECLAC/CDCC associate member countries in the Summit of the Americas Plan of Action. The proposal envisages NICC participation as observers in the High Level Meetings and Conferences called for in the Plan of Action to carry out the mandates emanating from the Summit. Specific reference is made to provisions of the Plan of Action in the areas of sustainable development, drug trafficking and abuse, hemispheric free trade, energy cooperation, telecommunications, science and technology, and basic health services.

The proposal also calls for ECLAC/CDCC to serve as the centralized point of contact for the transmittal of information on the status of Summit implementation activities to its associate member governments, and for an ECLAC/CDCC representative to participate in the Summit Implementation Review Group, as well as to the High Level Meetings and Conferences of the Summit.

Additionally, the proposal calls for the inclusion of associate member countries in regional programmes being undertaken by the Interamerican Development Bank and the Pan American Health Organization as activities in implementation of the Summit Plan of Action.

Following consultations with a number of associate member governments, the proposal was discussed at the annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Latin America during the Session on Non-Independent Territories and Overseas Departments, where three heads of government of the non-independent Caribbean endorsed the principle of NICC participation in the Summit Plan of Action and of the projected role of the CDCC as contained in the proposal.

The proposal was also brought to the attention of the Summit of the Americas Working Group on Small Island Economies, chaired by the Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States and to the Organization of American States (OAS). The proposal was also brought to the attention of the Senior coordinator of the Summit Coordinating Office during a session entitled "The Summit of the Americas: One Year Later," held in Washington, D.C. on 25 January 1996.

Additionally, the proposal has been placed on the agenda of the Caribbean/Latin American Action 1996 Retreat scheduled for 10-11 February 1996 in Maryland, United States, in which high level Summit of the Americas officials and hemispheric public and private sector leaders will review the implementation of the Summit, and will address any proposals to modify its activities. The CDCC has been asked to present its proposal at that time.

Following consultations with NICCs governments, this initiative will concentrate, in the short term, on attaining an observer status for the NICCs at the Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial Meeting of the Summit, scheduled for Cartagena, Colombia, from 19-20 March 1996. This would serve as the precedent for a more expanded and regular participation in other Summit activities.

C. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

1. Special Committee (on Decolonization)

A paper was delivered to the Seminar organized by the Special Committee which convened from 3-5 July 1995 in Trinidad and Tobago. The seminar focused on the socio-economic and constitutional developments in the non-self-governing territories. Seven of the 10 NICCs are in this category.

In this connection, a secretariat paper was prepared and presented at the seminar which concentrated on the agenda items of:

(a) *The role of the specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, in the economic and social advancement of the territories.*

(b) *Access of non-self-governing territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system.*

(c) *Questions related to the Law of the Sea and the non-self-governing territories of the region.*

Recommendations on collaboration between the Special Committee and CDCC in respect of the implementation of economic and social development activities aimed at assisting the Caribbean non-self-governing territories were presented. The conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee Seminar reflected a strong commitment towards collaboration with CDCC. The relevant provisions included:

* *Support (for) the recommendation of the 1990 Special Committee Regional Seminar held in Barbados and the 1992 Seminar in Grenada for formal collaboration between the Special Committee and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) on the CDCC proposed comprehensive study of the access of non-self-governing territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the development process of the non-self-governing territories.*

* *Endorses(ment of) the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) in assisting the socio-economic and constitutional development process of many Caribbean non-self-governing territories, and calling on the Special Committee to assist the CDCC in carrying out relevant provisions of its work programme, as has been identified by the governments of the non-self-governing territories, in particular its Socio-Economic and Constitutional Profile of the Non-Independent Caribbean, its analysis of the participation of NSGTs in programmes and activities of the United Nations system including United Nations world conferences, and its study on the impact of international trade arrangements on the economies of the non-self-governing territories.*

* *Endorses(ment of) the view that regional institutions such as the CDCC, the South Pacific Forum, and others had more direct contact with non-self-governing territories, as most of these territories were members or associate members in a number of regional institutions.*

* *Request (of) the Special Committee to consider the proposal that since there was no mechanism in place to implement major features of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, that the CDCC should be requested to carry out relevant provisions of the Plan at the Caribbean Regional level, in particular the "Periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the (Decolonization) Declaration in the non-self-governing territories," and the "Review of the Impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of non-self-governing territories," with the provision of appropriate resources for the CDCC to undertake these activities.*

* *Support (for) the need for an extensive study to be undertaken on the economic, social, and constitutional conditions in each of the remaining non-self-governing territories, as called for in the Special Committee Regional Seminar held in 1990 in Vanuatu, which should be undertaken by the relevant regional institutions.*

Cooperation with the Special Committee was previously called for by the Chairman of the CDCC Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries in statements before the Special Committee in 1993 and 1994. Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution approved under the agenda item of the *"Implementation of the (Decolonization) Declaration by the Specialized Agencies and Other International Institutions Associated with the United Nations"* made reference in 1994 to "relevant resolutions of the CDCC concerning the access of non-self-governing territories (and other non-independent countries) to programmes and activities of the United Nations system." The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has made similar references in its resolutions to ECLAC/CDCC activities in 1993 and 1994 under an identical agenda item.

Possible collaboration between ECLAC/CDCC and the Special Committee was discussed between the Chairman of the CDCC Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries and the Chairman of the Special Committee in 1994 pursuant to the relevant resolution of the fifteenth session of CDCC. During these consultations, it was suggested that ECLAC/CDCC could be tasked to undertake the socio-economic and constitutional analyses called for in relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as the production of individual working papers on the Caribbean non-self-governing territories since the regional commissions had the necessary relevant updated data and expertise to carry out the studies called for by the Assembly, and since the Special Committee had not yet implemented previous decisions in this regard.

Follow-up discussions have been held with the Special Committee on these specific areas, and a proposal was submitted in 1995 to conduct "a review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Caribbean non-self-governing territories," an important activity contained in the 1991 Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

2. United Nations Fourth Committee

A statement was presented to the Fourth Committee during the general debate on the item. The presentation, made on 11 October, reviewed the ongoing activities of ECLAC/CDCC in furtherance of increasing the access of NICCs to programmes and activities of the United Nations system. This mandate, it was noted, has been taken from resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly from its sixth through forty-ninth sessions, as well as from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The statement provided United Nations member States with a synopsis of relevant CDCC resolutions from 1987 to 1992 in favour of assistance to non-independent countries from the United Nations system. The presentation went on to describe a number of activities being undertaken by ECLAC/CDCC in furtherance of this effort, or for which external resources were being sought. These activities include developing mechanisms for the attainment of observer status for the non-independent countries in United Nations world conferences and efforts to secure their eligibility in funding mechanisms so that they can participate.

Other ECLAC/CDCC initiatives discussed in the presentation included an economic, social, and constitutional profile of the 10 non-independent Caribbean countries. This study, for which external assistance is being sought, would focus on current economic developments, international economic relations, and constitutional evolution.

The ECLAC/CDCC proposal for the participation of the non-independent Caribbean countries in the Programme of Action of the Summit of the Americas was also mentioned, along with the proposed study on the impact of the envisaged Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on the economies of the non-independent Caribbean.

The ECLAC/CDCC statement also made a number of proposals for collaboration between the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations General Assembly as a result of recommendations by non-independent countries in this regard. It was pointed out that at the 1990 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Non-Self-Governing Territories held in Barbados, non-independent country governments had called on the Special Committee of the General Assembly to develop a closer working relationship with the regional commissions in respect of assistance to the non-independent countries. The subsequent 1992 seminar in Grenada "urged the Special Committee to seek formal collaboration" with ECLAC/CDCC a comprehensive study on United Nations assistance to the non-independent Caribbean.

The ECLAC/CDCC statement to the Fourth Committee also recalled the recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Pacific Regional Seminar held in Papua New Guinea which called for the "establishment of an expert group" to represent the interests and articulate the needs of the non-independent countries, and supported the inclusion of provisions for observer status of these countries in technical meetings of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC. It was noted that the Pacific Seminar also recommended that the United Nations consider the extension of observer status for the non-independent countries, "either individually or as a group, in the General Assembly as well as in other

United Nations bodies. The recommendations of the 1995 regional seminar held in Trinidad and Tobago were also reflected.

3. Organization of American States (OAS)

The OAS has as a permanent agenda item issues related to the "Non-Autonomous areas of the Western Hemisphere" which calls for a study on the socio-economic and constitutional development of these "areas". This study had been requested pursuant to a 1989 OAS resolution, but has not been undertaken, and has been deferred annually since that time. Consultations with Caribbean governments accredited to the OAS, and discussions with officials of the Americas Division of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, suggest that since ECLAC/CDCC already includes most of these "non-autonomous areas" in their work programme coverage, ECLAC/CDCC would be in a position to undertake a joint arrangement with OAS to carry out this work under existing UN-OAS resolutions, and also in light of the fact that both agencies are implementing bodies of the Summit of the Americas.

Accordingly, consultations were initiated with OAS on the potential modalities for such collaboration, and it is hoped that cooperation in this area can be achieved in implementation of an OAS resolution aimed at providing information on the Caribbean, but yet to have been implemented.

Additionally, follow-up research is being conducted in relation to inquiries from several heads of government of NICCs on the possibilities for the establishment of an associate membership or observer status for the NICCs in the OAS. A report will be issued in this connection.

4. Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

A background note was prepared at the request of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) outlining procedures in relation to associate membership and observer status of non-independent countries in international and regional organizations. This note, prepared in advance of the session of the Council of Ministers of the ACS held in Guatemala in December 1995, focused on associate membership and observer status criteria in the United Nations regional commissions, along with similar criteria for those of United Nations specialised agencies which maintain within their respective rules of procedure the provisions for the participation of non-independent countries.

5. Offshore Governors' Forum (OGF)

Assistance was given in the convening of the annual Caribbean-Pacific Heads of Government meeting of the OGF which is comprised of the elected heads of government of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Forum is designed as a mechanism for cooperation and coordination between the five non-independent Caribbean and Pacific governments which belong either to ECLAC/CDCC or the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Background papers were prepared on the respective agenda items of the Forum including relevant regional economic initiatives

which might impact the economies of these countries, in particular, the FTAA and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). Other items for which background documents were prepared focused on non-independent countries' participation in upcoming United Nations world conferences and in other international organizations, and on recent and envisaged constitutional developments.

6. Caribbean/Latin American Action (C/LAA)

Discussions were held with officials of the Caribbean/Latin American Action (C/LAA) Group, a private sector organization which convenes the annual Miami Conference on Caribbean/Latin American trade and investment. The discussions, a follow-up to the convening of the non-independent country panel which has been held at the Miami Conference since 1992, served as a review for preparations for the expanded two-day seminar on trade and investment in the non-independent Caribbean scheduled for 1996.

It was noted that initial support for this seminar from the heads of government of the NICCs which attended the session on non-independent territories and overseas departments at the 1994 and 1995 Miami Conference had been positive, and the only remaining issue was the venue and timing of the proposed expanded seminar, so as not to coincide with other regional meetings in which these governments would participate.

7. United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands (UNAVI)

Assistance was provided to the national United Nations Association of the British Virgin Islands/United States Virgin Islands (UNAVI) with respect to the required procedures for applying for official observer status to the Fourth World Conference on Women. UNAVI was one of only a few Caribbean NGOs to formally seek formal accreditation at the governmental FWCW, but was initially omitted from the list of accredited NGOs.

Subsequently, assistance was also given in convening a national consultation in the United States Virgin Islands preparatory to the FWCW, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed plan of action and the Caribbean positions taken in advance of the Conference. Assistance in the accreditation process for this NGO in several United Nations organizations is also being provided.

8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Consultations with the UNDP Office in Barbados which services the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, and Montserrat are continuing, with the aim of developing some form of ongoing collaboration in furtherance of the respective mandates of UNDP and ECLAC/CDCC in relation to the development process of the non-independent countries. In this connection, the Latin American and Caribbean UNDP programme on Governance has been identified by UNDP as a priority area in relation to what UNDP terms "...the profound and still incomplete processes of change - economic, social, and political - which have been occurring in much of the region." As UNDP views "the area of governance, along with systematic exchanges of information and experience feeding into policy analysis and formulation," as important elements of its focus, and emphasizes that this issue "must

occupy a central place in the current as well as in future (UNDP) regional programmes," the potential for collaboration in relation to the process of constitutional development in the NICCs is being explored.

9. Other institutions

Information linkages have been established with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in Saint Kitts and Nevis in connection with the economic analysis of the economies of a number of NICCs which are members of these institutions.

D. Cooperation with tertiary institutions

1. University of Virgin Islands

A paper was delivered on "Non-Independent Country Participation in International Sustainable Development Activities" to the First Caribbean Studies Workshop of the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) with external resources provided by UVI. The conference, which convened from 25-28 May 1995, was held on the island of St. John, and was aimed at heightening the awareness of residents of upland and coastal areas concerning the problem of land-based causes and possible solutions for marine debris.

A paper was also delivered on "Caribbean Regional Trade Structures" to the University of the Virgin Islands Summer Institute for Future Global Leaders in the Caribbean with external resources provided by UVI. The conference, which convened in St. Thomas beginning from 31 May 1995, was designed as a two-week intensive global leadership development course to focus on the global business environment, leadership for tomorrow, and culture and communications.

Additionally, consultations continued with the Eastern Caribbean Centre (ECC) of UVI on the nature of an institutional cooperation agreement between the University and ECLAC/CDCC similar to that existing between the University of the West Indies and ECLAC/CDCC, in the context of the ongoing UVI activity in furtherance of non-independent countries.

Following a series of discussions, a Draft Agreement was reached which would provide for joint research activities; university observer status at selected ECLAC/CDCC meetings; collaboration on aspects of Caribbean/Latin American cooperation and Caribbean/Pacific cooperation; collaboration in the areas of socio-economic and constitutional development, agricultural research, the environment and sustainable development; reciprocal use of library facilities; the provision of periodic ECLAC/CDCC guest lecturers; and other activities.

In view of the strong interest on the part of the university in continuing and expanding its activities on non-independent country issues, the Eastern Caribbean Centre has indicated its interest in providing infrastructural support to the NICCs work programme of CDCC. The modalities of the offer are under discussion.

2. British Virgin Islands Community College (BVICC)

Discussions were held with the Vice President of the British Virgin Islands Community College regarding the possibility of an institutional agreement with ECLAC/CDCC. Areas of interest included the development of curriculum, the provision of periodic guest lecturers, and information/documentation.

3. Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC)

Discussions were held with the Principal of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College on the potential for developing cooperation between the College and ECLAC/CDCC. Similar to that of the BVICC, areas of interest were in the development of curriculum, the provision of periodic guest lecturers and information and documentation.

4. Bermuda College

Discussions were held with officials of the Bermuda College on the potential for cooperation with ECLAC/CDCC. Further discussions were being arranged to define the parameters of such cooperation.

E. Consultations with non-associate member NICCs

In response to inquiries from three non-associate member governments of non-independent Caribbean countries for information on ECLAC/CDCC, an official mission was undertaken to Anguilla, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands during the end of April, 1995 to heighten the awareness of the governments concerned about the potential benefits of participation in the work programme.

1. Anguilla

Anguilla had indicated a strong interest in the CDCC work programme, and the matter of Anguilla's interest in associate membership in ECLAC/CDCC was brought before the Anguilla Executive Council in April 1995. Under the current constitutional arrangement, the Council, chaired by the Governor of the Territory, must approve a motion in favour of associate membership. An acceptable decision by the Council would then be sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom for final review.

The mission to Anguilla coincided with the deliberations of the Executive Council on CDCC associate membership, and information on the activities of CDCC was useful to those discussions.

CDCC publications provided to Anguilla officials included the January-March 1995 FOCUS publication which contains an article on the non-independent Caribbean, the 1994-1995 work programme, Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ECLAC/CDCC, and a copy of the inaugural edition of THE ASSOCIATE, a CDCC newsletter specifically for the CDCC associate member countries.

Consultations were held with the Deputy Chief Minister who also serves as Minister of Finance, the Governor, the Parliamentary Secretary, and the Minister of Social Services on areas within the work programme which could be of assistance to Anguilla.

Discussions also served as a follow-up to a meeting held in conjunction with the SIDS Global Conference in Barbados in April 1994 in which the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister attended. It was emphasized that ECLAC associate members have been invited to participate in an official observer status capacity in a number of United Nations world conferences, and that indications are that participation in future world conferences would continue. Previous discussions on this aspect of CDCC associate membership had been held with the Chief Minister in conjunction with the 1994 Miami Conference on Caribbean Trade and Investment.

It was emphasized during the mission that, consistent with the wide scope of CDCC, Anguilla would be invited to participate in future CDCC activities, including the Caribbean Population and Development Meeting - Follow-up to ICPD held from 3-5 May 1995 in Nassau, The Bahamas.

Anguilla was also invited to participate in the Caribbean Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action held from 17-19 May 1995 in Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Bermuda

The mission to Bermuda coincided with a debate on the impending referendum on independence scheduled for the Summer of 1995. The Bermuda House of Assembly had voted in March by a 20-18 margin to conduct the referendum. Within the context of the debate, the issue of Bermuda's participation in international institutions was one of the topics discussed in a 3 February 1995 "Green Paper on the Implications of Independence for Bermuda." The document extensively examined, *inter alia*, difficulties faced by small island developing countries in terms of the cost of external affairs representation, and the need for professional development in this area.

Consultations were held with the Cabinet Secretary regarding the possible involvement of Bermuda in the CDCC work programme. It was concluded that Bermuda, whose economy is quite buoyant, may not require participation in a full range of ECLAC programmes, but that a more tailored

approach might be constructed which would permit Bermuda to benefit from specific elements of the work programme, while assisting other Caribbean countries in their development process through a programme of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).

Particular note was taken of the participation of CDCC associate members in United Nations world conferences, and in this connection, it was observed that the Minister of Health of Bermuda had been particularly active in the ECLAC/CDCC sponsored preparatory sessions to develop a Caribbean position on the ICPD, along with the minister's role within the Caribbean Caucus at ICPD held in Cairo in 1994, April.

It was further noted that Bermuda's successful economic development model could be of interest to ECLAC member countries, and it was suggested that ECLAC/CDCC could assist in human resource development in relation to participation in international organizations.

Consultations were also held with officials of the Bermuda College, as referred to under the appropriate section of this document on collaboration with tertiary institutions.

Discussions were also held with the officials of the Ministry of Finance on establishing a process for receiving social and economic data for inclusion in ECLAC/CDCC economic publications, including the 1995 CDCC document scheduled for completion later this year which would profile the socio-economic situation in the non-independent Caribbean. Documents received from the Ministry of Finance following the mission include:

- Bermuda: 1994 Economic Review
- International Companies 1993 - A Report on their impact on the economy of Bermuda
- Bermuda Digest of Statistics: 1994
- Household Expenditure Survey 1993
- Bermuda Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics
- 1991 Census of Population and Housing
- 1991 Census of Population and Housing

3. Turks and Caicos Islands

Meetings were held with Turks and Caicos Islands officials at the highest of levels on the matter of participation of the country in the work programme.

Discussions with the Minister of Communications, Transport, and Tourism, with responsibility for regional affairs centred around the activities of the work programme which could be of assistance to the country. In this connection, it was noted that the Turks and Caicos, along with Bermuda and Anguilla, were invited to participate in the Caribbean Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the Small Island Developing States Work Programme (SIDS) which met in Trinidad and Tobago from 17-19 May 1995. The Turks and Caicos Islands Minister of Natural Resources, Planning, Environment, and Heritage subsequently attended the SIDS meeting along with an Assistant Planning Officer.

A subsequent meeting was held with the Chief Minister who had previously served as Minister of Development and Commerce, and who retains that portfolio. Discussions centred around elements of the work programme where the Turks and Caicos Islands could benefit.

Consultations were also held with officials of the Turks and Caicos Community College on the potential for the development of linkages with ECLAC/CDCC which could provide the Community College with an additional regional contact in terms of information and documentation, as noted in Part II of this document.

Technical meetings were also held with officials of the Ministry of Finance on the matter of acquiring national economic data for inclusion in ECLAC/CDCC economic studies.

F. Documents and publications

1. Newsletter

A monthly newsletter was initiated entitled THE ASSOCIATE which seeks to provide periodic updates on activities within the United Nations system and their relevance to the associate member countries of ECLAC/CDCC. The publication also seeks to provide background economic and social data on the NICCs. The publication is distributed to government and selected non-governmental organizations in non-independent Caribbean countries and other interested governments and organizations in the Caribbean, as well as to several international organizations in the Pacific regions.

2. Published articles

An article on The Participation of Non-independent Caribbean Countries in United Nations World Conferences was prepared, and was published in the January-March 1995 edition of the ECLAC/CDCC publication FOCUS. The article provides a background on the development of associate membership in ECLAC/CDCC and presents a synopsis of the process of achieving observer status for associate member participation in United Nations world conferences.

A second article was prepared for the summer edition of the CDCC publication FOCUS. The article reviews activities in the NICCs of Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla which have

been participating in some aspects of the CDCC work programme in advance of their achieving associate membership.

3. Project document

A project document on "Support for the associate member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other non-independent Caribbean countries relative to developing institutional linkages and accessing benefits from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations" was prepared. The project document was formulated for the purpose of identifying resources to implement relevant provisions of resolutions approved by the CDCC which called for the facilitation of the participation of ECLAC/CDCC associate members in programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of their development process.

The developmental objective of the project would be to further the capability of associate member countries to access the benefits of the relevant international programmes of action of United Nations world conferences, to facilitate their institutional linkage and access to technical cooperation and other benefits from the United Nations system, and to increase the participation of these countries in the activities of CDCC and its work programme. The project document has been submitted to several funding institutions for review.

4. Information Paper

A paper entitled Selected Documents of ECLAC/CDCC and Other United Nations Bodies on Issues of Relevance to Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) was prepared which lists the relevant documents which are available through ECLAC/CDCC.

5. Background notes: St. Maarten and Anguilla

Separate background notes on the economic, social and constitutional situation in St. Maarten and Anguilla were prepared in relation to the assessment of the impact of Hurricane Luis conducted by ECLAC in cooperation with UNDP. The paper examined the general impact of the hurricane, identified the specific constitutional arrangements, outlined recent political developments, and provided a set of recent economic indicators.

6. Economic and constitutional profile

External assistance was being sought for the completion of the profile of the economic and constitutional situation in 10 NICCs and three overseas departments. The document is intended to serve as a baseline study on conditions in the non-independent Caribbean. It is anticipated that this document will be updated on an annual basis.

The document would provide information on the constitutional evolution of the NICCs, and would present an economic profile of the countries concerned including current economic developments and international economic relations.

IV CONCLUSION

The activities carried out on issues of interest to the NICCs since the convening of the fifteenth session of the CDCC constitute the beginning of a comprehensive approach of implementation of the relevant resolutions beginning in 1990 of CDCC concerned with increased NICCs participation in the United Nations system, and in providing assistance to NICCs in their overall socio-economic development process.

These activities identified in this paper have been carried out under a temporary assignment, and the continuation and expansion of this focus is subject to the successful acquisition of external resources in order to maintain the momentum in implementing the priority activities of the NICC governments as contained in the Draft Programme of Action of the NICCs, and in order to elevate the support for these activities within the context of the Secretariat to the appropriate level of importance given to it by member governments.

Accordingly, as potential external resources are identified within the United Nations system, and as proposals are made for collaborative efforts for CDCC to access these resources, support from CDCC member governments is critical if the United Nations system is to respond favourably with the necessary assistance.

In the case of tertiary institutions and other intergovernmental bodies, it is important that CDCC makes maximum use of collaborative efforts under consideration, as such initiatives also provide for much needed external assistance if the mandate of the CDCC member governments as defined in the relevant resolutions is to be successfully implemented.

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11