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CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands  
18 - 22 November 1988



REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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## PART ONE

### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987 - 1988

##### Co-operation in information

1. The Committee welcomed a proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles to host a regional seminar on Patent Information and the Transfer of Technology at the recently established International Trade Center in Curaçao.
2. It was agreed that greater use be made of the national focal points in ensuring that the Current Awareness Bulletin be widely disseminated to interested users.
3. The Committee noted that activities of the secretariat in 1989 will be concentrated on marketing of the information resources and services which have been developed and strengthening of the capacity within the region to use the new information technologies.

##### Statistical Data Bank and related services

4. The Committee noted that the format for the Economic Survey of Caribbean countries has been modified and that survey activities had been divided into the preparation of an evaluation of economic performance covering a ten year period, which would be prepared annually with focus each year on a subject of special interest, and a shorter term survey of general economic performance which would be produced biannually.
5. The question of the future of CDCC/ILPES co-operation in view of the absence of an officer in the post. It was noted that a waiver to fill the post possibly with a Caribbean expert was being sought.

##### Science and Technology

6. The Committee agreed that the secretariat should organize a series of national consultations aimed at creating an awareness of science and technology, disseminating information and assisting in the process of building institutions for science and technology.
7. The Committee supported a number of projects including the project on animal feed and food production, the meeting of science and technology agencies

to propose a draft programme, TCDC programmes and, regional seminars on Biotechnology. It also noted that several projects were not implemented and had to be carried over into the 1989-1990 work programme since the officer in charge of science and technology had the responsibility for performing other functions in the secretariat. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed its support for a permanent secretariat for CCST and for the re-establishment of the P5 post to head CCST.

8. It was recommended that current administrative arrangements for servicing the CCST should remain in place in view of the fact that any new arrangements would add to the financial burden of member states, some of whom are still delinquent in payment of their dues to the CCST.

#### Agricultural Sector

9. The Committee agreed that activities in this sector should be limited to the promotion of TCDC and to collaborative action with relevant agencies with particular emphasis on those aspects of agricultural development related to fostering overall social and economic development.

#### Language Barriers

10. The Committee noted the possibility of extending the usefulness and applicability of the exercise of creole discourse to other French creole-speaking countries of the Caribbean and to subjects such as agriculture, health, political science and sociology.

11. Reservations were expressed as to the juxtaposition of the oral history/oral traditions project to the museum development project. It was noted that UWI was already executing programmes related to oral history while the CARICOM secretariat had a mandate to implement the museum development project. It was accordingly recommended that the CDCC secretariat should cease activities in these two areas of the work programme of the social sector.

#### Integration of Women in Development

12. It was agreed that counterpart research expertise should be developed in the Netherlands Antilles so that the nature of products passing through the Netherlands Antilles in the context of informal trade could be studied.

13. Special interest was expressed by the meeting for the secretariat's proposed involvement in the production of baseline data on export-oriented industries and women in this sector.

#### Demography

14. The Committee noted that among the activities to be continued through the next period will be: training in theory and methods of economic-demographic analysis and population policy implementation, establishment of population units

and national population councils, integrated research study on population and development, establishment of the socio-demographic data bank and population information system, intercensal and post-censal estimates for Caribbean countries; retrieval of census data for small areas by microcomputers (REDATAM), in-depth census analysis, population projections, and the Digest of socio-demographic statistics for Caribbean countries.

15. The Committee expressed support for the programme in demography and the secretariat was urged to continue its significant and important work in this area.

#### International trade and finance

16. The Committee expressed support for counter-trade since this mechanism could circumvent problems relating to foreign exchange and could promote regional trade. It suggested that the secretariat should encourage member countries to enact legislation which would facilitate counter trade in the region.

17. The secretariat was asked to provide information on the impact of recent trends in international trade and to outline the possibilities which exist in order to expand such trade.

#### Natural resources

18. The secretariat was urged to accept responsibility for monitoring the following three areas: the dumping of toxic waste in the Caribbean; the development in a CDCC member State of a nuclear facility for the generation of electricity; and the link between the environment and public health.

19. Concern was expressed about the problems of deforestation in the region. It was agreed that the secretariat should seek the assistance of FAO in this subject area, particularly with respect to Haiti.

20. The Committee expressed the need for greater interagency collaboration between the work programme of the secretariat, and between UNEP in Jamaica and the UNEP Office in Mexico and the IMO in order to optimize the use of resources.

#### Other activities of the secretariat

21. It was agreed that the secretariat should request the support of countries with centers of excellence to assist CDCC to provide expertise and training to other member countries in areas for which they are unable to mobilize resources from donor agencies

22. The Committee noted that two additional areas would be added to the work programme. The first comprises taking a closer look at the use of marine resources in collaboration with the Law of the Sea secretariat and Canadian organizations and the second area of interest concerns the possibility of closer

collaboration with organizations in metropolitan countries to look more closely at the Caribbean diaspora. The secretariat was asked to review the potential linkages involved in work being done on the Caribbean by other institutions and in devising ways to utilize the technical expertise of nationals abroad through TOKTEN activities.

23. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the CDCC secretariat for its work in furthering OECS integration. It noted however that as enough information concerning the availability of TCDC was not being disseminated to member countries the CDCC current awareness bulletins might contain a section providing a list of the TCDC assistance which was available in the Caribbean.

24. The Committee agreed that the CDCC secretariat could play an important role in developing Latin American/Caribbean relations and attention was drawn to the fact that UNCTAD was in a position to help in furthering work in this area of the programme. UNCTAD had a programme with potential for expanding trade via a trade information system on trade barriers affecting products which could be viewed as a useful starting point for identifying trade relations in the Caribbean and Latin America. It was also involved in the global system of trade preferences which involved negotiation of trade concessions between countries in the developing world and this could provide another take-off point for identifying possibilities for negotiation of trade concessions between the Caribbean and Latin America.

25. Note was taken of the fact that the secretariat was still searching for ways of meeting country requirements in TCDC without placing a burden on the requesting states. It was noted that focal points existed in each country for the dissemination of TCDC information but delays still existed in the governments' response to requests. Member countries were accordingly urged to accelerate their responses concerning needs and contributions.

Agenda Item 7 - A programme of action in support of  
small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))

26. The secretariat was urged to request UNCTAD's assistance to locate sources of contribution for small island countries to the Common Fund, to develop statistical data to document the contribution of services to their economies, and to play an advisory role to small island developing countries, particularly during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations. It was also recommended that the Secretary General be advised to establish a special United Nations inter-agency unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with special problems of small island developing countries.

27. The importance of the Regional Commissions was recognized in this area, as acknowledged by a special meeting of the General Assembly for representatives of island developing countries, where they could present their national and regional priorities to the various specialized agencies. It was suggested that the document presented at the eleventh session of CDCC session be sent to that meeting with the recommendation that CDCC become the focal point for implementation of action.

Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those  
of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with  
implications for CDCC

28. Note was taken of the fact that action was being taken on the resolutions falling under this Agenda item and it was agreed that the Committee would give consideration to resolution 41/211 which affected the number of posts in the U.N. System, as well as resolutions 42/413 and 42/447 under agenda item 10.

Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC  
for the second period of the 1988-89 biennium

29. In initiating discussions on Agenda Item 6, the Committee agreed that Agenda Item 9 should be treated jointly with item 6. It was also noted that activities postponed had been put forward for the following year.

Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of the CDCC

30. It was agreed that the CDCC was in essence a Committee of governments which had the responsibility to resolve any perceived problems of the organization. Accordingly it was agreed that the opening statement by the Minister of External Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking in his capacity as chairman of the CARICOM standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, should form the basis of a resolution on the role and functioning of the CDCC.

31. It was further agreed that a conscious effort should be made to reinvigorate the CDCC and infuse it with a renewed sense of purpose, with its primary role being co-ordination and co-operation. Accordingly, there was a need to reduce the scope of the existing programme since neither the in-house capability nor the resources were available to the secretariat to cover the full range of activities, which moreover ran the risk of duplicating the efforts of other institutions. Measures would need to be put into place to ensure that the necessary changes would be implemented.

Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional  
Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium  
as presented to the United Nations General Assembly

32. The Committee noted the work programme for the 1990-91 biennium, as well as the Medium Term Plan (1990-1995) and the comments of the secretariat regarding the continuation of activities in various fields for which no substantive officer was at present in post. Since it did not possess the capability to perform highly technical work in some areas, given its severe staff constraints such work would better be performed by the relevant specialized agencies.

Agenda Item 12 - United Nations Medium-term Plan (1990-1995)

33. The presentation of this item by the secretariat was noted particularly the possibility of flexibility in its implementation.

Agenda Item 13 - Other business

34. The Committee recognized the importance of the secretariat's activities to promote economic co-operation among developing countries and tabled a resolution that sought the support of the CDCC secretariat in paying particular attention to technical co-operation between the other member countries of the CDCC and Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The resolution also sought to have the CDCC secretariat co-ordinate its activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socio-economic projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and sought the support of the Committee in its efforts to join the ACP.

35. The Committee agreed that at the twelfth session of the CDCC, the technical meeting should deal with all aspects relating to the execution of the work programme and that the report emanating from this meeting should be approved at the ministerial level which would nevertheless be free to concentrate on other areas of interest to them. One such area should be the impact of the economic crisis on the social and economic development of Caribbean countries. In order to accomplish this the secretariat should prepare a working document to form the basis of the debate.

Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII

36. The Committee noted with gratitude the offer of the Netherlands Antilles to host the twelfth session of the CDCC, in Curacao in 1989. The secretariat was accordingly requested to enter into consultations with the respective governments to fix a convenient date, bearing in mind the crowded schedule of meetings faced by member governments.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

37. In adopting its report, the Committee agreed that the secretariat should be responsible for completing the final draft and despatching it to member countries for a response within 30 days.

## PART TWO

## ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

38. The eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) at the technical level, was held in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, from 18 -19 November 1988, and at the ministerial level from 21 - 22 November 1988.

Attendance<sup>1</sup>

39. Representatives of the following member countries of the Committee attended the session: Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, St Christopher/Nevis, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands attended as associate members. Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated as observers.

40. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended the session: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship (SPQRCDT).

41. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: International Labor Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

42. The meeting was also attended by the following intergovernmental organizations: the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

43. Opening statements were made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency the Honorable Sahadeo Basdeo<sup>2</sup>, The Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Her Excellency the Honorable Mrs. Maria Liberia-Peters, the Executive Secretary of the Economic

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 attached.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 2 attached.

Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mr. Gert Rosenthal and The Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, His Excellency, the Honourable Alexander Farrelly.<sup>3</sup>

Agenda Item 2 - Election of the bureau

44. In accordance with the consensus reached at the meeting of the heads of delegation, the bureau comprised the following:

<u>Chairman:</u>	United States Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Saint Lucia	Charles Flemming
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Netherlands Antilles	Lucita Moenir-Alam
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Jamaica	Cordell Wilson

45. As is the established practice, the officers of the Ministerial meeting comprised representatives of the same countries as the officers of the technical level meeting, as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	United States Virgin Islands	Alexander Farrelly
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Saint Lucia	Charles Flemming
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Netherlands Antilles	Maria Liberia-Peters
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Jamaica	Cordell Wilson

Agenda Item 5 - Admission of Aruba

46. The Chairman, Mr. Alexander Farrelly, in calling the meeting to order welcomed participants to the eleventh session of the CDCC and asked the delegation of Aruba to be formally seated as an associate member.

47. In taking his seat, the representative of Aruba outlined some of the policies which had guided his government and assisted in the process of adjustment in the recent past. Describing Aruba's domestic policies as goal oriented he indicated that participation in the CDCC would likewise be goal oriented. He stressed that Caribbean contacts were being pursued because of the importance of regional linkages for Aruba's development, noting that tourism and

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<sup>3</sup> See Annex 3 attached.

foreign investment were matters of interest to all members so that the region could not afford to follow policies which would brand it as a high risk area. At the same time there was need to diversify the economies. Accordingly, support was given to the programme for small island countries although care would need to be taken to ensure that it did not lose its focus. In closing, the delegate noted the universality of the CDCC, which he asserted was a manifestation of its strength.

48. Special words of welcome to Aruba were conveyed by Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of all CARICOM countries, the Netherlands Antilles, and the British Virgin Islands.

#### Agenda Item 3 - Addresses

49. The delegate of Haiti traced recent political developments in his country, noting the establishment of an electoral college which has been charged with the organization of elections. He stressed that Haiti considered integration and co-operation to be suitable mechanisms for economic recovery and had accordingly taken initiatives to increase contacts with international bodies and institutions. The best collaboration would, however, take place in the region by countries having mutual respect for each other. Haiti, accordingly, supported the CDCC from its inception, hosting its eighth session in 1984. He referred to the closer links which were being forged with the Dominican Republic and their joint efforts to participate in the forthcoming Lome convention as members of the ACP with whom they share common cultural origins, developmental problems, and desire for development. In this quest the support of CDCC members was requested and particularly from those which were members of the ACP group, as this would provide a reflection of goodwill towards Haiti and a desire to support the Haitian economy.

50. The delegate of Cuba noted the continuing economic difficulties being faced by the region, particularly its economic vulnerability, declining terms of trade, depreciating currencies, and widespread suffering caused by external military and economic aggression which was attempting to create divisions among its members. He stressed that actions within the CDCC should benefit all members and that there should be closer participation with CELADE, SELA, and CARICOM. The Secretariat would accordingly need to be more flexible in its approach and get away from bureaucracy. In reaffirming its will to cooperate within the region, the delegate stressed that solidarity was the greatest defense available to the region and the only way in which its problems could be resolved for the next century.

51. The observer from the IMO outlined the functions of the organization paying special attention to the assistance which it could provide in areas such as maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution. The latter was considered to be of special importance to CDCC countries, most of whom were dependent on tourism, where clean and well maintained beaches were an important asset.

Agenda Item 4 Adoption of the Agenda  
and organization of work<sup>4</sup>

52. The agenda adopted for the eleventh session of CDCC was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Addresses
4. Adoption of agenda and organization of Work
5. Admission of Aruba
6. Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC: 1987- 1988
7. A programme of action in support of small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))
8. Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC
9. Work programme of the CDCC for the second period of the 1988-89 biennium.
10. Role and functioning of CDCC.
11. Work programme of the ECLAC Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium as presented by the United Nations General Assembly.
12. United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995).
13. Other business
14. Place and date for CDCC XII
15. Consideration and adoption of the report.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

53. The Committee considered and adopted its report contained in Part Three of the present document, as well as the resolutions contained in Part Four. It was agreed that the Secretariat should be responsible for finalizing the report and forwarding it to member countries for a response within 30 days.

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<sup>4</sup> See list of documents as Annex 4 to this report.

## PART THREE

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Agenda Item 6 - Implementation of the work programme  
of the CDCC: 1987 - 1988

54. In presenting the work programme, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Mr. Clyde Applewhite, reported on progress made in the implementation of the work programme of the CDCC. He drew the attention of the meeting to the document entitled "Implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) 1987-1988" (document LC/CAR/G.257) noting that it was essentially a report on work accomplished between October 1987 and October 1988. The Director noted that the work programme although outlined in sectoral terms was being implemented with a multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach. Special attention was drawn to the several TCDC activities of the secretariat.

55. Specific activities in the following areas were outlined: information and documentation, statistics, economic surveys and analysis, projects data banks, science and technology, the removal of language barriers, co-ordination in planning, agriculture, the social sector including the integration of women in development, international trade and finance, demography, natural resources, and other activities of the secretariat.

Technical co-operation among Caribbean countriesCo-operation in information

56. The work programme of the Caribbean Documentation Center (CDC) was presented. The Center not only provided information support to the secretariat in the implementation of its work programme but has worked consistently towards the development in the region of an effective on-line computerized network for the storage and retrieval of information in several areas relating to social and economic development. The secretariat hoped to expand these services by also placing the existing statistical data bank and other databases on-line.

57. The progress made by the Patent Information and Documentation Unit was highlighted and the contribution of the CDCC member governments, IDRC, the Canadian Patent Office and WIPO to this programme acknowledged. Member States were urged to work towards achieving greater participation by appropriate national institutions in this programme, since it could contribute significantly to their development, particularly in terms of industrial development and in the application of science and technology. It was also requested that copies of patents granted by member States be sent to the secretariat in order to keep the database of Caribbean patents fully updated and for microfilming of the documents for its records.

58. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles expressed support for the information programme and drew attention to several institutional mechanisms which that country had recently put in place to establish linkages to information sources, especially in the areas of trade and transport. The secretariat welcomed a proposal by this delegation to host a regional seminar on Patent Information and the Transfer of Technology at the recently established International Trade Center in Curaçao.

59. The secretariat urged member countries to make fuller use of the printed outputs and the valuable on-line databases which are stored on ECLAC's computer, including LABORDOC, the database of the ILO Library in Geneva. The representative from ILO expressed satisfaction that co-operation between ECLAC and ILO resulted in this achievement. He further emphasized the importance of the ILO database since it contained information on areas which are of specific relevance to the Caribbean, including employment, human resource development, establishment of small businesses, social security, occupational training and health. The representative of UNIDO advised delegates that information relating to UNIDO's documents was available through the national industrial development corporations or from its monthly newsletter. It was agreed that greater use be made of the national focal points in ensuring that the current awareness bulletin be widely disseminated to interested users.

60. Development of the Caribbean Information System for Agriculture (CAGRIS) has facilitated agricultural researchers and planners in quickly locating references to published works on Caribbean agriculture and to be informed and updated on the projects being undertaken in the region. CAGRIS proposes during the coming year to offer a regional document delivery service, on-site training in five countries, and two week attachments for staff at nine centers.

61. The secretariat reported that the Consultative Committee on Regional Information Systems had held its inaugural meeting in Port of Spain in October 1988 and developed a three year work programme which included, *inter alia*, the preparation of guidelines for the design and establishment of regional information systems, publication of a directory of information systems and sources in the region, creation and maintenance of a register of Caribbean resource persons in the information sector who could provide technical assistance, and a programme to promote the work and perspectives of the Committee.

62. Activities of the secretariat in 1989 will be concentrated on marketing of the information resources and services which have been developed and strengthening of the capacity within the region to use the new information technologies.

#### Statistical Data Bank and related services

63. The secretariat informed the Committee that in view of the resource constraints facing the United Nations system and in an effort to provide outputs that were more timely and relevant to the needs of CDCC countries, the format for the traditional economic survey of Caribbean countries has been modified.

The survey activities have been divided into the preparation of an evaluation of economic performance covering a ten year period which will be prepared annually with focus each year on a subject of special interest; a shorter term survey of general economic performance will be produced biannually.

64. In view of the fact that the output depends on the qualitative and quantitative inputs received from member countries, members of the Committee were urged to make greater efforts to provide inputs relative to the socio-economic indicators.

65. The secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the Caribbean Statisticians' Conference held in Jamaica, at which the role of microcomputers in statistical offices was recognized, as well as the potential of the new technology to provide more efficient services.

66. The Committee was informed of efforts by the secretariat to place statistical information on-line, so as to enable users to have access in a manner similar to that for the CARISPLAN abstracts. However, in view of the high costs involved in the implementation, the secretariat was in the interim utilizing less expensive ways for the storage and retrieval of its statistical data.

67. The meeting was informed of developments relating to Volume XIII of the series of the Agricultural Statistics report which drew its source material from mail questionnaires. Although the update was being revised, completion had been delayed because of a low response rate of 56%. Volume XII had already been disseminated.

68. The secretariat expressed satisfaction at the progress of the REDATAM<sup>5</sup> project. Data bases have already been prepared for some countries. The second phase of the project was expected to be more user-friendly and would present data in the form of maps. The meeting was informed that REDATAM had been selected as a tool for analysis of the 1990 round of censuses and was expected to allow delivery of census results within one year after census taking.

69. The secretariat noted that the Statistical Unit acted as a resource base for a number of exercises such as the support provided to the OECS secretariat to study priorities assigned to statistics and to design a project document for funding by the UNDP. The project had been approved with funding to the extent of \$442,000 and was now being executed. The second area of assistance concerned collaboration with ILPES in the conduct of a workshop on project data banks. Technical assistance was also provided to Belize and proposed to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the latter in the form of an observation tour of data banks in Chile for three government officials to assist them to formulate and develop their national data banks.

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<sup>5</sup> The acronym REDATAM refers to the retrieval of census data for small areas by micro-computers. A list of acronyms appears at Annex V.

70. The delegation of Aruba requested that the secretariat convene a meeting for members of statistical offices to review new technologies. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided to its government in the area of project data banks. Gratitude and appreciation were also expressed by the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles for similar assistance and a request was made for more assistance from ILPES. The Netherlands Antilles delegation also drew attention to their current efforts in the development of a macro-economic model.

71. The delegation of Saint Lucia raised the question of the future of CDCC/ILPES co-operation in view of the absence of an officer in the post.

72. In response, the secretariat noted that it was seeking a waiver to fill the post possibly with a Caribbean expert. However in view of the present United Nations freeze on recruitment it was also seeking to obtain once again the services of an officer from ILPES. The secretariat informed the Committee that in the meantime ILPES through its staff in Santiago was still taking an active part in the CDCC work programme, in particular through the ongoing work of the project data bank and in the promotion of TCDC.

#### Science and Technology

73. The meeting was informed that the ECLAC secretariat continued to provide interim secretariat services for the Caribbean Council for Science and technology (CCST) during the period under review and assisted in the implementation of its work programme. The delegation of Cuba noted that his country had not received invitations to the forthcoming session of the CCST scheduled for 2 - 3 December, 1988, neither had the appropriate documentation been received.

74. Among the activities accomplished was the convening and servicing of two meetings, the Ninth Executive Committee Meeting and Seventh Plenary Session, and the holding of two national consultations. The CCST Newsletter, Vol. 4, Nos 1-5 were also published and circulated. In an effort to further science and technology awareness in the region and strengthen ties among agencies in science and technology, the secretariat had also provided assistance for a number of persons to attend a series of workshops.

75. The secretariat indicated that obstacles had been encountered in the development of focal points in each country. The objective of the focal points was to create an awareness of science and technology through the sharing and dissemination of information. Consequently, the secretariat had planned to organize a series of national consultations aimed at creating such awareness, disseminating information and assisting in the institution building process for science and technology.

76. The issue of whether CCST should continue to be serviced by the ECLAC secretariat or become independent was also introduced by the secretariat.

77. Referring to documents LC/CAR/G.258, CCST/88/1 and CCST/88/2, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago supported the continuation of a number of projects including the project on animal feed and food production, meeting of

science and technology agencies to propose a draft programme, TCDC programmes and regional seminars on Biotechnology. The delegation also noted that several projects were not implemented and had to be carried over into the 1989-1990 work programme. This postponement of activities in the work programme was attributable to the fact that the officer in charge of science and technology had the responsibility for performing other functions in the secretariat since the post for a full-time officer had been deployed. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed its support for a permanent secretariat for CCST and for the re-establishment of the P5 post to head CCST.

78. In addressing the same issue, the Jamaican delegation supported the call for CDCC to restore the P5 post. However, it was recommended that current administrative arrangements for servicing the CCST should remain in place in view of the fact that any new arrangements would add to the financial burden of member states, some of whom are still delinquent in payment of their dues to the CCST.

79. The delegation of the United States Virgin Islands informed the meeting that its government was exploring the possibility of hosting the CCST and was willing to enter into discussions with CDCC with regard to determining modalities.

80. The delegation of Saint Lucia also supported the restoration of the P5 post and questioned whether the post would remain in CDCC or be transferred to CCST.

81. In response, the secretariat explained that the P5 post was originally allocated to science and technology but was shifted to the position of Deputy Director, six years ago. The question of redeployment of posts depended on whether CCST became an independent secretariat, in which case the CDCC would seek assistance from other agencies to fund additional posts. On the other hand, if the interim arrangement with CDCC is retained, then consideration would be given to its staffing needs. The secretariat noted that any decision on this matter would have to await the outcome of the forthcoming CCST meeting.

82. The UNESCO delegate observed that it was not in a position to provide financing for a post in an independent new CCST organization as UNESCO was now in the process of abolishing posts in their own organization. However, they were willing to fund ad hoc activities and continue to assist in the implementation of the CCST programme.

83. The CARICOM representative outlined the assistance obtained from the CCST officer in the finalization of the CARICOM Plan of Action for Science and Technology, which had been approved by governments. The delegate also expressed concern over the events relative to the non-implementation of the work programme, especially the fact that the CCST officer was responsible for performing other secretariat duties. The CARICOM representative also noted that decisions on these matters should not rest solely with the CCST but required inputs from the governments of member countries also.

84. In response, the secretariat re-emphasized the need for funding for the staffing of CCST. It also noted that the next CCST meeting would review the realities of the situation before making definitive decisions.

85. The representative of UNIDO indicated that his organization was not in a position to provide financing for CCST. It was however making practical inputs to science and technology through the provision of experts to plants such as the coffee packaging in Dominica through the regional project in collaboration with CARIRI.

#### Co-ordination in Planning

86. In introducing the report on this agenda item, the secretariat referred to the earlier reports on statistical data banking operations as well as the work of the joint ECLAC/ILPES activities in planning.

87. Although the co-ordinator of the ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit had returned to ILPES in Santiago, Chile there had been continued close collaboration between ILPES and the secretariat in the execution of the work programme. This collaboration had made it possible to provide assistance to Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, and had made possible the convening of a workshop on project data banking, which was attended by several CDCC countries. Discussion on this topic had in fact been conducted under the rubric of the Statistical Data Bank's activities.

#### Agricultural Sector

88. The secretariat reported that activities in this sector had been limited to the promotion of TCDC and to collaborative action with relevant agencies with particular emphasis on those aspects of agricultural development related to fostering overall social and economic development. To this extent, the secretariat through TCDC had developed working relationships with ITAL, a food technology institute in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Agricultural Experimental Station of the USVI, the ECLAC/FAO Liaison Office, CARDI, IICA and the UWI.

89. The Netherlands Antilles delegation indicated the need for CDCC to provide technical assistance in agriculture to the island of St. Eustatius. The delegate promoted the idea of assistance to the Netherlands Antilles in supplying iguanas, considered by many to be a delicacy.

#### Language Barriers

90. The secretariat outlined the work accomplished in the programme on the removal of language barriers and drew attention to the innovative approach of joint co-ordination, with the support of the Netherlands Antilles through its Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, in the execution of this programme. Work on the establishment of the proposed Caribbean Language Institute had been advanced with the convening of an advisory group meeting in December 1987. A revision of the draft project document for the Removal of Language Barriers was

completed. The preparation of guidelines for the organization and operation of the National Chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute was completed and recommendations made on the development of interpretation and translation services. A meeting on the removal of language barriers which was to have been held in 1987 would be held in 1989 in Haiti. Other activities under the programme have served to foster networking among the relevant language institutions in the subregion. National workshops have been held or planned with a view to establishing the National Chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute.

91. A dictionary on the Saint Lucian creole had been produced and the role of the IDRC in this exercise was acknowledged. The secretariat, in describing follow-up activity in the area of creole discourse, expressed the need to bring the results of this study to bear on communication in the areas of agriculture and health. There was the possibility of follow-up activities directly with IDRC at the national level in the area of agriculture and health. The secretariat noted the possibility of extending the usefulness and applicability of the exercise of creole discourse to other French creole-speaking countries of the Caribbean.

92. Several suggestions were made about the extension of the project to include communication in politics, economics and sociology.

93. The secretariat noted the potential for a link between the language barriers project and the follow-up activities in the area of creole discourse, noting the existence of a creole language as an official language in the Netherlands Antilles.

94. The meeting referred to activities regarding the Regional Museum project. The secretariat clarified its role in the project as being collaborative with the UNDP financed regional project based in Peru.

95. Several reservations were expressed by delegations as to the reason and meaning for the juxtaposition of the oral history/oral traditions project to the museum development project. It was noted that UWI was already executing programmes related to oral history while the CARICOM secretariat had a mandate to implement the museum development project.

96. In response to the reservations mentioned, the secretariat affirmed its willingness to be guided in the determination of its activities in the areas of oral traditions and museum development by the decision of the meeting. The meeting recommended that the CDCC secretariat should cease activities in these two areas of the work programme of the social sector.

97. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles emphasized the need for collaboration from CDCC member countries in the monitoring of the project and the role of the national chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute. The continued support of UNESCO was acknowledged as well as the work of the project coordinators in the seeking of funding from the EEC.

98. Several commendations were received by the secretariat in this field and the meeting was informed that the subject would provide the focus for a seminar

to be held in November-December 1988. The hope was expressed that the work done on creole discourse would be used to the benefit of the rural populations.

### Integration of Women in Development

99. Highlights of programme activities in the area of women in development included:

(a) Completion of the projects on Women in Development and Trade and women in Development and Planning;

(b) Inputs from the Caribbean office to the Fourth Regional Conference of ECLAC on the Integration of Women in Development;

(c) The creation of a bibliographical data base, WINDEV, for microcomputers using the micro CDS/ISIS software package, whereby special thesauri on women identified by the secretariat have allowed for the inclusion of specific descriptors;

(d) A comparative overview on the status of women with data based on the findings of the completed studies in the planning project;

(e) Continued work on the establishment of a database on women traders in the sub-region.

100. Concerning the outputs of the completed project Women in Development and Planning, other United Nations agencies, regional and national NGO's were commended for their follow up actions. The comparative overview on the status of women contributed to the need for data on women. This need is being addressed in collaboration with the CARICOM secretariat and other organizations.

101. The secretariat noted that its expertise in the area of women in development has been utilized by some CDCC countries and continues to be available to member states.

102. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles expressed special interest for participating in project activities concerning women traders, particularly with regard to St. Maarten and Curaçao. It suggested that counterpart research expertise and the nature of products passing through the Netherlands Antilles in the context of informal trade should be considered.

103. Concern was expressed about the future of some of the ongoing work in the women in development unit upon termination of the contract period of the officer who has been assisting with some activities of the WID Programme with financial support from the Dutch Government.

104. Special interest was expressed by the meeting for the secretariat's proposed involvement in the production of baseline data on export-oriented industries and women in this sector.

105. The concerns expressed at the Fourth Meeting of CARICOM Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs were reiterated. These included the forwarding of documents from Santiago in Spanish and the need for acceleration of information flows emanating from Santiago.

106. Several delegations expressed their support for the completed and planned activities of the women in development programme.

107. The secretariat was cautioned regarding a general expectation of increasing demands to be made to the secretariat's Women in Development Programme for assistance at national levels. In light of this, the need for continued and increased support to the Unit may become urgent.

#### Demography

108. The secretariat informed the meeting that the main thrust of its work programme has been the creation of awareness of the need to integrate population more closely into the development planning process. This has been accomplished through the provision of tools in the form of research and data inputs; the strengthening of government capabilities through training in the techniques and methodologies for developing population-development linkages; generation, utilization and dissemination of information; and development and establishment of institutional mechanisms needed to facilitate population policy implementation.

109. Parallel to this activity has been the secretariat's programme concerned with assisting countries in the formulation and implementation of population policies. The meeting was informed that much of the work being carried out in this area represents a follow-up to an earlier CARICOM project on which the secretariat collaborated and which has recently ended.

110. The secretariat indicated that a major highlight has been the initiation of a three year UNFPA funded project designed to assist governments in integrating population in development planning and implementing population policies. To facilitate this goal, assistance is being provided in establishing appropriate institutional mechanisms such as Population Units in Planning Ministries and National Population Councils responsible for directing population policy implementation activities.

111. The secretariat reported on the two-week regional training course on "Analysis of Population-Development interrelations for Planning using Microcomputers" in which 28 persons from 17 countries participated. The meeting was informed that microcomputers and printers are being provided to participating countries for use in population-development research as well as the processing and analysis of the 1990 census information.

112. It was noted that a number of research studies are underway to provide the kind of information base required for policy making. These include an integrated research project concerned with the interrelations between fertility, mortality, migration and development; the carrying out of an in-depth analysis

of census data for three countries which has been completed, the continuation of population projections (1980 - 2015) for nine countries for which three countries have already been completed for publication and a study of mortality problems in the Caribbean.

113. The meeting was also informed of a series of projects aimed at data generation, evaluation and dissemination. In this regard, a sub-regional socio-demographic data bank is currently being established and a number of research studies are underway to prepare additional data inputs as well as evaluate data. For example, the programme for the preparation of intercensal and post-censal population estimates will provide inputs for the data bank as well as for the development of social and economic indicators.

114. The secretariat indicated that the contents of the data bank will be utilized for the development of a digest of socio-demographic statistics to be published annually.

115. Attention was also drawn to the secretariat's work in the preparation of a population information system which will form part of the Documentation Center's CARISPLAN. It is expected that countries will have access to the data via the Documentation Center's microcomputer system.

116. Proposed activities for the ensuing period will comprise a continuation of the activities initiated under the UNFPA project aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of economic and social development interrelations and improving techniques of analysis for the provision of inputs into the development plans. Among the activities to be continued through the next period will be: training in theory and methods of economic-demographic analysis and population policy implementation, establishment of Population Units and national population councils, integrated research study on population and development, establishment of the socio-demographic data bank and population information system, intercensal and post-censal estimates for Caribbean countries; retrieval of Census Data for small areas by microcomputers (REDATAM), in-depth census analysis, population projections, and the Digest of socio-demographic statistics for Caribbean countries.

117. Considerable support for the secretariat's programme in the area of demography was expressed by several delegations. The secretariat was urged to continue its very significant and important work.

118. The meeting was informed that similar training courses being conducted by ECLAC/CELADE in English under a UNFPA project were also being conducted in Spanish at CEDEM, also under the auspices of UNFPA. The Cuban delegation indicated that similar courses could also be conducted in English at CEDEM.

119. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the assistance provided in the conduct of the Demographic and Health Survey of Trinidad and Tobago, the output of which is considered vital for the planning process.

120. The CARICOM representative registered their support for the work being carried out by the secretariat in the area of population-development issues.

The Committee was informed of the recently completed CARICOM study concerned with development perspectives of Caribbean countries to the year 2000 in which the impact of demographic issues on the development plans was clearly demonstrated. The CARICOM representative reiterated the need for Governments to become more aware of the population-development interrelations for improved development planning.

#### International trade and finance

121. The secretariat reported that most of its activities were concerned with trade in services, trade finance and counter-trade and involved considerable collaboration with UNCTAD and UNCTC.

122. With regard to trade facilitation, the secretariat was seeking funding to computerize the Trade Procedures Guide but emphasized the importance of inputs from governments in updating the guide to enable it to be relevant not only to Caribbean countries but to Latin America and other countries which may wish to trade with the region.

123. The secretariat advised that there were mixed reactions to the programme on counter-trade and therefore wished to receive some indication from the governments as to the direction to be pursued.

124. One delegation expressed concern over the small quantum of products available for intra-Caribbean trade and between the Caribbean and the Western Hemisphere. He also expressed concern about the high cost which counter-trade can impose on small developing countries and questioned the effect of assistance to state trading corporations.

125. The delegate from the Dominican Republic expressed support for counter-trade since this mechanism could circumvent problems relating to foreign exchange and could promote regional trade. He suggested that the secretariat should encourage member countries to enact legislation which would facilitate counter trade in the region.

126. The Cuban delegation also supported efforts in counter-trade since it could be successful only if there was political will. Experiences with Guyana in the area of counter trade had been very satisfactory. It was recommended that a study be undertaken to indicate the present trends in the Caribbean since no country could escape the crisis. The delegate noted that the CBI had not been very beneficial and some of the measures taken by the developed countries had restricted imports. He indicated the need to know the impact of recent trends in international trade and the possibilities which exist in order to extend our trade.

127. It was suggested by one delegation that the results of the workshop on counter-trade might reveal opportunities for conventional trade which might not now exist. The representative from the CARICOM secretariat suggested that the workshop should not be research oriented but should concentrate on exchanging experiences and enabling countries to become operational.

128. In the area of international finance the Cuban delegation suggested that since the external debt affected all Caribbean countries, the study which is being undertaken by SELA for Latin America, combined with the ECLAC study, could indicate how the economies of CDCC countries can be strengthened.

129. The representative of the CARICOM secretariat highlighted ongoing activities by a number of agencies in the area of services and suggested that the CDCC should indicate the gaps to be filled. The CDCC secretariat advised that the work at the CARICOM secretariat did not include non-CARICOM States. ECLAC was involved with INTAL in export promotion in Latin America and the secretariat's mandate made it necessary to provide these services to CDCC member states.

130. The delegation of the Dominican Republic stated that a study was being carried out in the services sector of its economy with the collaboration of UNCTAD and the Institute of the Economy and Humanity of France, with the objective of identifying the sector's potential to promote development policies and strengthen its negotiating capacity in the Uruguayan Round within the framework of the GATT.

#### Natural resources

131. The secretariat, in implementing the work programme on natural resources, recognized the need to take into consideration the nexus between natural resources, tourism and the environment. The impact of the environment on tourism and tourism on natural resources, and the extent to which natural resources can be a contributing factor to tourism and the environment was an integral part of the work programme.

132. There were three areas, however, in which the secretariat has been urged to accept responsibility. These relate to the dumping of toxic waste in the Caribbean; the development in a CDCC member State of a nuclear facility for the generation of electricity; and the link between the environment and public health.

133. In view of the limited resources of the secretariat and the fact that there are other organizations which are better equipped to deal with these matters, the secretariat sought feedback from the Committee as to the extent of its involvement or with respect to co-operation with other agencies.

134. The consensus of the meeting was that the CDCC secretariat should be more directly involved in these matters. The Haitian delegate, concerned with that country's problems of deforestation, suggested that the secretariat could take action in the form of seminars to address the specific problem. The secretariat undertook to seek the assistance of FAO in this regard.

135. There was agreement by all delegations that the dumping of toxic waste in the region by some of the developed countries presented a serious threat and a need was seen for the secretariat to play a coordinating role on marine environment protection. A resolution to this effect had been prepared.

136. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) pointed out that several IMO conventions dealing with the question of ship-generated pollution of the sea were in existence. These conventions were important in the context of tourism in the Caribbean region and the IMO would be pleased to assist the CDCC secretariat in these areas. The IMO has established a programme of technical co-operation which aims at helping governments of developing countries to develop national maritime capabilities.

137. The need was expressed for greater interagency collaboration with the work of the secretariat, and between UNEP in Jamaica and the UNEP Office in Mexico in order to optimize the use of resources. Delegates continued to express concern about the practice of dumping toxic waste since this adversely affected the ecology of the Caribbean area. The delegate from the Bahamas, in supporting the need for greater co-operation among U.N. agencies, urged that a more serious look be given to the activities of UNEP and IMO since environmental protection is critical to the Caribbean and impacts on tourism. The Jamaican delegation outlined the importance of tourism as a major earner of foreign exchange and implored the CDCC to coordinate to a greater extent with UNEP, IMO and other agencies involved in this matter.

138. The Dominican Republic indicated that it had experienced problems with foreign companies operating internally and damaging the environment with toxins. Problems were also posed by industries operating in urban environments while attempts to relocate these industries to other sites were opposed by the industries.

139. With regard to activities not accomplished, it was recommended that the secretariat should be more aggressive in seeking funding for the projects and seminars.

140. In response to a question by the Barbados delegate on the implementation and completion dates of the proposal on sewerage disposal, the secretariat advised that a series of project proposals were formulated but that these activities were passed on to the CARICOM secretariat. The representative of the CARICOM secretariat advised that a proposal was submitted to UNDP for funding.

141. With reference to the Meeting on "Development and Financing of Sewerage Disposal Sector" which will be attended by country representatives and donor agencies, the secretariat advised that originally the meeting was intended for CARICOM countries, but the possibility existed for expansion beyond CARICOM.

#### Other Activities of the secretariat

142. The meeting was informed of other activities being performed by the secretariat such as the evaluation of economic performance of Caribbean countries for which documents are available for distribution to member delegations.

143. In addition, the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to its activities concerned with technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). It was pointed out that the secretariat wished to request the support

of countries with centers of excellence to assist CDCC secretariat by providing expertise and training to other member countries in areas for which they are unable to mobilize resources from donor agencies.

144. Reference was made to the work of the secretariat in collaborating with the Institute of Latin American Integration (INTAL) and Inter-American Development Bank in a study on trade in primary commodities.

145. The secretariat noted its continued support to the furtherance of the OECS integration process as evidenced particularly in its work in TCDC and small island developing countries.

146. The secretariat informed the Committee of two additional areas that could be of interest to the CDCC secretariat. The first comprises taking a closer look at the use of marine resources in collaboration with the Law of the Sea secretariat and Canadian organizations. The second area of interest concerns the possibility of closer collaboration with organizations in metropolitan countries with regard to looking more closely at the Caribbean diaspora. The secretariat will review the potential linkages involved in work being done on the Caribbean by other institutions. Mention was also made of the secretariat's interest in devising ways of utilizing the technical expertise of nationals abroad through TOKTEN activities.

147. The delegation of Saint Lucia expressed its gratitude on behalf of the OECS to the CDCC secretariat for its work in furthering OECS integration. It was however observed that not enough information concerning the availability of TCDC is being disseminated to member countries. Consequently a proposal was put forward that the CDCC current awareness bulletins contain a section providing a list of the availability of TCDC assistance in the Caribbean.

148. The Saint Lucian delegation also noted that too much lip service was being paid to the issue of Latin American and Caribbean relations and there was a need for deepening of relations. The CDCC secretariat was considered best suited to accomplish this goal.

149. The CARICOM representative drew attention to the CARICOM mandate to develop closer intra-Caribbean relations. Citing the example of trade, he explained, however, that difficulty was encountered in mobilizing resources to provide information on trade procedures and practices. The view that the CDCC secretariat was the most appropriate institution for developing these kinds of relations was supported and a proposal suggested to put in place a Unit to focus on intra-Caribbean trade. The main problem would be to work out the modalities.

150. The Jamaican delegation endorsed the statements of the previous countries that the CDCC secretariat could play an important role in developing Latin American/Caribbean relations.

151. The representative of UNCTAD drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that UNCTAD is in a position to help in furthering work in this area of the programme. UNCTAD has a programme with potential for expansion of trade via a trade information system on trade barriers affecting products. This could be viewed as a useful starting point for identifying trade relations in the

Caribbean and Latin America. UNCTAD is also involved in the global system of trade preferences which involved negotiation of trade concessions between countries in the developing world. The representative considers this another take-off point for identifying possibilities for negotiation of trade concessions between the Caribbean and Latin America.

152. The representative of UNIDO informed the meeting that UNIDO is working with UNDP on a project to stimulate trade between OECS and Latin America. Two exchange missions are expected. Mention was also made of two statistical projects, one of which aimed at computerizing customs statistics.

153. The secretariat informed the Committee that there still existed the need to work out the modalities for the operation of TCDC. Of particular importance is the issue of ways in which a country can meet the minimal requirements for receiving benefits. The secretariat was still searching for ways of meeting country requirements without placing a burden on the requesting states. The secretariat also indicated that focal points existed in each country for the dissemination of TCDC information but too many delays still existed in the governments' response for requests. Member countries were urged to accelerate their response concerning needs and contribution.

154. With respect to the compilation of TCDC information, the Saint Lucia delegation suggested that the CDCC secretariat should play a more aggressive role in searching for TCDC resources and linking to other information bases in the United Nations system.

155. The Cuban delegation supported Saint Lucia's proposal for more concrete action to be displayed by the CDCC secretariat. A call was also made for greater explicitness in the research studies. Specifically they proposed the carrying out of a study on the economic and social situation in the last ten years. This should take the form of a statistical and analytical document aimed at understanding past trends for the purpose of planning. The document should focus more deeply on the impact of external debt, unemployment, social and health problems and solutions. Other problems such as dependency burden and economic crisis of the region should be made more clear.

Agenda Item 7 - A programme of action in support of  
small island developing countries (Resolution No. 18(IX))

156. The secretariat noted that the Action Plan for Small Island Developing Countries focuses on an integrated approach to agricultural development and its inter-linkage with industry, co-operative development, health, housing and tourism. Trade components are also linked to these and all other areas of the plan.

157. The plan proposes activities that can provide long term development goals making use of the resources, though limited, in the country.

158. The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago urged the secretariat to request UNCTAD's assistance to locate sources of contribution for small island countries to the Common Fund and develop statistical data to document the contribution of

services to the economy; to advise small island developing countries, particularly during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations. He furthermore recommended that the Secretary General be advised to establish a special United Nations inter-agency unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with special problems of small island developing countries.

159. UNCTAD was urged to place emphasis on the following areas of activity, in the context of assistance to small island countries:

(a) Collaborate with FAO and UNIDO, in advising small islands on developing areas of comparative advantage in their diversification process;

(b) Provide a direct information link and an advisory service during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations;

(c) Develop commodity proposals in collaboration with IDCs for the special treatment of small islands in multinational trade negotiations;

(d) Assist small islands in developing comprehensive statistical bases on the contribution of services to the economy;

(e) Assist in locating sources of contribution for small island countries to the Common Fund;

(f) Review the adequacy of current export stabilization facilities bearing in mind -

(i) the recommendation of the G24 that under the IMF Compensatory Facility payment of compensation bear a closer relationship to the actual size of the export shortfall;

(ii) the need for an increase in the volume of resources and the number of commodities covered under Schemes for the Stabilization of Export Earnings; and

(iii) the problems which small countries are experiencing in contributing to the Common Fund.

160. The delegate of Saint Lucia noted the importance of the Regional Commissions in this area, as acknowledged by a special meeting of the General Assembly for representatives of island developing countries, where they could present their national and regional priorities to the various specialized agencies. He suggested that the document presented at this CDCC session be sent to that meeting and recommended that CDCC become the focal point for implementation of action. The recommendation was supported by the delegation of the United States Virgin Islands.

161. The meeting deliberated on the various definitions and interpretations of "small island states" and "small island developing countries", and suggested some criteria for definition. The meeting decided that considering the peculiar

characteristics, all island countries of CDCC are to be considered small island developing countries.

162. The Jamaican representative expressed its reservation on the Plan of Action, but agreed to go along with the Resolution in order to preserve the consensus

163. The delegate of the United States Virgin Islands alerted the meeting on the need for sustained development in the small islands and noted the importance of networking among the technical people in the individual small island countries. He also referred to technical meetings in this field held in Jamaica recently, to be followed by similar meetings in Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico. Major issues are soil and water preservation and natural resource management in general. He also urged the secretariat to continue to explore the possibilities of non-independent members of CDCC obtaining assistance from and participating in the work programme of the Committee.

164. The representative of ILO offered the use of an ILO video film on co-operatives as a useful tool for public awareness of co-operative efforts in small island development issues.

165. Finally, it was recommended that to ensure the effectiveness of the different measures proposed, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should establish a special Inter-Agency Unit to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with the special problems of small islands.

Agenda Item 8 - Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those  
of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with  
implications for CDCC

166. The secretariat advised that action will be taken on the resolutions falling under this Agenda item but encouraged members to give consideration to resolution 41/211 since it affected the number of posts in the U.N. System, as well as resolutions 42/413 and 42/447.

167. A member of the United Nations Secretariat in New York referred to resolution 42/211 and document A/C.5/43/1/rev.1 in which the Secretary-General proposed a 15 per cent reduction in staff. He observed, however, that in document LC/CAR/G.260, the number of posts abolished in the Port of Spain Office is five and that the areas affected as a result of these reductions are: agriculture, science and technology and transport and communications. Based on his calculations this represents a 33 percent reduction in staff. For many years, the CDCC had been seeking additional posts for the secretariat, and the delegate wished to know the extent to which this reduction in staff impacted on the performance of the office, especially in the areas referred to above.

168. The secretariat advised that posts were reduced in the Port of Spain office in accordance with instructions received from New York. One post was deployed to Santiago. Many vacant posts were encumbered on a short-term basis in order that the work could be effectively performed. Some of the persons encumbering posts could not have been permanently employed because of the quota

system. The responsibility of the office was to get the work accomplished and since there were constraints in recruiting appropriate personnel, other measures had to be adopted, for example, the use of project staff and the short-term encumbering of vacant posts.

169. The representative of UNCTAD referred to the practice of the United Nations to use temporary vacancies in established posts but he cautioned that this practice can sometimes be abused since management can circumvent the rules of the United Nations or the wishes of inter-governmental bodies.

170. The delegate of Cuba suggested that this should be discussed under item 10 and recommended that the secretariat could prepare some ideas in a document. He indicated that if in fact agriculture, science and technology and transport and communications had been affected, it would be serious since these are basic areas in the economic development of Caribbean countries. The doubts and concerns in the minds of delegates should not be treated with complacency. The delegate suggested that there should be a caucus to discuss this matter under item 10.

Agenda Item 9 - Work programme of the CDCC  
for the second period of the 1988-89 biennium

171. In initiating discussions on agenda item 6, the Committee agreed that agenda item 9 should be treated jointly with item 6. It was also noted that activities postponed had been put forward for the following year. The secretariat, however, felt it necessary to bring the programme to the Committee once again for possible fine tuning although the programme had already been agreed to and resources allocated. Two segments, on Industrial Development and Agricultural development were also reincorporated into the work programme for 1988-1989.

Agenda Item 10 - Role and functioning of the CDCC

172. The delegation of Barbados, in supporting the proposals made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, posed the following questions:

(a) Was the failure of the review Committee to meet indicative of the effectiveness of the CDCC?

(b) Was the CDCC in need of restructuring?

(c) Did the Committee have the capacity to deal with the full range of tasks assigned to it?

(d) What mechanisms and safeguards were needed to ensure effective performance at all levels?

(e) Was the monitoring Committee essential for ensuring the implementation of the CDCC programme?

173. Emerging from discussions which followed was the view that the CDCC was in essence a Committee of Governments which would need to extend themselves to resolve any perceived problems of the organization. It was agreed that the substance of the statement presented by the Minister of External Affairs and International trade of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking in his capacity as chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, should form the basis of a resolution on the role and functioning of the CDCC.

174. It was agreed that a conscious effort should be made to reinvigorate the CDCC and infuse it with a renewed sense of purpose, with its primary role being co-ordination and co-operation. Accordingly, there was a need to reduce the scope of the programme since neither the in-house capability nor the resources were available to the secretariat, which moreover ran the risk of duplicating the efforts of other institutions. Measures would need to be put into place to ensure that the necessary changes would be implemented.

175. In offering to clarify a number of points arising from the discussions the Executive-Secretary outlined the place of the CDCC in the overall structure of the United Nations system, noting its subsidiary and advisory role to ECLAC. He stressed that the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters had been made autonomous and fully decentralized, and was focussing its attention almost exclusively on subregional issues. Conversely, ECLAC had provided programme support for various Caribbean activities. Accordingly, the scope of the CDCC work programme fell within the purview of the Committee which had the capacity to reorient the scope of the programmes, at its annual meetings. In conclusion the Executive-Secretary noted that the need for the CDCC was obvious, since it was the only forum that allowed universal membership in the region, yet it was necessary in redefining its future role not to have exaggerated expectations of what it is capable of achieving in the short term.

Agenda Item 11 - Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional  
Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1990-1991 biennium  
as presented to the United Nations General Assembly

176. The secretariat presented the work programme for the 1990-91 biennium, as well as the Medium Term Plan (1990-1995). It clarified several questions as to the continuation of activities in various fields for which no substantive officer was at present in post in the secretariat, noting that it did not possess the capability to perform highly technical work in some areas, given its severe staff constraints. Such work would better be performed by the relevant specialized agencies. The segment on international trade and development finance which was inadvertently omitted from the document was reinstated.

Agenda Item 12 - United Nations medium-term plan (1990-1995)

177. The meeting noted the presentation of this item by the secretariat and sought clarification on the possibility of flexibility in that programme. The secretariat confirmed such a possibility.

Agenda Item 13 - Other business

178. The representatives of Haiti and the Dominican Republic recognized the importance of the secretariat's activities to promote economic co-operation among developing countries and tabled a resolution that sought the support of the CDCC secretariat in paying particular attention to technical co-operation between the other member countries of the CDCC and Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The resolution also sought to have the CDCC secretariat co-ordinate its activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socio-economic projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and sought the support of the Committee in its efforts to join the ACP.

179. The delegation of Barbados indicated that it could not support the resolution, in the context of the application to the ACP, and wished the record to reflect that position.

180. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking in its capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (SCMFA), said that Haiti's application had been submitted to CARICOM and urged the Dominican Republic to do likewise.

181. The delegation of Cuba expressed the view that at the twelfth session of the CDCC, the technical meeting should deal with all aspects relating to the execution of the work programme and that the report emanating from this meeting should be approved at the ministerial level which would nevertheless be free to concentrate on other areas of interest to them. One such area should be the impact of the economic crisis on the social and economic development of Caribbean countries. In order to accomplish this the secretariat should prepare a working document to form the basis of the debate.

Agenda Item 14 - Place and date for CDCC XII

182. The meeting noted with gratitude the offer of the Netherlands Antilles to host the twelfth session of the CDCC, in Curaçao in 1989. The secretariat was accordingly requested to enter into consultations with the respective governments to fix a convenient date, bearing in mind the crowded schedule of meetings faced by Member Governments.

Agenda Item 15 - Consideration and adoption of the report

183. It was agreed that the secretariat should be responsible for completing the report and despatching it to member countries for a response within 30 days.

## PART FOUR

## 22(XI) SUPPORT FOR HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee

Faithful to the Committee's purpose of strengthening co-operation among its members,

Desirous of contributing to the integrated development of the region,

Aware of the need to support the political will of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to belong to the ACP Group in order to strengthen their cultural, economic and other links with the said Group,

Convinced that the critical economic situation of both countries is a hindrance to the development of their peoples and could entail harmful consequences for both the establishment and the consolidation of true democracy,

Convinced that the CDCC secretariat is capable of taking effective action in this regard,

(a) Resolves:

1. To give particular attention to technical co-operation between the other member countries and Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
2. To co-ordinate their activities with the relevant bodies with a view to supporting certain priority socio-economic projects in the above-mentioned countries;

(b) Requests the member countries of CDCC, and particularly those which belong to the ACP group, to consider to what extent they are able to give support to the joint application of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to be members of the ACP Group.

(c) Instructs the CDCC secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this Resolution.

## 23(XI) POLICIES ON HARMFUL WASTES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Taking into account the results of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Environment, held in Mexico in 1988, especially those relating to the existing link between the environment and development,

Mindful of the importance which member countries attach to maintaining sound ecological development since this contributes to sustained economic and social development for the benefit of its peoples,

Extremely preoccupied with recent activities which enterprises in some developed countries are undertaking in the region by way of disposal of polluting substances and the use of toxic substances in several of our countries:

1. Expresses its condemnation of the activities which these enterprises are carrying out in the Caribbean region, to the detriment of the ecological system in the region and which affects, in a significant manner, the economic and social development of our countries and the health of our populations.

2. Urges the governments of the developed countries whose enterprises are carrying out these activities, to abstain from so doing and co-operate with the governments of the affected countries to eliminate the damages caused.

3. Requests the secretariat of the CDCC for the twelfth session, to present a report on damage caused by these dangerous activities in the region, in co-ordination with the UNEP.

## 24(XI) PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee

Recalling resolution 21(X) of the tenth session of CDCC which requested the secretariat to present a plan of action for small island countries for the consideration of member States,

Mindful of the fact that other agencies and organizations are also considering the special question of small island countries,

1. Notes the report of UNCTAD in document UNCTAD/ST/LDC/9.9 of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Island Developing Countries held in Malta from 24-25 May 1988 and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this issue which appears as document A/49/513.

2. Supports the efforts being made by other regional institutions especially the CARICOM initiative appearing in document A/C2/43/7 presented to the United Nations General Assembly which, inter alia urges upon UNCTAD to:

- (i) Collaborate with FAO and UNIDO, in advising small islands on developing areas of comparative advantage in their diversification process;
- (ii) Provide a direct information link and an advisory service during multinational trade or commodity trade negotiations;
- (iii) Develop commodity proposals in collaboration with IDCs for the special treatment of small islands in multinational trade negotiations;
- (iv) Assist small islands in developing comprehensive statistical bases on the contribution of services to the economy;
- (v) Assist in identifying sources of contribution for small island countries to the Common Fund;
- (vi) Review the adequacy of current export stabilization facilities bearing in mind:
  - a. The recommendation of the G24 that under the IMF Compensatory Facility payment of compensation bear a closer relationship to the actual size of the export shortfall;
  - b. The need for an increase in the volume of resources and the number of commodities covered under Schemes for the stabilization of export Earnings; and
  - c. The problems which small states are experiencing in contributing to the Common Fund.

3. Endorses the proposal calling on the Secretary-General to ensure the effectiveness of the measures proposed herein, by establishing a special inter-Agency task force to co-ordinate the programmes of the various agencies dealing with the special problems of small islands.

4. Accepts the Plan of Action presented in document LC/CAR/G.259 and directs the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to implement same within its context of the work programme.

5. Directs the CDCC secretariat to continue to examine the access of the non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations System with the aim of identifying areas within the United Nations system which would provide technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process;

6. Urges the secretariat to continue discussions within the United Nations system and other organizations and agencies on the question of special assistance to small island countries.

7. Requests the secretariat to report on an annual basis on the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action and efforts made to further sensitize the international community to the special problems of small island countries.

25(XI) ADMISSION OF ARUBA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF CDCC

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

Noting the communication of the Government of Aruba to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean requesting associate membership in the CDCC,

Aware that Aruba was admitted as an associate member of ECLAC at the twenty second session held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20-27 April 1988,

Recalling the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC in which it is recognized that the Committee can be of effective assistance to the Caribbean countries in their integration efforts and in the promotion of mutual co-operation beneficial to their economic and social development:

1. Welcomes the aforementioned application of the Government of Aruba;
2. Decides to admit Aruba as an associate member of the CDCC and welcomes its participation in the work of the Committee.

## 26(XI) ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CDCC

Recalling ECLAC resolution 358 (XVI), which established the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a co-ordinating and consultative body, relating to development and co-ordination in respect of Caribbean issues,

Recalling further, the usefulness and importance of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a mechanism for the promotion, co-ordination and co-operation between Caribbean countries and territories and between them and non-Caribbean developing countries,

Recognizing the necessity for member States to have their needs and priorities reflected in the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee so that it can be an effective vehicle for Caribbean collaboration,

1. Agrees that the recommendations made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago as outgoing Chairman of CDCC and in his capacity as Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs should, inter alia, form the basis of an ongoing review of the progress and functioning of CDCC;

2. Requests the Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of these proposals and to report its findings to Member Governments, at least two months before the twelfth session of CDCC.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES  
LISTE DE PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable Molwyn M. Joseph  
Minister in the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs

BAHAMAS

Head of delegation:

Mrs. Catherine M. Benjamin  
First Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BARBADOS

Head of delegation:

Mr. Calvin Niles  
Counsellor  
Barbados High Commission  
Trinidad and Tobago

CUBA

Head of delegation:

Mr. Pedro Morales Carballo  
Director  
Comité Estatal de  
Colaboración Económica

Mr. Ramiro León Torras

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of delegation:

Mr. Virgilio Gautreaux Piñeyro  
Jefe, División del Departamento  
de la Deuda Externa  
Banco Central

Ms. Arelis de los Santos

## GRENADA

Head of delegation:

Mr. Denneth M. Modeste  
 Permanent Secretary  
 Ministry of External Affairs  
 Botanical Gardens  
 St. George's

## HAITI

Head of delegation:

Mr. Wilner Dessources  
 Commissaire General Promotion  
 Nationale et Administration  
 Publique

Mme. Marie-Josée Georges Garnier  
 Mr. Jean Ricot Dormeus

## JAMAICA

Head of delegation:

Mrs. Cordell Wilson  
 Deputy Director  
 Economics Division  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
 Trade and Industry

Mr. Lorne McDonnough

## ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
 The Honorable Hugh Heyliger  
 Minister of Agriculture, Lands,  
 Housing and Development  
 Government Headquarters  
 Basseterre

## ST LUCIA

Head of delegation:

Dr. Charles S. Flemming  
 Chargé d'Affaires  
 Permanent Mission of St. Lucia  
 to the United Nations  
 New York

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable Senator Sahadeo Basdeo  
Minister of External Affairs  
and International Trade  
Queen's Park West

Mr. Manniram Rambissoon

A. Associate members  
Miembros Asociados  
Membres associés

ARUBA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable Angel Bermudez  
Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of Transport  
and Communication

Ms. Jeanette Semeleer  
Mr. Hose Bernardo Theodoor Figaroa

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable H. Lavity Stoutt,  
Chief Minister  
Road Town, Tortola

Mr. Otto O'Neal  
Mr. Kenneth A. Williams

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Head of delegation:

Her Excellency  
The Honorable Maria Liberia-Peters  
Prime Minister

Ms. Lucita Moenir Alam  
Mr. Fermin P. Coronel  
Mr. Dennis Dare

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable Alexander Farrelly  
Governor of the United States  
Virgin Islands

Dr. Carlyle Corbin  
Ms. Judith Bourne  
Mr. Gerard Emanuel  
Mr. George Goodwin  
Dr. Donna Green  
Dr. D. S. Padda

B. Observers  
Observadores  
Observateurs

ANGUILLA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
The Honorable Emile Gumbs  
Prime Minister

TURKS AND CAICOS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency  
Mr. Oswald Skipping  
Chief Minister  
Grand Turk

Mr. Neville Anthony Adams

- C. United Nations Secretariat  
Secretaría de la Organización de  
las Naciones Unidas  
Secrétariat de l'Organisation  
des Nations Unies

United Nations Department for Special Political  
Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization  
and Trusteeship (SPQRCDT).

Mr. Kenneth Jordan, Political Affairs Officer  
New York

- D. United Nations bodies  
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas  
Organismes des Nations Unies

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Nassau Adams, Deputy Director  
ECDC Division, Geneva

- E. United Nations specialized agencies  
Organismos especializados  
Institutions spécialisées

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. Ian Chambers, Director  
ILO Caribbean Office, Trinidad

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Captain W. R. Rial, Maritime Safety Adviser  
IMO, Trinidad and Tobago

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

Mr. Joseph M. F. Kennedy, Area Representative (Technical Assistance), ITU,  
Honduras

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr. Mervyn Claxton  
UNESCO Representative to the Caribbean, Jamaica

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Peter Ryan, Head  
UNIDO Office, Barbados

F. Other intergovernmental organizations  
 Otros organismos intergubernamentales  
 Autres organismes inter-  
 gouvernementaux

Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)

Mr. Louis A. Wiltshire, Deputy Secretary General  
 Ms. Desiree Field-Ridley, Economic Adviser  
 Ms. Maxine Harris, Assistant Foreign Affairs Officer

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

Mr. Silbourne St. A. Clarke, ECLAC/CDCC-OECS coordinator.

G. ECLAC system  
 Sistema de la CEPAL  
 Systeme de la CEPALC

Economic Commission for Latin America  
 and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Mr. Gert Rosenthal  
 Mr. Clyde Applewhite  
 Mr. Daniel Blanchard  
 Mr. Lancelot Busby  
 Ms. Barbara Boland  
 Ms. Sonia Cuales  
 Ms. Sylvia Gutiérrez  
 Mr. Trevor Harker  
 Mrs. Wilma Primus  
 Mr. Horacio Santamaria  
 Mr. Donatus St. Aimee

## Annex II

STATEMENT BY SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DR. SAHADEO BASDEO,  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, (AND OUTGOING CHAIRMAN),  
AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

His Excellency the Distinguished Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, Mr. Alexander Farrelly,

Madame Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs. Maria Liberia Peters,

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I, as outgoing Chairman of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, Mr. Alexander Farrelly, in anticipation of his election as Chairman of the eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to meet here this morning in such pleasant surroundings which I am sure will contribute to our fruitful deliberations. My thanks to the Government and people of the U.S. Virgin Islands for their warm hospitality and the excellent facilities which they have provided. May I also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and I wish to assure them of my delegation's firm support in conducting the work of this session.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mr. Gert Rosenthal, who is attending his first CDCC session. I also extend a special welcome to members of the delegation from Aruba, who participated at the technical level of this session prior to their impending admission as an associate member of the CDCC. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago eagerly looks forward to your participation in and contribution to the vital work of the Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Trinidad and Tobago has held the Chairmanship of the CDCC for the last three years and is the current Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. In this dual capacity I take the opportunity here this morning to reflect on the performance of the CDCC over this period.

As you may recall, last year the tenth session of the CDCC was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, after a lapse of one year during which time there was no meeting. It would appear that we have now reverted to our annual schedule of meetings and I sincerely hope that this an indication of positive interest in the CDCC and the role which it should play in helping our members

to find solutions to the various problems which confront us. You may recall that at the tenth session, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation had raised the question of whether the reluctance of members to attend the previous CDCC session at its originally scheduled venue was, among other things, an indication of a negative reaction to our organization. However, from the level of attendance at our meeting here today, it seems obvious that this is certainly not the case.

The promotion of co-operation among its membership and particularly between CARICOM and non-CARICOM States has always been and continues to remain one of the major objectives of the CDCC. Perhaps the record of the Committee in this area has not been as outstanding and successful as we would wish. Our reaction to this should not be to neglect the CDCC. Rather it is up to the membership to shape, and mould the organization so as to make it more responsive to our needs and aspirations.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow delegates, there seems to be a feeling that certain members of the Committee have lost interest in the work of our body. Indeed there is the view in some quarters that the Committee has strayed from its original purpose. It is for us to reverse this perception. For this reason it is vital for us to address the original purpose for which the CDCC was formed in 1975 largely at the initiative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with wide support from Caribbean Governments. It was intended, as you know, to be a mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination of Caribbean concerns. It was conceived as a unique forum to promote co-operation among Caribbean countries, both independent and non-independent, in the wider Latin American grouping. The Committee was designed as a direct link between Caribbean countries and the United Nations system through the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was also seen as possessing the potential for serving as an umbrella organization for examining and co-ordinating positions on United Nations programmes and policies in the Caribbean.

These were identified very early as functions which needed to be performed particularly since no other agency or institution has been providing Caribbean Governments with a comprehensive overview of the plans, policies and programmes of all the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations as they affected and reflected the needs of the Region.

Fellow delegates, the reality is that the CDCC has not been seen to be filling these requirements. What is therefore needed is a redirection of perspectives.

This meeting must be one of rededication to objectives. Member States need to have their current needs and priorities reflected in the CDCC so that it could be an effective vehicle for Caribbean collaboration. Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM countries would like the CDCC to emphasize its role as a co-ordination and consultation mechanism as opposed to its programme execution functions. To this end, the Committee's Secretariat, in my view, should convene regular inter-agency meetings as a means of interacting and interfacing with UN Organizations, including ECLAC, which may have programmes or projects relating to or affecting, the Caribbean. For example, the CDCC should keep in close touch with the activities of agencies such as the United Nations Development

Programme, (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in so far as particular programmes may be of relevance to the Caribbean.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now like to turn my attention from the functioning of the CDCC to its internal structure. The fact that the CDCC Secretariat is located within and so closely identified with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has had both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, the CDCC avails itself of the physical facilities of and personnel belonging to the ECLAC office. But therein lies a serious drawback. There is a view that the ECLAC office and staff were expected to be responsive to the requirements of the ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago as well as to the Government members of the Committee. As a result of this, the role and function of the CDCC has become blurred. What is necessary is the need for a changed relationship between the ECLAC Subregional Office and the CDCC. The Committee should become a more autonomous body with greater control over its budget and programming and an internal reporting system, separate and apart from that of the ECLAC Subregional Office. In keeping with the United Nations practice for secretaries of intergovernmental committees, the post of Secretary of the Committee should be upgraded to at least the level of P.5 and its terms of reference re-examined. The Secretary should be assigned the overall responsibility of ensuring that the mandates of the Committee are carried out and to perform this task, he should be assured the necessary complement of independent staff to function efficiently.

As an immediate measure, there is need, notwithstanding the present guidelines from UN Headquarters on staffing arrangements to ensure that as many of the vacancies in the ECLAC Subregional Office are filled. In particular it is necessary that the posts at the higher level are filled and that those posts which have been lost to ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago are returned to the Port of Spain Office. More specifically, the post at the level of P.5, was originally filled by the Science and Technology Officer and was then allocated to the Deputy Director of the Port of Spain Office, has been lost to ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago. This post should be returned to the Port of Spain office and could eventually be the one in which the Secretary of CDCC functions. I should make it clear at this point that while we do not object to rotation of staff between the Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain and ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, in no instance should such rotation result in the loss of a post.

Fellow delegates, while the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Office should not be excluded from the reporting system of the Secretary, consideration must be given to assigning at least one other staff member, possibly a programme officer, to work exclusively within the territories of CDCC Member States. In recognition of the particular needs of the Caribbean within the Latin American and Caribbean region, there should be an official at the level of Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC with special responsibility for Caribbean Affairs. Such an official should be from the English-speaking Caribbean and the CDCC Secretary should work closely with this official once he has been appointed.

The Chairman of the CDCC is an important element in the functioning of the Committee and there should be constant contact between the Secretary of the Committee and the Chairman. The Chairman should also convene semi-annual meetings of the Monitoring Committee so that greater vigilance could be exercised in overseeing the Committee's functioning.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on another note, it has been suggested that the scope of the work programme of the CDCC has become both unrealistic and unmanageable. This, may I suggest is largely because of the lack of adequate co-ordination, lack of secretariat staff and inadequate financial resources. As I have already indicated, given the call for greater emphasis on co-ordination and collaboration, the programme areas should be reduced and must reflect newly established priorities of Member States. To finance these programmes Member States, operating within the United Nations General Assembly, should seek to have re-introduced a specific budget plan for CDCC so that there is a clear identification of what resources are available to CDCC.

Fellow delegates, the CDCC is an intergovernmental organization and as I have already indicated it is up to us, the constituent members, to provide direction to the Secretariat and to make it responsive to our needs. The success of any renewed effort to breathe new life into the CDCC depends to a large extent on the will of our Governments to direct and monitor the work of the CDCC after we have provided it with a clearly articulated set of Caribbean priorities. As members we should always be fully cognizant of the CDCC's existence and the role which it could play in policy planning at national and regional level. We must ensure that the nature and level of our participation at its meetings are adequate. In brief we must become more involved with the CDCC's day to day work. Those Governments which have not already done so should establish a national task force co-ordinated perhaps by the Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs and identify a national focal point to deal with CDCC matters. There is also need for more direct contact between Member States and the secretariat. This could be achieved through consultation visits by the secretariat made to CDCC territories at least once per year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have made these proposals for a rejuvenated and resuscitated CDCC after consultations with my CARICOM colleagues who are fully supportive of them. I would now like the full membership present here today to give them serious consideration when we consider Agenda item 10 with a view to their early implementation. May I reiterate that Trinidad and Tobago views the CDCC as an important mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination, as well as an important link between the English and non English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. Its usefulness is beyond question, and through it Caribbean co-operation can be made more meaningful and redound to the benefit of all members. I wish to reaffirm Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to do all within its power and to work with all other members to set the CDCC on a new path of effectiveness and success.

I thank you.

## Annex III

STATEMENT BY MR. GERT ROSENTHAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC  
TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN  
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE.

Distinguished Governor of the United States Virgin Islands,  
Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Honoured guests:

I would like to say, first of all, how pleased I am to be able to meet with delegates of Member Governments of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. This forum offers the ECLAC secretariat a unique opportunity to carry out one of our primary mandates, which consists of promoting international co-operation; in this case, at the subregional, regional and international levels. CDCC allows us to strengthen Caribbean co-operation; it also is ECLAC's main vehicle to give meaning and substance to the notion that the commonalities between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America far exceed the differences that might seem to separate them. Furthermore, this meeting gives me a welcome opportunity to come in contact with the leaders of the small island member States of ECLAC, and, indeed, with some non self-governing territories which participate actively in the CDCC without being full Members of the United Nations system.

The United States Virgin Islands is a case in point. This Committee plays a most valuable role in allowing participation of non self-governing territories in activities of the United Nations. That explains the particular significance which we attach to the fact that this meeting is being held in St. Croix. I would like to express to the Governor and other authorities our appreciation for providing the splendid surroundings and the many amenities that have been extended to us. I am sure that they will contribute to the success of this meeting.

In the same vein, I would also like to thank the distinguished delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, and through his good offices, the Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade, for the continual support provided to CDCC and to its secretariat, especially since the Chairmanship of CDCC was assumed.

Last but not least, I wish to take this opportunity to extend a sincere welcome to Aruba, admitted as an associate member of ECLAC last April, and now joining this Committee.

Mr. Chairman:

You will recall that the resolution establishing CDCC included, among its mandates, the role of acting as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. I would therefore like to avail myself of this occasion to initiate a dialogue with you regarding fundamental development issues of the Caribbean and how we, at ECLAC, can contribute, albeit in a modest way, to meeting the

challenges posed by those issues. Therefore, I would like to touch, first, on the nature of those issues; and, second, on the role of ECLAC in general and CDCC in particular.

It is indeed unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that one of the commonalities that I mentioned earlier between the Caribbean -- English and non English-speaking countries -- and the rest of Latin America is found in the adverse circumstances which have marked economic performance in the 1980s. The common denominator can be found in the international economy, often compounded by difficulties of domestic origin.

It is true, of course, that the manner in which different countries interact with external factors varies. For example, the debt issue appears to be less relevant for the smaller island states than for most of Latin America. However, depressed commodity prices, insufficient capital inflows, and uncertainty in the international economic environment are common to virtually all countries. It is therefore fair to say that small, export-oriented countries such as those that comprise most of CDCC, have been particularly hard hit, particularly if steadily increasing population is taken into account. The factors that explain the protracted recession in Latin America and the Caribbean have been amply documented by ECLAC in recent years, and I will not dwell on this aspect. A more specific analysis of the English-speaking Caribbean can be found in the excellent study recently completed by the Commonwealth of the CARICOM Secretariats on Caribbean Development to the Year 2000. In confirming our own impression, that study states: "on the whole, the standard economic indicators of development performance tell a dismal tale".

The main point I would like to make, therefore, is that in Latin America, as well as in the Caribbean, one of the imperatives of our times is to get economic growth back on track, and to reinstate development as the most important single issue in the region's agenda. Such specific topics as improving international competitiveness, modernizing the productive system, improving the delivery of social services, combatting extreme poverty, and promoting sustainable growth within environmental constraints, appear to be common concerns to all our member countries, and I believe we can play a useful role in meeting these and other challenges. We also can be responsive to more unique development issues, such as is illustrated in the documents brought to this meeting regarding the very small island states and territories.

How ECLAC in general and CDCC in particular can effectively assist our Member Governments in overcoming the obstacles to their development is the second point that I would like to raise. According to the Resolution that created the Commission, our main responsibility is to assist Member Governments in raising standards of living in the region. We try to carry out this function in different ways, promoting co-operation between countries, providing certain services such as technical assistance and training, monitoring the economic performance of our member countries, and proposing solutions to specific problems. What gives ECLAC a certain uniqueness, at least in my view, has been its ability in the past to approach economic development from the perspective of our constituency: Latin America and the Caribbean. In other words, ECLAC has been instrumental in bridging the gap between economic thinking and the

realities of the region, coming up with something akin to a school of economic thought.

To be sure, we would not be so bold as to offer universal "blue-prints" for development; there is no such thing, since development strategies must take account of the peculiar characteristics of each and every country and adapt to continually changing circumstances. Rather, we wish to stimulate the debate on how to approach development, recognizing the complex and changing realities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the world that surrounds them. That is why we dedicate considerable resources to research and to trying to understand those diverse heterogeneous realities, as a complement to the more action-oriented activities in our work programme.

In order to successfully fulfill our mandates, the manner in which the secretariat interacts with Member Governments is extremely important. In ECLAC, which, as you know, gathers in its fold forty members and five associate members from the region and from the industrialized world, the intergovernmental body performs the role of supreme decision maker, while the secretariat, as in any other international organization, acts as an executive body, entrusted with the responsibility of putting into practice the decisions approved. This is the model we have tried to reproduce in the Caribbean, through the intergovernmental forum gathered here today, serviced by our secretariat, whose Caribbean expression, under the able leadership of Mr. Clyde Applewhite, is our Office in Port of Spain.

This brings me, then, to comment on how we perceive the role of CDCC, as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLAC, and as a subregional forum in its own right. It is useful to recall that according to the rules of procedure, the Committee's main function is to act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon. This means that you, the Member Governments, have the ultimate say in defining priorities and orienting the secretariat's actions and work programme. It is up to us, the secretariat, to exercise our right of taking initiatives and formulating proposals that would hopefully help shape your orientations, and subsequently it is also up to us to try to carry them out. We are very sensitive to the fact that the most efficient and successful institutionalized undertakings in the international realm are those where the executive body responds closely to the interests of the Member Governments.

In this respect, I feel that we are re-defining CDCC's role --or at least putting it in sharper focus-- with each meeting. As a broad concept, including the realm of fostering co-operation between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America, this forum is our most important "sounding board" to introduce the Caribbean concerns in ECLAC's over-all work programme and to think constructively of specific actions to promote co-operation and enhance common interests. As a pluralistic forum, it offers us the opportunity to carry out activities to strengthen intra-Caribbean co-operation in a wide spectrum of issues, which on this particular occasion are broadly defined in the agenda and the supporting documentation prepared for this meeting. Finally, CDCC benefits as a forum from the fact that it includes among its members various countries which also belong to other subregional co-operative arrangements, such as the Caribbean Community and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which,

incidentally our secretariat stands ready to assist in any way possible. The latter countries can act in the context of CDCC on the basis of their common interests to become a catalyst for new initiatives, strengthening vital links of intra-Caribbean collaboration.

It could be argued that the heterogeneous nature of CDCC inhibits its adequate functioning. However, we feel, quite to the contrary, that heterogeneity has positive aspects. The Caribbean is still an area richly quilted by linguistic, racial, cultural and economic diversity, from which emanates much of the subregion's originality and vitality. There obviously are not simple formulas which can be uniformly applied to the diverse group of countries that are members of CDCC. Heterogeneity is, after all, the price of universality, which is also one of the most outstanding qualities of the United Nations. In fact, the diverse nature of CDCC calls for practical and relevant proposals for limited co-operation, rather than grandiose schemes for total co-ordination, whose prospects of success are less than promising.

I do not want to leave the impression, however, that carrying out all of CDCC's resolutions is a matter of our carrying out your command. There are, for example, some real constraints which can limit the effectiveness both of CDCC as a forum and that of the secretariat. Some fall in the category of the colloquial phrase of "biting off more than one can chew", others respond to the wise Whitehall dictum that any expenditure proposal should be accompanied by the identification of the source to finance it.

As to the first matter as all of you know, the tasks of the United Nations have expanded exponentially in the past decades. This has led, among other phenomena, to a clamor for greater coherence, as well as for the adoption of universal programmes. Such a trend, in turn, may exert some pressure on this Committee to tackle all the activities presently being covered by the United Nations system, which clearly would strain the secretariat's capacity to respond and ultimately weaken CDCC. It seems to be more fruitful to act within the domain of the partial and thus of the possible.

Regarding the second matter, as you all know, financial constraints today constitute the dominant trait of the functioning of the United Nations. In this respect, the Port of Spain Office of ECLAC has been adversely affected, although to a somewhat lesser degree than ECLAC in its entirety, which in turn has suffered relatively less than United Nations Headquarters. I have had an opportunity to discuss the staffing implications of this matter recently in an interchange of correspondence with the Chairman of CDCC; copies of which, I understand, have been circulated among all the members. For this reason, rather than try and fulfill overly ambitious mandates, we are combining realistic work programmes with an intense search for alternative resources. I hope that Member Governments will assist us in this endeavour, since donor agencies understandably require that their resources be dedicated to satisfy priority needs of the region. Concrete examples might be enhanced training activities promoted by the ECLAC Port of Spain Office, as well as a more concerted effort in improving the preparation of macroeconomic indicators in all CDCC member countries.

At any rate, I would like to reaffirm the secretariat's commitment to respond to your concerns to the best of our ability. The work programme of the ECLAC Port of Spain Office is dedicated exclusively to this subregion, and, to a large degree, to supporting CDCC's activities. That Office now carries out its functions with ample delegation of authority on administrative and substantive matters. For example, budgetary allotments are received in Port of Spain directly from United Nations Headquarters in New York; recruitment of consultants and General Service staff take place directly in Port of Spain; and wide latitude is granted to the office in seeking extrabudgetary funding. In addition, the rest of the ECLAC Secretariat is increasingly involved in providing backstopping to the Port of Spain Office, a practice which could be further enhanced in the future thanks to the presence, in Santiago, of a regular staff member of our Caribbean Office who is providing subregional perspectives and other relevant inputs to work being carried out at the regional.

Mr. Chairman:

I hope that my remarks, covering both development issues and the question of making CDCC more responsive to meeting those issues, will contribute to the dialogue to which I referred at the beginning of my statement. It is through such an interchange of views that this eleventh session of CDCC can lead to the definition of a relevant work programme.

The adverse circumstances which the subregion faces, compounded by the recent natural disasters which we all deeply deplore, certainly pose challenges which should stimulate our will and determination to overcome the hurdles to development. I believe that this Committee, and ECLAC, can play a highly constructive role in contributing to that end.

Thank you

## ANNEX IV

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LC/CAR/G.236/Rev.1	Medium Term Plan 1990-1995 Plan de Mediano Plazo 1990-1995 Plan a Moyen Terme 1990-1995
LC/CAR/G.241/Rev.1	Draft Summary of Proposed Work Programme Output for the 1990-1991 Biennium
LC/CAR/G.241/Rev.1/ Add.1	Draft Summary of the Proposed Work Programme output for the Biennium 1990/1991
LC/CAR/G.255	An evaluation of Economic Performance of Caribbean Countries with specific reference to the Genesis and Evolution of the External Debt.
LC/CAR/G.256	Draft Provisional Agenda
LC/CAR/G.256/Add.1	Annotated Provisional Agenda Temario Provisional Anotado Ordre du Jour Provisoire Annoté
LC/CAR/G.257	Implementation of the Work Programme of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) Ejecución del Programa de Trabajo del Comité de Desarrollo y Cooperación del Caribe (CDCC) 1987-1988 Mise en Oeuvre du Programme de Travail du Comité de Développement et de Coopération des Caraïbes (CDCC) 1987-1988
LC/CAR/G.258	Work Programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the Second Period of the 1988-1989 Biennium Programa de Trabajo de la Subsele Regional para el Caribe de la CEPAL para el Segundo Período del bienio 1988-1989

Programme de Travail du Siege Sous-Régional de la CEPALC pour les Caraïbes pour la Seconde Moitié de l'Exercice Biennal 1988-1989

LC/CAR/G.259

Programme of Action for Small Island States

LC/CAR/G.260

Action Taken on CDCC Resolutions and those of ECLAC, ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly with implications for the CDCC.

Acciones Tomadas con Respecto a las Resoluciones del CDCC y Resoluciones de la CEPAL y Otros Organismos de las Naciones Unidas que Traen Consecuencias para el CDCC

Actions Relatives aux Résolutions du CDCC de la CEPALC et d'Autres Organismes des Nations Unies ayant des Incidences sur le CDCC.

## ANNEX V

## LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CAGRIS	Caribbean Agricultural Information System
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARISPLAN	Caribbean Information System for Economic and Social Planning
CBI	Caribbean Basin Initiative
CGST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CDC	Caribbean Documentation Centre
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
CDS/ISIS	Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems
CELADE	Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía
ECDC	Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILPES	Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación Económica y Social
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union

LABORDOC	Data base of the ILO Library in Geneva
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
REDATAM	Retrieval of Census Data for Small Areas using Micro-computers
SELA	Latin American Economic System
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TOKTEN	Transfer of Know-how through Expert Nationals
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USVI	United States Virgin Islands
UWI	University of the West Indies
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

