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Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines
Suriname
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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1992-1997



UNITED NATIONS

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

INTRODUCTION

Due to the severe financial situation, the United Nations found it necessary to make certain changes in the proposed 1990-1995 Medium-Term Plan prepared earlier and the secretariat was requested to contribute to that process.

The secretariat prepared a paper for submission to United Nations Headquarters which outlined the objectives and general orientation of the programme of work for the CDCC secretariat. The document sets out briefly the major problems to be addressed and the secretariat's thrust in its contribution to the economic and social development of the Caribbean subregion during the six-year period.

Governments are requested to comment on the general statement and indicate any modifications which they consider necessary, in order to constitute the necessary legislative authority required by the United Nations programme planning and budgeting process.

The current document LC/CAR/G.285, therefore, supersedes document LC/CAR/G.236 of 1987 and Rev. 1 of 1988.

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1992-1997

SUBPROGRAMME 16.5: Economic integration and co-operation among Caribbean countries

A. Legislative authority

The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Commission resolution 358(XVI) approving the establishment of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC); also various resolutions of CDCC notably resolution 20(IX) - Future Action of the CDCC (1985).

Objectives

1. Objectives of the secretariat

(a) To carry out developmental activities in areas recommended by the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee at its annual sessions;

(b) To establish appropriate linkages and institutional mechanisms and work out modalities jointly with national governments, subregional and international bodies to implement various developmental activities;

(c) To undertake or sponsor the collection, analysis, evaluation and dissemination of social, economic, demographic, scientific, technological, environmental, trade and statistical information and documentation as well as to facilitate access to these data bases and promote their use by the countries of the subregion;

(d) To foster co-operation between the Caribbean countries, on one hand, and between the Caribbean and the wider Latin American region on the other hand in the fields of economic and social development as well as in national resources and the environment;

(e) To monitor the activities of the United Nations system and other multinational bodies to determine their application for the benefit of CDCC Member countries;

(f) To elaborate and promote policies and formulate programmes designed to achieve long-term structural adjustment of Caribbean economies without incurring serious social disruption;

(g) To formulate policies designed to promote social development in the Caribbean and the integration of women in the development process;

(h) To promote the optimum utilization of available resources for the socio-economic development of the countries;

(i) To promote the integration of population into the planning of socio-economic development;

(j) To foster the incorporation of environmental issues into the development process of the region.

All the above objectives are a continuation of the existing plan.

2. Indicators

The achievement of the above objectives will be verifiable through publications, studies, reports of meetings prepared by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, Port of Spain, as well as from the output of technical assistance missions to the countries of the subregion.

B. Problems addressed

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has served since 1975 as the secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. It has assisted, and will continue to assist, its Member countries in diversifying their economies, increasing their productivity and adaptability to the rapid technological change, as well as improving the social well-being of their populations. It will continue to strengthen its information system to fill the information and technology gaps and ensure that the countries of the subregion benefit fully from the activities of the United Nations system. ECLAC will also assist its Member countries in addressing the pressing environmental problems of the subregion and will continue to promote the participation of women into the development process of the countries. In addition, the secretariat will endeavour to ensure the participation of the countries in institutional mechanisms dealing with development problems.

C. Strategy for the period 1992-1997

1. Situation anticipated at the end of 1991

The slowdown on economic growth in some CDCC Member countries is expected to continue up to the end of 1991 as the effects of short-term structural adjustment policies continue to be felt. The social implications of such adjustments will create more problems that will require close attention. Moreover and despite efforts to diversify their economies, the countries will remain heavily dependent on one or two primary commodities for their export earnings and will be vulnerable to the rather erratic changes in the prices of these commodities. Debt servicing will continue to be a burden for some countries because it decreases the financial resources available for much needed investment in the economies. The important role the private sector could play together with the public sector in the development process of the countries will be widely recognized and policies to promote such a role would have been implemented on a much wider scale. Environmental issues would have gained increased importance in the countries and would start getting closer attention from governments and private sector organisations.

2. Strategy for achieving the objectives

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will continue to serve as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and as the interim secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology.

The following types of activities will be undertaken during the duration of the plan:

(a) The implementation of developmental activities based on studies on subregional social and economic problems;

(b) Publication and dissemination of bibliographic, technological, statistical, social and economic data;

(c) Formulation and implementation of developmental activities covering all the fields of economic and social development as well as environment;

(d) Promotion of increased linkages between activities within CDCC Member countries and linkages between CDCC countries and the

wider Latin America as well as between those organizations active in the subregion;

(e) Formulation and promotion of policies designed to deal with restructuring of the subregion's economies and the social consequences of such restructuring;

(f) Implementation of programmes and formulation of policies dealing with the integration of women in development;

(g) Increased reliance on networking as a developmental mechanism;

(h) Providing technical assistance including advisory services and training to Member countries;

(i) Increased Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC).

All these activities will be carried out in close collaboration with United Nations Specialized Agencies and subregional and regional organizations.