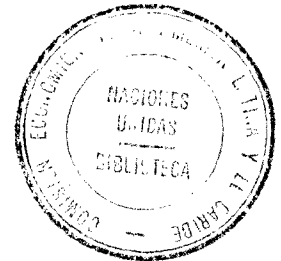


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Third Meeting of the Monitoring Committee  
 Port-of-Spain  
 19-20 April 1990

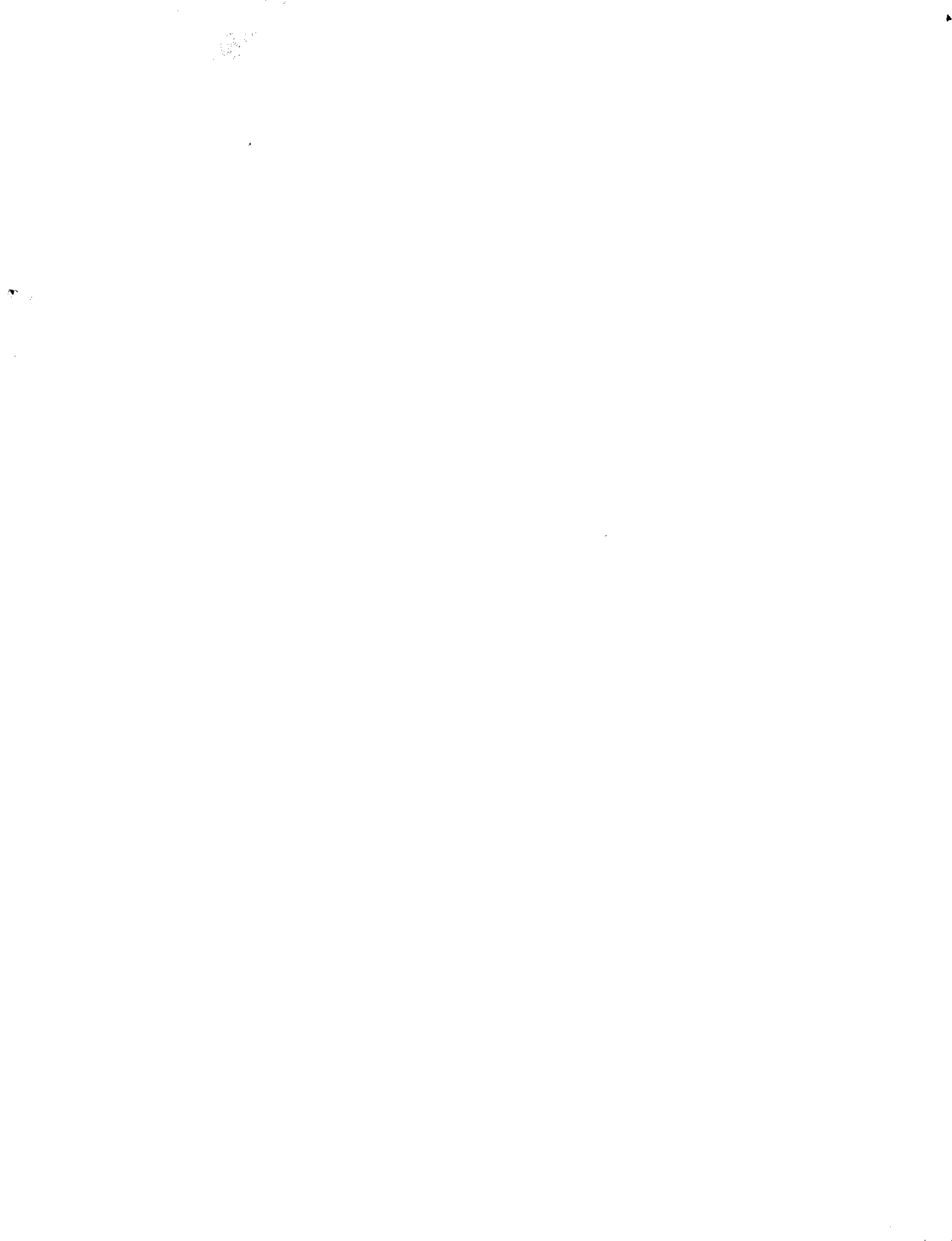


REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING  
 OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE  
 CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



**UNITED NATIONS**

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



**REPORT OF THIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF THE CDCC**

Port-of-Spain, 19-20 April 1990

1. The third meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) was called to order by the Chairperson, Ms Lucita Moenir Alam of the Netherlands Antilles.
2. Participating in this meeting were representatives of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Netherlands Antilles, and Trinidad and Tobago, which constitute the Bureau of CDCC; and Jamaica and Suriname. The list of participants is given as Annex I.
3. The Chairperson proposed the following agenda which was adopted as proposed:
  - (a) Role and function of CDCC;
  - (b) Review of the implementation of the work programme of CDCC;
  - (c) Relationship of CDCC with other institutions;
  - (d) Any other business.
4. The following documents were circulated by the secretariat with respect to the meeting:
  - (a) Report of the Twelfth Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (LC/CAR/G.292);
  - (b) Progress report on the Implementation of the CDCC Work Programme for the First Quarter 1990 (LC/CAR/G.297);
  - (c) Proposed Changes to the 1990-91 Work Programme (LC/CAR/G.298);
  - (d) Report of the Second Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (LC/CAR/G.277);
  - (e) Draft Report on the Preparatory Meeting of Island Developing Countries of the Caribbean;
  - (f) Papers on staffing and budgetary expenditures.

Agenda Item I - Role and function of CDCC

5. An overview of activities mandated by paragraphs 27-31 of the report of the twelfth session of CDCC (LC/CAR/G.292) was presented by the Director.
6. It was agreed that the report requested in paragraph 27 be as comprehensive as possible, giving an inventory of mandates, costs and expenditure of activities, staff involved in activities, reasons for non-fulfillment of mandates and distinctions between regular and extrabudgetary finances.
7. Regarding paragraph 28, the Director stated that all information sent out to substantive ministries is copied to CDCC focal points. The publication "Focus" has begun again to provide information on the office's activities.
8. Despite these activities, however, members of the Committee felt that more work needed to be done in bringing the value of the office's work to the attention of member governments. The Committee therefore requested that the secretariat send out, on a quarterly basis, an executive summary by telex or facsimile informing members on activities carried out.
9. In discussing the role of the office, participants pointed out that there was need to consider a balance between strict project implementation and the fostering and promotion of co-operation among its members. In that context, projects should, as far as possible, reflect a more regional approach and should promote and utilize the Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) modality in their implementation.
10. Documentation requested in paragraph 30 was provided to the Monitoring Committee. Some clarification was sought regarding the staff list, and the request made that for the next CDCC session, an administrative chart of staff members and the relevant units be provided.
11. Also requested was a document indicating all extrabudgetary funding received, including non-regular budget activities, as well

as the total amount received for overheads, its breakdown and use. In response to a question by the Chairperson, the Director informed the Committee that the Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean received the overhead costs from extrabudgetary projects it executes.

12. Discussion on the types of projects carried out by the office elicited the suggestion that the office prepare a dossier of extrabudgetary projects for consideration and approval at CDCC sessions for presentation to donors.

13. The Committee proposed that the CDCC mechanism should be utilized to elaborate common positions on and to discuss issues/activities being considered in the United Nations system with implications for the Caribbean, as is the practice in other parts of the Regional Commission. Discussions on the Fifth Programming Cycle of the United Nations Development Programme and the 18th Special Session of the General Assembly were advanced as instances where consultations could have been extremely useful. The secretariat should facilitate this process as much as possible, in order to encourage wider participation of member countries in these issues/activities.

Agenda Item 2 - Review of the implementation of the work  
programme of CDCC

14. Two documents, LC/CAR/G.297 and LC/CAR/G.298, were introduced and highlights of each programme element given. It was pointed out that because of the short time period between the twelfth session of CDCC and this meeting, not all the activities were reflected within, as the document had to be prepared for early distribution.

15. In the discussion of the document, Committee members felt that notwithstanding the short period more information could have been provided, specifically on expenditure on projects, synopsis of the objectives of each project, and, where appropriate, specific dates of activities undertaken and including time spent on activities.

16. In examining document LC/CAR/G.298, and in particular the changes made to Programme Element 5.2, the Committee proposed that the seminar be substituted by a workshop for CDCC focal points with the following objectives:

(a) To promote further participation of member countries in the work of the CDCC;

(b) To analyse the CDCC work programme and budget; and

(c) To analyse the structure of CDCC in respect of its activities.

17. This workshop should be held immediately before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee. The secretariat should provide the travel expenses and per diem of one participant from each country.

18. On Science and Technology, the Committee had before it copies of a letter sent to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC from the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), requesting the return of the P-5 post allocated to science and technology. The Executive Committee of CCST is of the opinion that the lack of a proper secretariat is the major impediment to implementing the CCST work programme. Return of the post would greatly enhance the capability of the present interim secretariat to carry out its functions.

19. In response to a query regarding this post, the meeting was informed that it was the understanding of the Director that the post would be returned to the Port-of-Spain office as soon as it became vacant.

20. With regard to the post of Deputy Director, the Committee was of the view that this should be discussed at its next meeting, and requested the secretariat to provide the Committee with the job descriptions of the senior posts in the secretariat.

21. On the issue of staffing vacancies within the United Nations secretariat, the Committee was requested to provide information to member countries on vacancies in the system and the mechanism by which employment could be obtained, particularly with respect to

national examinations and other recruiting procedures.

22. On the Removal of language barriers, the secretariat was urged to propose mechanisms to give effect to Resolution 28(XII), particular paragraph 2, to promote interchange of students between the different language-speaking countries of the Caribbean.

23. The Committee was informed that the Government of the Netherlands Antilles was considering the proposal to employ a consulting firm to streamline the project document for the removal of language barriers for the European Economic Community (EEC).

24. During the discussion on the Statistics sector, the Committee was asked to endorse the proposal of the secretariat on the convening of colloquia in other areas, similar to that held on statistics last year.

25. On Caribbean/Latin American relations, the Committee was informed of initiatives undertaken by the secretariat in respect to approaches by the Governments of Mexico, Brazil and Argentina to broaden their contact with the Caribbean and, in particular, the intention of the Mexican Government to table two resolutions at the ECLAC session in Caracas for assistance to Haiti.

26. The secretariat is also deepening its relations with the Mexico Office of ECLAC, with a view to information-sharing and undertaking joint activities that could be beneficial to both subregions.

27. On the issue of Island Developing Countries, the Committee had before it the draft report of the preparatory meeting of Island Developing Countries of the Caribbean, held in Saint Lucia, 28-30 March. The Committee enquired as to whether the secretariat had a clearer idea of the objectives and scope of the proposed global meeting and whether this was the best route to pursue in furthering the cause of small island developing countries.

28. The Committee was informed that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which had responsibility for the meeting, was itself seeking direction from member countries and was undertaking further consultations with other agencies on the issue.

As yet there was no agenda available for this meeting. The secretariat was in contact with ESCAP on how best their commonality of interest could be presented to the global meeting. The Committee is of the opinion that a better approach might have been to attempt to influence decisions of the governing councils of select United Nations agencies in advancing programmes in favour of island developing countries.

29. The Committee agreed that the progress report on the implementation of the CDCC work programme should include, inter alia, information on staff time allocated, resources expended, travel costs and description of tasks of consultants, in order to afford greater transparency and utility of the document.

#### Agenda Item 3 - Relationship of CDCC with other institutions

30. The Committee was informed that communications had been forwarded to a number of institutions for fulfilling Resolution 29(XII). The secretariat was now awaiting responses from all contacted on the modality for convening the proposed inter-organizational meetings.

31. The Committee requested the secretariat to include Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE) in this process, especially as that organization would formulate its work programme in May, to be approved at the ministerial meeting scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 1990.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Any other business

##### Date and Place for thirteenth session of CDCC

32. The Committee noted the comments of the secretariat presented in document LC/CAR/G.297, and felt that the timing of the meeting, as it pertained to costs and availability of participation of representatives should be considered. In this respect, January was considered as an appropriate time. However, hotel costs in January would be higher, as this was the peak of the tourist season.



33. The secretariat was asked to continue discussions with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and other member countries on this issue and to keep member governments appraised.

34. The secretariat was requested to prepare a document reflecting proposed changes in the role of CDCC relative to changes within the subregion as well as globally.

35. The Committee further noted that a caucus of CDCC member countries would be organized during the next ECLAC meeting to be held in Caracas, 3-11 May 1990, at which issues raised at this meeting of the Monitoring Committee as well as those relating to the agenda of ECLAC could be discussed.

Annex I  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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