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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC/CDCC WORK PROGRAMME
January to December 1996**

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During the year 1996, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), continued to focus its attention on the analysis of issues of special relevance to the economic and social development of the Caribbean subregion.

The work programme placed emphasis on the promotion of cooperation in functional and sectoral areas both among CDCC member and associate member countries and between them and the countries of Latin America. This was evidenced by the active participation of the secretariat in the work of the Special Sub-committee on Small States considering proposals related to the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, with a view to better preparing CDCC member States for effective participation in the new hemispheric integration movement. The secretariat continued to prepare studies in collaboration with the secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

ECLAC/CDCC attaches great importance to working with other organizations in the region. Mutually beneficial working relationships have been enhanced with CARICOM, SELA, CDB, UWI, the United States Virgin Islands, the OECS and other regional and subregional institutions. With respect to the special circumstances and needs of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs), the secretariat has stepped up its activities aimed at bringing the NICCs up-to-date on actions of the United Nations System allowing for increased participation in these activities, particularly the CDCC. A new project geared towards providing additional support to this activity is being implemented by the secretariat.

Among the priority objectives carried out during the biennium, mention might be made of the follow-up activities to the Fourth World Conference for Women (FWCW), the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The secretariat has been assisting member countries in putting mechanisms into place for taking action on the recommendations adopted at these conferences. In this regard, advisory services and technical assistance have been provided in the establishment of appropriate institutional frameworks for the preparation of national and subregional plans of action as a follow-up to ICPD, SIDS and FWCW.

In recognition of the United Nations-designated International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and as a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 28 October to 1 November 1996. The meeting provided the forum for ministers and other officials from member countries to identify priority actions and policies relating to poverty eradication at national and regional levels. The meeting was jointly organized with CARICOM, CDB, IDB and a large number of United Nations agencies.

Preparatory activities to this meeting included the preparation of background papers and the

conduct of a series of national consultations on poverty eradication in selected member countries. These consultations served as a mechanism for creating awareness among government and non-governmental organizations on poverty issues and assisted in identifying actions required for preparation of their national reports on poverty eradication.

The secretariat convened its eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, 21-22 March 1996, in Port-of-Spain, to review the work programme for the current biennium and to consider the draft programme of work of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1998-1999 biennium. The meeting agreed that the current reduction of resources should not adversely influence ECLAC/CDCC's priorities for 1996-1997 and that any restructuring of ECLAC should not affect its developing country members.

During the same period, the eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was convened by the secretariat. In addition to providing technical and advisory assistance to its member countries, the CCST secretariat is pursuing a number of activities related to the energy and renewable energy sector. In this regard, it continued to collaborate with regional and subregional institutions in identifying investment funding for renewable energy efficiency projects in the Caribbean.

Various reports were produced by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reviewing the economic, trade and financial performance of the CDCC member countries. Newsletters providing current information on trade, finance and development strategies were also produced and distributed to member countries, research institutions and regional and international agencies. Studies were prepared on issues relating to economic and social development, sustainable economic development, public sector reform, structural adjustment and privatization policies in the subregion. Technical support was also provided to member governments on economic policy issues, on request.

An integral aspect of the work on environment and development relates to the research on issues concerning environmentally sustainable development programmes and implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action. To this end, the secretariat is developing a computerized environmental information database including information on SIDS-related projects in the Caribbean. It is anticipated that member countries and other interested parties will soon be able to access this database through the secretariat's website on the INTERNET.

A major aspect of the population programme was the implementation of follow-up activities to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The secretariat acknowledges the assistance provided by UNFPA in carrying out all activities related to population and development through “Project CAR/94/PO1: Integration of Population into Development Planning”. Project activities included the convening of a subregional workshop to strengthen capacities for the analysis of census and survey data for planning and to provide the necessary tools for improved integration of population into social, economic and physical planning. In addition, the secretariat continues to provide support in the conduct of surveys on teenage fertility and the formulation of related policies for selected countries. The provision of technical assistance continued to member countries in the formulation of national population policies, analysis of census data and preparation of population projections.

With a view to strengthening the capacity of member countries with respect to data gathering and database formation, new databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environmental data were established. Activities are also underway to update in-house capacity to respond to the increased demand for information from member countries with the move to the information super-highway. As a result, the secretariat is putting into place mechanisms to ensure that new information technology is made available to users through its Electronic Information Exchange System and the varied in-house databases.

In response to the observed deterioration in quality of data available to statistical offices for decision-making, the secretariat convened a seminar on Improving the Data Supply Modality in the Caribbean. The seminar sought to identify the cause and examined ways of improving the data collection, quality and effectiveness of information communication.

SUBJECT AREA 13.1 PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC AND BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

The secretariat's programme of work under this subprogramme covers a range of activities geared towards improving cooperation in the region. The secretariat continues to collaborate with subregional institutions and United Nations agencies in promoting cooperation among countries in the region.

Trade and investment

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

- The secretariat continued to provide support to the Special Sub-committee on Small States considering proposals related to the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. This is in keeping with a recommendation of the Summit of the Americas' Trade Ministers to prepare for the establishment of the FTAA by the year 2005.
- The committee will be considering issues affecting the smaller economies of the Caribbean with the objective of better preparing these economies for effective participation in the new hemispheric integration movement.
- A document "Internal measures to facilitate the integration of Smaller Economies into the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)", was prepared by the secretariat, in conjunction with the ECLAC Office in Mexico, as its contribution to the work of the special sub-committee on the FTAA.
- The document, which provided much needed information required by member countries for effective participation in the new hemispheric integration movement, was discussed and evaluated at a meeting of technical experts, held in Washington, D.C., on 4 May 1996. It was also formally presented to the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Smaller Economies held in Barbados on 19-20 July 1996.
- The secretariat convened a technical working group meeting on 10 October 1996, to discuss and provide inputs to the paper prepared by SELA, entitled, "Technical assistance needs to assist smaller economies to participate in the FTAA". This paper will form the chief substantive input to the fifth session of the working group scheduled for Caracas Venezuela from 13-15 November 1996.
- The secretariat is also preparing to convene a meeting on the "Internationalization of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Subregion" in the first quarter of 1997.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to the ACS secretariat in the implementation of a number of activities related to its work programme and development of institutional arrangements.
- The secretariat initiated the development of an intra-ACS trade database within the existing trade database housed at the CDCC secretariat which resulted in the production of the document “Intra-ACS Trade: An overview of CDCC trade with non-CDCC groupings”, (LC/CAR/G.478).
- The paper reviewed the state of intra-ACS trade, presented an evolution of the trade in this newly established organization and made a number of recommendations to promote trade among its members countries.
- The secretariat is also collaborating with the ACS Secretariat in its preparations for the First Meeting of the Special Committee of ACS on Trade and External Economic Relations scheduled for November 1996.

Removal of Language Barriers

- The secretariat followed up on a decision to continue work on the removal of language barriers project which is aimed at the furtherance of language communication in the region.
- Discussions are continuing with prospective donors on the viability of the project.

Information and dissemination

- The secretariat continues to prepare the “Focus” newsletter, which is now being produced in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Trinidad and Tobago. It provides information on the ongoing activities of the work of the CDCC secretariat as well as on those activities carried out by the respective United Nations bodies located in Trinidad and Tobago.

NGO collaboration

The secretariat continues to work in close collaboration with regional and national NGOs in developing their programme of work and provided technical support to their preparatory activities for regional and international conferences.

SUBJECT AREA 13.2 ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

With a view to encouraging coordinated actions towards implementation of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action, the secretariat secured the services of a SIDS officer at mid-year to facilitate the execution of ECLAC's mandate in the implementation of the SIDS-Programme of Action. This includes the preparation of a review study on the SIDS Programme of Action.

Activities related to SIDS are being undertaken in conjunction with the work programme identified under subject area 13.8: Environment and Development.

Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action

- The secretariat is now working on preparatory activities for the conduct of a Caribbean Ministerial Meeting to be held in March 1997. The meeting will focus on the progress made and constraints to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and identify priorities for future action by government and nongovernmental organizations.
- In this regard, an interagency meeting was held in Trinidad and Tobago on 16 October 1996 to plan for this ministerial meeting. The meeting also looked at the development of proposals for long-term interagency collaboration in carrying out the work identified in the SIDS-POA.
- Several documents are currently being prepared to provide background information for the meeting.
- The secretariat attended the special session of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

Joint ECLAC/CDCC/CARICOM Unit

- The secretariat continued discussions on the proposals for the establishment of a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/CDCC Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the SIDS POA.
- A proposal for a joint coordinating mechanism was prepared and submitted to the CARICOM Council of Ministers which endorsed the proposal. The proposal was submitted to the European Union for extrabudgetary funding.
- The secretariat also participated in funding negotiations. In the meantime, the secretariat has prepared a proposal for an Interim Inter-agency Collaborative Group which would concentrate on the convening of the ministerial meeting and on the joint implementation of activities. This inter-agency group would include international and regional agencies.
- The secretariat participated in the process of finalizing the SIDS Joint Co-ordinating Unit

GEF Regional Programme.

Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

- The secretariat has stepped up its activities related to the non-independent Caribbean countries aimed at bringing them up-to-date on actions of the United Nations System allowing for increased participation in these activities, particularly the CDCC.
- In this respect, work is in progress on the implementation of a Dutch-funded project “Support to the ECLAC/CDCC Associate Member countries and other Caribbean non-independent countries relative to developing institutional linkages and accessing benefits from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations”.
- The project is geared towards providing advisory services to the NICCs related to their participation in the work of the United Nations System and at United Nations meetings and conferences. So far the secretariat has been able to provide support to the governments of the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands in the convening of the Bilateral Council.
- The secretariat prepared the document “Working Group on NICCs: Report on activities related to NICCs”, (LC/CAR/G.473), which provides information on the status of activities being carried out in the NICCs.
- Three monthly issues of the newsletter “The Associate” providing information on activities of concern to the NICCs were prepared and distributed to member countries.

Technical assistance

- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is collaborating with a team of experts from ECLAC Headquarters to provide support to member States of the region in carrying out disaster assessment surveys. It has prepared the document “Disaster assessment in the subregion: ECLAC’s methodology (LC/CAR/G.484)” for use by member countries of the region..

SUBJECT AREA 13.3 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

FWCW-PFA

- Assistance was provided to the Ministries with Responsibility for Women’s Affairs, at their request, in the establishment of a mechanisms for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Member countries included the Governments of St Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Female-headed household studies

- With support from UNICEF and other agencies, the secretariat has collaborated with the Ministries responsible for Women's Affairs of the governments of Bahamas, St Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago on a study intended to investigate the situation of the poor households with special emphasis on the poor female-headed households.
- This resulted in the preparation of a document analyzing the status of the Poor Female Headed households in these countries.

Gender issues

- The secretariat collaborated with UNIFEM and CARICOM in the review of gender-related issues as they pertain to the development of women in the Caribbean.

SUBJECT AREA 13.4 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

Under this subject area, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued its collaboration with other regional and subregional institutions and prepared reports and working papers on various issues related to economic and social developments in the subregion.

For the greater part of the year the secretariat has been engaged in activities related to the FTAA. Aspects of this work have already been reported in Subject area 13.1 of this report.

Economic matters

Documentation

Since the start of this biennium the secretariat has produced the following documents providing information on economic and social developments in the Caribbean:

- Summary of global economic developments - 1995 (LC/CAR/G.474).
- Strengthening development: Interactions between macro and micro economics. A summary, with comments on the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.477).
- Summary of Caribbean Economic performance 1995. (LC/CAR/G.481).
- The secretariat is preparing a draft paper on a "Macro-economic model for the Caribbean subregion" which will be distributed to member countries for comments.

Technical and advisory services.

- Support was given to CARICOM in the conduct of its senior-level diplomatic workshop at the twenty-second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs.
- The secretariat presented a paper entitled "CARICOM to the year 2000 - Prospects and Challenges - Facing up to the tasks of reconciling regional policies with global trends".
- At the request of the UNDP, the secretariat presented a paper at the Second Annual Economic Summit of Aruba entitled "Macroeconomic Policy - The Caribbean Experiences. •
- The secretariat presented a paper entitled "Caribbean Economic Performance and Policies" at a seminar organized by the University of the Virgin Islands Summer Institute for Future Global Leaders in the Caribbean.
- Responding to a request from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the secretariat conducted a technical mission to Suriname in order to assist in the preparation of proposals for a Management Support Unit (MSU) to manage the economy, including the sequencing of structural adjustment policies.
- A study on the possibilities for increased cooperation between Suriname and other countries of the Caribbean was prepared by a consultant attached to the secretariat.
- Studies will also be prepared on the experiences of economic adjustment policies in selected countries of the Caribbean and Latin America focusing initially on: Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Dominica, Mexico and Costa Rica.
- Part Two of the paper on Structural Adjustment and Privatization dealing with Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Suriname has also commenced and will be completed by the end of the year.

Social development

Social indicators

- In an effort to provide much needed information on the social sector, the secretariat continues to compile information on social indicators in the Caribbean with a view to the publication of a document on the subject.
- The secretariat is in the process of preparing a document on the social aspects of

development in the Caribbean countries.

- Much of this information on Caribbean issues and recent developments has been processed and submitted as an input into the preparation of the CEPAL Social Panorama 1996.

Poverty Issues

Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication

- At its forty-eighth session in 1993 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in recognition of the global character of the phenomenon. In response, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened the “Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication” in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 28 October to 1 November 1996.
- The meeting was a collaborative effort between ECLAC/CDCC, CARICOM, CDB, IDB, ILO, OAS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIC, UNICEF, and the World Bank. Representatives from the 23 member countries of the CDCC, including intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and experts in the field were brought together.
- The meeting provided the forum for regional governments to agree on priority actions and policies relating to poverty eradication at national and regional levels, including scope for greater intergovernmental collaboration.
- The theme of the meeting at the ministerial level was “Taking Action on Poverty Eradication” and allowed discussion of the issue of poverty eradication and the related issues of unemployment and social integration at a high political level with a view to the development of a Caribbean Plan of Action on poverty eradication and alleviation.
- Several background papers were also prepared for the meeting.

Preparatory Activities to the Ministerial Meeting

National consultations

- Preparatory to the Ministerial meeting, ECLAC/CDCC and CDB conducted national consultation workshops on poverty eradication in Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis.
- These consultations were convened in order to create an awareness of poverty issues in the country among governmental and non-governmental organizations and to assist them in identifying issues and actions required for preparation of their national reports on poverty eradication.

- Following the consultations, the secretariat prepared reports on the issues and current and planned poverty related initiatives for each country.

Development of Poverty Matrix

Suriname

- Together with support from the Caribbean Office of UNFPA and UNDP, the secretariat assisted in the development of the poverty eradication/equity building matrix in Suriname.
- Preliminary recommendations of the study were presented to a national seminar and the final report will be made available by the end of the year.

Trinidad and Tobago

- With funding from the UNDP/POS, the secretariat provided assistance to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the development of a database of poverty alleviation and equity building initiatives.
- This included a survey of over 1000 persons to capture data for the development of the poverty eradication/equity building matrix.
- The final report will be made available by the end of the year.

Technical assistance

- The secretariat provided substantive servicing to Caribbean governments in attendance at the twenty-second Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile, 16-17 May 1996.

SUBJECT AREA 13.5 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

The work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in this subject area is geared towards addressing issues in the subregion as they relate to global and hemispheric developments in trade and finance and bringing them to the attention of member countries. The secretariat has also collaborated with other institutions in the provision of relevant policy recommendations and the development of programmes to assist Caribbean countries in coming to terms with the rapid developments in trade and financial issues which affect them.

To this end, work continues with the other ECLAC offices in defining ways and means to improve the data collection systems and to make this information available to governments, national and regional institutions and researchers interested in trade issues of the Caribbean.

Trade

Trade and investment project

- The secretariat continued its collaboration with the ECLAC offices in Mexico and Santiago in implementing the Dutch-funded project: “Promotion of Trade and Investment in the Caribbean and Latin America”. Activities included the preparation of two research studies and elaboration of a trade database.

Trade database

- The secretariat continued the construction of a disaggregated trade database for the Caribbean subregion. The development of this trade database will allow for a much better knowledge of trade flows among CDCC countries as well as between CDCC countries and other countries in the hemisphere.
- In an effort to ensure maximum use is made of the database, the secretariat is amplifying a software, WICAT-Phase II, for the analysis of information provided in this database.

ACS Trade

- Activities carried out in this area have been reported in subject area 13.1 above.

Finance/Investment

Finance

- The secretariat prepared a paper on “Financial liberalization: Its relevance and experiences in the Caribbean” which makes a preliminary assessment of the financial liberalization programmes in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and draws some lessons from those experiences.

Investment

- The secretariat continued its ongoing research on the investment climate in the Caribbean and has prepared a second paper “Foreign Direct Investment in the Caribbean subregion: A survey with policy suggestions” which provides information on the state of foreign investment in the Caribbean.
- The secretariat is also putting into place a database on foreign direct investment for the Caribbean which will be made available to researchers in the near future.

External developments

- As part of the secretariat's ongoing review of global and hemispheric economic developments, and as a follow-up to the papers presented at the past three sessions of the CDCC, a paper was prepared examining the eligibility requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in light of recent undertakings and expectations of CDCC member countries.
- The secretariat also prepared a working document entitled "A Summary of Strengthening Development: Interactions between Macro and Micro Economics - with additional comments about the Caribbean". The paper summarized a document of the same title prepared by ECLAC Headquarters for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and included comments to reflect the Caribbean situation.

Newsletters

- Three volumes (Nos. 15, 16 and 17) of the quarterly newsletter "EXTERNAL BRIEFING NOTES" have been prepared and distributed to member countries and other interested institutions.

SUBJECT AREA 13.6: DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

In the field of industry and tourism, the secretariat continued to focus on the aspects dealing with industry, and prepared a number of studies utilizing the services of consultants.

Industrial developments

- The study "Industrial Policies for the CARICOM subregion" examines the implications of existing trade policies for industry deriving an industrial policy, taking into account national, hemispheric and global economic developments and make recommendations for an industrial policy in CARICOM.
- This is in addition to work already prepared on the status of export processing zones in selected countries of the subregion
- Another study entitled: "A Critical Review of the Performance of the Manufacturing Sector in Trinidad and Tobago" analyzed how the sector performed in the context of incentive measures and facilitating mechanisms which have been in place for over 40 years.
- The report identifies the constraints and challenges which the sector faces and prerequisites for its survival in the new economic environment.

Subject area 13.7: Environment and development

With regards to the implementation of the programme on environment and development, the secretariat concentrated on aspects of the SIDS Programme of Action. An integral aspect of this work is the development of a computerized environmental information database of SIDS related projects in the Caribbean.

Activities related to SIDS are being undertaken in conjunction with the work programme identified under subject area 13.2: Island Developing Countries.

Environment database

- The secretariat continued with the establishment of a database of ongoing and planned, donor financed, SIDS related programmes and projects.
- As of September 1996 the database contained profiles of over 500 SIDS related project and programmes in the Caribbean subregion. Following discussions with the Special Unit of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), funding has been obtained to continue work on the database until 1999.
- The secretariat plans to make the database available on the Worldwide Web through the proposed ECLAC/CDCC website. The Government of Jamaica has requested that the Jamaican projects be mirrored on its own web site.

Environmental Information Management

- The secretariat prepared the draft report "Environmental Information Management in the Caribbean". This report and the proposed national and regional mechanism will be discussed at the SIDS ministerial meeting scheduled for March 1997.
- The design and lay out for WWW pages for the Environment and development information system have been completed and the content and linkages are being developed. A first version will be available before the end of 1996.
- The project proposal "Development of a Caribbean Environment Information System" was submitted to the European Union for extrabudgetary support. It is now being revised in view of technological developments and the conclusions of the draft report of the Environmental Information Management in the Caribbean.

Technical assistance.

- The secretariat participated in a revision of the IDB/UNEP information project

- Activities as a member of the GEF Small Grants Project Committee in Trinidad and Tobago continued throughout the year.
- The secretariat assisted the CARICOM Secretariat in its preparations for the 1996 Bolivia Summit.
- The secretariat assisted the OAS at its special meeting of the committee on hemispheric security on the security concerns of SIDS.
- The secretariat continued to collaborate with UNDP in the preparation of a Caribbean GEF proposal.
- The secretariat continued to act as an external examiner for the UWI master programme on sustainable development.

SUBJECT AREA 13.8: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The programme on science and technology is carried out in collaboration with the activities of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continues to serve as the secretariat of the CCST.

During the year, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat supported the work of the CCST secretariat through the provision of a technical officer, a research assistant and a secretary. Support was provided to CCST in convening a number of meetings on specific aspects of science and technology.

Eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting

- The CCST convened its Eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting in Jamaica, 9 June 1996.
- The meeting reviewed the report of the secretariat activities carried out since the last Plenary and its relevance to the five-year CCST work programme. The secretariat presented the statement of accounts of the Council.
- The meeting recommended that the CCST secretariat continue with proposals adopted at the thirteenth Plenary Session, which are outlined in the document LC/CAR/G.480 "Report to the eighteenth report to Executive Committee Meeting of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)".
- A number of project proposals for implementation by the CCST were considered at the meeting taking into account the difficulty in accessing funding to implement these projects
- The Report to the eighteenth Executive Committee on CCST activities since the eleventh Plenary Session (LC/CAR/G.480; CCST/96/3) was used as a working paper at the meeting.

- The secretariat issued the “Report of the Eighteenth Executive Committee Meeting of the CCST” (LC/CAR/G.482; CCST/96/4)

Meetings and workshops

The CCST secretariat was also involved in the organization and hosting of a number of collaborative meetings with other subregional institutions.

Renewable energy

The CCST secretariat is engaged in a number of activities related to energy and renewable energy.

- The “CCST/UWICED/UNESCO Workshop on investment funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Caribbean” was held in Jamaica on 17-19 January 1996.
- The workshop was attended by representatives from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, regional organizations, public and private energy-based companies and other organizations engaged in the field of energy and energy-based industries.
- The main objective of the workshop was to bring the major actors in the development and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects together in an effort to define appropriate mechanisms for funding these projects.
- A total of 18 preliminary project outlines were drafted and presented in the areas of energy, information, solar and hydro power, wind energy, geothermal energy, energy efficiency and institutional development.
- The “Report of the CCST/UWICED/UNESCO Workshop on investment funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Caribbean”, document (LC/CAR/G.479 CCST/96/2) contains further details on the meeting.

Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS)

- The CCST together with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries of Trinidad and Tobago collaborated with the CEIS in organizing a workshop on energy management and decision-modeling, from 4-15 March 1996.
- The workshop covered topics such as sub-sector optimization, frameworks for national energy planning and energy application in the agricultural sector.

Environmentally friendly technologies

- CCST co-funded and provided substantive support in the conduct of the

CCST/UNESCO/UWICED workshop on environmentally friendly technologies, held in Jamaica, 10-12 June 1996. The participation of 23 representatives from the 13 CCST member countries was facilitated by the CCST.

- The workshop provided information on technology in various stages of development which is relevant to the Caribbean and on the conditions, investment climate and environmental policies to enhance their introduction.
- It identified the needs and opportunities for addressing barriers to development and implementation of environmentally sound technologies.

Hemispheric meeting

- The secretariat provided assistance in the convening of the CCST/CARICOM meeting preparatory to the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology, held in Guyana, 10-12 March 1996, which was attended by representatives from Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
- The outcome of this meeting is recorded in the document “CCST/CARICOM Meeting preparatory to the hemispheric meeting of ministers responsible for science and technology” (LC/CAR/G.475; CCST/96/1).
- The Caribbean concerns, related to Small Island Developing States and the work of Caribbean institutions and programmes, expressed at the Guyana meeting were addressed by the Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology of the Hemisphere, held in Cartagena, Colombia during 28-29 March 1996.
- The Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action identifies a series of proposals which are hoped to be implemented through existing or new cooperative programming aimed at contributing to the socio-economic development in the hemisphere.

Priority setting

- CCST, in collaboration with the OAS and NIHERST, convened a workshop on Priority Setting in Science and Technology Policies. This workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 29 April - 3 May 1996.

Technical assistance

- With funding support from the TCDC Unit of the UNDP, CCST provided assistance to assist in the implementation of the TEAM Technology project on the banana industry in the Windward Islands.

- The project aims at improving the competitiveness of the banana industry diversification. It will focus on strategies for upgrading, diversifying and adding significant value to banana growing by developing specific plans for the creation of innovative competitive small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- The secretariat offered assistance to the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Planning of the Government of Saint Lucia in the development of a framework for reviewing proposals for the establishment of small and medium sized industries as a spin-off from the banana industry.
- Assistance was offered to the relevant departments in Guyana in assessing its funding needs with respect to renewable energy and energy efficient projects.
- Assistance to NIHERST in Trinidad and Tobago.

Newsletter

- The quarterly newsletter provides member countries with recent developments in the field of science and technology, including information on upcoming meetings.
- Vol. 12 Nos. 1 and 2 have been completed.

Project preparation

- The CCST secretariat continued to seek support and funding for the Science and Technology Teaching project.
- Development work continued on the proposed Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA)/CCST Energy Management Workshop.
- It is preparing in collaboration with the OAS a project on the agro-industrial sector in the region.
- Other proposals being prepared are: (a) Integrated Water Resources Management in the Caribbean and (b) Integrated Planning and Science and Technology Development.

SUBJECT AREA 13.9: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Caribbean Information System

An integral part of the Information and Documentation programme was the expansion of services beyond the information needs of the office resulting in increased support to member countries in the field of infomatics.

Information support

- Since the start of the new year, the Caribbean Documentation Centre has received over 5,123 serials, monographs and United Nations documents with about 2000 of these documents being added to the CARIB database available to users of the service.
- The secretariat continued its maintenance and expansion of the electronic information facilities including the introduction of new information technologies
 - Mechanisms have been introduced to ensure that the new information technology is made available to our member countries.
 - The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is currently updating its in-house technical capacity to respond to the increased demand for information from member countries in its move towards the information super-highway.
- Training continues in the use of the computer as a tool to improve access to and exchange of information emphasizing the use of the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System.

Training

- Training was provided to participants from member countries in the use of the Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems (CDS/ISIS) software and the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System.
- Training workshops in selected member countries was provided to bring users up-to-date in the use of the Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems (CDS/ISIS) software. This software is used for preparing data for entry into the database and for remote access.

Databases

- The secretariat continued its programme of maintenance and hosting of bibliographic and full-text databases for remote access as well as statistical and other databases.

Documentation

- The Centre prepared and distributed issues of the CARISPLAN Abstracts, Current Awareness Bulletins and Current Contents to users of its facilities

Technical assistance

During 1996 technical support was given to various organizations and institutions in the

subregion.

- The secretariat provided support to CARICOM in the conduct of a workshop on measurement of the impact of information on decision-making in the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance was provided to users of the Ambionet system, which has over 1360 registered users.
- The Centre assisted in the convening of the Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) workshop on energy management and decision modeling, held in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Technical support and training was provided to the Sugar Cane Feed Center, Trinidad, in the field of accessing information via E-mail, the AMBIONET System and the Internet. This has enabled the Centre to access the AMBIONET Information System and E-mail and to exchange information with its Caribbean counterparts.
- Technical support has been continually provided to the Library of the Ministry of Energy in Trinidad for its Internet access and use in CDS/ISIS.
- The secretariat continued to provide technical support to the FAO CEGRIN Project in Trinidad in the form of training personnel and configuring computers to access the database. As a result, the system of information transfer for database update, setup for the project continues to function.
- The Caribbean Documentation Centre is providing assistance in the implementation of CARICOM's IDB-funded Project on Caribbean Information Integration, through the sharing of our expertise in the information field and computerized library services. Further collaboration is expected on this project with the involvement of some of our hardware (Web Server mainly) and their provision of some staff for HTML coding and scanning of documents.
- Technical support and training was provided to the Institute of International Relations, Trinidad and Tobago, in the field of accessing information via E-mail, and the AMBIONET System. Support was also provided to the institution in the use of the CDS-ISIS system.

Statistical services

The secretariat has been engaged in providing advisory services to member States, at their request, in updating their statistical services.

The secretariat continued to collect data with a view to publishing a document on Selected Statistical Indicators for Caribbean countries.

Statistical workshop

- Over the years, the secretariat has noted the continuous deterioration in the quality of data for decision-making available at the statistical offices. In light of the paucity of data in the Caribbean countries, the secretariat convened a seminar on “Improving the Data Supply Modality”.
- The seminar was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 13-14 May 1996, under the joint auspices of the ECLAC/CDCC and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).
- It brought together heads of Caribbean statistical offices, permanent secretaries with jurisdiction over statistical offices and researchers from the Central Banks, development banks, regional and international agencies as well as from other institutions.
- The seminar was attended by 44 participants with 25 persons representing the following countries in the seminar: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.
- The seminar sought to identify the causes of the paucity of data and examined ways of improving the data collection, quality and the effectiveness of the communication of information.
- The purpose was to seek ways of creating an information infrastructure that would support the decision-making process at all levels of social, economic and political activity in the Caribbean countries.
- A number of recommendations were adopted by the seminar for follow-up action by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. This included the revision of the project proposal which was prepared for possible funding by the international agencies.
- Key among the recommendations was the call for the Governments of the OECS countries to declare their commitment to support and contribute to the project success. This would involve the restructuring and reorganization of the statistical offices and improving the use of the new technologies.
- Further details on the seminar are provided in the “Report of Seminar on Improving the Data Supply Modality”, (LC/CAR/G.433).

Technical advisory services

Suriname

Statistics project

- The secretariat provided technical advisory services to the Government of Suriname as it

contemplated its options on structural adjustment and the rehabilitation of the statistical office.

- With funding provided by the UNDP, the secretariat is implementing the project SUR/95/001: Support to the Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek (ABS).
- The aims of the project are to assist the Government of Suriname in the design of a comprehensive programme of support and to advise in the area of institutional strengthening and reorganization of the ABS.
- To date, the secretariat facilitated the attachments of personnel from the Bureau to receive training at the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in Trinidad and Tobago. So far 14 persons have received training. It is expected that officers from the CSO, Trinidad and Tobago, will visit Suriname to follow up on the training provided thus far and to assess the application of the techniques to actual work in the ABS.
- The secretariat assisted in the planning and conduct of the Statistics Users'/Producers Seminar, 9-10 April 1996, which was convened by the Ministry of Planning and Development in Suriname.
- The seminar identified the need to develop linkages with other users and producers of data.
- The secretariat was able to procure 9 computers, 3 printers and other accessories for use in implementing the project activities.

Aruba

- The secretariat followed up on a mission to Aruba to assess the data management needs of the Department of Economic Affairs, Statistics Office and Tourism Authority in Aruba on the request of the Minister of Economic Affairs.
- One outcome of the mission was the completion of research on the establishment of a bulletin board system for the Department of Economic Affairs. Another outcome was the implementation of a recommendation to establish sector profiles which will update the Government on developments in Aruba.
- Additional technical assistance will be provided in November 1996 in improving the analysis of tourism data.

Grenada

- Advisory services were provided to the Ministry of Finance and Planning with respect to modernization of the statistical services of Grenada and the submission of a draft project document.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

- The secretariat is providing technical assistance to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis in the modernization of their statistical services.

Statistical databases

- The secretariat is currently developing additional databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environment information
- A new software package, SQL, designed to facilitate the process of capturing and searching trade data is being tested for use by users of the ECLAC./CDCC databases

SUBJECT AREA 13.10: TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)

- The secretariat provided support to officials from the East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in St. Kitts and Nevis in the conduct of the OECS Statisticians' Meeting.
- A paper entitled "A review of data collection in the Caribbean countries" was presented to the meeting.
- The secretariat prepared a project proposal aimed at obtaining funds for the modernization of the statistical offices in the OECS countries.
- The proposal was discussed at the ECLAC Statistics seminar referred to in subject area 13.9 above.

SUBJECT AREA 13.11 POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

With respect to activities in population and development, the secretariat continued its implementation of the UNFPA-funded project on the "Integration of Population into development Planning in the Caribbean". This project is expected to close by the end of the year with the prospects of initiating a new project in 1997.

The secretariat continued to implement follow-up activities to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The secretariat acknowledges the assistance provided by UNFPA in carrying out all activities related to population and development through "Project CAR/94/PO1: Integration of Population into Development Planning".

Follow-up to ICPD

Information/Communications - Caribbean Newsletter

- The secretariat continued with the production of the newsletter “Caribbean Action on Population and Development”.
- The newsletter serves as a mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of knowledge and experience on country experiences on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action among Caribbean countries. It is expected that such a medium would help to promote continuity in follow-up actions to ICPD.
- The publication of the newsletter emerged from a special request of governments at the Bahamas follow-up meeting to the ICPD. The newsletter is produced with funding support from UNFPA.

Caribbean Plan of Action - Follow-up to ICPD

- The secretariat is preparing the publication of a revised version of the “Caribbean Plan of Action, Follow-up to ICPD”. The document was produced following the ECLAC/CDCC/UNFPA Subregional meeting held in the Bahamas in May 1995.

Generation of **REDATAM** (Retrieval of **DATA** in small **Areas** by **Microcomputer**) Databases

- Census data sets of Caribbean countries are being converted into REDATAM databases to facilitate quick and easy analysis of the information.
- The generation of REDATAM databases is also required for strengthening the integration of population in development planning and enhancing overall social and economic planning exercises through the analysis of census data at the smallest geographical areas.
- So far, databases have been completed for six countries: Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Socio-demographic data bank

- Work continued on the development and maintenance of the Caribbean Socio-Demographic Data Bank. This included the collection and evaluation of data and the execution of data entry activities.

Regional Digest of Socio-Demographic Statistics

- The secretariat published the second issue of the “Regional Digest of Socio-Demographic Statistics - 1970 -1995”, (LC/CAR/G.456).

- The document was updated to take account of new data from the 1990/91 census data and vital statistics. The book contains national and regional level tables and graphs on demographic trends; fertility, mortality and migration statistics; and selected population-related social indicators including health, employment, education and gender-related data.

Training seminar: Analysis of census data

- One of the main activities carried out under the aegis of the project was the convening of the “ECLAC/UNFPA Regional Workshop Techniques for the Analysis of Census data for Population and development Planning.”
- The workshop, which was held in the Cayman Islands during the period 24-28 June 1996, comprised 18 officials representing the Planning Ministries and Statistics Departments from Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
- The workshop, which combined activities related to census data analysis and the Geographic Information System (GIS), focused on the use of the REDATAM, and its applications for analyzing poverty for improved planning.
- The main objectives of the workshop were:
 - (a) To strengthen capacities for analysis of census and survey data for planning;
 - (b) To improve the skills for identification of specific needs and formulation of special programmes for small geographical areas, individual community blocks and settlements;
 - (c) To provide the necessary tools for improved integration of population into social, economic and physical planning;
 - (d) To increase efficiency in fulfilling the strong and unmet demand for small-area population and socio-economic data; and
 - (e) To facilitate the efficient allocation of resources through more accurate programme formulation and identification of beneficiaries.
- The workshop demonstrated the application of the REDATAM programme in the analysis of census data at the smallest geographical level and its ability to interface with GIS.
- At the end of the workshop, participants were able to utilize the programmes to construct population and socio-economic indicators, identify poverty pockets, generate information on specific target groups in different sectors as well as the beneficiaries of special community level programmes and map the results.

Migration research

- The secretariat continued work on the collection and analysis of data for the conduct a research study on the “Impact of Immigration on Small Island Countries and Coastal States in the Caribbean”.
- The study seeks to carry out a systematic analysis of the impact of immigration on small islands and coastal States for the following countries : Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten and United States Virgin Islands.
- The aim will be to provide policy makers with the appropriate data and analysis needed to assist in their decision making and problem solving. Activities will include an assessment of data availability; analysis of the social, demographic and economic characteristics of immigrants and identification of the impact on the social sectors.
- Other migration research studies in progress include:
 - (a) The role of remittances and its contribution to development. This will consist of an analysis of flows of remittances, the extent to which they offset capital loss due to emigration, impact on the economy, strategies to facilitate investment of remittances; and
 - (b) New trends in return migration and the implication for development.

Teenage fertility surveys- Addressing adolescent problems

The secretariat is collaborating with the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada in the conduct of two teenage fertility surveys. The surveys are in varying stages of completion.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- The aim was to collect in-depth information required to increase understanding of the causes and consequences, develop intervention programmes, provide recommendations for more efficient resource allocations and strengthen collaboration among implementing agencies.
- Data processing and a preliminary analysis of the survey data have been completed and the preliminary findings of the survey were presented to the National Population Council in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The secretariat assisted the Population Council and the Planning Division in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in related adolescent policy formulation and in the conduct of workshops for information dissemination.

Grenada

- A similar exercise was carried out in Grenada in collaboration with the Grenada National Population Council and Department of Statistics.
- The processing and editing of the Teenage Fertility survey data for Grenada is in progress.

Population policy formulation

- Technical support was provided to the National Population Council of Trinidad and Tobago in the finalization of their population policy and the design of strategies for its legal adoption

SUBJECT AREA 13.12: SUBSTANTIVE SERVICING OF CDCC MEETINGS**Monitoring Committee**

- The secretariat convened the “Eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee(CDCC)” in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 21-22 March 1996.
- The meeting was convened to review the programme of work of the secretariat during 1994 and 1995 and to analyze and approve the draft programme of work of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1998-1999 biennium.
- The meeting also considered matters on the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC, focusing on the topic related to the reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC.
- The meeting agreed that the current reduction of resources should not adversely affect ECLAC/CDCC’s priorities for 1996-1997 and that any restructuring of ECLAC should not affect its developing country members.
- The meeting endorsed the proposal to convene a meeting of Social Development Ministers of the Caribbean to consider poverty eradication issues in the Caribbean and a meeting of Ministers of Tourism and the Environment.
- The secretariat prepared the ‘Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)’, (LC/CAR/G.476).