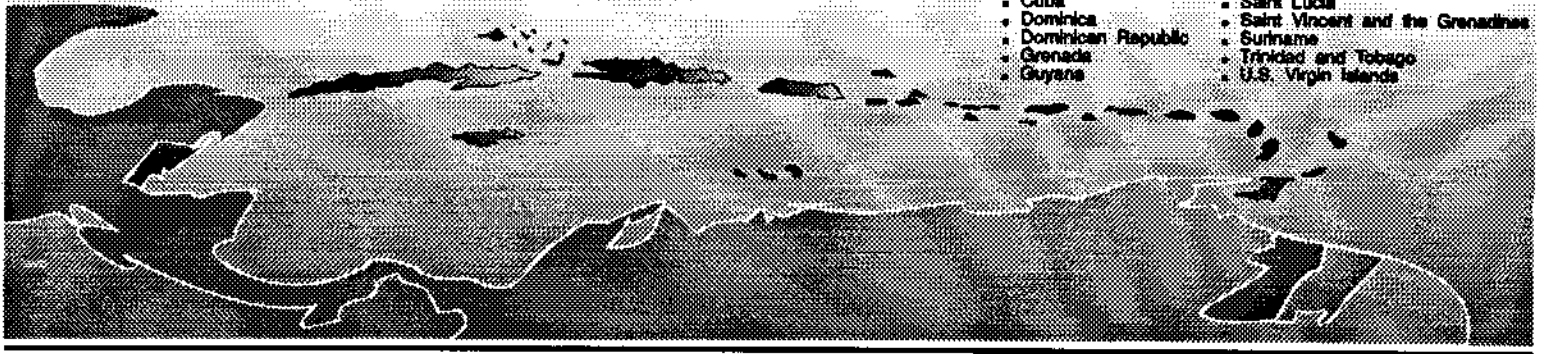




UN ECLAC/CDCC

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



Fifth Meeting of the
Monitoring Committee
15-16 January 1992
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.360
11 May 1992
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



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



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC

The Director welcomed members of the Monitoring Committee. He made reference to the recent change of government in the host country and expressed his wish for the continued active involvement of Trinidad and Tobago in the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). He then invited the Chairman to open the meeting.

The Chairman expressed her pleasure at participating in the fifth meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. She hoped for free and frank discussion of issues and for a successful meeting. She suggested that the meeting provide guidelines for the work of the secretariat for the 1992-1993 biennium.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago welcomed participants to the country. He spoke of the recent change in government, and assured that Trinidad and Tobago would continue to participate actively in the work of the CDCC.

The fifth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 15-16 January 1992. Representatives of the following member and associate member countries attended the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. (A list of participants is attached at Annex I).

The agenda of the meeting was adopted, as follows:

1. Procedural matters.
2. Review of decisions and recommendations of the thirteenth session of the CDCC and follow-up by the secretariat.
3. Examination of the secretariat's work programme for the 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 bienniums.
4. Review of the resource situation of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.
5. Issues relating to the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).
6. Review of the agenda for the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC.
7. Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the second inter-agency meeting and the fourteenth session of the CDCC.
8. Any other business.

Agenda item 1 - Procedural matters

Under this item, the meeting fixed its hours of work.

Agenda item 2 - Review of decisions and recommendations
of the thirteenth session of the CDCC
and follow-up by the secretariat

The meeting reviewed the decisions and recommendations of the thirteenth session of the CDCC, held in Jamaica in July 1991, and identified action taken in respect of each of these.

With respect to the recommendation to include information on social aspects of development in the economic survey, the secretariat informed that action had been taken, and that the economic survey published subsequent to the July 1991 meeting had contained information on social aspects of development.

The secretariat also reported on activities in other aspects of social development, such as facilitating a visit to Cuba of a group of health personnel from Jamaica to look at the health sector in that country, and the assistance provided to the Social Sector Unit of the Ministry of Planning in Trinidad and Tobago.

The development of approaches to dealing with the informal sector was identified as a possible area for attention by the secretariat, given the difficulty of obtaining information on this sector.

The Committee reaffirmed its recommendation that the economic survey include data on credit unions and cooperatives. The Saint Lucia delegate informed the secretariat of the establishment of a special unit within the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) to deal with credit unions.

The secretariat informed the Committee that no action had yet been taken on the recommendation to focus planning on the development of a more competitive economy, but noted that discussions were in progress with relevant officers of the secretariat. With regard to the recommendation to replicate the assistance provided to Jamaica to strengthen its institutional capability for planning, the secretariat advised the meeting of the intention to hold a follow-up working group meeting within a few months. The Director also informed that a plenary meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) would be held in Spain from 16-20 March 1992, at which time a more precise list of activities would be forthcoming, including proposals for work in the Netherlands Antilles.

With regard to the recommendation that ECLAC prepare proposals for a structured programme of cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America, the Secretary of the Commission informed the meeting that such proposals would come out of the meeting of the

Working Group on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) and, on that basis, a document on Caribbean/Latin American cooperation would be prepared by Port-of-Spain and Santiago for the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC in April 1992.

The Director also stated that he had frequent discussions with representatives of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). He noted that some work was being done in cooperation with Latin America on the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and that relations were being promoted with Central America through the Puerto Rico-based Caribbean Basin Technical Advisory Group (CBTAG). The secretariat had also provided assistance to the CARICOM Secretariat in preparing for a meeting of the President of Honduras, CARICOM ministers and officials and the Prime Minister of Jamaica. It was suggested that such collaboration between the CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats might constitute a basis for further work in this area.

The Committee re-emphasized the importance of Caribbean and Latin American cooperation and reiterated its wish to see this reflected in the work programme. The Committee also recommended that the secretariat appoint a focal point, to be responsible for matters relating to Caribbean/Latin American relations, who would provide information on a regular basis to member countries on developments in this area. It was further recommended that the secretariat pay special attention to transport and communications between the Caribbean and Latin America in its work on Caribbean/ Latin American cooperation.

With regard to the recommendation that greater use be made of national institutions of excellence in the Caribbean in ECLAC's human resource development project, the Director explained that the secretariat was seeking additional funding from the Netherlands to implement a second phase of the project. If funding were not secured, it was anticipated that with limited resources it might be possible to maintain an information network of tertiary institutions.

The Director noted that the secretariat incorporated training in most of its work and, in addition, ongoing discussions were held with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) to define joint activities. The Committee recommended that every effort be made to ensure that the activities under this project be continued beyond the life of the project. The Officer responsible for the human resources development project informed the Committee of a meeting of tertiary-level institutions to be held in February 1992. It was suggested that a basic support mechanism be instituted by the secretariat to aid countries in the formulation of human resources development policies.

The Director expressed the appreciation of the secretariat for the cooperation of the United States Virgin Islands in the area of human resources development, particularly in science and technology.

With regard to the continuation of the work of the secretariat's Demography Unit, the secretariat explained that the life of the Demography Unit, historically funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), would be retained only until the end of 1992. The services of the adviser and the secretary would be funded along with some travel until the end of the year and those of the research assistants would probably be discontinued at the end of February 1992.

The Chairman of the Committee expressed disappointment with the decision of UNFPA to scale down its collaboration with other United Nations bodies. The delegate of Saint Lucia enquired as to the likely impact on the national population units. In response, the secretariat stated that advisory services would continue until the end of 1992 after which time a different mechanism would be put in place to provide assistance. The Director spoke of UNFPA's shift in its approach to dealing with the population question towards a more direct involvement in health and family planning. He also agreed to attempt to secure the participation of the United States Virgin Islands in UNFPA-funded activities with funding provided by that associate member. The Secretary of the Commission informed the Committee of the meeting of population experts to be held in the Caribbean in preparation for the 1994 population conference. This, he said, presented an opportunity for Caribbean countries to voice their concerns to the UNFPA.

With regard to the recommendations relating to the Removal of Language Barriers Project, the secretariat indicated that it had not received information on recent activities under this project and was awaiting word on funding.

The Netherlands Antilles presented a report on the activities under the Removal of Language Barriers Project. The report indicated that funding to the tune of US\$25,000 had been received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and was being used by the Netherlands Antilles to promote national workshops and the establishment of the Caribbean Language Institute (CLI). (See Annex II). A European Community-funded feasibility study on the project would be undertaken in March 1992 to determine costs, establish work schedules and possible revision of the project itself. Other plans included the creation of a data bank of linguistic information, an hour-long video and a bulletin to update countries on activities of the project.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles emphasized the importance of coordination with the secretariat. The Committee recommended that the secretariat resume its active coordinating role with the Netherlands Antilles in respect of the project, and seek to include some of the activities under the regular budget, in particular, the publication of the information bulletin.

The Director took the opportunity to express appreciation for the excellent work done by Mrs. Joelle de Jong-Mercelina, the delegate of the Netherlands Antilles, at the regional meeting on women and development held in Curaçao in September 1991. The Committee endorsed the sentiments of the Director.

With regard to the recommendation that the secretariat assist interested member countries in designing a statistical data storage and retrieval system and increase its support for statistics at the national level, the Committee was informed that the secretariat would be commencing a programme of assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Action to comply with the recommendation that the secretariat continue its programme of assistance to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), with regard to its ongoing relationship with other neighbouring non-Commonwealth Caribbean countries, included a visit to the OECS Secretariat by the Deputy Director of ECLAC/CDCC for consultations in order to define areas of assistance. The OECS Secretariat requested assistance in reviewing the Rules of Origin and its impact on trade with the wider Caribbean. The services of the ECLAC Consultant continued

with Mr. Silbourne Clarke addressing the economic implications of political union. The Deputy Director also headed a Task Force on the Economic and Public Finance Implications of Political Union of the Windward Islands.

The Netherlands Antilles stated its interest in the trade studies being conducted by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) and urged the inclusion of the Dutch Windward islands of Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten.

The Chairman stressed the importance of publicizing the CDCC, given its uniqueness and its role in facilitating Caribbean/Latin American cooperation. The secretariat outlined measures taken to implement this recommendation, including the request, via Santiago, for assistance from the Department of Public Information (DPI), New York, and discussions with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Port-of-Spain. The response from Santiago was negative and consultations with UNIC were continuing.

The Committee recommended that the secretariat intensify its programme of public information by:

(a) making greater use of the services of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) CARIBSCOPE and UNIC, Port-of-Spain;

(b) taking advantage of missions to member countries to publicize the activities of CDCC;
and

(c) issuing press releases on a more frequent basis.

The meeting also recommended that the secretariat follow up with DPI, New York, including United Nations radio, with a view to securing assistance in defining a programme of public information.

With regard to the recommendation that the secretariat's work programme include a statement of the objectives of proposed activity, the secretariat noted that its internal working document on the work programme incorporated a statement of objectives and a broad identification of sources of funding, although the amount of resources were not specified. The document also incorporated the suggestions of Puerto Rico relating to the work programme.

An update on the activities of the Working Group on Access of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) to the United Nations system was given by the representative of the United States Virgin Islands. He indicated that a resolution was passed by the General Assembly requesting the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to promote and expand cooperation and coordination among the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Chairman of the Working Group expressed his appreciation for the support of Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados which ensured that the resolution was passed by consensus.

The Committee recommended that the meeting of the Working Group be held in conjunction with the meeting of CDCC focal points; and that the secretariat, in assisting the work of the Group, take into account the initiatives taken at the General Assembly. The Director thanked the Chairman of the Working Group for undertaking this important task.

With regard to the recommendation to convene a meeting of CDCC focal points, the secretariat noted that its efforts to secure the required funding had not been successful. The Secretary of the Commission explained that it was not feasible to use funds from existing programmes. He indicated that the process of obtaining extrabudgetary funds was lengthy, with no guarantee that funds would be provided. The option of using funds from ad hoc expert group meetings was possible, but the proposed focal points meeting would cost approximately US\$20,000.00. The Secretary suggested that assistance for one meeting during the 1992-1993 biennium might be forthcoming and, based on the results, arrangements could be made for another meeting in the following biennium. The Committee re-emphasized the importance of this meeting.

The secretariat informed the Committee that action had been taken on the recommendation to seek financial support for the participation of one representative of the Bureau at meetings of the Monitoring Committee. The reply from ECLAC Headquarters was that the United Nations did not cover the cost of participation at such intergovernmental meetings.

With regard to the recommendation that an inter-organizational meeting be held one day prior to CDCC sessions, the secretariat had already initiated contact with the organizations concerned. The conceptualization of an approach to such a meeting had begun and work programmes from some of these organizations had been received.

In reference to the recommendation that the secretariat develop a more structured relationship with CARICOM, the secretariat noted that informal consultations had been held with the CARICOM Secretariat and it was anticipated that a meeting to discuss the framework for cooperation would be held in the first quarter of 1992. The Committee recommended that ECLAC/CDCC seek observer status on relevant standing committees of CARICOM.

The Netherlands Antilles reiterated its desire to access studies done by CARICOM and expressed the hope that the CDCC secretariat could facilitate such access. The secretariat indicated that it had already begun the process by obtaining a copy of the framework agreement between the Organization of American States (OAS) and CARICOM for use as a possible model for a framework agreement between CDCC and CARICOM.

With regard to the recommendation that the secretariat convene a meeting of planners to discuss the region's response to global and regional developments, the Committee suggested that the secretariat familiarize itself with current initiatives being undertaken by CARICOM and re-evaluate the need for such a meeting. In this connection, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda noted that events in the former Soviet bloc were having an impact on the Caribbean, and specifically mentioned the closure of the consular section of the American Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda.

With respect to the recommendation that the secretariat assist in a product-by-product examination of the Rules of Origin for the purposes of extraregional trade, the secretariat indicated that discussions on this proposal had been held with officials of the OECS who had redefined the work to be done and would assist in the preparation of this study.

The secretariat also informed the meeting that copies of the Framework Agreement signed by the United States and CARICOM had been circulated to non-CARICOM members of the CDCC.

With regard to the recommendations that in its work on tourism the secretariat avoid duplication with other regional organizations; and that the secretariat's document on services be forwarded to the CARICOM Summit on Tourism, the secretariat informed the Committee that these had been acted on. The document had been forwarded to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the OECS and all relevant regional organizations. The Committee urged active collaboration with the CTO in the formulation of the work programme and suggested some prioritization relative to industry and tourism given CTO's role in the latter.

A discussion ensued on establishing priorities in the light of mandates emanating from the United Nations system and from CDCC members. The secretariat indicated that it would seek to manage the programme in such a way as to take into account the priorities as defined by the governments, and its responsibilities to the United Nations. It was noted that some CDCC member countries were not members of the CTO.

The Committee was informed that action had been taken on the recommendation to provide assistance to member countries in the preparation of national reports for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). With respect to the participation of associate member countries of the CDCC, a letter was sent to the Secretary-General of UNCED seeking clarification on their participation in the Conference. Member States were informed that, according to the UNCED, associate States were not allowed to participate in the Conference. The secretariat was urged to respond to this letter which was deemed unacceptable.

The Committee recommended that the secretariat examine the options relative to the participation of associate members of CDCC in UNCED and take appropriate action to secure observer status at UNCED for the CDCC as an intergovernmental organization.

The recommendation that the secretariat assist in strengthening governments' ability to integrate environmental concerns into national planning had been incorporated into the work programme for 1992-1993.

With regard to the recommendation that the secretariat prepare an appraisal of the strategy to focus the attention of the international community on the special problems of Island Developing Countries (IDCs), the secretariat informed the Committee that preparation of the document had commenced and was expected to be ready for the next session of the CDCC.

The Committee recommended that the secretariat pay particular attention to the question of the strategy being adopted to bring the special problems of the IDCs to the attention of the international community. The Committee further proposed that the secretariat take into

consideration the adoption of an issue-specific approach (such as the approach of the Association of Small Islands States - AOSIS) rather than a global approach, and take into account the need for possible consultation with representatives of island States of the Pacific.

The secretariat reported to the Committee that advice was sought from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations on the issue of whether or not associate members of the CDCC could be counted for the purposes of obtaining a quorum for sessions of the CDCC. The reply implied that, while the associate members could not be counted, a change in the quorum requirement was possible. The Committee entrusted the Secretary of the Commission with the task of clarifying the terms under which an intergovernmental body could take a decision on including associate members in the quorum requirement for CDCC sessions.

With regard to the recommendation that the secretariat promote technical cooperation among CDCC member countries, the Committee was assured that this was being done on a continuous basis through the work of the Office. In addition, it was noted that the recommendation to pay greater attention to the problems of traffic in illicit drugs and abuse of narcotics was being pursued through the Grenada Project which had been extended to the end of June 1992.

Relative to the assigning of priority areas of the work programme to members of the Monitoring Committee, it was agreed that the natural interests of particular CDCC members would encourage them to informally monitor areas of the work programme which were of particular interest to their countries.

Agenda item 3 - Examination of the secretariat's
work programme for the 1992-1993
and 1994-1995 bienniums

Economic surveys and analyses of Caribbean countries

The delegate of the United States Virgin Islands reiterated his dissatisfaction with the lack of data on his country in the annual summaries of the economic and social sectors of member countries. With regard to other aspects of this programme element, the delegate of Saint Lucia suggested that the secretariat include the proposed study on Puerto Rico's Caribbean Development Programme under its regular budget.

Social development in the Caribbean - (Human Resources Development)

It was agreed that the word "strategy" should be omitted under output (a) to read "Develop and execute project on human resource development in the Caribbean subregion."

Population

The secretariat explained that the activities under this programme element might come to an end in December 1992 due to changes in UNFPA's operational strategies. The Committee expressed its disappointment at this development. With respect to the work programme, the Committee suggested that the assistance to national population units be specified as an identifiable output in the work programme.

International trade and finance and global economic issues

The delegate of the United States Virgin Islands expressed the appreciation of his Government for being included in the preliminary study on possibilities for trade and economic cooperation among CDCC member countries.

The Committee suggested that consideration be given to re-focusing the proposed paper relating to the Uruguay Round with a view to examining the implications for CDCC members of the outcome of the negotiations. The meeting was informed of an initiative by the CARICOM Secretariat to produce documents similar to the Trade Procedures Guides.

Tourism and industry

The delegate of Jamaica suggested a fine-tuning of the work to be done in industry, namely, a review of previous strategies of industrialization complemented by the presentation of alternative options for revitalizing the sector. The Saint Lucia delegate expressed the view that the secretariat should be more informed on developments in the tourism sector.

The Committee recommended that, in carrying out its work programme on tourism, the secretariat take particular account of initiatives to develop a cohesive approach to tourism within the framework of CARICOM and the CTO.

Inter-organizational collaboration

The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles requested information on what had been done to further the process of inter-organizational collaboration. The secretariat informed the Committee that contact had been made with the relevant organizations and a meeting proposed. At the present time, approaches to inter-organizational collaboration were being examined.

The secretariat was also asked to indicate what strategies were being used to ensure consultations with member countries. The Director noted that, in the past, such consultations were undertaken on an ad hoc basis. A more structured approach to strengthening the consultative mechanism between the secretariat and member countries would be adopted in the future.

Caribbean/Latin American relations

The Committee noted the absence of activities in this area and reiterated that the issue of Caribbean/Latin American relations should be accorded very high priority in the secretariat's work programme, taking into account its importance to member countries.

In response to a request for an assessment from the secretariat of the accomplishments of CDCC relative to the work programme, the secretariat drew attention to the high rate of implementation of the activities under the 1990-1991 work programme and stated that this was expected to continue in the current biennium. The meeting noted the incorporation of industry into the work programme and its linkage with tourism. The secretariat had also sought to increase collaboration with Latin American regional organizations such as SELA, OLADE and the Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL). The secretariat anticipated that more work would be done on global economic issues and problems of integration within CARICOM.

Substantive servicing of meetings of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

Island Developing Countries (IDCs)

The Committee recommended that the special concerns and needs of Island Developing Countries be identified as a priority area of the work programme, in keeping with its importance and relevance to member countries of the CDCC.

With respect to Haiti, the Director informed the Committee that the formulation of a programme of support to Haiti would not take place until the situation in that country was resolved in a manner acceptable to the international community.

Draft work programme for 1994-1995 biennium

The secretariat presented the draft work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium emphasizing the general nature of the work programme, and explained that such an approach allowed for a more precise formulation closer to the date of implementation.

The Committee recommended that amendments reflecting the discussions under the 1992-1993 work programme be incorporated into the proposed work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium. It reiterated, in relation to the tourism sector, that the secretariat should be careful to avoid duplication of effort with the CTO.

The Committee noted the lack of reference to activities on island developing countries, removal of language barriers and human resources development. The secretariat explained that policy dictated that programmes for which no funding had been identified could not be included in the work programme.

The Committee strongly emphasized the importance of having the priorities agreed on by CDCC governments reflected in the work programme paying special attention to, *inter alia*, island developing countries, removal of language barriers, the workshop on CDCC focal points, the working group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries and science and technology. It was recommended that, as far as possible, these high priority programmes be financed under the regular budget.

The Committee also requested that high priority programmes such as Caribbean/Latin American relations not be subsumed under other programmes.

Agenda item 4 - Review of the resource situation
of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat

The Director explained the financial constraints facing the secretariat. He noted that economic problems in traditional donor countries, such as Canada and the Netherlands, have had a significant impact on the levels of extrabudgetary funds normally available. He also noted the reduction in resources in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) budget for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the contraction in the budgets of other organizations, such as the OAS and SELA. Similar resource constraints for ECLAC, Santiago, had limited the amount of assistance that could be expected from that source.

The Committee emphasized the need for more complete information on the financial and human resources situation of the secretariat. It also requested that costs of the planned activities be provided so that an accurate assessment of the ability of the secretariat to fulfil the mandate of the CDCC could be made with a view to the better determination of work priorities. The Committee also recommended that available resources be allocated to reflect the priorities expressed at the meeting and that this issue be included on the agenda for the next session of the CDCC.

Agenda item 5 - Issues relating to the establishment
of a permanent secretariat for the
Caribbean Council for Science
and Technology (CCST)

The officer responsible for science and technology gave an update on the efforts to find a permanent location for CCST. He noted the three options as presented to the Executive Committee of the Council in September in Saint Kitts and Nevis. These options were that: (a) the secretariat remain in ECLAC under current conditions; (b) the secretariat be shifted to a host country which would bear operational costs; and (c) the secretariat be shifted to a host country with costs of operation funded by international agencies.

In response to a query relative to the lengthy delay in deciding the issue of location of the CCST secretariat, the secretariat noted that the delay was caused by the concern that the relocation of the secretariat not incur additional costs to governments. The officer informed the meeting that the members of the Council agreed to a review of the Guidelines for the Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat, taking special account of the size and cost of staffing, alternative locations and financing. A discussion ensued on the potential contribution of ECLAC, particularly with regard to staffing. The Director noted that he had no authority to relocate staff to other institutions. The science and technology officer gave an overview of the work of the CCST, stressing that the financial

contribution of ECLAC with respect to the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Plenary Session was \$10,000.00 per biennium and expenditure in excess of this amount was funded by governments and extrabudgetary contributions.

The Committee reaffirmed the recommendation made at the thirteenth session of the CDCC and recommended that CCST settle all outstanding functional, operational and financial questions relating to the establishment of a permanent secretariat and the formulation of a work programme for the CCST at its next session. The Committee also recommended that the Executive Committee of the CCST, at its meeting scheduled for 3-4 March 1992, make specific proposals on these questions for a decision by the Plenary Session of the CCST at its next session.

Agenda item 6 - Review of the agenda for
the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC

The Secretary of the Commission noted that the meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) which was to be held in March 1992 in Costa Rica would look at the agenda item dealing with the document *Changing production patterns with social equity: An integrated approach*. A resolution emanating from this discussion would be considered at the ECLAC session in Santiago in April 1992. The meeting would also consider human resources development and appropriate training for the new production patterns. The Secretary also stressed the importance of the next ECLAC session which would present the last opportunity for input into UNCED and offer a good opportunity to suggest reformulations to the work programme of 1994-1995. In addition, the secretariat would present concrete proposals for promoting cooperation among developing countries, including Caribbean/Latin American cooperation.

The Committee agreed:

(a) That, in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, the possibility of securing a larger role for United Nations regional and intergovernmental bodies (such as the CDCC) in the determination of the work programmes of the secretariats of these bodies, be explored;

(b) That member governments of the CDCC should make every effort to attend the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC;

(c) That the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should make available to CDCC member governments, prior to the session, its document on Caribbean/Latin American relations, being prepared for the twenty fourth session of ECLAC.

Agenda item 7 - Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the second inter-agency meeting and the fourteenth session of the CDCC

The secretariat reported that contact had been made with the Government of Saint Lucia which had shown interest in hosting the fourteenth session of the CDCC, and that a decision on this matter was expected soon. The Director reported that he had been requested by the Government of Cuba to reiterate Cuba's interest in hosting the fourteenth session.

The Committee recommended that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should decide, in consultation with member governments, on the date of the fourteenth session of CDCC, bearing in mind the preference expressed by some delegates for the first week of September. It also recommended that the decision on the convening of the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee be decided at the Caucus of representatives of CDCC member countries to be held just prior to the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC, to take place in April 1992 in Santiago, Chile, with the proposed inter-agency meeting to be held just prior to the fourteenth session of the CDCC.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Hitome Rankine
Maureen Afoon

Annex II

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE PROJECT ON REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Statement by the Representative of the Netherlands Antilles

After the Government of the Netherlands Antilles received US\$25,000 from the participation programme of UNESCO in May 1991, a heavy campaign was launched by the Minister of Education of the Netherlands Antilles, in close cooperation with our Foreign Relations Bureau, to get CDCC member countries to organize their national workshops and their national chapters of the CLI.

After renewed efforts, the following member countries reacted: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Suriname, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Aruba, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and the Dominican Republic requested assistance for the implementation of the project and were visited by the delegate of the Netherlands Antilles who, as may be known, is the Director of the Linguistic Institute of the Netherlands Antilles.

Antigua and Barbuda convened a workshop to launch its NCCLI on 3 December and the Dominican Republic did the same during meetings held on 4, 5 and 6 December. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles was present on both occasions. A follow-up meeting between the delegate and the initiated NCCLI of the Dominican Republic is scheduled to take place at the end of February 1992.

Aruba has held its National Workshop from 6-10 January. There was also attendance from other countries including Saba, Statia, Curaçao. Also Holland and even one person from Switzerland participated. As a follow-up, most of the group of Arubans that participated at the workshop will go on meeting regularly to form a NCCLI. Belize, too, is scheduled to organize a national workshop in the first part of 1992. Barbados and Saint Lucia are expected to have theirs before the end of February 1992. There is a possibility that Saint Kitts and Nevis will also constitute its NCCLI soon.

Concerning the Netherlands Antilles itself, a great amount of clarification has taken place concerning the ultimate responsibility for language policies in the country and certain agreements between the federal and island authorities have been established. In this more relaxed atmosphere the delegate of the Ministry of Education is working towards the formation of the NCCLI of the Netherlands Antilles before the end of February 1992.

Documentation

My Government is preparing a bulletin in which the activities of the different member countries in connection with the Removal of Language Barriers will be reported; this bulletin will be edited and produced at the Instituto Lingwistiko Antiano (ILA). We have also embarked on a project for an hour-long video on the activities in connection with the RLB. In this connection, both the Antigua National Workshop and the National Workshop in Aruba have been registered on video. The video on the project will cover its history, its procedures, including also case studies of

interesting linguistic situations and solutions to linguistic problems that may be exemplary or inspiring to other member countries.

We are, therefore, requesting that as much video material as possible regarding language issues be put at our disposal. A start will also be made with the creation of a data bank for linguistic information of the Caribbean in close cooperation with the CDCC secretariat.

Rules for the NCCLIs

Our Ministry of Education will draw up, in close cooperation with the consulting firm that will produce a feasibility study on the project, a framework for the functioning of the NCCLIs that can be used provisionally by the existing NCCLIs and that can acquire a more definite status after it has been discussed with the group of experts that will be convened to ratify the feasibility study mentioned before.

Feasibility study

The Netherlands Antilles has secured funding from the EC to have a renowned consulting firm from Belgium, assisted by Caribbean experts, including a representative from the Ministry of Education of the Netherlands Antilles to conduct a feasibility study on the project as a whole. The firm will start its activities at the beginning of March 1992 and will present its report in May 1992.

The ultimate objective of this feasibility study is "to set up a provisional work schedule for recommendations, emphasis on the measures and the planning which will be presented at the first meeting of the Coordination Committee of the CLI together with an estimate of the project's costs and one of the possible contributions from the various partners."

As the proposed feasibility study means an in-depth scrutiny of the project in all its conceptual and functional aspects, and as it will undoubtedly bring proposals for adaptation of the project and for the structuring of the institutes discussed in the project-document, it is considered by the Netherlands Antilles a simple question of efficient use of available means to await the results of this feasibility study before convening a group of Caribbean experts to discuss the progress of the project.

Perspectives

An important input in the project is expected from the already mentioned feasibility study to be conducted in March. Its main tasks will be:

- To carry out an analysis of the main problems posed by the linguistic diversity of the region regarding, on one hand, cultural, scientific and technological exchanges and on the other hand, trade, industry, services and tourism.
- To analyze the policies, means, organization and functioning of the systems of language-teaching in the different countries and of the exchanges of information between Caribbean countries of different languages.

With the knowledge of the needs, and of the strong and weak points of the present situation regarding development and linguistic exchanges, it will be necessary to define the CLIs objectives and fields of activities, particularly:

- The priority actions
- The target groups
- The methods and technical means to reach the latter
- The estimate of means, costs and work schedule

To define the structure, organization and working principles of the CLI, particularly:

- The linkage of the structures and the needs of the CLI at regional and national levels.
- The organization of the working principles for each unit in the structure: NCCLI (National Chapter of the CLI) in the member countries; regional CLI; Coordination Committee.
- The role of other national, regional or international institutions participating in the same "linguistic development mission" and the nature of their contacts with the CLI.

My Government is striving to get a representative group of NCCLIs established during 1992 so that at the beginning of 1993, with the convening of this representative group as a meeting of the Provisional Coordinating Committee, the first phase of the project can be considered as achieved.

From then on, the Netherlands Antilles that has gladly served as the main promoter of this project during the past decade will share equally the responsibility for its implementation with the other members of the Provisional Coordinating Committee.

Concerning UNESCO, an official letter will be presented by our Government to the CDCC secretariat to be forwarded to UNESCO, in which this organization will be informed of the status of the project.

We hereby also take this opportunity to say that our Government deplors the fact of lately not having the same level of regular coordination with the CDCC secretariat as has been the case in the past.

We would, therefore, appreciate receiving the assurances that close cooperation will be picked up shortly, for instance by sending someone to Curaçao.

In the meantime, my Government maintains its commitment to work closely with the CDCC secretariat for the further implementation of this important project.