

GENERAL

E/CEPAL/CDCC/83 Add.1

23 September 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

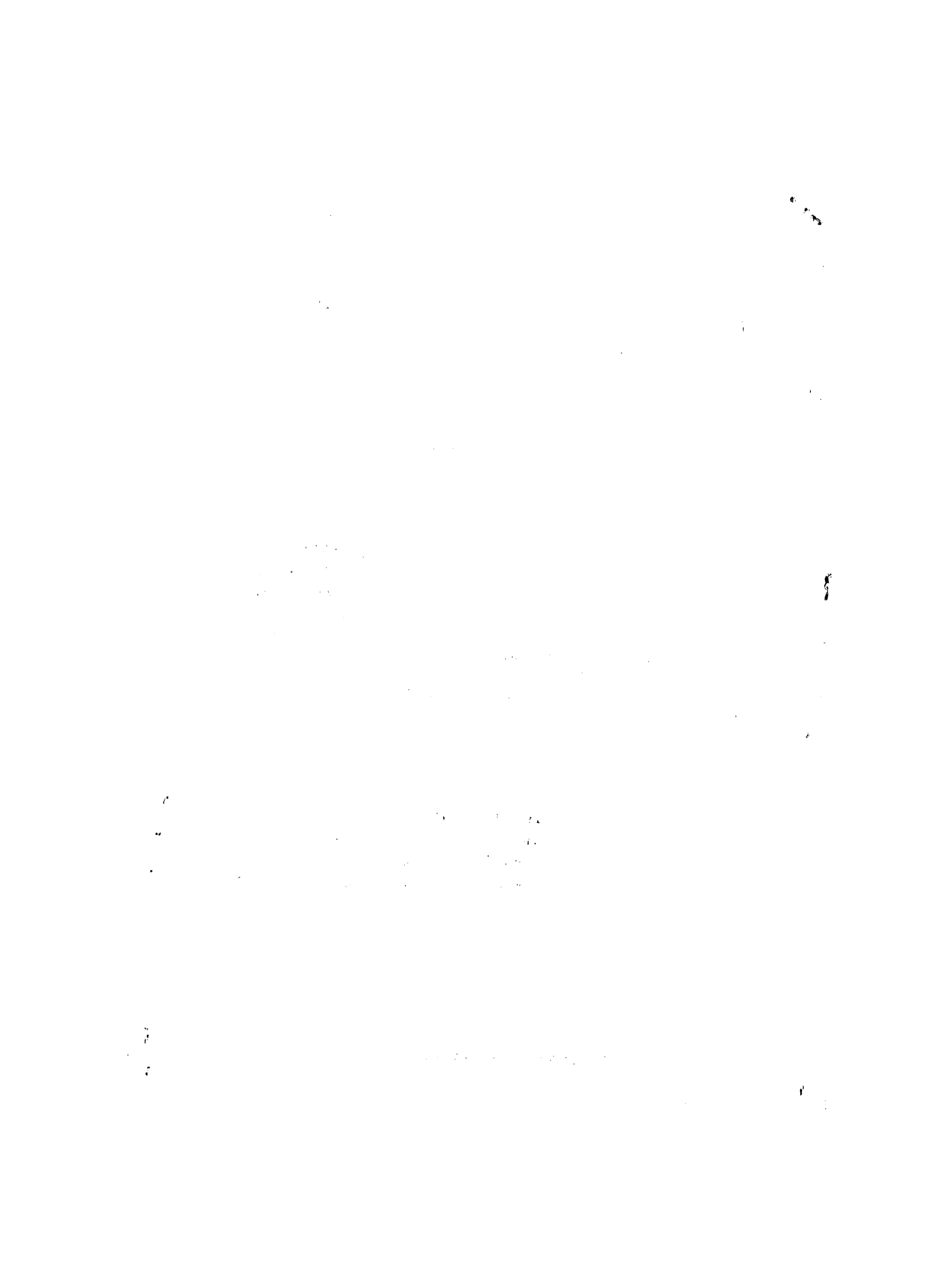
Sixth Session
St. George's, Grenada
4 to 10 November, 1981

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- WORKSHOP ON METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT OF
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. This Workshop on the Methodology for Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities is the first activity of the priority project of the Work Programme 1981-1983 of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). The Workshop was hosted by the Government of The Republic of Suriname and was held in the Torarica Hotel in Paramaribo, Suriname from 12 October to 15 October 1981.

Opening Ceremony

2. The keynote address was made by the Honourable Mr. Harold Rusland, Minister of Education and Community Development The Republic of Suriname. Addresses were also made by Professor J. Spence of the Economic Commission for Latin America/Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (ECLA/CDCC) Secretariat and Mr. A. Ucbekor, member of the CCST.

Attendance

3. Representatives of the following member countries of the CCST attended the Workshop: Dominica, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname. Representatives of the following CDCC member governments also attended: The Dominican Republic, the Netherlands Antilles and Montserrat. The Caribbean regional, inter-governmental organization present was Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM). Also present as observers were: Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (Trinidad and Tobago), National Institute of Higher Education (Research, Science and Technology) (Trinidad and Tobago), the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNIFSTD), the Organisation of American States (OAS) and ECLA/CDCC.

II. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS

4. Presentations were made by the delegates of Guyana and the Dominican Republic as well as by representatives of CARICOM and OAS. Information was also received on the University of the West

Indies/University of Guyana Technology Policy Studies Project and on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) country survey for the La Paz meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Science and Technology Policy-making Bodies.

5. A survey format was constructed and agreed upon based on the format presented by the Dominican Republic while taking into account certain aspects of the UNESCO country survey and of the experiences in Guyana. Emphasis was given to assessment of national scientific and technological potential, but with consideration of certain aspects of policy formulation and international co-operation.

6. The UNIFSTD representative informed the meeting on the resumed third session of the Inter-governmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the upcoming discussions of science and technology issues, especially the future of UNIFSTD, in the UN General Assembly and its Committees and on the International Good-will Mission on Science and Technology for Development which cumulated in the "Declaration of Caracas" supported by 19 developing countries, including key OPEC member countries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

7. It was agreed to make the following recommendations:-

- (1) To the CCST - that information be prepared for governments on the importance to national development plans of data, such as would be collected in the Survey on Science and Technology Capabilities.
- (2) To the various agencies of the UN System - that every effort be made to support the initiatives of the CCST and in particular the project on Assessment of National Science and Technology Capabilities.
- (3) To CCST/CDCC Secretariat - that a report on the Workshop be presented to CDCC VI requesting member governments to support the Survey to be carried out

on Science and Technology Capabilities and urging that inputs be made into the higher Councils of the United Nations system to ensure adequate funding for Science and Technology, in which context the following resolution was passed:

The Workshop,

Taking note with satisfaction of the funding by the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNIFSTD) of a number of important science and technology projects in the Caribbean region and of the preparatory assistance given by UNIFSTD for the identification and elaboration of a much greater number of priority projects to be financed as soon as additional resources become available;

Recognizing with appreciation the support given so far by UNIFSTD to the activities of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology and expressing the hope that such support will continue with increasing financial resources;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 which established UNIFSTD as an organ of the General Assembly, pending the coming into operation of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

Urges the member Governments to strive for the establishment of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and, pending the coming into operation of such system, to take the necessary steps, through active participation in the ongoing discussions in the competent UN bodies, in order to assure the continuation of the activities started by UNIFSTD.

Closing Remarks

8. Members expressed their appreciation to the chairmen for their efficient handling of the various sessions of the meeting and to the rapporteur for his hard work in recording the proceedings.

9. Appreciation was also expressed to the observers for their presence and contribution to the meeting and the ECLA/CDCC Secretariat for servicing the meetings.

10. Gratitude was expressed to the Government of Suriname for hosting the meeting, and to all others who had assisted in making the meeting a successful one.

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