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**REPORT OF THE CDCC WORKING GROUP**

**REDEFINING AND REVITALIZING THE ROLE  
OF THE CDCC IN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## PREFACE

At the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 23-24 August 2007, delegates agreed to the establishment of a working group to explore ways of improving the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the CDCC. Information on the members of the working group and their terms of reference are presented in Annexes I and II, respectively of the report.

The need for the establishment of the working group arose out of the recognition that the CDCC has been handicapped by the following: (a) a loss of its original vision and mission as a result of its changing operational context; (b) institutional overload in the regional institutional architecture as a result of the deepening of CARICOM and the creation of the ACS; (c) difficulties in securing high-level representation at meetings; and (d) continuing concerns by the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean about their lack of representation/inclusion in the work of the wider ECLAC system.

The recognition of the need for the CDCC to play an enhanced role as a forum for dialogue and collaboration on matters of development priority setting for the wider Caribbean, as well as attempts to strengthen Caribbean-Latin American relations in the socio-cultural, economic and political spheres, also served as a critical impetus for the establishment of the working group. Presently, it is recognized that the multiplicity of United Nations and non-United Nations organizations within the Caribbean calls for a reflection on the way regional cooperation could be reviewed and adjusted, both in institutional and operational terms. In other words, there is a need for increased coherence and efficiency at the regional level that will benefit all CDCC member and associate member countries and support their national development efforts. Thus, within the framework of the overall regional architecture of these institutions, the major challenges to be addressed can be highlighted as follows:

- (a) Duplication of activities among regional and subregional organizations;
- (b) Lack of coherence in policy-making at the regional level, particularly in norms and standard setting and in action taken for addressing trans-boundary issues;
- (c) Absence of effective implementation of the commitments made by member countries at the regional level;
- (d) Lack of a monitoring mechanism to gauge progress; and
- (e) Lack of synergy between the analytical and operational activities of the United Nations system entities and the regional/subregional organizations.

Thus, it is proffered that the CDCC, as an intergovernmental body, has an important role to play as a forum for dialogue on regional development priorities among governments of the wider Caribbean, civil society, the private sector, regional institutions, development partners, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. Hence, the proposal to establish a working group to review the role of the CDCC is intended specifically to determine whether the CDCC can be enhanced to bring about greater coherence and effectiveness to the regional work of the United Nations in the Caribbean as well as among other development partners.

This report is the culmination of four meetings of the working group that were convened in mid-December 2007 to end-March 2008. The report and the outcome of the twenty-second Session of the CDCC will be submitted for the consideration of the thirty-second Session of ECLAC scheduled for June 2008 in the Dominican Republic. The report consists of the following sections:

- (a) Section I: Background information on the CDCC, including a discussion of the current relevance and validity of the objectives stated in the Constituent Declaration;
- (b) Section II: The rationale for redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development;
- (c) Section III: Proposals for redefining and revitalizing the CDCC;
- (d) Section IV: Proposals for enhancing the role of the CDCC in promoting Caribbean-Latin American links; and
- (e) Section V: Conclusions and recommendations.

The working group commends this report for the consideration of the ministers of the member and associate member countries of the CDCC.

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## I. BACKGROUND

### A. The CDCC: origin, role and functions

In 1975, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – then known as the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) – established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body at the governmental level. ECLAC provides secretariat services to the CDCC acting principally through its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The CDCC functions as an intergovernmental body that meets annually at the technical level and every other year at the ministerial level. Its operational activities are carried out under the regular ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean, which includes economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, international trade and trade in services, information for development, sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS), science and technology, women in development, tourism, training and assistance with the management of national economies. Information on the Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the CDCC are contained in ECLAC Document LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1 of 4 April 2005.

Until recently, the role and functions of the CDCC in the sphere of multilateral relations have occupied a special place in the consideration of member countries for the following three important reasons. Firstly, it is the concretization of the vision of Trinidad and Tobago's first Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, who, at the sixteenth Session of ECLA in Port of Spain in May 1975 advocated "the establishment of a Caribbean Council of ECLA to deal specifically with Caribbean issues and circumstances and to embrace all Caribbean entities from Belize to Cayenne, irrespective of political status".<sup>1</sup> At the time of its establishment in November 1975, Dr. Williams envisioned that one of the major responsibilities of the new CDCC would be to initiate and facilitate the process of dialogue and interaction among the countries of the wider Caribbean region.<sup>2</sup> It is out of this process of increased Caribbean awareness that the CDCC, meeting in Port-of-Spain in 1983, proposed the change of ECLA's name to reflect the reality of Caribbean membership; hence, ECLA became ECLAC by resolution 1984/67 on 27 July 1984.<sup>3</sup> It is important to note that the Spanish acronym, CEPAL, remains unchanged in contrast to the French acronym, CEPALC, which is currently in use.<sup>4</sup>

Secondly, at its inception, the CDCC was viewed as an essential interface among the countries of the Caribbean (which had their own identity and special characteristics and problems) and the wider Latin American region whose culture, socio-political mores and developmental preoccupations were perceived to be different.<sup>5</sup> Nonetheless, the political and

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<sup>1</sup> "Opening Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago His Excellency, the Honourable Ralph Maraj" at the Fourteenth Session of the CDCC, St. George's, Grenada (8-11 December 1992) contained in ECLAC/CDCC Document No. LC/CAR/G.372, 27 October 1992, p. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> ECLAC Website, "About ECLAC", Internet link: <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/0/21710/P21710.xml&xsl=...>

<sup>4</sup> ECLAC Website, "Mission et Mandat – Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (CEPALC)", Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/6/23866/P2386.xml&xsl=...>

<sup>5</sup> "Opening Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago His Excellency, the Honourable Ralph Maraj" op. cit., p. 40.

economic distance between the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean and the countries of Latin America has lessened considerably during the intervening years. This is a direct result of the efforts of our member countries, individually and regionally, to increase their contacts in all areas with the countries of the wider Caribbean and beyond. This rapprochement also springs from the facilitating efforts of a number of regional and multilateral institutions such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

Thirdly, the CDCC provides the opportunity for member countries to advance their relations with the United Nations system at the functional and operational levels. This is especially important for the associate member countries of the organization, all of whom have benefited as a result of the following: (a) their increased participation in the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies and technical bodies of the United Nations system through associate membership or observer status; (b) their increased participation in conferences and other activities of the General Assembly; and (c) their inclusion in the work programme and extra-budgetary activities of the CDCC, including 17 technical missions in various areas and support for their participation at meetings over the 2006-2007 biennium.<sup>6</sup>

Conversely, the CDCC has provided the opportunity for the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to participate in the meetings of the CDCC. For example, as early as 1977, a total of 16 entities from the United Nations system were represented at the second session of the CDCC, including the following:

(a) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Department of Public Information (DPI), respectively, from the United Nations Secretariat; and

(b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), World Bank, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Universal Postal Union (UPU) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

## **B. Decline in the activism of the CDCC**

Since that early period, there has been a decline in the activism of the CDCC, reflected in, *inter alia*, a corresponding decline in the degree of attention directed to it by critical elements of its membership, including the member countries and the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. Annex III provides data on the participation of member governments

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<sup>6</sup> ECLAC, "Report of the Meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee", Document No. LC/CAR/L.133. 10 September 2007, p. 5.

at CDCC ministerial meetings. Against the perspective of the advantages claimed for the organization at the time of its establishment by its entire membership and the expectations thus generated, much of the explanation of this diminished activism on the part of the CDCC is to be traced to institutional factors and fundamental changes in the organization's operational environment.

### **1. Selected institutional factors**

In the latter context, the transformation of the operational environment of the CDCC at the global, hemispheric and regional levels, has presented certain challenges to the organization as a result of, *inter alia*:

- (a) The diversion of the political attention of national decision makers to other global, hemispheric and even regional organizations and processes arising from the array of issues presented by "globalization", the entrenchment of "market liberalization" and related phenomena;
- (b) The competing demands for allocation of human, financial and other resources;
- (c) The perception, in some quarters, that the performance of the CDCC has diminished following the intense activism that characterized its early years.<sup>7</sup>

Notwithstanding, there are many elements through which the organization has contributed to enhancing the subregion's operational environment, such as:

- (a) Its unique position as the only body within the United Nations system in which both independent and non-independent countries participate on the basis of equality;
- (b) The facilitation of access of a number of the non-independent territories to a United Nations regional intergovernmental body in which they participate and full recognition is given to their concerns through their general participation. Such access also facilitates their participation in a number of global forums;
- (c) Its instrumental role in initiating and facilitating the process of dialogue, cooperation and interaction among Caribbean countries, including Cuba. This has contributed to widening and deepening the integration process between CARICOM and non-CARICOM countries and to increasing interaction between the English-speaking Caribbean and Latin America; and
- (d) The recognition of the continuing validity of the CDCC in directing research aimed at informing policy-making, the development of programmes and resource mobilization initiatives.

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<sup>7</sup> ECLAC, "The CDCC into the New Millennium: Meeting the Challenges of the Future", a discussion paper, 2 January 2000, pp. 15-16.

## II. RATIONALE FOR THE INITIATIVE

Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating at the eighteenth Session of the CDCC held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 30 March – 1 April 2000, adopted the Chaguaramas Declaration (resolution 55 (XVIII)) which emphasized “the importance of the continuing existence of the Committee as a Caribbean entity for cooperation in support of the CDCC Member States in recognition of its utility as a mechanism whose basic ideas as enshrined in its Constituent Declaration remain valid”. The message conveyed in the resolution clearly reaffirmed their political will and their resolve to provide for a strengthened CDCC.

The origins of this initiative to redefine and revitalize the role of the CDCC therefore lie in the interplay of three factors: (a) the recognition of the need for the CDCC to play an enhanced role as a forum for dialogue and collaboration on matters of development priority setting for the wider Caribbean; (b) the need to bring greater coherence and effectiveness to the regional work of development partners in the Caribbean at all levels; and (c) the growing awareness of the need to strengthen Caribbean-Latin American relations in the socio-cultural, economic and political spheres. The prevailing wider context of United Nations reform with its emphasis on coherence and effectiveness, as well as attempts by the Caribbean to influence these processes, also serve as a critical impetus for the present initiative. In addition, the outcomes of the 2004 triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) process are instructive in informing this initiative.

### A. Improving the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the CDCC

The CDCC, as an intergovernmental body, has an important role to play as a forum for dialogue on regional development priority setting among governments of the wider Caribbean, civil society, the private sector, regional institutions, development partners, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. It can also serve to ensure that initiatives undertaken at the multilateral level are informed by the realities and priorities set at the Caribbean regional level; thus playing a pivotal role in lifting the profile of the Caribbean in ECLAC’s work and in the broader United Nations development dialogue. Hence, the proposal to establish a working group to review the role of the CDCC is intended specifically to determine the manner in which the CDCC could be exploited to bring about greater coherence and effectiveness to the regional work of the United Nations system in the Caribbean. This is especially pertinent within the context of the follow-up to recent global conferences such as the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Mauritius Conference on Small Islands, and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. As well, there is the need to effectively support the CDCC member and associate member countries in their quest to develop regional solutions to common problems afflicting the region (i.e. regional public goods) and attain the Internationally-Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly against the backdrop of a reduction in the flow of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to the middle-income Caribbean countries from the international community.

The impetus to improve the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the CDCC is consistent with the twenty-eighth preambular paragraph of the Constituent Declaration which



recognizes “the need for a further strengthened Committee as a unique forum that is equipped to assist its member countries in meeting the challenges presented by the ongoing transformation of the international, political and economic environment through, *inter alia*, the development of consensus towards the implementation of cooperation policies and programmes”.<sup>8</sup>

It is also consistent with the thrust of United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the TCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system which focused, *inter alia*, on the growing significance of regional and subregional dimensions of development cooperation within the United Nations system and the need to bring greater coherence and effectiveness to the regional work of the organization on development issues.<sup>9</sup>

## **B. Strengthening the dialogue for coherence and effectiveness of wider-Caribbean regional development activities**

Considerable collaboration takes place among Caribbean governments and their United Nations and other development partners. While the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and corresponding national planning frameworks have facilitated country-led coherence of the interventions of the different development partners at the national level, a complementary process is lacking at the wider regional level. At an institutional level, a United Nations-CARICOM dialogue also occurs and its most-recent *Report of the Fourth General Meeting between the United Nations System and CARICOM and its Associated Institutions* has been submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.<sup>10</sup>

There is the need to facilitate dialogue on a long-term and Caribbean-driven development agenda to guide the corresponding support of development partners. Recognition of this has resulted in the emergence of an accepted view that a successful partnership on the way forward will be one where Caribbean governments set regional development priorities, articulate them, seek the best policy advice and bring the development partners on board to support the Caribbean development agenda. Among other things, the United Nations partners can bring to this approach the benefits of international norms and standards derived from their global work which could be adapted to the regional setting, as well as technical advice, best-practice, information and experience-sharing drawn from other regions and countries.

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<sup>8</sup> ECLAC, “Revised Text Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee”, LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1, 4 April 2005, p. 5.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, “General Assembly Draft Resolution A/C.2/62/L.4 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System”, New York: 19 December 2007, pp. 15-16.

<sup>10</sup> CARICOM Secretariat, “*Report of the Fourth General Meeting between the United Nations System and CARICOM and its Associated Institutions*”, Doc. No. CAR/UN/2007/4/REP.

### C. Strengthening Caribbean-Latin American relations

Collaborative links among the CDCC, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the ACS represent the early building blocs for strengthening Caribbean-Latin American relations. This situation is reflected in the seventeenth preambular paragraph of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC in which the members recognized “the unprecedented high level of collaboration that has developed among regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the ECLAC/CDCC, reflecting, *inter alia*, the complementary nature of their activities and work programmes, as well as the basic commonality of social, political, economic and environmental concerns that exist among the countries of the region”.<sup>11</sup>

In other references, the ministers recognized “the intensification, over recent years, of cooperative relations between the member countries of the Committee and their counterparts in Latin America, as evidenced by, *inter alia*, the conclusion of a large number of agreements in various fields, between and among the respective groups of countries”.<sup>12</sup> As of May 2006, there were 51 intraregional trade preference agreements and 17 extraregional arrangements in operation involving Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>13</sup> While CARICOM has no formal trade agreements with any of the Latin American integration arrangements, initial discussions have been held with the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) to explore the possibility of negotiating a free trade agreement. No follow-up meetings have occurred and CARICOM has not taken a decision to proceed.

However, CARICOM has trade agreements with individual Latin American countries that are members of the various Latin American integration arrangements. These agreements, which include preferential arrangements, are with Venezuela (1992), Costa Rica (2003) and Colombia (1994). CARICOM also has trade agreements with the Dominican Republic (2001) and Cuba (2000). These agreements have built-in agendas which allow for the negotiation of other subject areas, though these have not yet been advanced.<sup>14</sup> In addition, 13 of the 15 members of CARICOM plus Cuba and the Dominican Republic have signed on to the PetroCaribe Programme with Venezuela. Dominica has gone a step further in signing on to Venezuela’s Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA).

The Caribbean is also a potentially important regional market for goods and services from Latin America and can also serve to facilitate access to other markets. This should be borne in mind as the subregion seeks to forge closer links with the countries of Latin America. For their part, Latin American countries view the political importance of the Caribbean as revolving primarily around its coordinated position on candidatures in international forums

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<sup>11</sup> ECLAC, Revised Text Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> ECLAC, Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2005-2006, Division of International Trade and Integration of ECLAC, p. 77.

<sup>14</sup> ECLAC, Promoting Economic Links Between The Integration Schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean: A CARICOM Perspective on Selected Issues, Document No. LC/CAR/L.111, 7 February 2007, p. 1.

which represents a bloc vote of 15 member States and whose support can be decisive in securing successful candidatures. However, given the changing international environment, including within Latin America, the Caribbean needs to utilize this strength more strategically and ensure leverage in pursuit of its interests.

The working group is of the view that while significant progress has been made in deepening its regional integration processes, CARICOM will need to further maximize its geographical proximity and potential collaborative links with Latin America for mutual economic, political and social benefits. One should also be mindful of the possible interplay of European Union-Latin American Caribbean (EU-LAC) processes in this regard and the emerging new EU-CARIFORUM partnership. The CDCC can, therefore, play an important role in facilitating institutional dialogue to exchange information and coordinate activities to strengthen CARICOM-Latin American political, social and economic relations.

### **III. PROPOSALS FOR REDEFINING AND REVITALISING THE CDCC**

Based on the working group's analysis of the gaps and weaknesses, it is proposed that the CDCC be revitalized and its role be redefined along the following lines:

#### **A. Broadening the CDCC membership**

As discussed in Section II, there is the need for facilitating a dialogue on a long-term and Caribbean-driven development agenda to guide the corresponding support of development partners. The proposal to transform the CDCC into a wider Caribbean forum for a broad-based dialogue on regional development priorities would, therefore, be an appropriate response to this need. An expanded forum, to be convened biennially, will facilitate the process of consensus building towards a shared vision of the subregion, formulation of the strategy and identification of the instruments for realizing that vision.

The overall objective would be to facilitate a process of consensus building among the key stakeholders of Caribbean development - governments of the wider Caribbean, civil society, the private sector, regional and academic institutions, development partners and the United Nations system. Invariably, such a forum would be on a larger scale with some 75 to 100 invited participants at each CDCC ministerial session and would serve as a clearinghouse of ideas for the identification and formulation of shared goals and priorities for the subregion. The forum would result in sharply defined, time-bound actionable programmes that can be implemented within the capacity of the CDCC member and associate member countries. The CDCC ministerial meeting would thus be constituted as a forum for dialogue, for setting of regional priorities, and for facilitating the establishment of alliances and partnerships.

The working group is aware that the modalities for the participation of civil society and private sector representatives in the CDCC session would have to be addressed by the Committee. It is noted that non-governmental organizations, for example, are invited to participate as observers in regional meetings of various intergovernmental forums such as CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Women, as well as policy roundtables, task forces and expert meetings. These are examples of the CARICOM Community's recognition of the important role of non-governmental organizations in the subregion. Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, special consultative status and on the roster are also invited to attend international conferences convened by the United Nations, including meetings of the Economic and Social Council (and its functional commissions) and the International Labour Conference.

Ministers may therefore wish to consider revising Rule 20 of the functions and rules of procedure of the CDCC to include participation by the private sector and civil society in CDCC sessions. The modalities for their participation would have to be addressed by the Committee, including the following:

- (a) The principles to be applied in the establishment of consultative relations between the CDCC and private sector/civil society organizations;
- (b) The principles governing the nature of the consultative arrangements;
- (c) The establishment of consultative relationships;
- (d) Consultations with the CDCC with respect to the following: items of special interest to the organizations in the provisional agenda of the Committee; attendance at CDCC sessions; written statements; and oral presentations during meetings;
- (e) The suspension and withdrawal of consultative status; and
- (f) Consultation with the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

A review of the ECOSOC<sup>15</sup> and/or ILO<sup>16</sup> guidelines governing their consultative relationship with non-governmental organizations might be useful in establishing the principles for the participation of private sector and civil society organizations in CDCC sessions.

## **B. Discussing regional development perspectives and bringing them to the global level**

It is proposed that each CDCC ministerial meeting should seek to forge a common Caribbean position on issues related to a specific theme.

State-of-the-art analytical work should underpin the consultations and policy position papers that would form the basis of discussions at each CDCC ministerial session. Prior to the convening of each meeting (and with ample lead-time), the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should announce the theme and sub-themes of the meeting and commission the necessary research and policy position papers along relevant thematic lines. The draft papers should be discussed and finalized at expert group meetings to be organized by the secretariat prior to the CDCC meeting. To this end, the expert group meetings should seek to identify the most important issues in particular sub-thematic areas, and suggest time-bound actions and concrete goals for consideration at the CDCC session. Depending on the theme, selected Caribbean research networks, overseas institutions whose analytical work focuses on the Caribbean, and recognized individual policy researchers should be invited to participate in the CDCC meetings. This would provide an opportunity for their analytical work to be discussed in the context of its application,

<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/> for information on the participation of NGOs in ECOSOC.

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/realml/ilc/note.htm> for information on the participation of NGOs in ILO.

thereby enhancing the impact and relevance of their research on the course of Caribbean development policies and programmes.

In the process, four related objectives could be realized from the CDCC ministerial meeting:

(a) The sharing of ideas and experiences that will help forge a common Caribbean position on the extant issues;

(b) Provision of the results of state-of-the-art analytical research to Caribbean delegates that would enable them to better promote Caribbean interests in various United Nations forums, notably the sessions of ECLAC and the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Creation of feedback loops to facilitate demand-driven inquiry within Caribbean research networks and among the development partners in response to policy makers' needs as articulated in the meeting; and

(d) Identification of key areas of research and technical cooperation that could be included in the work programmes of the respective development partners, including the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

The working group is of the view that the CDCC ministerial meeting should be an active forum for discussing regional perspectives related to the United Nations development agenda which could be included, at the multilateral level, in the debates at the Economic and Social Council and for preparation of United Nations conferences and summits. More direct influence of the CDCC on the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions is therefore essential to ensure that the subregion has an impact on decision-making within the wider United Nations system. This could be achieved, *inter alia*, by more in-depth briefing of the CDCC ministers of foreign affairs and their diplomatic personnel (i.e. Caribbean representatives on the Economic and Social Council and the various functional commissions) on important developments in the system.

### **C. Monitoring global commitments and supporting their effective implementation within the subregion**

Presently, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat organizes a half-day meeting which gathers the CARICOM Secretariat and the regional offices of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to identify and discuss collaborative arrangements for the implementation of its biennial work programme. The outcome of the inter-agency meeting is then fed into the CDCC ministerial session. It is proposed that these meetings should be used for three additional purposes:

(a) To discuss and develop a coherent approach to the identification and analysis of the development situation in the Caribbean, particularly as they relate to internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To identify gaps in support of implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals by the international community; and

(c) To support a strengthened regional monitoring and evaluation framework related to all aspects of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

A report on the outcome of the inter-agency meeting should be prepared by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for discussion at the CDCC technical meeting. This could form the basis for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and support for the CDCC member and associate member countries.

#### **D. Forging regional public goods**

Article 4 of the Constituent Declaration states that one of the key functions of the CDCC shall be “to carry out actions aimed at obtaining financial resources from international agencies, the cooperation agencies of the developed countries; regional development funds and banks, and other sources, for use in common projects for the benefit of the sub-region’s economic and social development”.<sup>17</sup> This implies that a redefined and revitalized CDCC could act as an important catalyst of collective action for the provision of regional public goods (RPGs)<sup>18</sup> through its ability to generate and transfer knowledge, and identify/access funding sources.

It is therefore proposed that the CDCC seek to take the lead in identifying and designing an envelope of projects that would support the development of RPGs in the Caribbean (i.e. on the basis of one project per annum). These projects would be owned by the CDCC member countries and arrangements would be put in place for them to sign off collectively on the project proposals to be developed for submission to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other funding agencies. In the latter context, the IDB has emerged as an important player in the financial architecture of RPGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Every year since 2004, it has provided up to US\$10 million in non-reimbursable resources to finance selected proposals that support the development of RPGs in both regions. Past projects funded by the Bank have included those involving environmental protection, health, education, technology, financial markets, social development, nutrition and agriculture.

The Bank’s Integration and Regional Programs Department (IRPD) is the focal point for regional issues, including the Regional Public Goods Program. The IRPD is currently funding a

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<sup>17</sup> ECLAC, *Revised Text Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee*, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

<sup>18</sup> The IDB defines an RPG as “any good, commodity, service, system of rules or policy regime that is public in nature and that generates shared benefits for the participating countries and whose production is a result of collective action by the participating countries”. See, Kea Wollard, *Conceptual Framework of the RPG Program*, Integration and Regional Programs Department, 2007. Internet link: [www.iadb.org/int/ledes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=159&cid=93](http://www.iadb.org/int/ledes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=159&cid=93).

regional study on value chains, regional integration and competitiveness in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) (Project No.ATN/SF-10210-RG). This project was designed and promoted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The latter is currently providing technical backstopping and oversight support during the implementation phase of the project. The secretariat has therefore developed a very good working relationship with the IRPD that should help to pave the way for the CDCC to establish a partnership with the Bank. To this end, ministers may wish to request the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the UNDP/Caribbean Regional Programmes Unit to jointly take the lead in discussing possible funding arrangements with the Bank for the development of RPGs in the subregion. Specifically, for the period starting in 2008-2010, we should seek the Bank's support in replicating three of their high-profile RPG projects for the benefit of the Caribbean; viz:

(a) **Project No. ATN/OC-9253-RG: Improved public management through e-government practices.** The objective of the project is to assist 16 Latin and Central American countries in their efforts to improve public administration through e-government best practices. The operation consists of three components: (a) an intraregional technical assistance mechanism; (b) the identification and adoption of operating standards and mechanisms for single windows; and (c) strengthening of e-government institutional authorities.<sup>19</sup>

(b) **Project No. ATN/OC-9256-RG: Improvement of statistics for measuring quality of life.** The objective of the project is to enhance the quality of social statistics in 15 Latin and Central American countries, through the adoption of technical and methodological standards that facilitate the production and dissemination of those statistics through coordination between, and integration of, the countries' statistics offices in creating and promoting those standards. The purpose of the project is to set technical and methodological standards and establish common variables and definitions that are adopted by statistics institutes in the region. That is to say, to have technical and methodological recommendations on tools and products used to generate social statistics and on the basic definition of common concepts.<sup>20</sup> This project would build on preliminary efforts by the Statistics Division of the CARICOM Secretariat to harmonize social and gender statistics in the subregion.

(c) **Project No. ATN/OC-9258-RG: Single-based social security for MERCOSUR.** The objective of the project is to improve MERCOSUR management capacity and structures in order to better meet the needs associated with the subregional integration process. The specific objective of the project is to help integrate the social security systems of the MERCOSUR countries by developing and implementing a Regional Public Good consisting of a system to transfer and validate the data needed to process benefits granted under the MERCOSUR Multilateral Social Security Agreement (Single Social Security Database – SSSD). The project consists of five key components: (a) a diagnostic assessment; (b) organization and institution building; (c) development of the SSSD; (d) training; and (e) promotion.<sup>21</sup> The CARICOM Secretariat is seeking to spearhead a similar initiative in the Caribbean.

<sup>19</sup> IADB at [www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=194&cid=180](http://www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=194&cid=180)

<sup>20</sup> IADB at [www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=193&cid=180](http://www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=193&cid=180)

<sup>21</sup> IADB at [www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=191&cid=180](http://www.iadb.org/int/redes/rpg/index.aspx?mid=50&scid=191&cid=180)



It would be advisable for the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the UNDP to also identify and consult with other funding sources such as the United Nations Development Fund and the CARIFORUM/EU programme to determine their interest in co-financing these three projects.

#### **E. Strengthening standards for public opinion research**

It is also proposed that a programme be developed to help strengthen standards for the collection, analysis and dissemination of public opinion data in the Caribbean. This proposal would respond, *inter alia*, to certain governance concerns in the subregion. More specifically, it could be directed at the following:

- (a) Promoting in each Caribbean country the conduct and publication of scientific research that influences actions by the government, the private sector and the general public;
- (b) Promoting the knowledge and application of scientific methods in the conduct of public opinion research; and
- (c) Promoting regional cooperation and exchange among academic and independent researchers, journalists and political actors, non-governmental organizations, as well as among the representatives of the different scientific disciplines.

#### **F. Facilitating regional consensus on transboundary cooperation issues**

This can best be achieved by ensuring the participation of representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, SELA and the ACS in CDCC meetings and *vice versa*, CDCC representation at relevant meetings of the aforementioned bodies.

#### **G. Championing implementation of this initiative**

There are three ways in which this initiative can be championed:

- (a) The Chairperson of the CDCC should take the lead in championing the implementation of these recommendations;
- (b) The Chairperson of the CDCC should seek to take advantage of the existing regional portfolios that have been distributed among the CARICOM member countries; and
- (c) The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should also seek to partner with each of the designated portfolio countries in the development and implementation of activities under the regular ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean. For example, under the 2008-2009 and

2010-2011 biennium work programmes, it might be advantageous for the secretariat to partner with the Government of Belize in the area of sustainable development. Similarly, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Suriname would be suitable partners in the areas of single market and economy, labour (including intra-Community movement of skills), science and technology, justice and governance, gender and youth, respectively. This would be an excellent avenue for resource mobilization and media publicity of the secretariat's research and technical cooperation activities.

#### IV. PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE CDCC'S ROLE IN PROMOTING CARIBBEAN-LATIN AMERICAN LINKS

The CDCC can play an important role in promoting Caribbean-Latin American links in six distinct areas: (a) trade and trade-related issues; (b) investment; (c) multi-destination tourism; (d) music and entertainment; (e) sports; and (f) finance. The recommendations presented in sub-sections (b)-(f) have been reproduced from the 2007 ECLAC study entitled "Promoting Economic Links Between the Integration Schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean: A CARICOM Perspective".<sup>22</sup>

##### A. Trade and trade-related issues

As discussed in Section II (C), CARICOM has trade agreements with individual Latin American countries that are members of the various Latin American integration arrangements. These agreements, which include preferential arrangements, are with Venezuela (1992), Costa Rica (2003) and Colombia (1994). CARICOM also has trade agreements with the Dominican Republic (2001) and Cuba (2000). There is also renewed interest on both sides to establish closer links as evidenced by the following:

(a) Brazil has formally submitted an application to the CDB to become a non-borrowing member of that institution;

(b) St. Kitts and Nevis has formally indicated its interest in establishing trading links with Brazil, through accession (if possible) to the Guyana/Brazil Partial Scope Agreement;

(c) Both Guyana and Suriname (through their linkages with the South American region as members of the growing South American integration bloc (UNASUR) and through bilateral agreements with countries in South America) could provide the opportunities for the establishment of practical ways to strengthen relations between the two regions.

The CDCC could, therefore, play an important facilitating role in sensitizing the political leaders of the two integration schemes to implement policies for the further promotion of dialogue between them.

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<sup>22</sup> ECLAC, *Promoting Economic Links Between the Integration Schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean: A CARICOM Perspective*, *op. cit.*, pp. 14-17, 29, 30.

## **B. Investment**

The 2007 ECLAC study identified five areas of regional economic activity that qualify as attractive areas for both foreign direct investment and joint ventures between CARICOM and Latin American countries. These are:

- (a) Tourism-related manufacturing and other services, including high value, low weight items such as jewelry, craft items and clothing;
- (b) Energy-related manufacturing and industry, including aluminum/metal manufacturing and ethanol production;
- (c) Food and beverage, especially specialty foods such as Jamaican ‘jerk’ seasoning and alcoholic beverages;
- (d) Building and construction material, including cement and wood products such as roofing material and floors; and
- (e) Marine-related production, including the manufacturing of components for yachts and pleasure crafts.

The working group is of the view that CARICOM and Latin American countries should explore the possibilities of joint ventures in the above-mentioned areas. This, however, would require further research (to determine their international competitiveness) which could be supported by both the public and private sectors in both groups of countries.

Equally important is the fact that CARICOM should pursue a strategy of promoting the region as a single investment location in its approach to our Latin American neighbours. CARICOM should also seek to maximize the potential benefits that might accrue under existing trade and economic agreements with Latin American States, especially where bilateral investment treaties exist. Moreover, consideration should be given to translating the CARICOM Investment Code into Spanish and arrangements should be put in place for its dissemination through Caribbean embassies and missions in Latin America, as well as on a dedicated website targeting potential investors in the Latin American region. CARICOM countries should also target potential investors in Latin America through investment shows in selected Latin American countries, beginning with those that have already concluded bilateral trade and investment agreements.

Referring back to the 2007 ECLAC study, it is recommended that the relevant government authorities and private sector organizations in both regional integration schemes should pursue the following actions:

- (a) Develop various strategies, programmes and incentives targeting investments (including joint investment) in both subregions;

- (b) Research the various sectors and prioritize certain sectors for specific action;
- (c) Develop data collection on intraregional investment and the activities of those firms that operate in both integration schemes; and
- (d) Develop information-sharing facilities (including websites) with a view to providing multilingual information on various investment-related areas.

### **C. Multi-destination tourism**

The ECLAC study suggested that there might be ample opportunities for the development of multi-destination tourism in both subregions. The following activities, therefore, merit immediate attention:

- (a) Designing and promoting joint package tours/holidays which focus on the ecology, history and culture of both the Caribbean and Latin American regions;
- (b) Joint marketing of the Caribbean and Latin America as key tourism destinations. Here operating costs, especially advertising for hotels and other tourism related businesses, will be reduced in both regions;
- (c) Joint training in tourism and related areas involving tertiary-level institutions in both subregions. In addition, more practically-oriented training in specialized tourism and related areas is proposed.

The study also pointed to the need for further work to be undertaken in evaluating the feasibility of developing the following areas with a view to promoting tourism between the two subregions:

- (a) Establishing direct air links between Latin American and Caribbean countries (e.g. the recent announcement by Caribbean Airlines to establish an air-bridge between Port of Spain and Caracas, Venezuela);
- (b) Reviewing entry visa requirements and costs for Latin American citizens into Caribbean countries and vice-versa. Here an examination of the arrangements within the Stichting Airport Coordination Netherlands (SACN) may provide some lessons;
- (c) Increasing the levels of duty-free exemptions for Latin American tourists returning from the Caribbean, (i.e. negotiations for allowing Latin American tourists increased levels of duty-free entry of Caribbean products purchased by returning Latin American tourists);
- (d) Assistance from Latin American countries in the training of Caribbean tourist sector and related workers in Spanish and Portuguese;

(e) Establishment of joint missions in Latin American countries geared towards marketing Caribbean products, including tourism; and

(f) Improvement/upgrading of attractions (i.e. nature tourism, adventure tourism, community tourism and health tourism).

#### **D. Music and entertainment**

For both the CARICOM and Latin American subregions, the music and entertainment industries represent dynamic but nascent possibilities for regional cooperation. From the CARICOM side, demand for reggae and dance hall music has moved beyond the wider Caribbean into Latin America, with Spanish language reggae artistes emerging there, as well as in the North American market. Concurrently, Latin American music is now becoming much more popular in CARICOM countries, with increasing demand for both Latin music and dance.

The relevant agencies in CARICOM and Latin American countries should, therefore, examine the feasibility of the following:

(a) Joint concerts in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, North America, Europe and Japan featuring leading artistes from the two subregions;

(b) Promoting the further development of “cross-over” musical forms between both subregions;

(c) Joint music education programmes in schools at all levels that teach the musical forms of CARICOM and Latin America;

(d) Cooperation between musicologists and musicians from both subregions; and

(e) Joint initiatives involving the private sectors of both subregions to support the music and entertainment industries.

#### **E. Sports**

In order to strengthen links between the two integration schemes, popular knowledge and appreciation of the sporting activities of the two subregions is imperative. CARICOM has a track record in cricket and athletics, while Latin America has dominated world football for decades. There exist possibilities for collaboration in sporting activities as follows:

(a) Information-sharing about the sporting activities of both subregions, beginning with football and athletics; here also, regular broadcasts (TV, Internet and radio) of sporting activities in both subregions is proposed;

(b) Involvement of sports personnel from the respective subregions in training in those areas where comparative advantages exist. For example, CARICOM can provide expertise in athletics and cricket and Latin America in football at the level of coaches, training clinics and facilities, as well as joint intraregional sporting events; and

(c) Establishing professional sporting leagues in CARICOM with Latin American support.

## **F. Finance**

The development banking sector in the Caribbean has historically experienced a number of problems in areas related to financial resource mobilization, creation of attractive financial products and effective debt collection. The Caribbean may, therefore, benefit from the experiences of development banks in Latin America, especially the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). The latter is a multilateral financial institution that supports regional integration and the sustainable development of its shareholder countries. The Corporation is currently the main source of financing for the countries of the Andean region. Between 2002 and 2006, CAF generated US\$11.74 billion or 48 per cent of a total of US\$24.45 billion approved by all multilateral organizations for the countries linked to the organization.

CAF has 17 member countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. Its main shareholders are the five Andean countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (i.e. "A" and "B" series shareholders), together with 12 associated countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay which are part of "C" shares, and 15 private banks from the Andean region (i.e. "B" series partners). Trinidad and Tobago accessed project funds in 2002, while Jamaica has never accessed CAF funds.

The Executive President and other CAF representatives have attended ACS meetings but no formal links exist with any regional organizations including CARICOM and the CDB. The CDB and CAF have recently initiated discussions related to possible links. This initiative should be encouraged. In addition, ministers may wish to request the CARICOM Secretariat to initiate discussions with CAF with a view to examining the possibilities for collaboration, including membership of other countries of the subregion in the Fund.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Caribbean is in the midst of economic, social and political transition. There is the need, therefore, for greater emphasis on defining a long-term vision and a Caribbean-driven development agenda to guide the corresponding support of the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other development partners. The challenges confronting the region are well known, numerous and formidable, but they are not insurmountable. A redefined and revitalized CDCC holds much promise and, indeed, can be an active contributor to the accelerated development of the Caribbean. This can be achieved through the implementation of the following recommendations:

- (a) Broadening of the CDCC composition to include Caribbean regional offices of United Nations funds, programmes and agencies; donors; private sector and civil society actors;
- (b) Developing a monitoring mechanism to gauge progress towards implementing decisions and actions from one CDCC meeting to the next;
- (c) Developing various strategies, programmes and incentives targeting investment (including joint investment) in both subregions;
- (d) Examining possibilities for cooperation in tourism (including multi-destination tourism);
- (e) Examining possibilities for cooperation between CARICOM and Latin American countries in music, entertainment and sports;
- (f) Initiating discussions with CAF with a view to examining the possibilities for collaboration, including membership of Caribbean countries in the Fund;
- (g) Strengthening institutional relations among ECLAC/CDCC, ACS, SELA and CARICOM with a view to promoting dialogue and developing concrete actions to further functional cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America;
- (h) Identifying a portfolio of projects to develop and implement regional public goods for the benefit of the Caribbean;
- (i) Engaging in further consultation with donors and other key stakeholders on the modalities for implementing these recommendations; and
- (j) Defining priorities, next steps and timelines for the implementation of these recommendations.



The Working Group is of the view that the implementation of these recommendations would result in a significant paradigm shift that would give greater focus to the work of the CDCC and which would require the following actions:

(a) Further amendment of the Constituent Declaration and functions and rules of procedure of the CDCC;

(b) The need for enhanced institutional support to the CDCC, particularly to facilitate the introduction of additional working languages (i.e. Spanish and French); and

(c) The application of United Nations guidelines for the participation of private sector and civil society organizations in United Nations intergovernmental meetings.

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Annex I**MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP****A. Member/Associate Member Countries****BARBADOS**

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**GUYANA**

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Ms Valerie Alleyne-Odle, Programme Manager, Foreign Policy & Community Relations

**C. United Nations bodies****United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Mr Thomas Gittens, Senior Programme Advisor

**International Labour Organisation**

Ms. Ana Teresa Romero, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Ms Leah-Mari Richards, Liaison Officer, Trinidad and Tobago

**United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)**

Mr Johannes Wedenig, Representative, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

**D. ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat**

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Mr. Ronald Williams, Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Annex II**Terms of Reference of the CDCC Working Group**

(a) To review past ECLAC documents with a view to recapitulating the nature, objectives and purpose of the CDCC, including its relationship with other organizations, as enshrined in its Constituent Declaration.

(b) To design and implement a process of consultation, by face-to-face and electronic means, with key stakeholders in the CDCC member and associate member Countries, representatives of the United Nations system's funds, programmes and agencies in the Caribbean and others actively involved in technical cooperation and research for development programmes in the subregion.

(c) To prepare detailed proposals for enhancing the CDCC's potential in the following areas:

- Serving as a forum for coordinating information sharing around work programme activities for the UN system in the Caribbean;
- Promoting debate and dialogue around critical development concerns facing the Caribbean and consistent with the work of UN agencies in the region;
- Serve as a forum for regional priority setting by Governments in the areas of UN support for the region, taking into account existing processes such as the annual United Nations-CARICOM dialogue;
- Coordination of regional priority setting activities, including consensus building around a regional development coordinating framework; and
- Serve as a forum for assessing and reviewing regional progress towards key internationally-agreed development goals, including identification of data sources and gaps.

(d) To propose concrete ways in which the CDCC, as a permanent subsidiary organ of ECLAC, may better function as a mechanism for promoting formal exchanges and dialogue between the Caribbean and Latin America.

(e) To organize and participate in a review meeting for the first draft of the Working Group's report in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

(f) To prepare and present a final report for consideration at the next scheduled CDCC ministerial meeting in April 2008.

Annex III**ATTENDANCE AT CDCC SESSIONS**

<b>CDCC SESSION</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>COUNTRIES ATTENDING</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Session	31 October-4 November 1975	Cuba	83	Bahamas*; Barbados*; Belize*; Cuba*; Dominican Republic; Grenada*; Guyana*; Haiti*; Jamaica*; Netherlands Antilles*; Trinidad & Tobago*; West Indies Associated States**
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	16-22 March 1977	Dominican Republic	90	Barbados; Belize**; Cuba*; Dominican Republic*; Grenada*; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles*; Suriname*; Trinidad & Tobago; West Indies Associated States**
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	12-18 April 1978	Belize	71	Barbados*; Belize**; Cuba*; Dominican Republic*; Grenada*; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Trinidad & Tobago; West Indies Associated States**
4 <sup>th</sup> Session***	21-27 March 1979	Suriname	79	Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago;
5 <sup>th</sup> Session***	4-10 June 1980	Jamaica	62	Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago
6 <sup>th</sup> Session***	4-10 November 1981 3-4 February 1982	Grenada New York	82	Antigua/Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago
7 <sup>th</sup> Session***	19-15 January 1983	Trinidad & Tobago	78	Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Montserrat; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago
8 <sup>th</sup> Session	6-12 June 1984	Haiti	67	Barbados*; BVI**; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Guyana*; Haiti*; Jamaica*; Netherlands Antilles*; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI

9 <sup>th</sup> Session	29 May – 4 June 1985	Trinidad and Tobago	85	Antigua/Barbuda*; Barbados*; BVI; Cuba*; Dominican Republic*; Grenada; Guyana*; Haiti*; Jamaica*; Netherlands Antilles*; St. Kitts/Nevis*; Saint Lucia*; St. Vincent/Grenadines**; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI
10 <sup>th</sup> Session	27-29 October 1987	Trinidad and Tobago	46	Antigua/Barbuda*; Aruba; Barbados; Cuba; Dominica; Grenada; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia*; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI
11 <sup>th</sup> Session	18-22 November 1988	USVI	47	Anguilla**; Antigua/Barbuda*; Aruba*; Bahamas; Barbados; BVI**; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles**; St. Kitts/Nevis*; Saint Lucia; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI**; Turks and Caicos**
12 <sup>th</sup> Session	4-8 December 1989	Curacao	53	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba**; Bahamas*; Belize; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Guyana*; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles**; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI
13 <sup>th</sup> Session	22-25 July 1991	Jamaica	58	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba*; BVI; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Grenada*; Guyana*; Jamaica*; Netherlands Antilles*; Puerto Rico; St. Kitts/Nevis; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines*; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI
14 <sup>th</sup> Session	8-11 December 1992	Grenada	43	Antigua/Barbuda; Belize; BVI; Cuba; Dominica*; Dominican Republic; Grenada*; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; USVI
15 <sup>th</sup> Session	26-29 July 1994	Dominican Republic	49	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba; Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic*; Grenada*; Guyana; Haiti*; Jamaica*; Netherlands Antilles*; Suriname*; Trinidad & Tobago; USVI; French Antilles
16 <sup>th</sup> Session	31 October 1996	Trinidad and Tobago	12	Antigua/Barbuda; Cuba; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago

17 <sup>th</sup> Session	23-24 March 1998 (technical) 15 May 1998 (ministerial)	Aruba	33	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba*; Barbados; BVI; Cuba; Guyana; Haiti; Netherlands Antilles; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; USVI*
18 <sup>th</sup> Session	30 March – 1 April 2000	Trinidad and Tobago	43	Anguilla; Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Montserrat**; Netherlands Antilles*; St. Kitts/Nevis; Saint Lucia*; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI*
19 <sup>th</sup> Session	14-15 March 2002  (no agencies invited)	Trinidad and Tobago	24	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba; Barbados; Belize; BVI; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Haiti; Jamaica; Montserrat; Netherlands Antilles; Puerto Rico; St. Kitts/Nevis; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; USVI*
20 <sup>th</sup> Session	22-23 April 2004	USVI	34	Anguilla; Antigua/Barbuda; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Jamaica; Netherlands Antilles; Puerto Rico; St. Kitts/Nevis; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; USVI**
21 <sup>st</sup> Session	16-17 January 2006	Trinidad and Tobago	59	Antigua/Barbuda; Aruba; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; BVI; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana*; Haiti; Jamaica; Montserrat; Puerto Rico; St. Kitts/Nevis; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent/Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*; USVI*

\* Minister attended

\*\* Prime Minister or Chief Minister attended

\*\*\* No titles of participants given in List of Participants