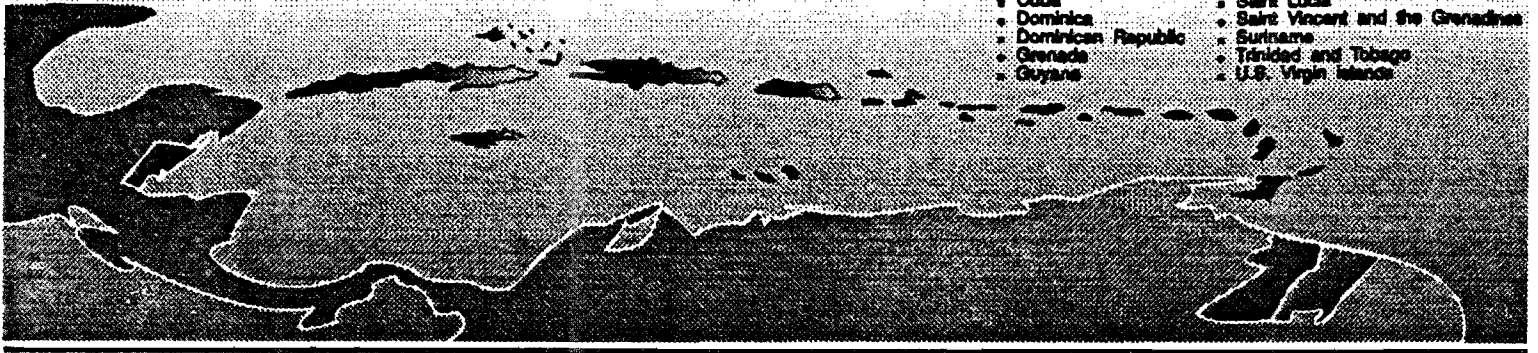




- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad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



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 20 December 1993
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REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
 MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC





REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC

The sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 25 November 1993, was attended by representatives from the following member and associate member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. (A list of participants is annexed to this report.)

The meeting was chaired by Mr. William Joseph, Chairman of the CDCC (technical level).

Agenda item 1: Introductory remarks

Mr. Daniel Blanchard, recently-appointed Director of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, welcomed the members of the Monitoring Committee, and assured them that mandates given to the secretariat by its intergovernmental body were being reviewed with a view to ensuring that they would be implemented. The Director gave a brief overview of the role and function of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and noted that there had sometimes been a gap between the expectations of the CDCC and the accomplishments of the Office, partly due to limitations in resources.

Progress had been made in achieving the mandated outputs, as was evident from the document which the secretariat had prepared for the Monitoring Committee entitled, "Implementation of the Work Programme of ECLAC/CDCC, January-December 1993", which provided details of its activities during the period indicated. He made specific reference to three important technical meetings which the secretariat was organizing: the Meeting of National Economic Managers and Planners, (23-24 November 1993, Port-of-Spain); the Caribbean Working Group on Social Development Issues, (25-26 November 1993, Port-of-Spain); and the Regional Technical Meeting on Population, (2-3 December 1993, Port-of-Spain).

Participants were brought up to date on matters relating to the CDCC mandate for increased cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean. The Director noted that discussions with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico were continuing with a view to developing an "action-oriented programme of activities" for the promotion of private sector contacts as well as increasing trade and joint economic ventures. In executing a project on training policies, the secretariat was able to develop a network of tertiary-level educational institutions in the Caribbean subregion, including Venezuela.

In reference to recent developments in trade, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), he indicated that the secretariat would prepare a document on this issue for presentation at the next session of the CDCC.

The Director noted progress with regard to the Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean. A project proposal, prepared by a team of consultants financed by the European Community (EC), had been evaluated by the secretariat and a meeting had been scheduled for mid-1994 to finalize the document. He stated that the secretariat would continue to pay attention to this activity, given the importance of this issue to efforts towards deepening Latin American and Caribbean cooperation.

The meeting was informed that the secretariat had been performing an important role in matters relating to social development in the Caribbean, through its work in population and development, on women in development and its preparation for the 1995 World Social Summit.

In the context of technical assistance, the Director noted the timely fashion with which the secretariat had responded on issues relating to population and development. He stated that the secretariat had offered assistance in the conduct of a regional workshop on population projections; in the establishment and consolidation of national population units; and in the formulation of national population policies in various Caribbean countries. He made special mention of the work being done in the field of population and in relation to preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) scheduled for Cairo in 1994. He informed the meeting that a working group had been convened to formulate a Caribbean Plan of Action and that a Caribbean subregional meeting was scheduled for December 1993 to consider the Draft Plan of Action. The secretariat was also assisting member countries to prepare for the next meeting of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) scheduled to be held in Chile, March 1994, to finalize the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action.

He stated that the secretariat had accorded particular importance to the issue of Women in Development and had offered technical assistance in preparatory activities leading to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995. The secretariat was working closely with CARICOM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other agencies which were also involved in activities in this area. He mentioned that a proposal had been submitted to UNIFEM for joint sponsorship of a meeting of representatives of non-CARICOM specialists with responsibility for preparing the national responses to a questionnaire requesting information as inputs for the World Conference. The secretariat had also participated in meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean and planned a subregional meeting in July 1994 to draft a Caribbean Regional Plan of Action to be presented to the Fifth Regional Conference on Women and Development to be held in Argentina in September 1994.

The Director informed the meeting that the secretariat, through the Caribbean computer-based communications development project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), had developed with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System. This system had been introduced to member countries and an access mode to INTERNET was being sought to enhance this activity.

The secretariat continued to provide substantive support services to the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) in the improvement of mechanisms for technology transfer and development in CDCC member countries. This had been achieved through meetings and consultations with agencies and institutions at the regional and international levels.

He observed that the secretariat continued to produce documents in other fields as part of its recurrent work programme and noted that a draft work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium had been prepared for review by the Monitoring Committee prior to its submission to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, to be held in Cartagena de las Indias, in April 1994.

The Director stated that the Port-of-Spain Office had two major functions: firstly, to implement the ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean, and secondly to serve as a secretariat at the service of the CDCC member countries. He emphasized the importance of the multidisciplinary nature of the work.

He pointed to the need to obtain additional support from ECLAC Headquarters for staff training, access to information and project resources, and physical improvements to the Port-of-Spain Office.

In conclusion, the Director reminded the Monitoring Committee that there was a need to respond to changes occurring in the United Nations system, in particular the ongoing process of restructuring. He was optimistic about the support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to ECLAC and other regional commissions. He requested members of the Monitoring Committee to assist the secretariat in strengthening the work of the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters and in publicizing the activities of the CDCC.

Members of the Monitoring Committee expressed their support for the Director and wished him success in the carrying out of his responsibilities.

**Agenda item 2:
Adoption of agenda**

The agenda of the meeting was adopted, as follows:

1. Introductory remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Procedural matters
4. Review of the implementation of the secretariat's work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium; preview of the work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium; and consideration of the draft work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium
5. Agenda and arrangements for the fifteenth session of the CDCC
6. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)
7. Any other business.

**Agenda item 3:
Procedural matters**

It was agreed that an attempt should be made to conclude the meeting by 1.00 p.m. in view of the Social Development Meeting scheduled for 2.30 p.m. that same day.

**Agenda item 4:
Review of the implementation of the secretariat's work programme for
the 1992-1993 biennium; preview of the work programme for
the 1994-1995 biennium; and consideration of the
draft work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium**

The secretariat noted that the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC was formulated in general terms and was broadly similar from one biennium to the next. This was so because of the long time lag from the date of preparation to the time of the actual implementation of the work programme, and in order to give it more precision as the time of implementation drew nearer. An attempt had always been made, in giving greater precision to the work programme to take account of the wishes of member countries as indicated at meetings of the CDCC.

The secretariat informed the meeting that the work programmes for the 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 bienniums included elements which had been identified as having high priority in sessions of the CDCC. It was suggested that the work programme document tended to understate the work actually carried out by the secretariat during any given biennium. The meeting was informed of the difficulty of completing certain intended outputs due to a lack of resources, both human and financial.

The secretariat noted that more attention would be given to inter-institutional collaboration when implementing the 1994-1995 work programme.

The meeting then considered the secretariat's document, "Implementation of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC, January-December 1993".

13.1 Economic surveys and analyses of Caribbean countries

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands reiterated the request that the secretariat seek ways for non-CARICOM countries to participate in certain CARICOM activities which might be of significance to these countries. With regard to other aspects of the subprogramme, the representative suggested that there was the need for providing more timely information on activities of other organizations in which the CDCC was involved. The secretariat responded that this was not always feasible given the late receipt of information from the relevant institutions.

13.2 Economic and social planning in the Caribbean

The representative from Trinidad and Tobago suggested that the secretariat could be more involved in the issue of the alleviation of poverty, given the current prominence of this subject.

The secretariat responded that the subject was one of the major topics to be discussed at the Meeting of the Caribbean Working Group on Social Development, convened by ECLAC/CDCC, which was scheduled for 25-26 November 1993 in Port-of-Spain.

13.3 Science and technology in the Caribbean

The CCST representative informed that the document had understated the work undertaken by the CCST, and suggested that in addition to those activities which related to Latin American and Caribbean cooperation, the document should also report on joint venture activities with Programa Bolivar.

The representative requested that the draft documents on Renewable Energy and Water Resources in the Caribbean, prepared by the Science and Technology Unit, be included with the documents listed under this programme element.

The CCST representative informed the meeting that the following project proposals had been submitted for consideration to prospective donors:

1. Technology Extension Project, which was submitted to UNIDO for funding and included activities for the OECS and Belize;
2. Project for the training of Science and Mathematics teachers; and
3. A project on energy resources which was being developed.

The representative was of the view that the absence of a permanent secretariat for the CCST had adversely affected the performance of the CCST and noted that there was need to decide on the future of the CCST at the next session of CDCC.

He made mention of the ongoing correspondence between the CCST and ECLAC/CDCC, emphasizing the constraints of the United Nations system to provide the necessary support; and the cost-saving exercise which inhibited the flexibility of the operating capabilities of the Caribbean. However, he was optimistic of the future of the CCST since some progress had been made in recent discussions with ECLAC/CDCC.

In regard to the issue of posts being sought by the CCST, the Director of ECLAC informed the meeting of the difficulties in having posts reclassified, but suggested that there was some possibility of either submitting a formal request for reclassification to the United Nations General Assembly or of requesting the Executive Secretary to switch posts internally within the ECLAC system.

The representative of Cuba questioned the operational mode of the permanent secretariat and stated that article 24 of the CCST Statutes was quite clear on this question. He indicated that he remained uncertain of the issue of removing the status of the CCST from "interim" secretariat to "permanent" given the appalling state of its financial resources. He stated that the CDCC secretariat had been attending to the functions of CCST and had a mandate to do so and the activities were conducted within the United Nations regulations.

The representative of the CCST responded to these queries and agreed that removal of the term "interim" was not necessary, but that there was a need for the CCST to be enabled to be more responsive to requests from its members. He suggested that there were other means by which the CCST secretariat could operate which might not necessarily require new financial arrangements. He mentioned the specific issue of the authority to sign project documents.

The CCST representative informed the meeting that the CCST was involved in the upcoming Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, where the work of CCST would be displayed.

13.4 Social development in the Caribbean

The secretariat informed that work had started in reviewing the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and assessing their possible role in the activities of ECLAC/CDCC. The secretariat agreed that there was a need to focus more on women professionals and also on the marginalization of men.

Women in Development: The meeting noted the work of the secretariat in assisting Caribbean countries to prepare for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

Language barriers: The representative of the Netherlands Antilles gave an update on the status of the Language Barriers Project and informed the meeting that a report would be presented to the next session of CDCC. The project document was being evaluated by the Netherlands Antilles and would be considered at a Meeting of the Working Group of Experts, prior to the CDCC session.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago inquired as to the experts who would be invited to join the Working Group. The Netherlands Antilles representative informed that they would preferably be at the technical (linguistics) level.

13.5 Population and development

The secretariat recalled the mandate received at the fourteenth session of the CDCC and outlined the activities which had been undertaken in this area. The Chairman of the Working Group of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) requested the CDCC secretariat to intervene, on its behalf, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for them to participate in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

13.6 Environment and development in the Caribbean

The meeting noted that much of the activity in this area consisted of joint projects with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The meeting also noted the contribution of ECLAC/CDCC to the Regional Technical Meeting preparatory to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Port-of-Spain, 12-16 July 1993. In addition to its role as co-organizer of the meeting (with the CARICOM Secretariat), the secretariat was responsible for preparation of much of the substantive documentation for this meeting.

13.7 Information and documentation for economic and social development

Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU): The secretariat noted that the PIDU project had ended and discussions were being held with a view to relocating the Unit. However, some activities were continuing, by way of essentially supporting member countries in their efforts to set up their own documentation centres and responding to requests for information.

Statistics: The representative of Antigua and Barbuda called for National Statistics Offices to be timely in their submission of data and expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of data on the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in publications from ECLAC (Santiago). He commented on the need for assistance in the more timely delivery of information.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands informed the meeting of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), a system designed to improve the collection of customs statistics and noted the usefulness of the project to member States for purposes of trade information.

13.8 Tourism and industry

The secretariat highlighted the work done on Export Processing Zones (EPZs). It was suggested that more emphasis be given to this study. The meeting was informed that a paper on EPZs would be submitted to the next session of the CDCC.

The Trinidad and Tobago representative informed the meeting that he had observed that the focus in this area was on industry, and suggested that some attention could be directed to tourism in future efforts. The secretariat responded that tourism activities had been carried out in the first year of the biennium under review.

The representative of Suriname requested that all draft documents prepared by the secretariat be made available to all the CDCC member countries. The secretariat informed the meeting that due to the draft status of some documents they could not be circulated until published as final documents.

13.9 International trade and finance

The secretariat noted that there was a need to focus on NAFTA given its importance to the subregion. The Trinidad and Tobago representative informed the meeting that the Trinidad and Tobago Government would be completing an agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with a view to convening a workshop on NAFTA in early 1994.

13.10 Support to the OECS

The secretariat expected that it would continue cooperation with the OECS in spite of the termination of the contract of the consultant who had specific responsibilities in this area.

The meeting then proceeded to preview the work programme for the 1994-1995 biennium. The secretariat stated that the work programme took account of the issues raised in meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

The secretariat brought to the attention of participants two new programme elements incorporated into the 1994-1995 work programme as requested at the last session of the CDCC and the Monitoring Committee. The inclusion of programme element 13.1: "Promotion of cooperation among member countries of the CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America", and 13.2: "Island Developing Countries" were illustrative of the thrust of the secretariat. The format for the rest of the work programme remained unchanged. The secretariat stated that not enough work had been done on economic integration processes, hence the inclusion of this subject under International Trade and Finance.

The Trinidad and Tobago representative made reference to the draft document on cooperation between CARICOM and the CDCC and suggested that the secretariat pursue finalization of this document.

He suggested that under programme element 13.1, a blanket provision should be made for the results of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be considered in the 1994-1995 work programme. Further, he asked the meeting to consider the impact of international developments, such as, NAFTA, which would affect the performance of the subprogrammes and noted that those activities initiated in 1993 which were of significance to member countries should continue.

The representative of Suriname raised the issue of recent developments in international trade which affected the subregion, in particular, the relationship between the environmental policies and trade. He suggested that a study on the environment be included in the 1994-1995 or 1996-1997 work programmes.

The representative of Cuba questioned the inclusion in the work programme of those activities related to the energy sector, more specifically in the CCST work programme. He informed the meeting that the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), which included the membership of Caribbean countries was already involved in such a programme. He referred to the fourteenth session of CDCC where it was agreed that OLADE would be approached to carry out activities in the field of energy. He stated that specific emphasis be given to support those mandates adopted at CDCC sessions. He supported the inclusion of those activities identified in 13.2 "Island Developing Countries".

The 1996-1997 work programme was then reviewed. The secretariat informed that this work programme continued the emphasis contained in the 1994-1995 work programme.

The representative of Cuba urged the secretariat to take account of the comments of the Monitoring Committee in revising the 1996-1997 work programme despite the constraint of having to operate with the same limited resources. He called for the identification of those Latin American institutions which collaborated with the secretariat.

The secretariat informed that there would be follow-up activities to the various world conferences of 1994 and 1995 in the 1996-1997 work programme.

It was suggested that the meeting should address the question of Haiti and that CDCC should pay particular attention to and identify whether the work programme could be adjusted in some way to assist Haiti. The secretariat responded to the latter suggestion by stating that this issue had been discussed with the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and noted that, if requested, ECLAC could collaborate in drawing up an economic assessment for the reconstruction of the Haitian economy. This was being addressed and there was no need for any specific mention in our work programme. He indicated that when circumstances permitted, ECLAC/CDCC would seek to play an appropriate role in the reconstruction and development of Haiti. It was pointed out that this would be done through a joint mission with ECLAC, Mexico.

It was suggested that importance be given to activities in the work programme relating to Cuba and other non-CARICOM countries.

The representative of the British Virgin Islands stated that migration was an important issue in that country and suggested the need for a study on migration.

The secretariat responded by informing the meeting that a project was being formulated to address the issue of migration.

The representative was concerned that some activities in subprogramme 13.1 under "operational activities" did not appear to have resources allocated to them. He suggested that some consultation take place between the Chairman of the Working Group of NICCs and the secretariat on these activities.

Agenda item 5:

Agenda and arrangements for the fifteenth session of the CDCC

The secretariat informed that after ongoing consultations with the Government of the Dominican Republic, the fifteenth session of the CDCC, scheduled for March 1994, had to be postponed. After discussion regarding a date and venue for the fifteenth session, it was agreed that the secretariat would consult with the Chairman with a view to deciding on the date and venue for the meeting. The secretariat pointed out the difficulty of convening the session prior to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC in April 1994.

The meeting discussed the need for the CDCC to consider and approve the draft 1996-1997 work programme of ECLAC/CDCC prior to its submission to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC in April 1994. It was agreed that in the event that the CDCC did not meet prior to the ECLAC session, the draft work programme could be allowed to go

forward to the ECLAC session on the basis of its review by the Monitoring Committee, and taking into account that there was the possibility of its modification subsequent to the ECLAC session, on the basis of its consideration by the CDCC at its fifteenth session.

**Agenda item 6:
Report of Chairman of the Working Group of the
Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)**

The Chairman of the Working Group of NICCs introduced his report (copies of which had been circulated to the meeting). He began with a review of the mandate included in resolution 37(XIV) of the CDCC to carry out functions and initiatives and he reported on the participation of associate members of CDCC in a number of conferences.

1. Conference on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks: Associate members of the regional economic commissions were invited to participate as observers at these sessions. It was noted that the absence of NICCs' participation was primarily due to the unavailability of external resources.
2. Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS: With the strong support of CDCC member States, it was recommended to the General Assembly that it invite associate members of regional economic commissions to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the conference and its preparatory activities.
3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD): It was expected that the associate members of regional economic commissions would be invited to participate in the Third Preparatory Session of the ICPD, scheduled in New York on 11-22 April 1994.
4. Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP): The tenth Meeting of the CEP adopted a recommendation to be considered in advance of the eleventh meeting of its Monitoring Committee and Bureau of Contracting Parties. These meetings originally scheduled for December of 1993 had been rescheduled to June 1994.
5. Meeting of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs): A Meeting of the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories, representatives of the European Community, and the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands was held in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, from 7-9 November 1993. The Chairman of the Working Group of the NICCs participated in the meeting as an observer.
6. Conference on Constitutional Reform and Democracy: The Chairman of the Working Group informed the meeting that he was invited to participate in this conference to present a paper on recent constitutional developments in non-independent Caribbean countries.

He had held consultations with government officials regarding the activities of ECLAC/CDCC with the aim of encouraging the participation of the Government of Bermuda. Potential technical cooperation activities between Bermuda and the wider Caribbean were explored.

7. Caribbean Energy Conference and Trade Exposition: The Chairman was invited to address the opening ceremony of this conference which was intended to bring experts from the public and private sectors together to discuss increased regional cooperation in energy and sustainable development. Discussions were held with representatives of the Caribbean Energy Information Network, a programme funded by ECLAC/CDCC, with the aim of increasing the participation of CDCC members in its programme.

8. Meeting of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly: The Chairman of the Working Group of NICCs addressed the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 14 October 1993, providing a report to the member States on the mandate of NICCs' participation in the United Nations system, ongoing activities of the Working Group and projected initiatives.

9. United Nations Pacific Regional Seminar on Economic, Social and Political Conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories: This meeting was held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 8-10 June 1993. External resources were provided by the Special Committee of 24. The Chairman of the Working Group presented information on its activities and reported on recommendations on increasing the participation of non-independent countries in United Nations programmes.

The Chairman of the Working Group also identified a number of projected activities involving: the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction; the World Summit for Social Development; the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the Commission for Sustainable Development; the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of the Latin American and Caribbean Region; the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

The Chairman urged that when the General Assembly and ECOSOC draft their respective resolutions relating to various activities, observer status for non-independent countries be included from the outset, as was the case for non-governmental and other organizations.

He informed that it was difficult and costly for the Working Group to recommend modifications to the rules of procedure for each activity. The Chairman noted that once observer status was achieved for the non-independent countries, many of these governments could not participate in these activities due to resource limitations. In this connection, he called for the NICCs to be made eligible for accessing external assistance from "voluntary funds" established to assist developing countries to participate in United Nations activities.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda stated that he would be willing to assist in promoting the status of the NICCs to that of observer status.

The Chairman of the Working Group expressed his pleasure that the Antigua and Barbuda delegate had supported his request for NICCs to be given observer status. He further stated that a Draft Resolution would be prepared for the Antigua and Barbuda delegate to present to the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) at its next meeting.

**Agenda item 7:
Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting ended. At the request of Chairman, the Director thanked the government representatives for their contributions and expressed his pleasure at the very constructive spirit of the deliberations.



Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Ambassador Lionel Hurst United Nations Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations 610 Fifth Ave. #311 New York, N.Y. 10020 U.S.A
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