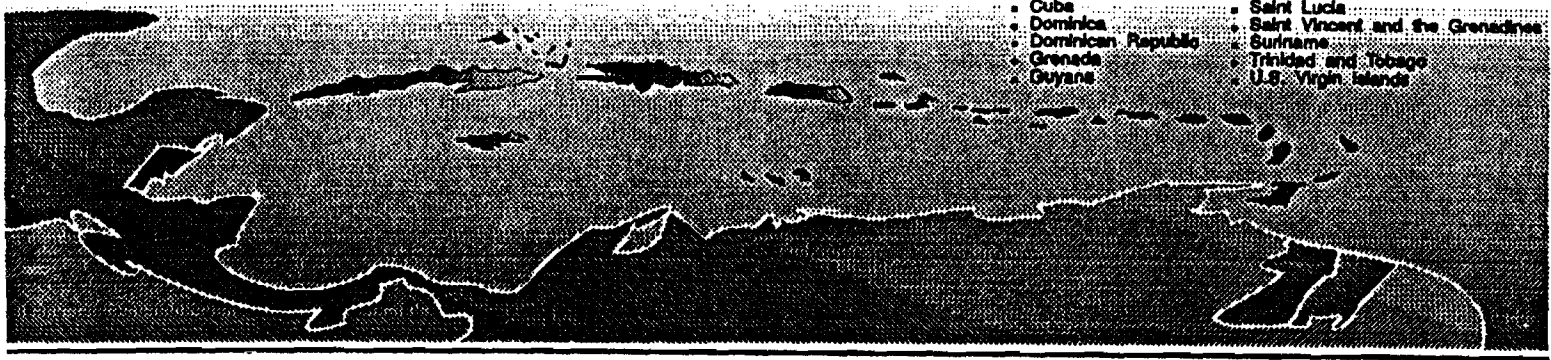


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- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint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



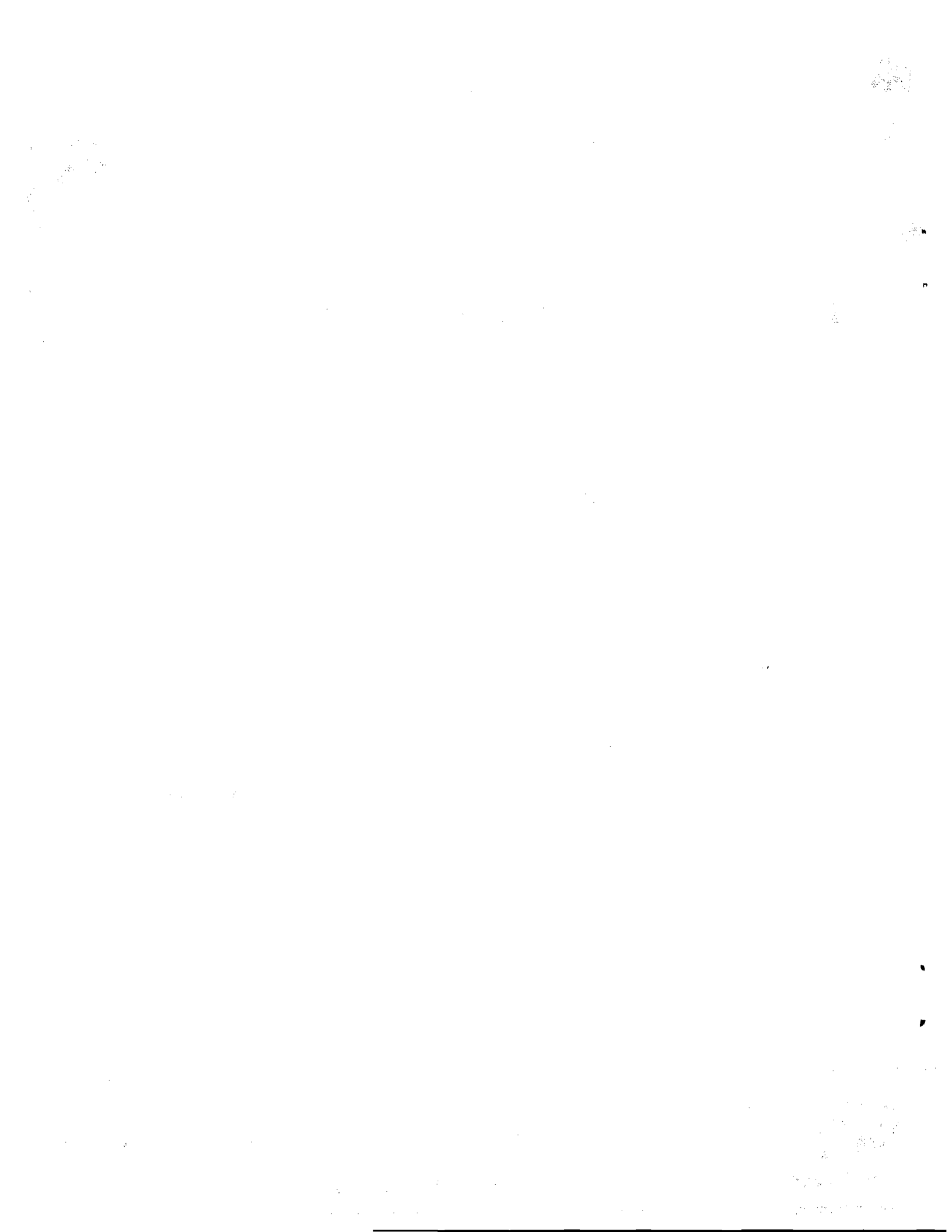
Seventh Meeting of the
 Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
 Grafton Beach Resort, Tobago
 14 July 1995

GENERAL
 11 September 1995
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**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING
 OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE
 CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**







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The seventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held at the Grafton Beach Resort, Tobago, on 14 July 1995, was attended by representatives from the following CDCC member and associate member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. Anguilla attended in the capacity of observer. (A list of participants is annexed to this report).

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michel Kerpens, First Vice-Chairman of the CDCC (technical level).

Agenda item 1:

***Report of the Director on recent developments affecting the
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean***

Mr. Daniel Blanchard, 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.

He informed that in his newly-appointed role as Director of the Subregional Headquarters, he had endeavoured to make the Office more responsive to the needs of the governments by whose mandates it operated. He advised that he had obtained additional resources to meet the expectations of the regional governments and had signed cooperation agreements with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Institute of International Relations (IIR) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in this quest. The Director also informed the meeting of efforts to publicise the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat through the timely publication of the "Focus" newsletter, the media (television, radio and newspapers) and, on a few occasions, the office had hired the services of a publicist.

Mr. Blanchard stated that one of the primary roles of regional commissions was the organization and coordination of preparatory activities and follow-up to international conferences. In this light, he cited the conferences in which the office had played a significant role in preparing the Caribbean subregion and where it was also involved in follow-up activities: the Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (SIDS), May 1994; the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), September 1994; the World Summit for Social Development (WSS), March 1995; and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) to be held in September 1995. At the Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean, May 1995, ECLAC/CDCC and CARICOM were given a joint mandate to facilitate the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action. An additional P4 post was obtained from United Nations Headquarters for purposes of strengthening the Office's capability to carry out this mandate.

The meeting was informed that in preparation for the Habitat II Conference scheduled to be held in Turkey, June 1996, a Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting was scheduled for November in Santiago, Chile and a Caribbean Regional meeting on 25-27 September 1996 in Barbados. ECLAC was investigating ways in which it might be able to assist CDCC countries to attend this meeting.

In the context of technical assistance, the Director informed that the secretariat had successfully collaborated with: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in conducting a technical mission to Suriname to assist in the preparation of proposals for a Management Support Unit (MSU) to manage the economy, including the sequencing of structural adjustment policies; CDCC member countries, NGOs and subregional organizations to prepare for the FWCW; and the UNDP, Trinidad and Tobago, in implementing the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a collaborative international programme that gave grants to developing countries for activities and technologies contributing to the protection of the global environment.

The Director then noted some of the projects that the secretariat was involved in or was planning. In the area of population and development, a project had been signed with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the area of teenage fertility. A regional project on the promotion of trade and investment was being carried out in collaboration with the ECLAC offices in Mexico City and Santiago. The secretariat followed up on a decision to continue the work on the removal of language barriers project which was aimed at the furtherance of language communication in the region.

The Director then outlined some of the main priorities of the secretariat for the rest of the year. Focus would continue to be placed on social development issues. A statistics seminar would be held in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The secretariat would continue to collaborate with CARICOM in the area of SIDS; to work with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); and to invite Anguilla, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos to subsequent sessions of the CDCC. Preparations for the next session of the CDCC were also underway.

Agenda item 2:

Implementation of the work programme of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean since the fifteenth session of the CDCC

13.1 Promotion of cooperation among member countries of CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles expressed her government's gratitude for the appreciation and confidence manifested in resolution 41(XV), on the Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean, including the endorsement of the proposal to locate the Caribbean Language Institute in the Netherlands Antilles. She further stated that the Netherlands Antilles Government remained committed to this project. The representative updated the meeting on activities in this area.

To obtain funding for the initial phase of the RLB project, the Transtec Report had been submitted to the European Union (EU). Regrettably, the EU had expressed reservations about its support for the project, unless support and financial commitment from other CDCC member and associate member countries was forthcoming. In this respect, two courses of action were suggested: (a) to link the RLB project to the Cultural Centres project being proposed through CARICOM; and (b) to seek cooperation with the University of the Netherlands Antilles.

The draft feasibility study of the project on Cultural Centres had been analyzed in its current form. A link between the two projects had not been recommended. In seeking cooperation with the University of the Netherlands Antilles, the representative reminded the meeting that cooperation within the region was of vital importance if the project was to succeed.

The representative reported that because funding was not available, the project had suffered a setback and previous commitments, such as the hosting of the fifth Caribbean and Latin American Language Conference in August 1996 in the Netherlands Antilles, were not possible. In the meantime, she informed, the Netherlands Antilles Government was continuing to seek financial support for the project.

The representative stressed that her country had been singlehandedly spearheading the project since 1993; and that, given the observations of the EU mentioned earlier, the Netherlands Antilles Government felt it had been overextending itself for this project, and that commitment to the project seemed to be lacking from other CDCC member and associate member countries, with the exception of Suriname. She further stated that she hoped that every CDCC member and associate member country would support the project wholeheartedly and would be encouraged to establish National Chapters in their countries and to develop language plans and policies, which would eventually lead to the establishment of the Regional Committee.

The representative of Suriname gave an update of the language situation in his country. The status of the language project is to make an inventory of the situation in Suriname with regard to the factors defined in the Transtec document, that is, supply and demand for language services or training, consumers, producers and national policy. Also in progress was a project to ensure publication of legislation in English. This was especially important in light of Suriname's accession to CARICOM and within the broader context of Suriname's integration into the region. Finally, the meeting was informed that a workshop on translation had been planned for August 1995 but had to be postponed. Its objective was to highlight the professions of translator and interpreter and to make the public more aware of the requirements which official translators must meet.

The representative of Jamaica informed the meeting that in Jamaica the Committee for the promotion of the Spanish language had been working with the Caribbean-Latin American Centre. The meeting was informed that the problem experienced in this case was that of finance. Other ministries also did not provide all the support requested.

The secretariat took this opportunity to report on its participation at a meeting in Bogota, Colombia, 12-14 May 1995. The meeting was hosted by the Executive Secretariat for the Andres Bello Convention (SECAB) which had its mandate from the VII Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Officials responsible for Cultural Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Trinidad and Tobago on 18-23 November 1994.

This mandate was to "discuss and define mechanisms for the coordination of the elimination of language barriers in the region and increase collaboration between those institutions and organizations so involved."

At the meeting ECLAC presented an overview of the Removal of Language Barriers Project document which was well received. The meeting considered this document as a useful guide to the master document which was to be prepared at the meeting.

The major outcome of the meeting, relevant to ECLAC/CDCC, was the support which the Caribbean Removal of Language Barriers project received and the willingness expressed by both the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and CARICOM to view this project as the master project for the Caribbean subregion. In that regard, UNESCO indicated its willingness to seek funds for the project and CARICOM indicated its willingness to seek the project's endorsement by the Ministers of Culture. Should such support and endorsement be forthcoming, then the request of the EU regarding Caribbean support for the project should be fulfilled. Also at the meeting, CARICOM expressed the view that no apparent conflict existed between this project and the proposed culture centres.

13.2 Island developing countries

The meeting was informed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had convened a Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (SIDS/POA) in Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 May 1995. This meeting was held out of a concern for the slow pace of implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and as follow-up to the United Nations Global Conference on SIDS; and was convened in collaboration with CARICOM, UNDP, the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED) and UNEP. Among the conclusions of the meeting was that regional governments should accept ownership of, and responsibility for, implementing the SIDS/POA. The meeting also highlighted the need for a regional coordinating mechanism to implement the SIDS/POA. ECLAC/CDCC and CARICOM were given this role on an interim basis for one year.

13.3 Women in development

The meeting noted the activities of the secretariat leading up to the FWCW, scheduled to be held in Beijing, China, in 1995. A considerable amount of time was devoted to providing technical assistance and advisory services to member countries, regional and international organizations and NGOs in preparing National Status Reports and a regional position for consideration at the preparatory conferences and at the FWCW.

The representative of Barbados complimented the secretariat on its work in the document "Social Development in the Caribbean: Guidelines for Action" adopted at the Second ECLAC/CDCC Meeting Preparatory to the World Summit for Social Development, convened in Antigua and Barbuda, 6-8 December 1994. This meeting provided a forum for member States to discuss issues in preparation for the WSS which took place in Denmark, 6-12 March 1995. The representative sought information on the secretariat's activities in social statistics and enquired whether other institutions were working in this area. The secretariat responded that it was in the process of developing a social statistics database, although a considerable amount of work was needed at the national level; and that the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) had been engaged in a project intended to make information on poverty more readily available.

13.5 International trade and finance

The representative of Guyana enquired whether there was collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat in the development of the intra-CDCC trade database. The secretariat informed that there was collaboration with that organization in this venture, and noted that much of the data on the CARICOM countries had been obtained from that source.

The meeting noted that as part of the ongoing review of global and hemispheric economic developments, and as follow-up to papers presented at the last three sessions of the CDCC, the secretariat was preparing a paper examining the eligibility requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the light of recent undertakings of CDCC member countries under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)/World Trade Organization (WTO).

13.6 Industry and tourism

The meeting noted that in the field of industry and tourism, the secretariat continued to focus on the aspects dealing with industry, using the services of consultants. A study was being conducted entitled "Industrial policies for the CARICOM subregion". This study would examine the implications of existing trade policies for industry, taking into account national, hemispheric and global economic developments and would recommend an industrial policy for CARICOM. Another study entitled "A critical review of the performance of the manufacturing sector in Trinidad and Tobago" analyzed the performance of the sector in the context of the incentive measures and facilitating mechanisms which had been in place for over 40 years.

13.7 Environment and development

The meeting was informed that in addition to follow-up activities relating to the SIDS/POA, the secretariat was establishing an environment database which would provide information on environment statistics in the region and would also offer a directory on sources of information.

13.8 Information and documentation

The secretariat informed that an integral part of the programme on information and documentation was the provision to increase support to member countries in the field of informatics. The secretariat issued Volume VII of the statistical publication "Selected Statistical Indicators of Caribbean Countries", the most comprehensive compilation of statistical indicators in the subregion and informed that in future it would contain information on the social sector. The meeting was apprised that the secretariat was currently developing additional databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environment information.

The representative of Guyana requested technical assistance for the Guyana Statistical Bureau, particularly in the area of data collection. The secretariat responded that to address the problem of data collection in member countries of the subregion, the secretariat had organized a workshop/seminar on statistics in Saint Kitts and Nevis to be held in October 1995.

13.12 Population and development

The meeting noted that the "Caribbean Population and Development Meeting - Follow-up to ICPD" in the Bahamas, 3-5 May 1995, had been convened by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. This meeting provided a forum for consultations on follow-up activities to the ICPD Programme of Action. The meeting prepared and adopted a "Draft Caribbean Subregional Plan of Action on Population and Development - Follow-up to ICPD", for consideration and implementation by governments of the subregion. At the request of participants, the documents had been presented for endorsement to the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting held in Guyana, 4-7 July 1995.

The secretariat informed that a survey on teenage fertility was carried out in collaboration with the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. A similar exercise was started in Grenada in collaboration with the Grenada National Population Council and Department of Statistics. The secretariat had begun work on the conduct of a study on the "Impact of Immigration on Small Island Countries and Coastal States in the Caribbean."

Agenda item 3:
***Report on recent activities of the
Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)***

The Secretary of the CCST reported to the meeting on the activities of the Council since the last session of the CDCC in July 1994. He reported that the work programme of the CCST had been reviewed at the sixteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council held in Trinidad and Tobago, 20-21 October 1994. The meeting was informed that the next plenary session of the CCST was scheduled for September 1995 in Cuba.

The Secretary stated that the Council focused on three areas of work: the ability for science and technology to permeate the society at the national level; the popularization of science and technology so that it would be encompassed as part of everyday activities; and science education which required the proper training of teachers in science.

The meeting was informed of the adoption of a model energy policy and a resolution on renewable use of energy at the Caribbean High-Level Workshop on Renewable Energy Technology, held in Saint Lucia, 5-9 December 1994. This meeting was co-sponsored by UNESCO and the UWICED.

The representative of Saint Lucia requested the Secretary of the CCST to enumerate some of the problems that the Council had experienced in the popularization of science and technology in the subregion. The secretary responded by stating that a main problem faced was the disorganized state of affairs at the national level, and suggested that a national coordinator be appointed to formulate a programme for this purpose.

Agenda item 4:
Report on recent activities relating to
Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

The Chairman of the NICCs reported to the meeting that in implementing the relevant provisions of the CDCC work programme on assistance to the NICCs, the secretariat had been guided by specific activities identified by member governments in the relevant resolutions of CDCC, and by consultations with the NICCs governments.

The meeting was informed of the publication of the newsletter, "The Associate", which had been distributed to governments and selected non-governmental organizations in non-independent Caribbean countries and other interested governments and organizations in the Caribbean, as well as to several international organizations in the Pacific region.

He apprised the meeting of the project document which was formulated to identify resources to implement relevant provisions of resolutions approved by the CDCC. These resolutions called for the facilitation of the participation of ECLAC/CDCC associate members in programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical assistance in the furtherance of their development processes.

A profile on the economic and constitutional situation in the NICCs was being finalized. The document was intended to serve as a baseline study on conditions in the non-independent Caribbean. It was anticipated that this document would be updated annually. The document provided information on the constitutional evolution of the NICCs and presented an economic profile of the countries concerned, including current economic developments and international economic relations.

The meeting noted the cooperation of the secretariat with tertiary institutions. Some of which were the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the British Virgin Islands Community College (BVICC), the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and the Bermuda College.

The meeting was informed that in discussions with the United Nations Special Committee, it was suggested that ECLAC/CDCC could undertake the socio-economic constitutional analyses called for in relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The Chairman reported that in response to a request for assistance, the secretariat provided advisory services to the national United Nations Association of the British Virgin Islands/United States Virgin Islands (UNAVI) with respect to the required procedures for applying for official observer status to the FWCW. UNAVI, it was noted, was one of only a few non-independent Caribbean NGOs to seek accreditation to the FWCW, but was initially omitted from the list of accredited NGOs.

In the discussion that ensued, the representative of Saint Lucia enquired what other avenues, apart from the ECLAC/CDCC, the NICCs had to access the United Nations system. The secretariat informed that the NICCs had a number of avenues, including the regional institutions, and the specialized agencies which, in some instances, adapted their terms of reference for the purposes of the NICCs as had been done by ECLAC/CDCC. The secretariat would make this information available to member and associate member countries.

Agenda item 5:

Sixteenth session of the CDCC - Agenda, venue, dates

The secretariat informed the meeting that after discussion with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, it had been agreed that the sixteenth session of the CDCC would be held in Antigua and Barbuda, 11-14 December 1995.

The meeting reviewed the provisional agenda of the session and the secretariat welcomed suggestions from the member countries regarding the meeting's agenda.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda stated that his country would be pleased to host the next session of the CDCC.

The Director, in closing, expressed his appreciation to the government representatives for their contributions and thanked them for their support of the work of the secretariat.

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