



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/CAR/L.132
10 September 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirteenth meeting of the
Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 23-24 August 2007

**REPORT OF THE
THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF
THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

Table of contents

Place and date of the meeting.....	1
Attendance	1
Agenda item 1 - Opening remarks	1
Agenda item 2 - Adoption of the agenda.....	2
Agenda item 3 - Procedural matters and organization of work	3
Agenda item 4 - Implementation of ECLAC/CDCC work programmes <i>Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium as at May 2007 and Review of preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work, as approved by the thirty-first Session of ECLAC</i>	3
Agenda item 5 - The role of CDCC in regional development	5
Agenda item 6 - Inter-agency collaboration	7
Agenda item 7 - Conclusions and recommendations of meetings held on the eve of the CDCC Monitoring Committee.....	9
Agenda item 8 - Date and venue of the twenty-second session of the CDCC	12
Agenda item 9 - Other matters	13
Agenda item 10 - Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC.....	13
Agenda item 11 - Closure of the meeting.....	13
Annex: List of participants	14

DRAFT REPORT

Place and date of the meeting

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at its headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 23 and 24 August 2007.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate members were Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands. The Cayman Islands participated as an observer in view of their pending application for membership status in ECLAC which is scheduled to be tabled at the upcoming thirty-second session of ECLAC in 2008. The list of participants appears as an Annex to this report.

Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the session: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Agenda item 1 - Opening remarks

Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; Mr. Mario Baez, Chief, Programme Planning and Operations Division, ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, Chile; and Ms. Susan Gordon, Director, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago and Chair of the CDCC.

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed delegates to the meeting and recalled the importance of the Monitoring Committee as an intergovernmental technical mechanism to assess the implementation of the work programme in order to ensure its continued relevance. He noted that in the present context, regional integration, open regionalism and relentless globalisation, coupled with the move towards greater coherence and reform of the United Nations system, provided an opening for a renewed strategic role for the CDCC.

The Director of the Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC extended the compliments of the Executive Secretary, Mr. José Luis Machinea, and outlined some of the early history of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and its subsequent amendment of the acronym to ECLAC which coincided with the establishment of a special subregional programme of activities for the Caribbean. He noted that the CDCC should enhance not only the Caribbean presence in ECLAC, but in a complementary sense, enhance the ECLAC presence in the Caribbean. He highlighted the importance of strengthening the Caribbean voice in regional and global meetings as a means of further contributing to the social and economic development of the region. Referring to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the subject of a meeting on the previous day, the representative from ECLAC Headquarters noted that this area of work had to date received little financial support from international donors, but ECLAC would continue its efforts to make the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for its members a reality.

In welcoming delegates to the meeting, the Director of the Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, noted that one of the outstanding achievements of the CDCC was its success in fostering dialogue and collaboration between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and non-CARICOM member countries. She also noted that the Millennium Development Goals had galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest, even while access to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) continued to outpace global economic growth. Referring to the recent passage of Hurricane Dean through the region, she made the point that the Caribbean States faced a critical challenge of how to achieve and maintain strong economic growth and investment in the medium and long term. She concluded with the hope that the meeting would continue to define the relevance of the CDCC in terms of the diminishing geo-political importance of small States, where the task of mere survival required collective commitment, intellect and action. She urged member countries to recommit to the CDCC as an important regional organization, aspiring to advance the mandates of the global community and the hopes of its peoples.

Agenda item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

1. Welcome remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Procedural matters and organization of work
4. Implementation of ECLAC/CDCC work programmes: *Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium as at May 2007 and Review of preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as approved by the thirty-first Session of ECLAC*
5. The role of CDCC in regional development - Presentation and discussion
6. Inter-agency collaboration - Presentations and discussion
 - (a) *Cooperation towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*

- (b) *Cooperation in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - Caribbean Information Society*
- (c) *Disaster Impact Assessments*

7. Conclusions and recommendations of meetings held on the eve of the CDCC Monitoring Committee:

- (a) *Meeting of RCM/Mauritius Strategy; and*
- (b) *Meeting of the Working Group of ECLAC Associate Member Countries*

8. Date and venue of the twenty-second session of the CDCC

9. Other matters

10. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC

11. Closure of the meeting

Agenda item 3 - Procedural matters and organization of work

The meeting adopted its hours of work and other arrangements of a procedural and organizational nature. In this regard, the secretariat informed that in accordance with the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC the Bureau elected at the twenty-first session of the CDCC meeting would continue to serve as follows:

Chair:	Trinidad and Tobago
First Vice Chair:	Barbados
Second Vice Chair:	Aruba
Third Vice-Chair:	United States Virgin Islands
Rapporteur:	Suriname

Agenda item 4 - Implementation of ECLAC/CDCC work programmes ***Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium as at May 2007 and Review of preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as approved by the thirty-first Session of ECLAC***

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean presented a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the 2006-2007 biennium. The secretariat tabled the report entitled "*Report on the implementation of the ECLAC work programme-Subregional activities for the Caribbean 2006-2007 biennium covering the period January 2006- 31 May 2007*" which reviewed activities carried out since January 2006, with annexes covering the list of publications; meetings, workshops and seminars convened during the biennium; technical assistance rendered to members and regional institutions; and implementation of extrabudgetary projects.

He noted that the secretariat had been reorganized along thematic lines in an effort to ensure the most effective delivery of support to the member and associate member countries. On the question of economic performance in the Caribbean, he noted that there were mixed results among member and associate member countries. He commented on those external factors which had influenced growth in the Caribbean focusing on the importance to the subregion of the emergence of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

One of the areas of great concern to the subregional headquarters was the insufficiency of data in the subregion as well as the limited access to existing data to inform policy decisions. He suggested that policies were not always evidence-based, and advised participants of the barriers which impeded the data collection exercise including cost constraints, and emphasized the importance of improvements to the system for data collection.

The Director, supported by staff of the secretariat, also reviewed preparations for the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as approved by the thirty-first Session of ECLAC. He focused on the need to strengthen interdivisional collaboration within ECLAC, initiate partnership arrangements with regional organizations and seek extrabudgetary funding. He also highlighted preparations for the thirty-second Session of the Commission to be held in July 2008.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago complimented the secretariat for its presentation and agreed that there was a perennial lack of data to make informed decisions for the development of relevant programmes. She lauded the secretariat's efforts at working towards strengthening the data collection capacity of member countries aimed at preparing evidence-based policies. She also commended the organization's work on social cohesion, youth and violence.

In response to a query from the Chair, the Director clarified that the outstanding 7 per cent of the programme of work could be attributed in part to the high vacancy rate as well as the high turnover of staff. In many instances, there were difficulties identifying expertise within the subregion in particular specialized areas to complete assignments; a further challenge was the time needed for external consultants to become familiar with the socio-cultural issues. However, he assured the meeting that efforts were being made to ensure a successful completion of all outputs listed in the current work programme.

The representative from UNICEF commented on work carried out by her agency, and informed the meeting that discussions were underway with ECLAC to increase collaboration. The secretariat confirmed that meetings had been planned for later this quarter to fashion an agenda to accomplish these activities. She also informed the meeting of the activities with CARICOM on the use of the DEVINFO database. She expressed interest in the study prepared on the human rights perspective in the Caribbean and requested information on the next step of the secretariat in this important area of work. The secretariat informed the meeting that the study on human rights and sustainable development, which was an additional activity of the 2006/2007 work programme, was an initial desk review, but it did not have the capacity to carry out further work in this area. It would welcome any collaboration in expanding future activity in this regard.

The UNAIDS delegate explained the work of his agency in social statistics especially as it related to HIV and AIDS and their collaboration with CARICOM and others in the Pan Caribbean

Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). The secretariat expressed its interest in joining with UNAIDS in this area of work.

A representative of Trinidad and Tobago pointed out the importance of benchmarking the Information Society in the Caribbean and urged the secretariat to continue to pursue its effort in this regard. He noted that this programme was closely aligned with the work of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) and the initiatives of ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago in implementing the eLAC 2007 strategy, adding that another potentially useful partner in this regard was the Commonwealth Secretariat which had a programme entitled Commonwealth Connects. In response, the secretariat noted that the eLAC programme was being spearheaded by the ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, and had a procedure for online discussions and Caribbean participation. There was also ongoing collaboration with CKLN, the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) and the CARICOM Secretariat in this area. He informed delegates of the ongoing United Nations/CARICOM dialogue and the work being carried out by the CARICOM Regional ICT Steering Committee, of which ECLAC was a member, noting that there were plans to have further discussions with CARICOM in this regard.

In response to an intervention from the representative of Saint Lucia, the secretariat noted the importance of modelling and forecasting for economic planning and informed that there was continuing contact with the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) and the technical personnel at the Statistics and Economic Projections Unit at ECLAC Headquarters. Some work had started with the British Virgin Islands which could be extended to other CDCC members in due course.

A representative of Guyana placed on record the appreciation of the Government of Guyana for the invaluable support of the secretariat in convening the Technical Meeting on “The Treatment of Asymmetries in the context of regional cooperation” held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in January 2007, in preparation for the Rio Group Summit. She informed the meeting that the recommendations made at that meeting were accepted by Heads at the Summit, who agreed that the process for coordination should remain in the Rio Group. In acknowledging the compliments, the secretariat took the opportunity to inform delegates that recommendations of the study on social issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was prepared by ECLAC in partnership with other United Nations agencies, also informed the discussions and decisions of the Rio Group Summit.

A representative of Trinidad and Tobago commended the 2008-2009 work programme of ECLAC in the areas of Natural Disaster Assessment, and sought clarification on the extent to which the secretariat had considered work in the area of climate change and the national response to this phenomenon. It was recommended that research be increased in this area, with particular attention to the effect on the environment.

Agenda item 5 - The role of CDCC in regional development

The secretariat made a brief presentation on the role of the CDCC in regional development. The presentation explored the outcome of previous consultations on the matter and took account of

some aspects of current proposals for United Nations reform. A general debate followed, which aimed at re-positioning the CDCC for a more effective role in regional development.

The meeting was reminded that the CDCC had its origin in 1975 during an era characterized by Cold War considerations globally, and heightened political consciousness regionally, at a time when a forum was needed for policy dialogue among the countries of the wider Caribbean region. Since then, in a changed environment of globalization and liberalization the region had experienced the growth of several institutions such as CARICOM, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the ACS, among others. These circumstances contributed to a reduction in regional collaboration and to a possible duplication of efforts. The need for greater coherence, coordination and effectiveness in the regional work among United Nations agencies and the regional Caribbean partners was also now seen as an urgent goal.

The CDCC could be described as "CARICOM +" and is a subregional mechanism which promoted dialogue on development cooperation, while identifying priorities for United Nations support for the Caribbean. The CDCC is unique in that it is an inter-governmental body with its own rules of procedure, comprising all relevant language groups, as well as Associate Member Countries (AMCs).

It was recognized that the effectiveness and visibility of the CDCC could be enhanced through the establishment of a Core Group. This group should be small in size and should undertake to: (a) review past ECLAC documents and CDCC resolutions in order to recap the objectives of the CDCC, including its relationship with other organizations; (b) design and implement the process for consultation with the key stakeholders in member and associate member countries and other partners involved in development efforts in the Caribbean; (c) prepare detailed proposals for enhancing CDCC potential in the following areas: information-sharing around work programme activities for the United Nations system in the Caribbean; discussion on key development issues facing the Caribbean consistent with the ongoing work of United Nations agencies in the region; and serving as a forum through which governments of the subregion set priorities for areas of United Nations support; and further serving as a mechanism to assess and review progress made towards key internationally agreed development goals, including the identification of data sources and gaps; (d) design ways for the CDCC to function as a mechanism to promote exchanges and dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean; (e) convene in Port of Spain a review meeting to prepare a first draft of the Core Group's report; and (f) prepare and present a final report for consideration at the next scheduled CDCC ministerial meeting in 2008.

A representative of Trinidad and Tobago enquired whether there were recommendations for the restructuring of the CDCC coming out of the Regional Consultation with Country-level Practitioners in Latin America and Caribbean States held in Barbados in July 2006, within the framework of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence created to explore how the United Nations system could work more coherently and effectively across the world in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, and the environment. In particular, the representative asked about the implications of the restructuring of UNDP and access to funding for activities, citing the requirement for developed States to contribute 0.7 per cent of GDP as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In response, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters noted that the High-Level Panel Report did not pertain directly to the CDCC, but dealt with wider United Nations reform. Nevertheless, the report would have some implications for the CDCC, as there were plans to focus in greater depth on issues of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the United Nations. The report was now being considered with the United Nations General Assembly.

A representative of Guyana highlighted the need for the CDCC to clearly identify its niche in terms of key flagship or rallying issues that could move the development process forward. Further, he noted the need for countries to support the CDCC as they increasingly called on the organization for technical support. The delegate noted that for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) to fulfil its role, it would have to be linked to other institutions and play a coordinating role. Also, the CDCC must be cognisant of the fact that sustainable development extended beyond environmental issues, but also encompassed socio-economic issues. In addition, the CDCC would have to take note of what was happening at CARICOM and the ACS in fashioning its niche, so as to avoid duplication of effort.

The UNICEF representative pointed to the difference of views on United Nations reform between the Group of 77 developing countries and the donor countries. In response, the Director noted the need for countries to be aware of these differences and their implications.

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands noted the unique origins of the CDCC and underscored the need for the forum to offer policy options that promoted the development of the region. The delegate questioned the general acceptance of globalisation as good for the development process in the region, pointing out that much of it entailed corporate dominance without supporting social responsibility. He challenged the CDCC to undertake critical analysis on policy issues and to ask the hard questions on development, in particular the areas of productivity, inequality and environmental degradation. Crucial areas in this respect were the relationship between production and exchange and inequality and environmental degradation. The Director of ECLAC acknowledged the importance of the issues raised by the United States Virgin Islands representative and supported the need for critical analysis in the work of the CDCC, especially in arriving at a regional perspective on development challenges and issues.

Agenda item 6 - Inter-agency collaboration

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat discussed issues of cooperation with agencies in the context of regional activities in the Caribbean envisioned for ECLAC in the 2008-2009 biennium and beyond.

Areas discussed were:

- (a) *Cooperation towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*
- (b) *Cooperation in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - Caribbean Information Society*
- (c) *Disaster Impact Assessments*

The secretariat presented a report on the status of Caribbean cooperation towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This had been discussed at a Caribbean

Preparatory Meeting in advance of the Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Highlighted as an area of concern was the fact that Caribbean countries were generally ranked middle-income and the development challenges peculiar to the region were not taken into account at international forums where decisions on development aid were made. Notwithstanding this, Caribbean States remained vulnerable to natural hazards, external global shocks, drug trafficking and violence. Food security and youth unemployment were also areas of concern. Strengthened interagency collaboration, strong leadership and active participation in international forums and a deepened commitment to the achievements of the Goals were recommended as the way forward for the Caribbean.

With reference to cooperation in follow-up activities in respect of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the secretariat informed the meeting of the meetings and workshops which had been convened during the biennium. These included the Telecommunications Roundtable (May 2006); the ICT Policy Makers Seminar (September 2006); the Meeting on Digital Content Management for Librarians and Information Specialists, and the Knowledge Management in the Public Sector Workshop (May 2007), and a presentation to the Government of the Netherlands Antilles on Building Blocks of the Knowledge Economy in the Caribbean. The secretariat also presented an overview of the work programme of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC) which had as its objective the provision of “an increasingly modern and efficient information service to the member countries of the CDCC with a view to strengthening their capacity to bridge the digital divide and bring the goal of a Caribbean Information Society closer to realization”.

The secretariat introduced the Caribbean Knowledge Management Portal, a new vehicle for disseminating the development profiles, skills bank, communities of practice, ICT profiles, Caribbean Digital Library and other web-based services offered by the organization, and described initiatives undertaken in cooperation with other agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). In closing, delegates were invited to use the Portal and add their names to the Caribbean Skills Bank. The Portal was accessible at <http://ckmportal.eclacpos.org>, and was updated regularly. A representative of Trinidad and Tobago commended the secretariat on the services offered through the CKMC.

The final presentation in this session was on the work of ECLAC in Disaster Impact Assessments which highlighted the economic, social and environmental devastation that accompanied the recent disasters in the Caribbean. The best response, it was suggested, was a disaster risk reduction strategy, of which inter-agency cooperation was a key aspect. Insurance, longer term vulnerability instruments and a Caribbean Disaster Fund were suggested as a means of financing the strategy.

In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Saint Lucia supported the idea of a region-wide contributory insurance scheme as well as the work being done in modelling and asked whether Saint Lucia could receive some assistance in this area. The representative from the Cropper Foundation also supported the need for wider disaster insurance coverage and pointed to a study done by CARICOM in this area, the recommendations from which had not yet been implemented. She also made the point that the Caribbean needed to adapt to climate change in order to increase its resilience. The representative of the Cayman Islands addressed the issue of a vulnerability index, some work on which had been done by ECLAC, and noted that the radar coverage of the Caribbean

gave inadequate early warning of hurricanes and other disasters. In response, the secretariat noted the need to work with the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA) and other agencies. The secretariat also informed the meeting of a study being undertaken on Catastrophic Risk Insurance and Vulnerability. ECLAC was examining the social issues for the Caribbean, Malta would complete the section on economic issues and the Pacific islands would review environmental concerns. An output of this would be an environmental vulnerability index.

Agenda item 7 - Conclusions and recommendations of meetings held on the eve of the CDCC Monitoring Committee

(a) Meeting of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the sustainable development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Under this item, the conclusions of the meeting on the RCM for the sustainable development of SIDS, which convened on the eve of the Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, were presented for discussion.

The meeting of the RCM had considered:

- (i) *Operationalization of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM): Review of the principles and structure of the RCM - Report on progress;*

Conclusions and recommendations were:

- Support for the principles and structure of the RCM noting that it should maintain a certain degree of flexibility in order to make room for a wider participation by multiple agencies within the region in order to ensure that its work reflected the priorities of the day;
- Support for the RCM structure and the use of its offices to strengthen communication and exchange of information among all parties involved in the efforts of sustainable development of SIDS;
- The value of the RCM as a platform for enhancing collaboration and coordination among development agencies and development partners in the area of sustainable development, especially in the context of the CSME.

- (ii) *Selection of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

The conclusions and recommendations were:

- The Monitoring Committee meeting scheduled for Friday 24 August could be engaged as a platform for emitting suggestions regarding the composition of certain categories of the RCM;
- Reiterate the value of the technical institutions to the composition of the TAC, identifying technical institutions from Cuba and Haiti, in addition to the UWI and the University of Trinidad and Tobago;

- Recognize the capacity in the Caribbean region, and ensure the broadest participation in the TAC in order to build bridges across multiple agencies and strengthen a holistic approach to its work;
- The TAC should make best use of the rotation of its membership and the participation of expertise as required;
- The importance of governments to identify their National Focal Point Mechanism (NFPM) as the principal point of contact at the country level.

(iii) *Priorities for mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) into the RCM*

Conclusions and recommendations were:

- A work programme for the RCM should be developed, which encouraged a holistic approach to sustainable development, taking into account :
 - i. The agenda of the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI);
 - ii. The priorities of the Caribbean region; and
 - iii. Priorities set by national authorities.
- As a result of current and recent developments such as climate change, the need for adaptation and the need for early warning systems, countries should review and reconsider some of the priorities detailed in the ECLAC document LC.CAR/L.100, *Caribbean Priorities in Implementation of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS/POA)*;
- The work programme of the RCM should fit its role as coordinating and identifying technical support needs and capacity-building requirements;

(iv) *Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations was also discussed in detail at the RCM*

The meeting made the following recommendations:

- The presentation on the Caribbean Sea by the Cropper Foundation represented an excellent starting point and could point the way for future research and action. It was noted that the presentation achieved the objectives of building awareness and sharing information;
- There was need to promote further support for the adoption by the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) of the its Draft Work Programme, and to place the Caribbean Sea as a priority agenda item, once again in the follow-up to the BPoA and the MSI.
- There was scope for close collaboration between the RCM and the CSC.

(b) Meeting of the Working Group of ECLAC Associate Member Countries (AMCs)

The Working Group of ECLAC Associate Member Countries (AMCs) informed the Monitoring Committee on the outcomes of its meeting held on 23 August 2007.

The meeting discussed the challenges facing AMCs and new opportunities from globalization; support provided to the AMCs and the role and function of the Working Group of the AMCs.

The following recommendations of the Working Group were accepted by the meeting:

- With respect to the issue of globalization and the competitiveness of the AMCs, the role of the AMCs needed to be defined more clearly within the wider Caribbean region. Despite the constraints occasioned by varying degrees of autonomy faced by the AMCs, which were necessary to proceed on certain matters, their expertise in services and tourism were recognized as important to the wider development of the Caribbean subregion.
- Due to their small size, the AMCs needed to find effective ways of integrating within the wider Caribbean community in order to benefit as much from globalization as the larger countries.
- It was highlighted that in order for the AMCs to reap the benefits of globalization, it might become necessary for them to collaborate within a larger economic grouping. Although the playing field was not necessarily even, globalization had forced the active dismantling of current conditionalities and preferential arrangements toward more efficient/competitive structures.
- It was felt that a more proactive (as opposed to reactionary) approach to the issues resulting from globalization was needed, using real opportunities presented by technology. This approach – to embrace technological change – would compensate significantly for some of the traditionally perceived disadvantages of their small size.
- The AMCs were encouraged to make greater use of ECLAC Port of Spain's services. The secretariat was in a position to tap into various other resources to undertake the requests by its member and associate member countries.
- The AMCs were urged to pay particular attention to their statistical data collection and database maintenance efforts as a way of enhancing the secretariat's support. Where requested, ECLAC would provide assistance to member and associate member countries in need of strengthening their national statistical capacity.
- The AMCs expressed interest in receiving information on modalities for accessing more fully the services offered by ECLAC.
- The AMCs concluded that it was necessary for them to review the structural arrangements and legislative authority of the Working Group of AMCs in order to better position themselves to participate in programmes available to them from the wider United Nations system.

The meeting also received a short presentation from the representative of the Netherlands Antilles who addressed new developments in the restructuring of the five-island composition of the country. In this connection, the representative indicated that the islands of Curacao and Sint Maarten might become separate countries in association with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while the smaller islands of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire would have direct ties with the Netherlands. She indicated that this new constitutional arrangement would have implications for international organization participation, including ECLAC/CDCC, as the country of the Netherlands Antilles which enjoyed associate membership in ECLAC and in CDCC would no longer exist.

The Director indicated that the situation was being watched closely by the secretariat with the aim of determining the implications of the new constitutional arrangements on the associate membership of CDCC. In this context, he indicated that the process of application of the new countries emerging from the restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles would be visited at the appropriate time.

In accepting the recommendations of the RCM Meeting, the Monitoring Committee recommended that Belize should be invited to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to represent the non-OECS CARICOM countries, in its capacity as CARICOM head with responsibility for the environment. It was also concluded that the AMCs would further consult and advise the secretariat as to their representative on the TAC, and that the secretariat would consult with relevant inter-governmental institutions with regards to their participation. It was further agreed that the final composition of the TAC should be decided by the end of September 2007, and the results of these deliberations would be made available to the CDCC member and associate member countries.

Regarding the role of the technical institutions to the composition of the TAC, the meeting concluded that a broader representation was appropriate, and that the secretariat should undertake further consultations with the University of the West Indies to determine the nature of its representation, and to ensure broader institutional representation given the coordinating role of UWI vis à vis other regional tertiary institutions.

The meeting also agreed that a work programme for the RCM should be developed on the basis of regional and national priorities, and should reflect a holistic approach to sustainable development, taking into account the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI).

Agenda item 8 - Date and venue of the twenty-second session of the CDCC

It was agreed that a date in the second half of April 2008 would be set for the twenty-second session of the CDCC, which would be held in Trinidad and Tobago, after further consultations by the secretariat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and other member and associate member countries.

Agenda item 9 - Other matters

The Director informed the meeting that the Turks and Caicos Islands had been admitted to ECLAC at its thirty-first Session as the eighth associate member, and is expected to apply for associate membership in the CDCC at its twenty-second session in 2008.

The Director also advised the meeting that the application for associate membership of the Cayman Islands was scheduled to be considered at the thirty-second Session of ECLAC in 2008, and an application for associate membership in CDCC was also expected in 2008.

The meeting was further informed of the approval by the ECLAC Committee of the Whole on 5 June 2007 of the application by the Republic of Korea to become a member of ECLAC.

Agenda item 10 - Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC

The meeting concurred with the recommendation of the chair that the secretariat circulate the Draft Report of the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee for comment and consideration. A final report of the meeting would then be circulated to all member States by 17 September 2007.

Agenda item 11 - Closure of the meeting

Upon conclusion of the discussions on the agenda items, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean extended his appreciation to the representatives of the member and associate member countries of the CDCC and United Nations agencies for their contribution to the success of the meeting. He also thanked the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, and of the ECLAC secretariat, for their excellent support.

Annex**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Mr. José Ortiz, Counsellor, Embassy of the Dominican Republic, 1 Dere Street, Suite 8, Queen's Park West, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tel: 868-624-7930; Fax: 868-623-7779; E-mail: embadom@hotmail.com or jose.ortiz@openmail.ocm

GUYANA

Mrs. Audrey Jardine-Waddell, Director, Department of Americas and Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 254 South Road and New Garden Street, Georgetown, Tel: 592-225-3982; Fax: 592-225-9192; E-mail: awaddell@minfor.gov.gy or ajardine39@yahoo.com

Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Presidential Adviser, Office of the President, Vlissengen Road, Georgetown, Tel: 592-223-5233; Fax: 592-223-5186; E-mail: navinc51@yahoo.com

JAMAICA

Ms. Cherett A. Campbell, Counsellor, High Commission for Jamaica, 2 Newbold Street, St Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-4995-7; 868-622-9043; E-mail: jhcom@tstt.net.tt

ST KITTS AND NEVIS

His Excellency, Mr. Delano F. Bart QC, Permanent Representative of St Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations, Suite 5, 414 East 75th Street, New York, NY 10021; Tel: 212-535-1234; Fax: 212-535-6854; E-mail: dbart@cw.blackberry.net

SAINT LUCIA

Ms. Aviva Fredericks, Deputy Chief Economist, Economic Planning, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Planning, National Development and the Public Service, Treasury Building, Laborie Street, Castries, Tel: 758-468-3977; Fax: 758-451-9706; E-mail: afredericks@gosl.gov.lc

SURINAME

Mr. Terry H. Shameem, United Nations Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Henck Arronstraat #8, Paramaribo, Tel: 597-420-063 and 597-477-030 ext. 3113; Fax: 597-410-851; E-mail: terryshameem@yahoo.com

Ms. Gloria de Mees, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Suriname, 11 Maraval Road, 5th Floor, TATIL Building, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tel: 868-628-0089/3402; Fax: 868-628-0086; E-mail: surinameembassy@tstt.net.tt

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Susan Gordon, Director, Multilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Knowsley", Queen's Park West, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-623-4116; Fax: 868-623-4220; E-mail: multilateralmfa@gov.tt

Mr. John Gillette, Management Specialist, Governance and Strategic Policy, Ministry of Public Administration and Information, Lord Harris Court, 52 Pembroke Street, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-627-5600 ext 3105; Fax: 868-624-8001; E-mail: gillettej@pai.gov.tt

Mr. Jerome Joseph, Foreign Service Officer I, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Knowsley", 1 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-623-4116 ext 2244; Fax: 868-623-4220; E-mail: Jerome.joseph.mfa@gmail.com

Mr. Peter Mitchell, Senior Manager, Ministry of Public Administration and Information, Lord Harris Court, 52 Pembroke Street, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-627-5600; Fax: 868-624-8001; E-mail: mitchellp@pai.gov.tt or peterm@tstt.net.tt

Ms. Vidiah Ramkhelawan, Assistant Director, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development, Level 12, Eric Williams Finance Building, Independence Square, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-623-8035; Fax: 868-625-6608; E-mail: vidiah.ramkhelawan@pd.gov.tt

Ms. Cheryl Ramsubeik, Environment Planning Officer, Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment, 16-18 Sackville Street, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-623-1912 ext 504; Fax: 868-623-5003; E-mail: cramsubeik@pubutilenv.gov.tt; cramsubeik@yahoo.com

Ms. Jenny G. Thompson, Foreign Service Officer I, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain, Tel: 868-623-4116 ext 2246; Fax: 868-623-4220; E-mail: jen.g.thompson@gmail.com

B. Associate Members

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Ms. Louise de Bode-Olton, Counsellor for Netherlands Antillean Affairs, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 69-71 Edwards Street, TRINRE Building, 3 Floor, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tel: 868-625-1210 ext 0218; Fax: 868-625-1704; E-mail: louise-de.bode-olton@minbuza.nl

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mr. David Edgecombe, Assistant to the Governor for External Affairs, Office of the Governor, Government House, St Thomas, VI 00802, Tel: 340-693-4366; Fax: 340-774-1361; E-mail: david.edgecombe@go.vi.gov

C. Observer

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Ms. Christina Rowlandson, Policy Analyst for the Cabinet Office, Cabinet Office, Cayman Island Government, Government Administration Building, Grand Cayman, Tel: 345-244-2201/2208; Fax: 345-946-1652; E-mail: Christina.Rowlandson@gov.ky

D. United Nations bodies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Marion Alleyne, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme), Winfield Scott Trust Building, First Floor, 134-138 Frederick Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-625-0467/8; Fax: 868-623-0995; E-mail: marion.alleyne@fao.org.tt

International Labour Organization Caribbean Office (ILO)

Ms. Mary Read, Deputy Director, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Stanmore House, 6 Stanmore Avenue, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-623-3359; Fax: 868-627 8978; e-mail: read@ilocarib.org.tt

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Mr. Michel De Groulard, Regional Programme Advisor, 3A Chancery Lane, P O Box 812, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-623-7056-7; Fax: 868-623-1658; E-mail: degroulardm@unaids.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Claudio Providas, Deputy Resident Representative, 3A Chancery Lane, P O Box 812, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-623-7056-7; Fax: 868-623-1658; e-mail: registry@undp.org.tt or Claudio@undp.org.tt

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Ms. Niloufar Pourzand, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, UN House, Marine Gardens, Hastings, Christchurch, Barbados. Tel: 246-253-9045; Fax: 246-436-2812; e-mail: npourzand@unicef.org

E. Intergovernmental Organizations**Association of Caribbean States (ACS)**

Mr. Luis Carpio, Director, Transport and Natural Disasters, 5-7 Sweet Briar Road, P O Box 660, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-622-9575; Fax: 868-622-4995; e-mail: lcarpio@acs-aec.org

Inter American Development Bank (IDB)

Ms. Denyse Dookie, Research Fellow, 17 Alexander Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tel: 868-622-8800; Fax: 622-6042; E-mail: denysed@iadb.org

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Ms. Diana Francis, Regional Specialist, Trade Policies and Negotiations, Caribbean Region, 3 Herbert Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-628-4403; Fax: 868-628-4562; e-mail: dfrancis@iicacarc.org

F. Special Guests**The Cropper Foundation**

Senator Angela Cropper, President, Building 7, Fernandes Industrial Centre, Eastern Main Road, Laventille, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel/Fax: 868-626-2628/2564; E-mail: acropper@thecropperfoundation.org or info@thecropperfoundation.org

Ms. Keisha Garcia, Building, E-mail: kgarcia@thecropperfoundation.org

Dr. Asha Singh, Building, E-mail: ashasing@yahoo.ca or asingh@thecropperfoundation.org

Ms. Ingrid White Wilson, Senior Associate, E-mail: iwhitewilson@tsst.net.tt

G. Secretariat**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Mr. Mario Baez, Chief, Programme Planning and Operations Division, ECLAC Headquarters, Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Santiago, Chile. Tel: 562-210-2115; Fax: 562-208-0252/1946; E-mail: Mario.baez@cepal.org

Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1 Chancery Lane, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: 868-623-5595/1969; Fax: 868-623-8485; E-mail: Neil.Pierre@eclac.org

Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, E-mail: Bineswaree.Bolaky@eclac.org

Mr. Radcliffe Dookie, Associate Programme Officer, E-mail: Radcliffe.Dookie@eclac.org

Mr. Michael Hendrickson, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, E-mail: Michael.Hendrickson@eclac.org

Ms. Sandra John, Chief, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, E-mail: Sandra.John@eclac.org

Ms. Asha Kambon, Regional Advisor, E-mail: Asha.Kambon@eclac.org

Mr. Sylvan Roberts, Economic Affairs Officer (Statistics), E-mail: Sylvan.Roberts@eclac.org

Ms. Sheila Stuart, Social Affairs Officer, E-mail: Sheila.Stuart@eclac.org

Dr. Carlyle Corbin, Consultant, E-mail: ccorbinmon@att.net