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Fourteenth meeting of the
Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 8 September 2009

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

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Place and date of the meeting

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) at its headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 8 September 2007.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following CDCC member countries: Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The participating associate member was the United States Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands attended in an observer capacity.

Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the meeting: United Nations Information Centre (UNIC); Joint United Nations Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Association of Caribbean States (ACS); Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and Organization of American States (OAS).

The University of the Virgin Islands also participated. The list of participants appears at Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1 - Opening remarks

Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean; Ms. Laura Lopez, Secretary of the Commission; and Ms. Margaret King-Rousseau, Director, Multilateral Relations 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 fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and recalled its importance as an intergovernmental technical mechanism to assess the implementation of the ECLAC work programme for the Caribbean and to verify its continued relevance to the region's priorities.

The Director stated that much had happened since the last CDCC ministerial meeting in April 2008, with a number of geopolitical milestones including the hosting, by Trinidad and Tobago, of the Summit of the Americas in April this year.

Significant changes in the global economic landscape had also taken place and impacted negatively on the Caribbean. These developments, in real terms, required that substantive change should come about in the nature of the support rendered by the United Nations and other international partners, in response to the requirements of a changing context.

The Director further stated that the principal tasks of this meeting were to receive reports and monitor progress in the implementation of the ECLAC programme of work for the Caribbean, and to assess plans for the implementation of the forthcoming work programme. He welcomed further guidance from the representatives on any adjustments in strategy that might be needed, in order to better respond to Caribbean development needs. He informed that in the next weeks, preparations would begin for the strategic framework and programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium. The draft work programme for that cycle would be presented to the twenty-third Session of the CDCC in 2010, and would thereafter form part of the ECLAC work programme presentation at the thirty-third Period of Sessions to be held in Brazil in 2010. The discussions in this meeting of the Monitoring Committee would therefore be an important guide in the preparations ahead.

The Director informed that the Executive Secretary had commissioned an independent evaluation of the ECLAC presence and work in the subregion. He introduced members of the evaluation team, led by Dame Billie Miller of Barbados, who were present as observers to the meeting. He noted that member States had indicated that the CDCC, and by extension ECLAC, had an important role to play in furthering Caribbean development and cooperation and assured the meeting that the secretariat remained fully committed to that task.

The Secretary of the Commission extended the compliments of the Executive Secretary, Ms. Alicia Bárcena, and informed the meeting about her outline of a new vision for ECLAC, one of both continuity and change. While continuing the solid tradition of applied research and analysis, ECLAC would refocus its efforts on finding and creating alternative approaches in development, aimed at deriving evidence-based options for policymaking and planning. The Secretary mentioned the issues of production convergence and economic transformation combined with timely analyses and projections for economic growth, climate change impacts, as well as inclusive development and promotion of citizens' rights, particularly through Millennium Development Goals monitoring and reporting.

She stated that the Caribbean could benefit from closer horizontal cooperation with South and Central America and that ECLAC was well positioned to facilitate such cooperation, particularly through its research and collaboration with other regional partners. The ECLAC sessions were a prime opportunity for that and the Secretary encouraged all members to participate in the next session, in April 2010 in Brazil. She informed that the host Government of Brazil had proposed the topic of south-south cooperation to be prominent on the agenda, and included south-south collaboration with Haiti as one of its main agenda items.

The Secretary reported that the Caribbean Studies and Perspectives Series had been consolidated and a dozen titles produced. She informed that most of the other publications series of ECLAC, such as those on development financing, macroeconomic studies, sustainable development and others, had published specific titles on CDCC member States dealing with topics such as development banking, investment planning, social security, renewable energy, hunger and malnutrition, population ageing, among many others. She stated that ECLAC was one of the most important sources for technical publications on economic and social development issues in the Caribbean.

The Secretary of the Commission closed by citing the Executive Secretary who said that one of the challenges for ECLAC was not just to produce more, better and more relevant studies relating to the global debates of the day, but rather to listen more, especially to member States. The secretariat needed to hear from representatives about opinions regarding policy issues and priorities. In that regard, she wished all a very fruitful meeting.

In welcoming delegates to the meeting, Ms. Margaret King-Rousseau, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, conveyed best wishes from the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a productive meeting.

She also extended a sincere welcome to the ECLAC Evaluation Team led by Dame Billie Miller and placed great importance on their contribution to ensure an effective and relevant institution.

She recalled the adoption, 16 months ago, of the Report of the Working Group on Redefining and Revitalizing the role of CDCC in Caribbean Regional Development. The report had recommended that strategic alliances should be established with Caribbean regional offices of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, donors, private sector and civil society actors and other concerned development partners. The report also noted that monitoring mechanisms of the CDCC should be enhanced and made more effective, with a view to gauging progress in implementing the Committee's decisions and priorities. The report had underscored the importance of creative industries as a dominant feature of future economic development in the Caribbean; and agreed that the CDCC should develop various strategies, programmes and incentives targeting investment, including joint ventures between Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as examine possibilities for cooperation in tourism, between CDCC member and associate member countries and Latin American countries, particularly in music and entertainment, and sports.

She acknowledged that the secretariat had commenced the implementation of the decisions adopted by the twenty-second Session of the CDCC and, in the face of the perennial constraints to optimal performance, had already achieved some level of success reaching targets jointly set and enhancing the effectiveness of the CDCC.

She shared her concern that CDCC remained seriously challenged in its ability to overcome the persistent obstacles to marginalization within ECLAC and that members must,

individually and collectively, take deliberate steps to address this perennial problem, as progress in this area should facilitate the task of advancing the interests of the region.

She stated that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had assisted the Caribbean in various ways such as facilitating the preparation by Caribbean governments in their participation in and follow-up to the decisions of key international meetings, including in the areas of sustainable development and climate change. She also mentioned the important role of ECLAC/CDCC in strengthening capacity within the region to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and the reconstruction and rehabilitation, among other areas.

It was within this context that Trinidad and Tobago welcomed the focus of this session of the Monitoring Committee on the plight of middle-income countries, which had been identified as one of the priorities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Indeed, during discussions with the Commonwealth Secretary-General in July 2009, on preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Port of Spain in November 2009, one of the issues identified by CARICOM Heads for focus at CHOGM 2009 was the issue of funding for the development of middle-income countries. This issue had also assumed greater prominence on the international agenda, given the growing realization of the vulnerabilities of this group of States and the devastating impact on these States of the current financial and economic crisis, including within the Caribbean region.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had been a key proponent in aiding government with the analysis and treatment of such issues and providing indispensable policy advice and technical assistance. This advice and assistance would prove invaluable, especially as Caribbean States committed themselves to advancing the regional perspective on such crises in the relevant international forums, as was indicated in the most recent declaration released by the CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2009. She stated that ECLAC and the CDCC were regarded as a stakeholder in this journey, and a contributor to macroeconomic stability of the Caribbean.

Mrs. King-Rousseau observed that it was particularly important, as the region pushed onward to greater levels of political and economic integration, to work in a cohesive manner to prevent destructive contagion of regional economies by some of the economic toxins. The CDCC had provided avenues for such prevention and it was anticipated that the implementation of its 2010-2011 biennium programme of work would focus on sustainable economic and social development issues of critical importance to the region.

She noted that the international community was currently at the mid-point of its evaluation of the state of implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. In keeping with the current efforts by the United Nations towards 'Delivering as One', ECLAC had been a precious consultative resource that Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region had at their disposal, both in terms of evaluation and implementation.

In particular, the work programmes offered for both the periods 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 had charged the CDCC with the responsibilities for monitoring the progress towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goal number one which addressed specifically the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the Government

had been able to assume the responsibilities embodied in these Goals, which were very much in tune with those articulated in its Vision 2020 National Plan and, as such, had been able to collaborate with ECLAC and other entities within the United Nations system in various aspects of its implementation.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had also provided a wealth of technical training with regard to statistical analyses and techniques, which would undoubtedly be invaluable to Trinidad and Tobago, when considering the upcoming National Census to be conducted by the Central Statistical Office in 2010 – the results of which would be a factor in decisions regarding MDG progress.

While utmost importance was placed on the social issues, one key component which overshadowed so many decisions taken in international forums and which affected several domestic policies was that of climate change. For Trinidad and Tobago, the implications of climate change for the economic and social landscape was a burning issue. It was therefore of utmost importance that the activities on climate change and natural disasters identified in the 2010-2011 work programme be undertaken with urgency.

In closing, she referred to the Budget Statement made by the Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago, which stated that the approach by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to governance and economic management “is founded on the principle that the main purpose of Government is the welfare of the people and that all economic and social programmes must redound to the individual and collective well-being.” This was the philosophy that governed the approach by Trinidad and Tobago to the work of ECLAC and other entities of the United Nations system at the national level. She noted the need to ensure that the same standards were applied at the regional level in the evaluation of the work of ECLAC and in shaping the scope and focus of its future work.

Agenda item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Welcome remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Procedural matters and organization of work
4. Progress report on the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as at August 2009
5. Preparations for the implementation of the 2010-2011 programme of work as approved by the Thirty-second Session of ECLAC

6. The role of ECLAC in middle-income Caribbean countries:
 - (a) *Cooperation towards the achievement of the MDGs*
 - (b) *The impact of the global financial crisis on middle-income Caribbean countries*
 - (c) *Disaster risk reduction and impact assessments*
 - (d) *Review of the Economics of Climate Change*

7. The role of CDCC in Caribbean regional development: Presentation and discussion of implementation plan

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

Meeting of TAC of the RCM/Mauritius Strategy

9. Date and venue of the Twenty-third Session of the CDCC

10. Other matters

11. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

12. 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-second session of the CDCC meeting would continue to serve as follows:

Chair:	Trinidad & Tobago
First Vice Chair:	Barbados
Second Vice Chair:	Turks and Caicos Islands
Third Vice-Chair:	Cuba
Rapporteur:	Puerto Rico

The Chair noted the absence of Puerto Rico, rapporteur for the meeting, and requested the secretariat to explore a possible replacement. The United States Virgin Islands was selected as rapporteur for the meeting.

Agenda item 4 - Progress report on the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work as at August 2009

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean presented document, MonCom 14/3 *Preliminary Report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2008-2009 biennium* informing delegates of the secretariat's thrust towards strengthening the delivery of activities through a number of initiatives, including regular internal meetings with programme and research staff and consultations with member countries and other partner institutions. These actions served to increase the coverage and visibility as well as to monitor and evaluate the work of the office. He stated that the implementation of the work programme was further aimed at scaling up the subregion's capacity to collect, analyse and access accurate data sources for informing evidence-based policymaking, which was one of the principal objectives of ECLAC. These activities were supported by the implementation of additional extrabudgetary projects on measuring the informal sector, household survey data gathering, establishment of a Gender Observatory, review of the economics of climate change, as well as on measuring progress in the Millennium Development Goals. He reported that the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters had provided assistance to member countries in the areas of capacity-building (social, technology, statistics, trade, response to natural disasters); policy formulation (social, economic, climate change, Millennium Development Goals); and support to regional institutions and agencies. He also presented statistics relating to the implementation of the work programme, including the total number of outputs; the number of participants at meetings; the number and range of technical publications; the number of projects being implemented and the extent of implementation of the work programme.

Following the presentation, the Chair invited members to express their opinions and give suggestions, and a discussion ensued in which the representatives of Saint Lucia and the United States Virgin Islands took the floor. Representatives from IICA, ILO, ACS, PAHO and UNIC also shared their agencies' experiences and outlook.

The representative of Saint Lucia underscored the relevance of the work of ECLAC on post-crisis economic transformation for the Eastern Caribbean and encouraged ECLAC to continue collaborating with regional organizations in its further work on this topic, particularly with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). The representative of the United States Virgin Islands was interested in knowing more about the dissemination and impact of the reports. He observed that much good work appeared to be done by ECLAC but that this information appeared not to be reaching those stakeholders that needed it, or the general public. The representative of IICA indicated that studies on agriculture, in support of the Jagdeo Initiative and other regional mandates, represented areas for collaboration and synergies with ECLAC; while the representative of the ILO drew the attention of the meeting to important work that was completed by ECLAC on the European Union-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). He queried why some of the EPA studies remained restricted documents on the ECLAC Website and requested to know whether ECLAC intended to pursue further work in this area in collaboration with other partners. The representative of the ACS Secretariat acknowledged ECLAC's continued support to the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission and asked that this be noted in the report.

The representative of PAHO/WHO underscored the point made regarding the potential for collaboration with other United Nations and regional institutions, and stressed the need for this to happen particularly in the area of agriculture and rural development. On the issue of the dissemination of the results of the work of ECLAC, the representative of IICA advised that the media should be targeted with a specific strategy focused on the needs and interests of the public. She also advised that non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and universities were all important channels that should be used for disseminating information. The representative of UNIC noted the need to create a central database or mailing list as well as an Internet-based repository of substantive material along with an effective search engine.

The Director thanked the representatives for their comments and explained in detail the practice of dissemination of reports and publications. He noted that the office had begun a process of reviewing and updating mechanisms for disseminating its work and to do so by improving the focus on different target audiences. He also informed the meeting that the re-designing of the Web Site was in progress with a view to making available information more accessible and searchable by specific theme or topics. This work was intended to be completed before the end of the current year. The Director committed to continuing these efforts and to implementing the suggestions made by participants.

Agenda item 5 - Strategic review of the implementation of the 2010-2011 programme of work as approved by the thirty-second session of ECLAC

The Director of the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters made reference to document LC/CAR/L.160, Programme of Work of the ECLAC - Subprogramme 12: Subregional Activities in the Caribbean, Draft Proposed biennial programme plan for the Biennium 2010-2011.

In presenting the 2010 -2011 work programme, the Director informed representatives that the subprogramme would continue to promote and further strengthen the capacity of policy makers and other ECLAC stakeholders in the subregion to formulate and implement economic and social development measures and improve integration in the Caribbean, as well as between the Caribbean and the wider Latin American region. This would be fuelled by enhanced capacity and technical expertise to follow up on the major international programmes of action in the economic, social and environmental fields, particularly related to the SIDS Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

He highlighted that the work programme for the 2010-2011 biennium would be implemented against the backdrop of a new ECLAC vision and approach, as articulated by the Executive Secretary, and would be informed by results of the ongoing evaluation exercise; the continued upgrading of staffing and skills in the subregional office; the ongoing United Nations Reform Process; the role of ECLAC in bridging the gap between global processes and regional implementation; a continuing global economic and financial crisis and its effects on the Caribbean, and; climate change impacts. Among other priorities, the secretariat would be

addressing the challenges to social cohesion and human security, climate change, support for the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), gender mainstreaming, poverty and ageing, while ensuring improvements to evidenced-based approaches to policy formulation through the availability and use of statistical data and standard indicators. In closing his presentation, the Director pointed to several areas that would have an impact on the implementation of the current programme of work, such as the need to establish effective systems for monitoring and evaluating the programme of work, supported by formal mechanisms for systematic feed-back; and the need to ensure that the programme was fully aligned with member countries' current development priorities. Lastly, he underscored the need for additional staff and financial resources to improve the delivery of services to member countries and urged member governments to make appropriate interventions at the highest level of the United Nations.

The Chair then opened the matter for discussion. The representative of Grenada inquired about arrangements with other agencies to avoid overlap and duplications and to promote coordination and synergies. He also inquired about ECLAC initiatives to ensure that studies and reports feed into the process of policy design.

The representative of the ACS suggested that the proposed study on migration should focus on the legal and institutional parameters of this matter and also enquired whether the study on the CARICOM investment regimes would focus only on the economic aspects or more broadly on harmonization of investment policy frameworks under the CSME. The ILO representative advised that the study on migration should seek to examine the impacts of migration on national labour markets and conditions of work in the CSME. Several representatives commented on proposed work in the areas of knowledge management and statistics, recommending that ECLAC should seek to play a coordinating role in these areas.

The Director informed the meeting that the studies had been identified in broad terms and that the specific research was now being designed in each case. He also informed that efforts would continue to present research findings to policymaking bodies of CARICOM and the OECS, in particular, and also by working with other partners to ensure minimization of overlap and duplication of focus. He thanked representatives for their valuable inputs and invited the Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit (SSDU) of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean to respond to specific enquiries and to share additional information on the international comparison programme (ICP) as well as activities on household surveys and the informal sector. The Director also explained the scope of the proposed science and technology study and invited the ILO to collaborate in a joint study on international migration.

Agenda item 6 - The role of ECLAC in middle-income Caribbean countries

The meeting received presentations from ECLAC staff on the following topics:

- (a) Cooperation towards the achievement of the MDGs
- (b) The impact of the global financial crisis on middle-income Caribbean countries
- (c) Disaster risk reduction and impact assessments
- (d) Review of the Economics of Climate Change

(a) Cooperation towards the achievement of the MDGs

In response to expressed needs by CDCC members for strengthening of the institutional capabilities for generating and compiling reliable statistics for MDG monitoring and reporting, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean was currently implementing a regional technical assistance project to respond to these needs. With resources from the United Nations Development Account, the project would reinforce those initiatives of past and current projects directed towards broadening and improving statistics and other indicators by better use of experience and accumulated documentation, technical assistance and, also, by the mobilization of human resources qualified in this field in the region. It would strengthen the present project aimed at the installation of a permanent household survey programme in many Caribbean countries. It would also improve the coverage, quality, periodicity, comparability, and relevance of these surveys in those countries. Within the framework of the project, to date, the following activities had been conducted: assessment of MDG monitoring and reporting mechanisms at the country level, two expert group meetings, a technical assistance mission to Belize and a first version of a meta data database. Further activities within the project would encompass additional technical assistance missions to ECLAC/CDCC member countries, expert group meetings and regional and national training activities.

(b) The impact of the global financial crisis on middle-income Caribbean countries

Like the rest of the world, the Caribbean region was impacted by the global economic and financial crisis since mid-2008, which was reflected in a significant and generalized slowdown or recession in economic activity, lower demand for exports, declines in tourist arrivals, fewer remittances, reduced foreign direct investment (FDI) and other financial flows, and a decline in fiscal revenue. This situation extended to the first three quarters of 2009 raising a number of serious economic challenges which, if not addressed adequately, could bring about severe setbacks in poverty reduction that would jeopardise improvements in social conditions achieved in recent decades. In particular, most Caribbean countries exhibit high macroeconomic vulnerability, showing some combination of excessive public debt, massive current account deficits and insufficient international reserves, in the context of fixed or quasi-fixed exchange rate regimes. In this scenario, the reduction or eventual reversal of foreign capital inflows (sudden stop) that allowed most countries to finance huge current account deficits in recent years would put pressures on exchange rate regimes.

On the other hand, the reduced fiscal space to implement counter-cyclical policies had restricted the capacity of Caribbean authorities to cushion the effects of the global economic meltdown. Notwithstanding, from the second half of 2008 onwards, governments had been designing and implementing policy measures specifically aimed at ameliorating and offsetting the negative external shocks. Monetary and fiscal policies, trade and sectoral policies, labour and social policies had been put in place by many governments. Despite this, the prospects for output growth in 2009 were not optimistic, with countries such as the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia experiencing contractions in economic activity.

(c) *Disaster risk reduction and impact assessments*

The presentation identified the role of ECLAC in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and impact assessments as three fold: (a) to provide technical assistance to advance disaster risk reduction measures; (b) to undertake assessment of the impact of extreme natural events; and (c) to facilitate the coordination of the subregional initiatives to implement the BPOA and the MSI.

Participants were reminded that in defining disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework suggested that the measurable outcome of such policies would result in the “substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries”. It was this outcome which ECLAC’s work in DRR sought to achieve. Its initiatives therefore sought to strengthen regional capacity in vulnerability reduction, build capacity to address resilience, facilitate the sharing of best mitigation and adaptation practices that addressed DRR and build capacity for the evaluation of disasters among member and associate member States. In addition to providing information about the activities which ECLAC had undertaken during the biennium in the area of DRR, the presentation highlighted key challenges for policymakers, which included the strengthening and development of risk transfer mechanisms and the reduction of poverty and the vulnerability of populations.

(d) *Review of the Economics of Climate Change*

The meeting was reminded that the Fourth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that there was an increasing trend in temperatures; sea levels were rising; changes in rainfall patterns had become apparent; and the intensity of storms in the Caribbean had increased. Cognisant of these changes it would be useful to determine the costs of these impacts to Caribbean economies, the costs associated with adopting adaptive and mitigative strategies and to make a determination of the most cost-effective measures to address climate change in the Caribbean.

ECLAC, in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and with financial support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), had embarked on an initiative to quantify these impacts as well as the measures that would be needed to take appropriate adaptive and mitigative action. The approach adopted was

both national and regional at the sectoral level, encompassing an underlying component of institutional strengthening and capacity-building for Caribbean technical personnel.

The project initially addressed nine countries¹ in which the impacts of climate change on the macroeconomic situation and five sectors² had been assessed. Preliminary results indicated a positive correlation with all sectors being heavily impacted by climate change. Recommendations for employing adaptive strategies in the form of education and public awareness initiatives as well as changes in existing institutional and infrastructural situations were deemed appropriate for implementation. Mitigative strategies included promotion of energy efficiency, development of the renewable energy sector (solar, wind and water), as well as increased research in the use of biofuels.

In the discussion that followed, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago inquired about the baseline for the climate change studies, whether these were national or regional and if results were shared with the CARICOM Secretariat. The representative of Saint Lucia commented on poverty assessment surveys and referred to a recent study of the World Population Bureau which revealed high levels of poverty in that country, noting the need for accurate reporting. He thanked ECLAC for its efforts to improve data accuracy and availability and also observed that smaller States needed to come up with immediate policy responses to the current crisis. He acknowledged the timeliness of ECLAC reports on the topic.

In the ensuing discussion on the climate change studies, the representative of the Cayman Islands inquired about coordination between ECLAC and CCCCC, while the Chair informed about upcoming meetings of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and CHOGM and expressed the view that the ECLAC studies could be of use in those contexts as well.

The representative of Jamaica commended the presenters and stressed the importance of analyzing the impact of the economic crisis on Caribbean middle income countries. She stated that as a subregional organization, the ECLAC analysis of the economic crisis was particularly important in addressing the specific characteristics of the Caribbean, noting that such analysis should form an input into the work of the Economic and Social Council Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on the crisis. She requested that more resources be dedicated to this purpose.

The Chair underscored the importance of the topic for accessing funding and thanked participants for a fruitful discussion.

¹ Aruba, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago.

² Agriculture, Energy, Tourism, Water.

Agenda item 7 - The role of CDCC in Caribbean regional development: presentation and discussion of implementation plan

In his presentation of this agenda item, the Director called to the attention of the meeting that at the twenty-second session of the CDCC which convened on 22-23 April 2008, in Port of Spain, the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Economic Development of Barbados had presented the main findings of a report entitled “Report of the CDCC Working Group: Redefining and revitalizing the role of the CDCC in Caribbean regional development” (Document LC/CAR/L.163). In that presentation the Minister recalled that delegates attending the thirteenth Meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee in August 2007 agreed that a working group should be established to explore ways of improving the effectiveness, visibility and relevance of the Committee. That need arose out of the recognition that the CDCC had been handicapped by the following challenges: (a) a loss of its original vision and mission as a result of the changing operational context; (b) institutional overload in the regional institutional architecture as a result of the deepening of CARICOM and the creation of the ACS; (c) difficulties in securing high-level representation at meetings; and (d) continuing concerns by the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean about their lack of representation/inclusion in the work of the wider ECLAC system. The working group itself had held four meetings between December 2007 and March 2008.

The twenty-second Session of the CDCC endorsed the Report of the Working Group and requested the secretariat to prepare an implementation plan to include a timeframe for follow-up and to report to the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee. The Director noted that the Implementation Plan, which was still a draft for endorsement by the Monitoring Committee, reflected some actions that were already being undertaken. He further noted that the provisions of the Implementation Plan would be one of the bases for preparing the Strategic Framework and Programme of Work for the Caribbean for the biennium 2012-2013, preparation of which was due to commence by the end of September 2009. Following the endorsement of the plan, with appropriate recommendations for adjustments, some of the recommended actions would be reflected in the draft Strategic Framework and Programme of Work which would be presented for discussion and endorsement at the twenty-third Session of the CDCC in 2010 and, following that, at the thirty-third Period of Sessions of ECLAC.

The representative of Cuba presented his country’s views on the role of CDCC and informed the meeting that a written statement would be made available for distribution. The meeting agreed that that statement would be annexed to the report of the meeting (see Annex II), for further discussion at the twenty third session of the CDCC. The meeting also agreed that the draft Implementation Plan should be circulated to members for further comments and endorsement before finalization (see Annex III).

Agenda item 8 - Conclusions and recommendations of meeting held on the eve of the Monitoring Committee

(a) *Meeting of TAC of the RCM/Mauritius Strategy*

Mr. Embert St. Juste, Director of Research and Policy, Ministry of Finance, Government of Saint Lucia, in his capacity of Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), delivered the opening remarks. He stressed the importance of the meeting, especially in view of the current global economic and financial crisis which had heightened the vulnerabilities of small States.

He noted that small countries, such as Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were least able to withstand the severe dislocation arising from developments such as the financial market meltdown. He also noted that a number of negative impacts such as massive job losses and the fall in tourist arrivals resulted in an additional burden as most governments were already under severe fiscal pressure and did not have the resources to provide the necessary buffer to such catastrophic events.

He suggested that though the impacts of the crisis might have shifted governments' priorities away from the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (MSI), now was the time for renewed commitment to the Mauritius Strategy. He called for the meeting to inspire renewed commitment to the core principles of the Mauritius Strategy and the objectives of the TAC. Member governments were urged to complete their national assessment reports by the November 2009 deadline so that the regional synthesis report, that would guide the strategy of the region on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, could be completed.

He presented the conclusions of the meeting the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the sustainable development of SIDS, which had convened on the eve of the Meeting of the Monitoring Committee:

(i) *Review of the work programme of the RCM for the period 2008-2009*

- It was suggested that in light of the significant work which was being undertaken by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in a number of the critical areas identified by the MSI, such work should be highlighted in the report of the TAC;
- The creation of a working group to provide support to the RCM process comprising the intergovernmental bodies that sat on the TAC (CARICOM, OECS, ECLAC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) was recommended;
- The ACS offered its assistance to strengthen the collaborative process, presenting as an example the collaboration achieved through the Caribbean Sea Initiative.

(ii) *Proposals for 2010-2011 work programme*

- The TAC should take ownership of the “CARICOM Matrix” which should be renamed the Regional Implementation Matrix and it should be reviewed and updated;

(iii) *Preparations for the Small Island Developing States (MSI) Review 2010*

- The need to have an updated list of focal points made available; and
- A benchmarking tool should be put in place to compare performance across member States.

Agenda item 9 - Date and venue of the twenty-third Session of the CDCC

It was agreed that the dates of 25-26 February 2010 or 4-5 March 2010 would be set for the twenty-third Session of the CDCC, which would be held at a venue to be determined. The secretariat was requested to enter into consultations with member and associate member States on the rotation of the Chair and venue for the next meeting of the CDCC.

Agenda item 10 - Other matters

There were no other matters for consideration.

Agenda item 11: Consideration and adoption of the draft of the fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

The draft report of the fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee was presented by the representative of the United States Virgin Islands in his capacity as Rapporteur. He highlighted the agenda items and main topics discussed and congratulated all delegates for their participation and rich contributions during the discussions. Delegates were advised that the report would remain in draft form and that the fuller version of the report would be prepared and disseminated with relevant annexes, including the submission by the representative of Cuba which would be translated into English. Participants were requested to review the report and submit their comments in writing to the ECLAC Secretariat within two weeks of its receipt after which it would be finalized and disseminated.

Agenda item 12 - Closure of the meeting

Upon conclusion of the discussions, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean extended appreciation to the representatives of the member and associate member countries of the CDCC, United Nations agencies and regional institutions for their contribution to the success of the meeting. He thanked the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and of the ECLAC secretariat, for their excellent support and congratulated the Chair of the meeting for her efficient management of the deliberations. He also expressed the appreciation of ECLAC to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for providing financial support to maintain the ECLAC office in Port of Spain.

The Secretary of the Commission expressed appreciation to delegates for the warm welcome and comfort felt in the subregion and for their contributions to the success of the meeting. She advised that in this changing world environment, the subregion needed to continue to work together and to learn from each other in order to weather the storms of change.

The Chair of the meeting congratulated all participants and members of the bureau for the success of the meeting and for their support in ensuring the smooth conduct of the deliberations. She declared the meeting closed.

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Annex II**Statement by the representative of Cuba at the thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee**

Madam Chair:

First of all, I should like to express my appreciation to the secretariat for the improvements made to the Webpage and for the document indicating how it proposes to implement the strategy agreed last year at the twenty-second session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), in light of the Caribbean countries' new interests in the area of cooperation.

While it is true that the expectations in the Programme of Work of the ECLAC System 2008-2009 are valid, that is: enhanced participation in forums, increased use of information regarding issues of sustainable development and integration in the Caribbean and the development of human resources and technical experience for their application to the economic and social policies in the area, these goals have not been seen as part of a plan that encompasses the entire Caribbean basin in an integrated manner or one that includes proposals such as agreements between Cuba and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the initiatives being developed by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) within the framework of integration and the activities of the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALBA), which are being carried out in sectors such as energy, health and education.

It should be borne in mind that the Programme of Work of the ECLAC System is drawn up for implementation over a period of years and is subject to adjustments to bring it in line with the emerging realities in the subregion, as well as those in Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole.

The Programme of Work adopted for 2010-2011 meets the requirements of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. However, the following questions now arise:

Can the Programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 be adjusted so that it corresponds more closely to the current realities in the Caribbean?

Will there be sufficient financial resources to face up to these realities in terms of projects that will be of direct benefit to the countries?

Is the secretariat taking steps in this direction?

Since CDCC was established and its Constituent Declaration and Rules of Procedure updated in order to match our current realities, why do we not draw up a programme especially for CDCC that is more closely linked to cooperation and integration than to analysis and study, which are also necessary?

In this regard, consideration should be given to possible ways of obtaining extrabudgetary resources that will be sufficient for the concrete activities in our countries. In addition, information must be freely available on CDCC work and on the support activities carried out by the secretariat in conjunction with the CARICOM and ACS secretariats, and on the ties being forged with the secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA). Thus, the continuous update of the secretariat's webpage is extremely important. Moreover, as established, the documentation for meetings must be provided to the countries at least two weeks before the event.

CDCC activities in the area of coordination and consultation must be strengthened, since all Caribbean countries are members of the Committee. CDCC meetings must be held prior to the major United Nations international conferences in areas of interest to the subregion in order to determine the Caribbean stance.

Strengthening ties with SELA is another priority, all the more so now that this organization, in which the Caribbean countries participate actively, is being reformed. The regular financial resources (ECLAC) and extrabudgetary resources (agencies in the United Nations system, countries, funds, etc.) that have the greatest impact in the subregion must be optimized bearing in mind the vulnerability of this area. Subregional projects must be developed in areas of common interest.

With respect to cooperation, the secretariat must, as a matter of special importance, consult countries on their particular areas of interest; concrete proposals should be made to enable CDCC to respond better to their concerns through project implementation and to provide information on projects being executed with extrabudgetary resources. It is also crucial to carry out an analysis of the issue in order to strengthen the role of CDCC.

Lastly, the integration processes and institution-building initiatives being carried out in Latin America should be analysed together with their impact on the Caribbean.

All of these measures are urgently needed in our subregion bearing in mind the changing world in which we live, the international economic crisis that has been thrust upon us and the importance of achieving unity in our region.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex III

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR DECISIONS
TAKEN AT THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CDCC**

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
1. The meeting stressed the need to strengthen links with SELA	Joint HQ/POS visit to SELA to examine operations of its Permanent Secretariat and Action Committees	<p>Review existing Agreement between ECLAC/HQ and SELA</p> <p>Arrange visit to SELA's Permanent Secretariat</p>	<p>1/2010</p> <p>3/2010</p>	<p>ECLAC/HQ has maintained close institutional relations with SELA. It has prepared specialized studies at SELA's request in the fields of social policy, industrial policy and international trade.</p> <p>Collaborative links between SELA and ECLAC/POS are virtually non-existent</p>	<p>Identification of collaborative research activities</p> <p>Agreement on the modalities for establishing a joint TCDC programme to strengthen co-operation between Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
2. The meeting stressed the need for collaboration with CARICOM, SICA, OLADE and ACS	Formal discussions led by ECLAC/POS with senior officials and counterpart units at CARICOM Secretariat and ACS	Review existing Agreements between ECLAC and CARICOM, SICA, OLADE and ACS	01/2010	ECLAC has maintained close institutional relations in the field of	Identification of collaborative research and TC activities for the 2010-2011 biennium

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
	<p>Formal discussions jointly led by ECLAC/Mexico & POS with senior officials and counterpart units at SICA, OLADE and ACS</p> <p>Formal discussions jointly led by ECLAC/HQ & POS with senior officials and counterpart units at OLADE</p>	Arrange visits to each of the four institutions	04/2010	<p>cooperation with SICA, CARICOM, and the ACS</p> <p>UNDESA, ECLAC and OLADE are currently participating in the Partnership for Developing Country Profiles on Sustainable Energy Development</p>	<p>Collaborative study by ECLAC Mexico and POS offices to update Document No. E/CEPAL/G.1197 “Economic Relations of Central American Countries and the Caribbean”</p> <p>Updated study to be presented at the Twenty-Third Session of CDCC</p>
3. The regular financial budget of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean should be optimized and attention directed towards securing XB funding	Prepare project proposals	Submit proposals to DPPO/Project Unit for evaluation and identification of donors	Ongoing	See Appendix for list of XB projects	Portfolio of approved XB projects

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
4. CDCC meetings should be used to forge a common Caribbean position for presentation at major UN conferences	Convene subregional meetings on conference issues	High level meeting of the RCM to review progress towards implementation of the MSI ICPD + 15 Intergovernmental conference on knowledge strategies for development	2011 2011 2011	2005 Mauritius Strategy Cairo 1994 2007 Intl. Conf. on Information Society	Meeting reports, Declarations, Action Plans
5. CDCC should continue to serve strictly as an intergovernmental forum for the benefit of the member and associate member countries	This is Guyana's position in response to the Working Group's proposal that the composition of the CDCC should be expanded to include civil society actors Presently, there are no arrangements in place for the CDCC to interact with civil society and the private sector	No action contemplated to change the role, function and composition of the CDCC		Revised Rules of Procedure of the CDCC Report of the CDCC working group (No. LC/CAR/L.163/rev.1)	
6. CDCC should examine the situation of	A study on the role of the UN in Caribbean	Undertake literature review and implement	11/2009	Outline of the study	Final report of the study to be presented at

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
middle-income countries in the sub-region	MICs A study on the implementation of the EPA and its impact on the Caribbean MICs	study Undertake literature review and implement study	6/2011	completed, including definition of the objective, scope, methodology and issues First in a series of three monitoring reports to be funded under the 10 th EDF	Twenty-Third Session of CDCC Final report of the study to be presented at the Fifteenth Meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee
7. The focus of the CDCC should be on traditional knowledge, genetic resources, patents and trademarks	No longer an area of focus for ECLAC since the handing over of the operations of the Patents and Information Documentation Unit to NIHERST				
8. Relations with institutions such as MERCOSUR should be strengthened	Collaborative research links between the POS office and the Trade and Integration Division at HQ	Prepare Briefing Note for meeting with the Coordinator of the Trade and Integration Division at HQ Undertake visit to HQ	3/2010 4/2010	Not currently an area of focus for the POS office	Identification of collaborative research activities and XB funding opportunities Joint study on Economic Relations of MERCOSUR countries

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
					and the Caribbean Updated study to be presented at the Twenty-Third Session of CDCC
9. Public-private partnerships should be formally embedded in the Caribbean tourism development strategy	Follow-up dialogue with the CDCC Member Countries on the implementation of PPP policies and strategies	Initiate on-line discussion forum with CARICOM, ACS, OAS, CTO and tourism authorities in the CDCC Member Countries	5/2010	See “An econometric study of the determinants of tourism competitiveness in the Caribbean” (No. LC/CAR/L.190 See ECLAC Doc. No. LC/CAR/L.151/ rev.1 on tourism and PPP in the Caribbean	Update to be presented at the Fifteenth Meeting of the CDCC Monitoring Committee
10. Public-private alliances should be explored as a model for addressing development challenges in the region	Case studies of PPP in the management of port facilities in T&T, Curaçao, Guadeloupe	Prepare Concept Note for joint ECLAC/HQ/POS-ACS study	9/2010 9/2010	There is ample private sector participation in port and	Concept Note and preliminary budget Agreement on objective, scope and

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
	Fostering greater input from the Transport Division at ECLAC HQ	Convene brainstorming meeting with SG and Director of Trade/ACS Develop funding proposal and secure XB resources Implement study	4/2011 6/2011	waterway operation services in Guadeloupe and Curaçao Guadeloupe is eligible to receive TC support from the ACS	methodology of the study Letter of Agreement on the division of labour between ECLAC and ACS Joint Final Report to be presented at ECLAC-ACS Expert Group Meeting
11. The region needs to devise practical solutions to problems in the tourism sector	A study to determine the adequacy of current environmental regimes and the impact of globalization on sustainable tourism development	Prepare Concept Note for joint ECLAC, UNEP, ACS study Convene brainstorming meeting with UNEP and ACS Undertake literature review and implement study	4/2011 4/2011 5/2011	Second Ministerial Meeting of the ACS The ACS has a substantive Directorate for Sustainable Tourism	Concept Note and preliminary budget Agreement on objective, scope and methodology of the study Letter of Agreement on the division of labour between ECLAC, UNEP and ACS Joint Final Report to be presented at ECLAC, UNEP, ACS Expert

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
					Group Meeting
12. There is further need to promote and diversify tourism links between the Caribbean and Latin America	A study on opportunities for the development of multi-destination tourism between Latin America and the Caribbean	<p>Prepare Concept Note for joint ECLAC HQ/POS-CTO study</p> <p>Convene brainstorming meeting with ECLAC/HQ/POS and CTO</p> <p>Develop funding proposal and secure XB resources</p> <p>Undertake literature review and implement study</p>	<p>10/2010</p> <p>10/2010</p> <p>5/2011</p> <p>5/2011</p> <p>6/2011</p>	See ECLAC Doc. No. LC/CAR/L.16 3/rev 1 for background information on the prospects for multi-destination tourism in both sub-regions	<p>Concept Note and preliminary budget</p> <p>Agreement on objective, scope and methodology of the study</p> <p>Letter of Agreement on the division of labour among ECLAC HQ/POS and CTO</p> <p>Joint Final Report to be presented at ECLAC-CTO Expert Group Meeting</p>
13. ECLAC subprogramme 12, on subregional activities in the Caribbean, should be made more flexible in order to respond to the current needs of the sub-region	Internal discussions on the development of the 2010-2011 WP and 2012-2013 WP	Develop more generic titles as a basis for adapting the WP in line with changing realities in the sub-region	Ongoing	The present 2008-2009 biennium WP	Increased percentage of reformulated activities in the 2010-2011 WP
14. Climate change and its impact on tourism, as	A study on the implications of climate	Prepare Concept Note for joint ECLAC-	3/2010	See Report of the meeting	Concept Note and preliminary budget

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
well as renewable energy, particularly biofuels and solar energy, are important areas to be examined by ECLAC	change for development in the Caribbean	CCCCC study Implement study	5/2010	on review of the economics of climate change (No. LC/CAR /L.188, March 2009) See Report No. LC/CAR/L.14 8 (Dec. 2007) on Implications for the use of biofuels with special reference to the Caribbean	Agreement on objective, scope and methodology of the study Letter of Agreement on the division of labour between ECLAC and CCCCC Final report of the study to be presented at Twenty-Third Session of CDCC
15. ECLAC should partner with UNEP to study the cumulative impact of natural disasters	A study on the cumulative effects of natural disasters and their development implications for the sub-region	Invite peer review comments from UNEP on the draft final report of the ECLAC study that is currently in progress	11/2009	Since 1999, ECLAC has undertaken 18 disaster assessment missions in the Caribbean	Final report incorporating peer review comments from UNEP to be circulated among TAC members
16. Promote awareness for strengthening the status of the AMCs	UN-sponsored meetings, training workshops and TC	Fund the participation of AMCs at meetings and training workshops, and	Ongoing	See Report of the meeting of the working group of	Increased participation of AMCs in UN-sponsored meetings and training workshops

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
		provide TC		AMCs of the CDCC (No. LC/CAR/L.133, September 2007) See Report No. LC/CAR/L.125, July 2007 “The ECLAC associate member countries: meeting the challenges and opportunities of globalization”	
17. Further work should be carried out in the areas of GIS, vulnerability assessment and capacity-building	<p>Convene a meeting of experts to discuss risk reduction strategies in the Caribbean in the education sector</p> <p>Undertake a study on post-disaster mechanisms in selected</p>	<p>Joint initiative involving PIOJ/ Jamaica, UNICEF UNDP and ECLAC</p> <p>Research completed and analysis of data from the questionnaire</p>	<p>10/2009</p> <p>11/2009</p>	<p>ECLAC continues to coordinate and lead the conduct of natural disaster assessment missions in</p>	<p>Final meeting report to be prepared by ECLAC and presented at the Twenty-Third Session of CDCC</p> <p>Final report of the study to be presented at</p>

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
	countries of the Caribbean subregion	in progress		the Caribbean, further develops the training instruments and applies the ECLAC initiatives to strengthen national capabilities for the assessment of economic and social impacts of natural disasters	the Twenty-Third Session of CDCC
18. Risk reduction efforts by developing countries must take into account the joint responsibility of industrialized nations in the face of increasing man-made threats	This position was advanced by the Delegate of Cuba at the Twenty-Second Session of the CDCC. However, ECLAC's role is primarily to contribute to disaster management and risk reduction initiatives in the Caribbean region as				

CDCC Decisions & Recommendations	Process	Activities	Timeline	Baseline	Expected Results
	opposed to advocacy campaigns.				
19. Disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as public and private investment policies, must be mainstreamed in national development planning	This is not an area of focus for ECLAC. However, the CDB and IADB are actively involved in supporting mainstreaming activities.				
20. The information media, industry, the scientific community and the private sector should be actively involved throughout the disaster-mitigation cycle	ECLAC's role is confined to ex-post disaster assessment interventions and training as opposed to ex-ante mitigation measures.				

