

Seventeenth session of the CDCC at the technical level Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago 23-24 March 1998

GENERAL LC/CAR/G.529 2 March 1998 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC/CDCC WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 1996-1997 BIENNIUM



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

		,
		1
		_
		*
		•
	,	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

SUBJECT AREA 13.1 PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC AND BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA	4
Trade and investment	4 4 5
Information dissemination	
SUBJECT AREA 13.2 ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	6
Developing States (SIDS POA)	
SUBJECT AREA 13.3 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT	8
(Beijing Conference	10
SUBJECT AREA 13.4 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND PLANNING	10
Social development	12
Trade and investment project	14
SUBJECT AREA 13.6: DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM	
SUBJECT AREA 13.7 ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Environmental Information Management SIDS database Caribbean Sustainable Development Website (http://community.wow.net/eclac/home.htm	17 17
SUBJECT AREA 13.8: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Executive Committee meetings Plenary Sessions Other meetings and workshops Technical assistance Newsletter Project preparation	19 19 19 20

SUBJECT AREA 13.9: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION	21
Caribbean Information System	21
Statistical services	
SUBJECT AREA 13.10: TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN	
CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)	25
SUBJECT AREA 13.11 POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT	
Follow-up to ICPD	25
SUBJECT AREA 13.12: SUBSTANTIVE SERVICING OF CDCC MEETINGS	29
Monitoring Committee	29
Sixteenth session of the CDCC at the technical level	29
Caribbean Caucus Meeting	29

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECLAC/CDCC WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 1996-1997 BIENNIUM

Introduction

During the 1996-1997 biennium, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), focused its attention on the analysis of issues of special relevance to economic and social development in the Caribbean subregion. The secretariat continued to offer technical support and advisory services to its member countries, upon request, in various areas of interest.

For the period under consideration, the secretariat prepared and distributed 53 publications, 10 consultants reports, 34 issues of 7 newsletters and convened 13 meetings and seminars. In addition, the secretariat completed 7 of the 13 extrabudgetary projects either initiated or implemented during the biennium. The secretariat also contributed to various meetings convened by member governments and regional and international organizations.

The work programme of the 1996-1997 biennium placed emphasis on the promotion of cooperation in functional and sectoral areas both among CDCC member and associate member countries and between them and the countries of Latin America. The secretariat continued its work with the Working Group on Small Economies on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) as well as with the secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Functional relations were maintained with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and other regional and subregional institutions. The secretariat continues to work in close collaboration with regional and national NGOs in developing their programme of work and provided technical support to their preparatory activities for regional and international conferences.

Among the priority objectives carried out during the biennium, mention must be made of the support provided by the secretariat to member governments and regional institutions in taking actions on follow-up activities to the Fourth World Conference for Women (FWCW), the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

In its work programme on Island Developing Countries, the secretariat addressed follow-up actions related to the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States. Included in these activities was the convening of the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS POA, hosted by the Government of Barbados, during the period 10-14 November 1997. The subprogramme has also developed a database on projects and activities related to the SIDS-POA. The secretariat continued to address the special circumstances and needs of the Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs).

Activities related to the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, also called the "Beijing Conference", continued to be the focus of the Women in Development subprograme. In this regard, the secretariat convened a special Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference in Guyana, 6-8 August 1997, to assess member governments' implementation of these recommendations. In addition, the secretariat convened an Expert Group Meeting on Gender Planning, held in Trinidad and Tobago, 8-9 July 1997, focusing on gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

Included in its economic and social development programme and in recognition of the United Nations-designated International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened, as a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 28 October to 1 November 1996.

Taking into account the rapidly changing economic scenario in most Caribbean countries and the impact of structural adjustment programmes, the secretariat convened in Trinidad and Tobago a special meeting: "The Caribbean Quest: Directions for the Reform Process", 25 and 26 June 1997, to consider directions for the reform process. It is expected that aspects of this meeting will be included in presentations at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

The secretariat continued its collaborative work in assessing the implications of the liberalization of trade and investment regimes to the wider Caribbean. This action was complemented by a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands and executed by the secretariat together with ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, and the Mexico office, aimed at the promotion of trade and investment among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

An integral aspect of the work on environment and development relates to the research on issues concerning environmentally sustainable development programmes and the implementation of aspects of the SIDS Programme of Action. To this end, the secretariat has developed a computerized environmental information database, including information on SIDS-related projects in the Caribbean.

During the biennium, the CDCC, continued to serve as the secretariat of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) and convened meetings of its Executive Committee and the Plenary Sessions as well as technical workshops. In addition to providing technical and advisory assistance to its member countries, the CCST secretariat is pursuing a number of activities geared towards bringing to the attention of member States new technologies which are vital for the transformation of the productive sectors in the Caribbean. CCST has a mandate to become recognized as an organization with responsibility for the implementation of Caribbean regional projects in science and technology.

With a view to strengthening the capacity of member countries with respect to data gathering and database formation, the secretariat continues to expand the coverage of its databases

in terms of countries and subject-matter. Activities are also underway to update in-house capacity to respond to the increased demand for information from member countries with the move to the information super-highway.

A major aspect of the population programme was the implementation of follow-up activities to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The secretariat acknowledges the assistance provided by UNFPA, by way of two projects, in carrying out all activities related to population and development activities. The secretariat continues to provide support in the conduct of surveys on teenage fertility and the formulation of related policies for selected countries.

The work of ECLAC/CDCC continues to be monitored by its legislative bodies. The Eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC, was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 21 and 22 March 1996, and the Sixteenth Session of the CDCC at the Technical Level was convened in Trinidad and Tobago on 31 October 1996. Both meetings reviewed the work programme for the current biennium and considered the proposed work plan for the 1998-1999 biennium.

In addition, various reports were produced reviewing the economic, trade and financial performance of the CDCC member countries. Newsletters also prepared providing current information on trade, finance and development strategies. Studies were also prepared on issues relating to economic and social development, sustainable economic development, public sector reform, structural adjustment and privatization policies in the subregion.

SUBJECT AREA 13.1 PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC AND BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

The secretariat's programme of work under this subject area continued to seek to improve cooperation in the subregion. In that context, the secretariat undertook a wide range of activities, in collaboration with subregional institutions and United Nations agencies, aimed at promoting cooperation among CDCC countries and between CDCC countries and those of Latin America.

Trade and investment

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

- The secretariat continued to provide support to the Working Group on Small Economies, one of the working groups established to prepare for negotiations of the FTAA which is scheduled to be established by the year 2005.
- The Working Group was set up to consider issues affecting the smaller economies of the Hemisphere and to make proposals to facilitate the effective participation of these economies in the new hemispheric integration movement.
- To date, the secretariat has provided technical support to all eight sessions of the Working Group on Small Economies, consisting of the preparation of a number of research papers analysing various issues relevant to the participation in the FTAA of the smaller economies of the Hemisphere, in particular those of the Caribbean.

Documentation

- The document "Internal measures to facilitate the integration of smaller economies into the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)" (WP/96/5/Rev.1), was prepared by the secretariat, in conjunction with the ECLAC Office in Mexico. The document proposed a number of policy measures to be put in place in the smaller economies so as to allow them to be better prepared for and benefit from the proposed FTAA.
- The document: "Factors affecting the participation of Caribbean countries in the FTAA" (LC/CAR/G.459) discussed the possible costs and benefits of Caribbean participation in the FTAA and made a number of policy recommendations which could be put in place to facilitate that participation.
- The document "FTAA: A report on the progress of preparations for negotiations" (LC/CAR/G.493) discussed the progress made by the various working groups of the FTAA and gave outlines of their future work programmes.

- The document: "Preparedness of smaller countries to participate in the FTAA" examined selected economic indicators i.e. macroeconomic and trade indicators of both the smaller and larger economies of the Hemisphere with a view to ascertaining the two categories of countries status vis a vis entry in the FTAA. This document was prepared by the ECLAC, Mexico, Office with inputs from the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and presented by this secretariat at a meeting of the Working Group on Small Economies in Jamaica in April 1996.
- The document: "Regional Integration Fund of the FTAA", which was prepared by ECLAC, Santiago, was presented by the secretariat at the eighth session of the Working Group on Small Economies held in Mexico in October 1997. The document explored various options for the establishment of an integrated fund for the FTAA taking into consideration the activities of the existing development finance institutions in the membership of the proposed free trade area.

Meeting

• The secretariat convened a Technical Working Group Meeting on 10 October 1996, to discuss technical assistance needs to help small countries participate in the FTAA and make recommendations for discussions at the Fifth Session of the Working Group held in Caracas, Venezuela, 13-15 November 1996.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to the ACS secretariat in the implementation of a number of activities related to its work programme and the development of its institutional structures.
- The secretariat initiated the development of an ACS trade database within the existing trade database housed at the CDCC secretariat. The document "Intra-ACS Trade: An overview of CDCC trade with non-CDCC groupings", (LC/CAR/G.478) reviewed the state of intra-ACS trade, presented an evolution of the trade in this newly established organization and made a number of recommendations to promote trade among its members countries.
- The secretariat also collaborated with the ACS Secretariat in its preparations for the First Meeting of the Special Committee of ACS on Trade and External Economic Relations held in Caracas, 11-12 November 1996. The paper on intra-ACS trade was presented at this meeting.
- At the Second Meeting of the ACS Committee on Trade and Development and External Economic Relations, held in Colombia, 27-31 May 1997, the secretariat presented a research paper on "Proposals for the liberalization of trade and investment in the ACS"

(LC/CAR/G.499), which sought to identify trade and investment obstacles in the ACS and made a number of proposals for the liberalization of trade and investment among the members of the Association.

Removal of Language Barriers

The secretariat followed up on a decision to continue work on the removal of language barriers project. Discussions are continuing with prospective donors on the funding of this important project.

Information dissemination

The secretariat continues to prepare the "Focus" newsletter, which is now being produced in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Trinidad and Tobago. It provides information on the ongoing activities of the work of the CDCC secretariat as well as on those activities carried out by the respective United Nations bodies located in Trinidad and Tobago.

SUBJECT AREA 13.2 ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Under this subject area ECLAC/CDCC continued its collaboration with governments and regional and extraregional institutions to further the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). Activities related to SIDS are carried out in conjunction with the work programme Environment and Development.

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA)

- In the preparatory process to the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the secretariat convened three inter-agency meetings. The objectives of these meetings were to effect inter-agency collaboration and to deepen already existing efforts at collaboration in carrying out regional activities in support of the SIDS POA.
- Prior to the Conference on Sustainable Development (CSD) 1997 the secretariat prepared the document "A Review of the Implementation of the SIDS POA. Priorities for the Future" (LC/CAR/G.519).
- Prior to the ministerial meeting the secretariat solicited a response to an extensive questionnaire sent to governments and institutions on the status of implementation of the SIDS POA. Because of late receipt of country responses finalization of the document on "Country Profiles" (LC/CAR/G.520) was delayed until 1998. However some country

profiles are available on the ECLAC Caribbean Sustainable Development Website (http://community.wow.net/eclac/home.htm).

- The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Barbados, 10
 14 November 1997 with the support of the Government of Barbados and many regional, United Nations and non-United Nations agencies.
- The meeting focused on "The Way Forward", by requesting regional, United Nations and non-United Nations agencies to implement a "joint work programme" covering all chapters of the SIDS POA as well as crucial cross-sectoral issues. This "joint work programme" covers some 130 concrete activities to be implemented during 1998 and 1999, the year of the General Assembly review of GCSIDS. In doing this many generic recommendations of the SIDS POA have been translated in concrete actions.
- The meeting also reaffirmed the need for a regional coordinating mechanism. This will be elaborated in the section on the Regional Coordinating Mechanism below.
- The secretariat prepared "Report of the Caribbean Ministerial meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (LC/CAR/G.514). The decisions of the meeting are available on the ECLAC Caribbean Sustainable Development Website.

Regional Coordinating Mechanism

- Following the 1995 Expert Meeting, the secretariat initiated discussions on proposals for the establishment of a joint CARICOM-ECLAC/CDCC Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the of the SIDS POA. A project proposal was prepared, endorsed by the CARICOM Council of Ministers and submitted to the European Union (EU) for consideration. Although no formal decision has been transmitted to the secretariat it appears unlikely that the EU will fund the Regional Coordinating Mechanism.
- The Caribbean Minister's Meeting stressed the need for a properly constituted regional coordinating mechanism and decided that the Bureau of the meeting will constitute the interim coordinating mechanism. The CARICOM and ECLAC/CDCC secretariats were also requested to act as an Interim Secretariat to the Bureau and to establish an interagency collaborative group. Furthermore the meeting requested the two secretariats to prepare a "much reduced" proposal for a bare minimum interim secretariat within three months.

Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

- During the biennium under review, the secretariat stepped up its activities related to the
 non-independent Caribbean countries. These actions were aimed at bringing the NICCs
 up-to-date on actions of the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental
 organizations allowing for increased participation in these activities, particularly the
 CDCC.
- These activities were supported with funding from the Government of the Netherlands to implement the project "Support to the ECLAC/CDCC Associate Member countries and other Caribbean non-independent countries relative to developing institutional linkages and accessing benefits from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations."
- The project is geared towards providing advisory services to the NICCs related to their participation in United Nations meetings and conferences.
- A major aspect of the project was the successful representations made to allow for the participation of the NICCs at selected United Nations World Conferences and meetings of other regional organizations.
- The programme has provided support to the Governments of the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands in the convening of the Bilateral Council.
- The secretariat continues to prepare the Newsletter "The Associate" and other publications relevant to the NICCs.

Technical assistance

• The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat collaborated with a team of experts from ECLAC Headquarters in carrying out disaster assessment surveys for selected member States of the region. The document "Disaster assessment in the subregion: ECLAC's methodology (LC/CAR/G.484)" was prepared for use by member countries of the region.

SUBJECT AREA 13.3 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Activities carried out by the Women in Development subprogramme revolved around the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, sometimes referred to as the "Beijing Conference". The secretariat continued to offer assistance to the Ministries with Responsibility for Women's Affairs, at their request, in the establishment of mechanisms for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW)- Platform for Action (PFA) (Beijing Conference)

- A major event undertaken by the secretariat was the convening of the CARICOM/UNECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: A Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference in preparation for the Seventh Session of the Regional Conference on the Integration Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Guyana, 6-8 August 1997.
- The meeting reviewed governments' progress in the subregion after the Sixth Regional Conference and the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and examined the current needs of member States in their pursuit of the implementation of the FWCW Platform for Action, particularly in relation to the critical issues identified by the subregion.
- The forum unanimously endorsed the draft document "Women in decision-making and sustainable development and poverty" as the 'Georgetown Consensus'.
- The document was presented at the twenty-fifth Meeting of the Board of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin American and the Caribbean and at the seventh Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin American and the Caribbean held in Chile during the period 17-21 November 1997.
- Barbados, Cuba and the Netherlands Antilles were elected to serve as the Caribbean members on the new Board of Presiding Officers.
- A decision was taken to name the the next regional the "Eighth Regional Conference on Women". This shortened form is in keeping with the titles of United Nations International Conferences on Women,
- The Report of the CARICOM/UNECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: A Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (LC/CAR/G.508) was prepared and distributed to member States.
- The secretariat provided substantive servicing to Caribbean governments in attendance at meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gender issues

- The secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and CARICOM in the review of gender-related issues as they pertain to the development of women in the Caribbean.
- With respect to the theme of gender mainstreaming, the secretariat convened an Expert Meeting on Gender Planning, in collaboration with the Gender Equity Fund of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 July 1997.
- The experts reviewed the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) and focused on the core gender planning issues in the subregion with a view to adopting a methodology for the integration of a gender framework in the planning process.
- Among the recommendations of the meeting were: i) the determination of the indicators required for successful gender planning; ii) the development of a sound database to facilitate the use of the recommended indicators; iii) the preparation of gender profiles, including gender forecasting, for selected countries; and iv) the undertaking by governments of a programme of gender planning using a thematic entry to test the planning process, such as poverty eradication.
- A report of the expert group meeting on gender planning (LC/CAR/G.506) is available to member countries.

Female-headed household studies

- With support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies, the secretariat has collaborated with the Ministries responsible for Women's Affairs of the Governments of Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago on a study intended to investigate the situation of poor households with special emphasis on the poor female-headed households.
- This resulted in the preparation of a document analyzing the status of Poor Female-Headed households in these countries.

SUBJECT AREA 13.4 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

Under this subject area, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean continued its collaboration with other regional and subregional institutions and prepared reports and working papers on various issues related to economic and social developments in the subregion.

For the greater part of the biennium the secretariat has been engaged in activities related to the FTAA. Aspects of this work have already been reported under subject area 13.1 of this report.

Economic matters

Meetings

- Taking into account the rapidly changing world economic environment and the impact of structural adjustment programmes implemented by many Caribbean countries, the secretariat convened a meeting in Trinidad and Tobago "The Caribbean Quest: Directions for the Reform Process", 25 and 26 June 1997, to review the progress of the reform process in the Caribbean and discuss new directions for that process.
- The main objectives of the meeting were to develop new perspectives within the context of "second generation" strategic issues, to ensure that the external and internal components of economic development strategies can be integrated into a continuing platform for change and to design a strategic framework for sustainable structural and institutional change for the Caribbean in the global economy.
- A number of background papers dealing with various aspects of the reform process were prepared and distributed to participants at the meeting.

Documentation

- The secretariat continued to prepare research papers, documents and reports providing information on economic and social developments in the Caribbean. Included among these papers were studies on global economic developments which discussed patterns of growth and inflation in the world and the institutional arrangements governing world trade and their relevance to the Caribbean.
- The papers on the economic performance of Caribbean countries which were prepared during the past two years analysed the performance of Caribbean economies highlighting their rates of growth, their fiscal and balance of payments positions and their levels of unemployment.
- The paper "Evolution of fiscal policy in the Caribbean based on data for the period 1987 to 1996" (LC/CAR/G.513) examines changes in revenue, expenditure, the fiscal balance and the national debt of the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean highlighting their pattern and significance. The findings of the paper are considered useful since fiscal consolidation formed one of the main planks in the programme of policy reform initiated in many Caribbean countries.

Technical and advisory services

- Support was given to CARICOM in the conduct of its senior-level diplomatic workshop at the twenty-second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs. At this forum, the secretariat presented a paper entitled "CARICOM to the year 2000 Prospects and Challenges Facing up to the tasks of reconciling regional policies with global trends" (WP/96/6).
- The secretariat continued to provide assistance to the University of the Virgin Islands in its programme of the Summer Institute for Future Global Leaders in the Caribbean. Presentations on leadership, performance and policies were made at the sessions of the programme.
- Responding to a request from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the secretariat conducted a technical mission to Suriname in order to assist in the preparation of proposals for a Management Support Unit (MSU) to assist in the management of that country's economy. The secretariat also provided advice on the structural adjustment programme of that country and the sequencing of its various elements.
- The secretariat continued to collaborate with the CARICOM Secretariat within the context of that Secretariat's programme in support of the international economic negotiations of Caribbean countries.
- Technical assistance was provided to the UNDP in the preparation of its country notes and with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNHCS) in the implementation of the project Integrated Planning System for the British Virgin Islands.
- Assistance to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago through participation in meetings
 of the working group for the development of a draft National Policy on
 Telecommunications and on the Subcommittee on Finance and Investment and participation
 in the National Negotiating Team on International Economic negotiations.

Social development

During the biennium, the secretariat continued to focus on the social aspects of development.

Meetings

Poverty issues

• At its forty-eighth session in 1993 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in recognition of the global

character of the phenomenon. In response, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies, and regional institutions, convened the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 28 October to 1 November 1996.

- The meeting examined the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Social Development from the Caribbean perspective and reviewed actions taken in CDCC countries to implement the Plan at the national and regional levels and identified constraints which adversely affected implementation of the Plan of Action in the Caribbean.
- The meeting adopted, by consensus, a Directional Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean which identified issues and actions for combating this situation in the region.

National consultations

- Preparatory to the ministerial meeting, ECLAC/CDCC and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) conducted national consultation workshops on poverty eradication in Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis to create an awareness of poverty issues in the country among governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- With support from the UNDP, the secretariat assisted in the development of a "Matrix on Poverty Eradication and Equity-Building Initiatives" for Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.
- The 'matrix' for Suriname, which was also supported by the Caribbean Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), provided a useful inventory of poverty eradication, reduction and equity-building activities in Suriname.

Social indicators

- In an effort to provide much needed information on the social sector, the secretariat continues to compile information on social indicators in the Caribbean with a view to the publication of a document on the subject.
- Much of this information on Caribbean issues and recent developments has been processed and submitted as an input into the preparation of the CEPAL Social Panorama 1996.

Masculinity

• In response to requests from member countries and concerns expressed in consecutive meetings of the CDCC, the secretariat has done some follow-up work to its Ad Hoc Expert

Group Meeting on "Men and Women in Changing Caribbean Social Structures" held in 1993.

- The question of masculinity has emerged as a relevant issue in the context of studies which attempt to explain increasing levels of poor performance of boys in school, male drop-out rates, vulnerability and poor levels of achievement both in the world of family life and in the world of work.
- The secretariat's document "Caribbean Social Structures and the Changing World of Men" (LC/CAR/G.511) reflects present sentiments on the issue and various forms of action and research being undertaken in the region.

Technical assistance

- The secretariat continued to provide technical support to its member countries in developing social policy and poverty eradication programmes.
- The secretariat provided assistance to Aruba in the development of its social policy and poverty eradication.
- An advisory mission was undertaken to Curação to assist in the preparation of a national social intervention programme for St. Maarten and Curação.

SUBJECT AREA 13.5 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

The work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in this subject area is geared towards addressing issues in the subregion as they relate to global and hemispheric developments in trade and finance and bringing them to the attention of member countries. The secretariat has also collaborated with other institutions in the provision of relevant policy recommendations and the development of programmes to assist Caribbean countries in coming to terms with the rapid developments in trade and financial issues which affect them.

Trade and investment project

 The secretariat, in close collaboration with ECLAC offices in Santiago and Mexico, assisted in the execution of a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands on the "Promotion of Trade and Investment among Latin America and Caribbean countries."

- A significant activity accomplished by the Project was the statistical compilation of
 information on reciprocal trade and investment among the three subregions. ECLAC
 Headquarters provided statistical data prepared by the International Trade, Transport and
 Finance Division and, through the Statistics Division, made available the database on
 intra-Latin American trade (BADECEL) to the Subregional offices.
- Another meaningful activity carried out during the life of the project were the technical advisory missions which contribute to the activities of the ACS in the area of trade and investment promotion and liberalization.

Seminar

- The final activity of the project was an intraregional Seminar held 23-24 September 1997 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago which, besides sharing some of the work that was accomplished, afforded a full discussion for more than 45 experts of the three subregions around several topics to which importance was assigned to increase regional integration and cooperation.
- A report of the Seminar on Promotion of Trade and Investment among Latin America and Caribbean Countries (LC/CAR/G.522) and of the project activities is available to member countries, upon request.

Trade, investment and finance

Documentation

- The secretariat continued its work in assessing the implications of the liberalization of trade and investment regimes to the wider Caribbean. The secretariat prepared documents on trade and finance.
- The paper on "Financial liberalization: Its relevance and experiences in the Caribbean" (LC/CAR/G.492) makes a preliminary assessment of the financial liberalization programmes in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The lessons drawn from those experiences could be useful to other Caribbean countries planning to embark on similar liberalization programmes.

Trade database

• The secretariat continued the construction of a disaggregated trade database for the Caribbean subregion. The development of this trade database will allow for a much better knowledge of trade flows among CDCC countries as well as between CDCC countries and other countries in the hemisphere.

• To this end, work continues with the other ECLAC offices in defining ways and means to improve the data collection systems and to make this information available to governments, national and regional institutions and researchers interested in trade issues of the Caribbean.

Newsletters

• The secretariat continued to prepare the quarterly newsletter "External Sector Briefing Notes" which provides information on selected trade and economic issues relevant to the Caribbean.

SUBJECT AREA 13.6: DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

In the field of industry and tourism, the secretariat continued to focus on the aspects dealing with industry and prepared a number of studies utilizing the services of consultants. The financial situation which affected the United Nations over the past two years did impact negatively on the work programmed in this subject area.

Industrial developments

Documentation

- The secretariat in its attempt to offer a critical view of all factors affecting the productive sector has initiated work on the preparation of a research paper entitled "Competitiveness and Competition Policy in the Caribbean"
- The paper seeks to arrive at some criteria that are useful for the productive sectors in the subregion to secure and maintain strong market shares in foreign markets.
- The study "Industrial Policies for the CARICOM subregion" examines the implications
 of existing trade policies for industry deriving an industrial policy, taking into account
 national, hemispheric and global economic developments and makes recommendations for
 an industrial policy in CARICOM.
- This is in addition to the work already prepared on the status of export processing zones in selected countries of the subregion
- Another study entitled: "A Critical Review of the Performance of the Manufacturing Sector in Trinidad and Tobago" analyzed how the sector performed in the context of incentive measures and facilitating mechanisms which have been in place for over 40 years.

• The report identifies the constraints and challenges which the sector faces and prerequisites for its survival in the new economic environment.

SUBJECT AREA 13.7 ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Over the period in question the secretariat focused its attention on critical issues in environmental information management.

Environmental Information Management

- In a direct follow-up to the Caribbean Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action (Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 May 1995) the secretariat, together with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), prepared a report "Environmental Information Management in the Caribbean" (LC/CAR/G.527).
- This report proposes a regional strategy focused on user needs, decentralization of information management efforts, strengthening of national capabilities and advocated increased use of modern information technology.
- The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 10 14 November) has endorsed the goals of the strategy.

SIDS database

- Work on the database of ongoing and planned, donor-financed, SIDS-related projects and programmes continued and at the end of 1997 over 700 projects and programmes had been identified. Following discussions with the Special Unit of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC), funding has been obtained to continue and expand work on the database until the end of 1999.
- Because of the large number of projects and programmes in the database it is no longer feasible to prepare printed versions. However, the database is available on disk and also on the ECLAC Caribbean Sustainable Development Website (see below). A user guide "Small Island Developing Countries - SIDS Database: User Guide" (LC/CAR/G.523) has been prepared.

Caribbean Sustainable Development Website (http://community.wow.net/eclac/home.htm)

- The secretariat began development of a Caribbean Sustainable Development Website. Apart from sections on the SIDS database (see above) and the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS POA (see subject area 13.3 Island developing Countries) the Website functions as a meta-database by providing links to substantive information sources relevant to Caribbean sustainable development.
- Sections of the Website include access to Caribbean newspapers, sectoral and crosssectoral issues of the SIDS POA and individual country pages. The decision to expand an already existing rudimentary in-house meta-database was made following a suggestion made to this extent by the Government of Saint Lucia.
- The secretariat prepared a report "Information Resources for Sustainable Development" (LC/CAR/G.518) highlighting available sustainable development information available at ECLAC/CDCC.

Technical assistance

- The secretariat participated in a revision of the IDB/UNEP information project
- Activities as a member of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Steering Committee in Trinidad and Tobago continued over the period.
- The secretariat assisted the Government of Antigua and Barbuda at a special Organization of American States (OAS) Meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on the security concerns of SIDS.
- The secretariat continued to collaborate with UNDP in the preparation of Caribbean GEF tourism proposal.
- On the suggestion of the Governments of Guyana and Jamaica, the secretariat prepared a
 proposal and work plan to have the Caribbean Sea declared as a "Special Area" during the
 1999 Review of GCSIDS. This proposal was submitted to and, as amended, approved by
 the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for
 the Sustainable Development of Small Island States.
- The secretariat collaborated with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), the Caribbean Environment Health Institute (CEHI), CCST and OECS in preparing draft decisions for consideration of the ministerial meeting referred to above.

SUBJECT AREA 13.8: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The programme on science and technology is carried out in collaboration with the activities of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). ECLAC/CDCC continues to serve as the secretariat of the CCST, providing support in the convening of meetings and other aspects of science and technology.

During the biennium CCST convened four Executive Committee Meetings and two Plenary Sessions to review the status of CCST activities and projects. The Council also convened a series of technical meetings and workshops aimed at bringing regional officials up to date on developments in science and technology.

More information on the work carried out by CCST during the biennium 1996-1997 is provided in documents LC/CAR/G.488 and LC/CAR/G.510.

Executive Committee meetings

• The Executive Committee meetings reviewed the report of the secretariat activities, including project proposals, and discussed their relevance to the five-year CCST work programme.

Plenary Sessions

- The Fourteenth Plenary Session was held in Grenada 16-18 December 1996 to review reports on the CCST Secretariat's activities since the thirteenth Plenary Session and its relevance to the five-year work programme of the Council.
- The fifteenth Plenary Session was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 19-20 December 1997, to review the status of projects being implemented and to endorse new projects being funded by the OAS.
- The meeting also considered the Interim Report on the Administrative Support for the CCST prepared by the CDCC secretariat (LC/CAR/G.517).
- A decision was taken that the CCST will review this report and prepare a similar document for consideration at the next session of the CDCC.

Other meetings and workshops

The CCST secretariat was involved in the organization and hosting of a number of collaborative meetings with other subregional institutions. Reports of these meetings and workshops are available from the CCST.

- A seminar on Integrated Water Resource Management in the Caribbean: Institutional and Policy Reform, was convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during 24-27 June 1997.
- The "CCST/UWICED/UNESCO Workshop on investment funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Caribbean" was held in Jamaica on 17-19 January 1996.
- The CCST together with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries of Trinidad and Tobago collaborated with the Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) in organizing a workshop on energy management and decision-modeling, from 4-15 March 1996.
- CCST co-funded and provided substantive support in the conduct of the CCST/UNESCO/UWICED workshop on environmentally friendly technologies, held in Jamaica, 10-12 June 1996. The participation of 23 representatives from the 13 CCST member countries was facilitated by the CCST.
- CCST, in collaboration with the OAS and NIHERST, convened a workshop on Priority Setting in Science and Technology Policies. This workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 29 April 3 May 1996.

Technical assistance

- With funding support from the TCDC Unit of the UNDP, CCST provided assistance in the implementation of the TEAM Technology project on the banana industry in the Windward Islands.
- The secretariat offered assistance to the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Planning of the Government of Saint Lucia in the development of a framework for reviewing proposals for the establishment of small- and medium-sized industries as a spin-off from the banana industry.
- Assistance was offered to the relevant departments in Guyana in assessing its funding needs with respect to renewable energy and energy efficient projects.
- CCST provided assistance to CARICOM in convening a meeting preparatory to the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology, (Guyana, 11-12 March 1996).

Newsletter

 The secretariat continues to prepare the quarterly CCST newsletter which provides member countries with information on recent developments in the field of science and technology, including information on upcoming meetings.

Project preparation

The CCST secretariat was able to obtain funding for a number of projects the Council
implemented during the biennium. Detailed information is available in the abovementioned documents LC/CAR/G.488 and LC/CAR/G.510.

SUBJECT AREA 13.9: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Caribbean Information System

An integral part of the Information and Documentation programme was the expansion of services beyond the information needs of the office resulting in increased support to member countries in the field of infomatics.

Information support

- Since the start of the new year, the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) has received over 5,123 serials, monographs and United Nations documents with about 2000 of these documents being added to the CARIB database available to users of the service.
- The secretariat continued its maintenance and expansion of the electronic information facilities including the introduction of new information technologies.
- The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is currently updating its in-house technical capacity to respond to the increased demand for information from member countries.

Training

- Training was provided to participants from member countries in the use of the Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems (CDS/ISIS) software and the ECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System.
- Training workshops in selected member countries was provided to bring users up-to-date in the use of the Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems (CDS/ISIS) software. This software is used for preparing data for entry into the database and for remote access.

Databases

The secretariat continued its programme of maintenance and hosting of bibliographic and full-text databases for remote access as well as statistical and other databases.

Documentation

• The Centre prepared and distributed issues of the CARISPLAN Abstracts, Current Awareness Bulletins and Current Contents to users of its facilities

Technical assistance

During 1996 technical support was given to various organizations and institutions in the subregion.

- The secretariat provided support to CARICOM in the conduct of a workshop on measurement of the impact of information on decision-making in the Caribbean.
- The Centre assisted in the convening of the Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) workshop on energy management and decision modeling, held in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Technical support and training was provided to the Sugar Cane Feed Center, Trinidad and Tobago, in the field of accessing information via E-mail, the AMBIONET System and the Internet. This has enabled the Centre to access the AMBIONET Information System and E-mail and to exchange information with its Caribbean counterparts.
- Technical support has been continually provided to the Library of the Ministry of Energy in Trinidad and Tobago for its Internet access and use in CDS/ISIS.
- The secretariat continued to provide technical support to the FAO CEGRIN Project in Trinidad in the form of training personnel and configuring computers to access the database. As a result, the system of information transfer for database update, setup for the project continues to function.
- The Caribbean Documentation Centre is providing assistance in the implementation of CARICOM's IDB-funded Project on Caribbean Information Integration, through the sharing of our expertise in the information field and computerized library services. Further collaboration is expected on this project with the involvement of some of our hardware (Web Server mainly) and their provision of some staff for HTML coding and scanning of documents.

• Technical support and training was provided to the Institute of International Relations, Trinidad and Tobago, in the field of accessing information via E-mail, and the AMBIONET System. Support was also provided to the institution in the use of the CDS-ISIS system.

Statistical services

The secretariat continued to collect data and published its document on Selected Statistical Indicators for Caribbean countries. In addition, the secretariat continues to offer advisory services to member States, at their request, in updating their statistical services.

Statistical workshop

- Over the years, the secretariat has noted the continuous deterioration in the quality of data for decision-making available at the statistical offices. In light of this situation and the paucity of data in the Caribbean countries, the secretariat convened a seminar on "Improving the Data Supply Modality", held in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 13-14 May 1996, under the joint auspices of ECLAC/CDCC and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).
- Participants at the seminar adopted a number of recommendations to be followed-up by the secretariat. Among the recommendations was the need for the Governments of the OECS countries to declare their commitment to support and contribute to the success of the project proposal submitted for donor consideration,
- Key elements of the project would involve the restructuring and reorganization of the statistical offices and improving the use of the new technologies.
- Further details on the seminar are provided in the "Report of Seminar on Improving the Data Supply Modality", (LC/CAR/G.433).

Technical assistance

Suriname

- With funding provided by the UNDP, the secretariat provided technical advisory services to the Government of Suriname as it contemplated its options on structural adjustment and the rehabilitation of its statistical office, through the UNDP project SUR/95/001: Support to the Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek (ABS).
- A major component of the project was the attachment of 14 persons from the Bureau to receive training at the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in Trinidad and Tobago and the assistance provided by officers from the CSO, Trinidad and Tobago, to Suriname in

following up on the training provided and to assess the application of the techniques to actual work in the ABS.

The secretariat conducted the Statistics Users'/Producers Seminar, 9-10 April 1996, which was convened by the Ministry of Planning and Development in Suriname to develop linkages with other users and producers of data.

Aruba

- The secretariat followed up on a mission to Aruba to assess the data management needs of the Department of Economic Affairs, Statistics Office and Tourism Authority in Aruba on the request of the Minister of Economic Affairs.
- One outcome of the mission was the completion of research on the establishment of a bulletin board system for the Department of Economic Affairs. Another outcome was the implementation of a recommendation to establish sector profiles which will update the Government on developments in Aruba.

Grenada

 Advisory services were provided to the Ministry of Finance and Planning with respect to modernization of the statistical services of Grenada and the submission of a draft project document.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

• Upon request, the secretariat provided technical assistance to the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in the drafting of a project document for funding for modernization of that country's statistical services.

Statistical databases

- The secretariat is currently developing additional databases on intra-CDCC trade, social statistics and environment information
- A new software package designed to facilitate the process of capturing and searching trade data is being tested for use by users of the ECLAC/CDCC databases

SUBJECT AREA 13.10: TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)

- The secretariat provided support to officials of the ECCB in the conduct of the OECS Statisticians' Meeting and prepared a project proposal aimed at obtaining funds for the modernization of the statistical offices in the OECS countries.
- Taking into account the difficulties being faced by banana producers in the countries of the OECS, the secretariat provided technical support for the convening of a Workshop on Alternative Uses of Banana and Banana Products. The workshop was held in St. Lucia 16-18 April 1997.
- In light of the problems arising from the deliberations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) the secretariat support to the High Level Meeting of Windward Islands Bananas Exporting Countries, organized by the OECS Secretariat in Dominica, 10-13 September 1997.
- The secretariat presented the paper "New technologies and the banana industry" (LC/CAR/G.507) which examined new technologies that are on the market for increasing both efficiency of production and the need to integrate the banana industry with the tourist industry through the production of quality foods and products as souvenirs.
- The paper also identified various products that have been derived from the banana, with particular emphasis on fibre production as a raw material for producing a number of other products, such a paper, oil-spill equipment, and cardboard.

SUBJECT AREA 13.11 POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The secretariat activities with respect to population and development were carried out in conjunction with the implementation of two UNFPA-funded projects. The secretariat continued to implement follow-up activities to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Follow-up to ICPD

Newsletter - ICPD Follow-up - CAPD

 The secretariat continued with the production of the newsletter - "Caribbean Action on Population and Development" - ICPD Follow-up news. A total of three volumes were produced and disseminated.

Caribbean Plan of Action - Follow-up to ICPD

• The secretariat issued a revised version of the "Caribbean Plan of Action, Follow-up to ICPD". The original document was produced following the ECLAC/CDCC/UNFPA Subregional meeting held in the Bahamas in May 1995.

Project activities

The secretariat implemented two population related projects which were funded by UNFPA. The projects were "CAR/94/PO1: Integration of Population into Development Planning" and "CAR/97/PO7: Support to Population Research, Advocacy, Database Development and Training Activities". The activities under both of the above projects are linked, although Project CAR/94/PO2 ended in December 1997, some of the activities initiated under this project are expected to continue under project CAR/97/PO7 during the next biennium. Activities included:

Generation of REDATAM (Retrieval of DATa in small Areas by Microcomputer) Databases

- In order to facilitate the analysis of census data for improved population and development planning, seven REDATAM databases have been generated for utilizing the REDATAM software, created to meet the needs of planners and policy makers for the analysis of data at the smallest geographical areas for planning exercises.
- So far, databases have been completed for: Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
- These databases are required for the application of the REDATAM software for purposes of improved population and development planning. It is also a prerequisite for participation of governments in the regional training seminars on "Techniques for Analysis of Census Data for Development Planning".

Training seminar: Analysis of census data

- The secretariat convened two workshops, the first workshop, "ECLAC/UNFPA Regional Workshop Techniques for the Analysis of Census Data for Population and Development Planning" was held in the Cayman Islands during the period 24-28 June 1996 while the other "Generation of REDATAM Census Databases" was conducted 15-17 October 1997, in the Bahamas.
- The workshops were geared towards updating the skills of regional statisticians from 10
 CDCC member States. They provided training in the techniques for the generation of

REDATAM databases from census and survey data, at the smallest geographical level. and It also offered training in the application of the REDATAM programme in the analysis of census data for population and development planning and its ability to interface with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

• At the end of the workshops, participants were able to utilize the programmes to construct population and socio-economic indicators, identify poverty pockets, generate information on specific target groups in different sectors as well as the beneficiaries of special community level programmes and map the results.

Socio-demographic data bank

 Work continued on the development and maintenance of the Caribbean Socio-Demographic Data Bank. This included the collection and evaluation of data and the execution of data entry activities.

Regional Digest of Socio-Demographic Statistics

The document was updated to take account of new data from the 1990/1991 census data and vital statistics. The book contains national and regional level tables and graphs on demographic trends, fertility, mortality and migration statistics; and selected population-related social indicators including health, employment, education and gender-related data.

Migration research

- The study on the "Impact of Immigration on Small Islands in the Caribbean" has been completed. The study seeks to carry out a systematic analysis of the impact of immigration on small islands and coastal States for the following countries: Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten and the United States Virgin Islands.
- The research design for a second study "Return Migration and the implications for the social and economic development of the Caribbean" has been completed; list of tabulation requirements prepared; the first set of tabulations on the census data of six countries generated; literature review activities are underway. The study is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1998.

Teenage fertility surveys - Addressing adolescent problems

• The secretariat is collaborating with the Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada in the conduct of two teenage fertility surveys. The surveys are in varying stages of completion.

The aim of these surveys will be to provide policy makers with the appropriate data and
analysis needed to assist in their decision-making and problem-solving processes.
Activities include an assessment of data availability; analysis of the social, demographic
and economic characteristics of immigrants and identification of the impact on the social
sectors.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- The aim was to collect in-depth information required to increase understanding of the causes and consequences, develop intervention programmes, provide recommendations for more efficient resource allocations and strengthen collaboration among implementing agencies.
- Data processing and a preliminary analysis of the survey data have been completed and the
 preliminary findings of the survey were presented to the National Population Council in
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The secretariat assisted the Population Council and the Planning Division in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in related adolescent policy formulation and in the conduct of workshops for information dissemination.

Grenada

- A similar exercise was carried out in Grenada in collaboration with the Grenada National Population Council and Department of Statistics.
- The processing and editing of the Teenage Fertility survey data for Grenada is in progress.

Population policy formulation

 Technical support was provided to the National Population Council of Trinidad and Tobago in the finalization of their population policy and the design of strategies for its legal adoption

Survey on reproductive health, poverty and female-headed households

- Work was initiated on the preparatory phase of the survey on female-headed households
 which will seek to gather data on the sexual and reproductive health of this high risk group
 and the adolescents in this type of household, with special reference to the poverty
 linkages.
- Preparatory research includes the development of an analytical framework; literature review; research design, and the provision of recommendations on relevant issues and questions to help guide the development of the survey questionnaire and design.

SUBJECT AREA 13.12: SUBSTANTIVE SERVICING OF CDCC MEETINGS

Monitoring Committee

- The secretariat convened the "Eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee(CDCC)" in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 21-22 March 1996, and prepared the 'Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)", (LC/CAR/G.476).
- The meeting was convened to review the programme of work of the secretariat carried out during 1994 and 1995 and to review the programme of work for the 1996-1997 biennium. The meeting also considered and approved the draft programme of work of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1998-1999 biennium.
- With regards to the reform process of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC, member countries agreed that the current reduction of resources should not adversely affect the priorities of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and that any restructuring of ECLAC should not affect its developing country members.

Sixteenth session of the CDCC at the technical level

- The sixteenth Session of the CDCC was held at the technical level, in Trinidad and Tobago on 31 October 1996.
- An overview of the work being carried out by the secretariat and proposals for future activities were presented at the meeting.
- The meeting approved the application of Anguilla for membership of the CDCC.

Caribbean Caucus Meeting

- The secretariat convened a special Caribbean Caucus Meeting, in New York, 4 June 1997, to prepare for the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Commission.
- Member countries examined the background documents for the Working Group Meeting, related to the Proposed Management Pilot Scheme, within the context of the current work programme, the programme of work for the 1998-1999 biennium, future development goals and budgetary considerations.

			•	
•				
	~			
•				
			•	
			1	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
			•	
	·		•	