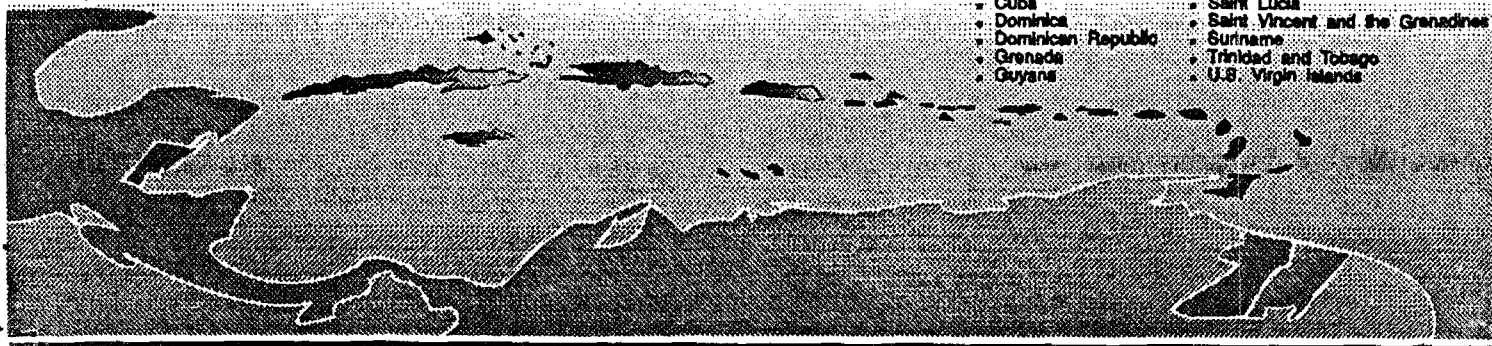




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- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint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



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CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CCST/CARICOM Meeting preparatory to
the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers
responsible for Science and Technology
Georgetown, Guyana
11-12 March 1996



**REPORT OF THE CCST/CARICOM MEETING PREPARATORY TO
THE HEMISPHERIC MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

24 JUN 1996



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT OF THE CCST/CARICOM MEETING PREPARATORY TO
THE HEMISPHERIC MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Georgetown, Guyana, 11-12 March 1996



The CCST/CARICOM Meeting Preparatory to the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology convened in Georgetown, Guyana, during 11-12 March 1996.

Countries represented were: Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. (A list of participants is annexed to this report). The meeting was chaired by Guyana.

Addressing the meeting, Chairman of the CCST, Navin Chandarpal of Guyana, reminded those present that the objective of the meeting was the elaboration of a Caribbean position and strategy for intervention at the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology of the Hemisphere, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia on 28-29 March 1996.

Brief remarks were made by Prime Minister and Acting President of Guyana, the Honourable Sam Hinds, who reminded delegates of the reality of the situation facing Caribbean States and of the decisions to be taken within that framework if they were to be meaningful and implementable.

A summary of the deliberations follows:

1. General approaches for Caribbean intervention at the Hemispheric meeting

It was agreed that, in general, interventions of the Caribbean countries should :

(a) Bring the subregional perspective to topics under discussion and to recommendations which seek to address the particular situations of small island developing States and small economies.

(b) Recognize the role of existing regional institutions in coordinating and implementing programmes and projects which seek to confer benefits to member States.

(c) Be made in light of the fact that the Hemispheric meeting presents an ideal opportunity to maximize and build on ongoing work in the Caribbean, by highlighting these activities in the highest political forum.

2. Strategic considerations

The meeting identified several strategies and factors to be considered when seeking to ensure a Caribbean perspective to the main output of the Cartagena meeting, the Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action.

(a) There is need to determine which Caribbean countries will be represented at Cartagena, with a view to allocating responsibility for leading interventions on particular aspects of the Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action. To date, delegations have been identified from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. There is an urgent need to communicate with Jamaica, which has had a key role in preparing the paper on Science, Technology and Social Development and has participated fully in this hemispheric initiative.

(b) All interventions, while dealing with different topics, should be consistent in their nature and approach.

(c) A caucus should be held before the opening of the Cartagena meeting, with the aim of briefing all delegations and allocating responsibilities for particular topics.

(d) The CCST has been assigned responsibility for the drafting of a letter to be sent to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), seeking special consideration for very small economies.

(e) For the remainder of the preparatory process, and in follow-up action, strategies to enhance coordination include:

- i. increased coordination and information-sharing between countries;
- ii. recognition of the potential role of regional organizations and institutions, such as the CCST, in coordination and information-sharing;
- iii. increased use of national mechanisms, such as Permanent Missions in Washington

3. Interventions to be made on the draft Plan of Action

The meeting examined and discussed the Draft Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action (Version ENG-7A, February 22). The following changes¹ were made to bring a Caribbean perspective to the document:

¹ The changes suggested are identified under the relevant section heading of the draft Plan of Action. All suggested text is in italics and bracketed.

1.2 STRENGTHENING EXISTING PROGRAMMES

(a) Main programmes of hemispheric cooperation in science and technology

Page 8. Modify lines 6, 8 and 9 as follows:

Hemispheric cooperation programmes in science and technology fall into two categories. The first one includes programmes that have been operating for more than 10 years, and that have made a major contribution to the development of the present scientific and technological infrastructure in the region. Among them, it is important to highlight the scientific and technological cooperation programmes carried out by IDB, the OAS, CYTED, the IDRC of Canada, UNESCO, UNIDO, COLCYT *<and CCST>*; the international and regional systems for agricultural research and technological development (coordinated by the CGIAR), and various programmes carried out by regional scientific *<institutions and>* associations such as *<CARDI and>* INTERCIENCIA, the Steering Committee for Scientific Networks of the Hemisphere, and OUI.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE

Page 9. Modify the last line of point 1 as follows:

1. Strengthen the capacity of the countries of the hemisphere to formulate and implement national policies for scientific and technological development. These policies should contemplate the support to international cooperation programmes in science and technology, given the increasingly global nature of contemporary science *<and should include studies to identify best possible arrangements for the promotion of science and technology activities in support of economic development, especially in the smaller economies of the hemisphere>*.

2.2 STRENGTHENING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATION SECTORS

2.2.1 Science, Technology and Social Development

Page 11. Add at the end of point 1.

<Special attention should be paid to the development of capacities in the lesser developed countries to enable their institutions to conduct research and deliver programmes of the types proposed under this section>.

Page 12. Modify the first line of point 2 as follows:

2. Encourage programmes on research *<development of indigenous technology>* and transfer of technology for production-sector development, particularly to improve the viability of economic units associated with the lowest income groups and those who are most vulnerable. This involves improving the public infrastructure to reach the rural and urban poor by disseminating and applying appropriate technologies so that they can be fully linked with the formal market.

2.2.2 Science, Technology and the Productive Sectors

Page 13. Modify point 1, line 2 as follows:

1. Support the development of innovation systems in the countries of the hemisphere, through the strengthening of university-industry relations *<and industry-research and development institution relations>*, and through the exchange of information and experiences on how innovation and technical change take place at the enterprise level.

Page 13. Add to the last line of point 2:

2. Facilitate the development of an inter-American technology market, through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to match the demands generated by industry, with the supply of knowledge and technology available in the countries of the hemisphere. Participation in this technology market will be promoted through incentives and facilities for joint ventures and for foreign investment *<in particular, training in specialized areas relating to contractual arrangements and negotiating skills in S&T related matters to improve the capacity of regional and subregional enterprises to interface with other regional and international concerns>*.

2.2.3 Science, Technology, Biodiversity and Sustainable Human Development

Page 15. Add at the end of last paragraph:

<This is a particular threat to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and low-lying coastal States of the hemisphere. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States remains the basis for action aimed at addressing these issues.>

Page 15. Modify point 6, lines 3 and 5, as follows:

6. Promote research at the regional level on the following strategic areas: tropical ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles; impact of climate change on biodiversity *<small island developing states and low-lying coastal states>*; the "Niño" phenomenon and variability in climate; ocean-atmosphere-land interaction in inter-tropical America; comparative studies on oceanic, coastal and estuary processes in temperate zones, *<small island developing states and low-lying coastal states>*; comparative studies of temperate zone ecosystems and high altitude ecosystems.

Page 16. Add as new points:

<Support programmes at the national and regional levels aimed at conserving and managing natural resources critical to the development of Small Island Developing States, in particular coastal and marine resources, soil management, water management and integrated pest management.>

<Strengthen the capacity of regional and national institutions to implement programmes aimed at natural disaster mitigation.>

2.3 MEASURES TO ASSURE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF SMALL AND RELATIVELY LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Page 18. Modify point 3 by removing the commas in the first and second lines. Modify lines 4 and 5 of point 4:

4. Recommend that hemispheric cooperation programmes increase their support for the subregional science and technology organizations of the small and relatively less developed countries, such as the Scientific and Technological Development Commission for Central America and Panama (CTCAP) and *<the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST),>* seeking to improve their operational capacity and efficiency, as well as their capacity for technical assistance.

Page 18. Add a new point:

<Give special consideration to the situation of the very small economies in the development of special funding mechanisms proposed in this Plan of Action.>

3. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

3.2.2 Follow-up and Monitoring Mechanisms

Page 22. Second to last line, modify as follows:

The Executive Committee may set up Task Forces to discuss specific issues or topics dealt with at the Ministerial Meeting, or as a tool to engage <*subregional intergovernmental institutions*,> scientific associations, experts, and non-governmental organizations in this process. Three such Task forces are identified in section 1.1 of this Plan of Action. These Task forces may play an important role in monitoring the implementation of decisions and agreements, and in providing advice, when required.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman urged country representatives to cooperate in ensuring that the results of the discussions were followed up, and, as far as possible, to make efforts to secure their country's participation in Cartagena. To facilitate this, it was particularly important to make sure that national focal points responsible for channeling information were fully cognizant of their responsibilities and were utilized to the utmost on a timely and regular basis.

It was also agreed that it was necessary to ensure that national structures with responsibility for science and technology be strengthened to enable them to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves following the adoption of the Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action.

The Secretary of the CCST, on behalf of CCST and CARICOM, thanked the participants for their hard work and indicated there was need to follow the process not only through Cartagena, but also at upcoming meetings and conferences that might offer opportunities for collaboration and promotion on issues relating to science and technology.

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