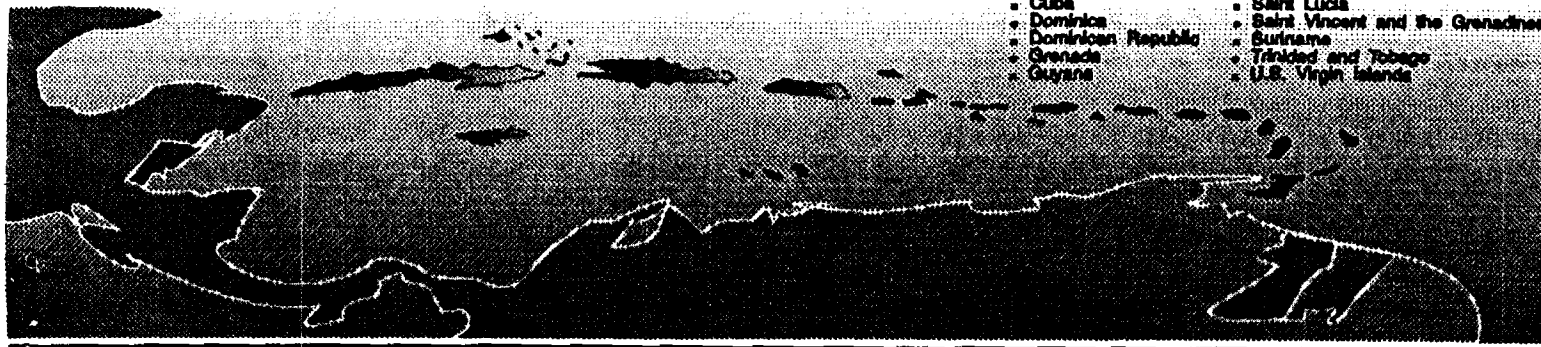




UN ECLAC/CDCC

- 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



GENERAL

LC/CAR/G.537

13 June 1998

ORIGINAL IN SPANISH



**REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**



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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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PART ONE

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda item 4

The meeting admitted Anguilla as an associate member of the CDCC.

Agenda item 5

The meeting requested the secretariat to ensure that all the activities contained in the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 benefit all member countries.

The meeting requested the secretariat to continue work on the topic of masculinity and urged it to seek extrabudgetary funding to continue the work. The secretariat promised to continue to liaise with the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of the West Indies.

The view was also expressed that there should be projects in the 2000-2001 work programme that focused on making non-traditional agricultural products competitive on the global market. That would be beneficial in assisting governments to strengthen their economies.

The meeting recommended that in future the document on United Nations General Assembly resolutions should also include ECOSOC resolutions.

Agenda item 6

The meeting expressed support for the participation, in an official observer capacity, of associate members of ECLAC/CDCC in the special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly to review implementation of the programmes of action of the various United Nations world conferences.

Agenda item 9

The meeting agreed that the present arrangements between the CCST and ECLAC/CDCC remain as they are for the time being.

Agenda item 10

The meeting requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilize resources for the financing of its activities related to the Interim Secretariat for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Barbados Programme of Action.

The meeting agreed that the secretariat should convene an annual Monitoring Committee Meeting which would, in effect, be the technical level meeting of CDCC and a biennial ministerial session. The next meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be in 1999 in Port-of-Spain while the next ministerial session would take place in the year 2000.

Agenda item 11

The meeting agreed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should continue discussions with member countries to work out the logistics for the next CDCC session.

PART TWO

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the meeting

The seventeenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) was held at the technical level in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 23-24 March 1998 and at the ministerial level in Oranjestad, Aruba, on 15 May 1998.

Attendance¹

The meeting was attended by the following CDCC member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Participating associate members were: Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands.

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting: The Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

In his opening statement, His Excellency Mr. George McKenzie, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, welcomed the delegates to the seventeenth session of the CDCC at the ministerial level. He pointed out that this was a crucial time for the Caribbean and that there was need to forge appropriate new strategies to promote the sustainable development of Caribbean economies within the context of the profound structural changes taking place in the world economy. He also noted that one aspect of the necessary strategies involved the strengthening of cooperation among the countries of the Caribbean and between these countries and those of Latin America. In that context, he went on to remind the meeting of the relevance of the CDCC whose role was precisely to promote such cooperation. He ended his welcoming remarks by stating that it was incumbent upon CDCC member countries to ensure that the secretariat's work programme remained focused on issues of special interest to the Caribbean.

¹ The list of participants is annexed to this report.

**Agenda item 2:
Election of officers**

The representative from Trinidad and Tobago reminded the ministerial meeting that the following officers were elected by consensus at the technical level meeting:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Trinidad and Tobago
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Aruba
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Cuba
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Since Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was not represented at the ministerial session, Antigua and Barbuda was elected as Rapporteur.

The representative from Trinidad and Tobago reminded the ministerial meeting that it was agreed, in consultation with Aruba and the other members of the Committee, that Trinidad and Tobago would chair the seventeenth session at the technical level and hand over the chairmanship to Aruba at the ministerial session. He then invited the Honourable Robertico Croes, Minister of Economic Affairs of Aruba, to take over the chair.

**Agenda item 3:
Adoption of agenda and organization of work**

The agenda for the technical meeting was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
4. Consideration of an application by Anguilla for associate membership of the CDCC
5. Review of the work of the secretariat:
 - (a) Report of the Director on the implementation of the work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) for the 1996-1997 biennium;

- (b) Review of the approved work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1998-1999 biennium and Report of the Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Meeting on the Work Programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean held in Port-of-Spain, 29 January 1998;
 - (c) Consideration of the proposed work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium;
 - (d) Recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and ECLAC which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC
6. Update on meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) of the Commission
 7. Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)
 8. Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) to the CDCC
 9. Action taken on CDCC Resolution 38(XIV): Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)
 - Consideration of the "Report on Administrative Support Arrangements for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)"
 10. Any other business
 11. Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the CDCC
 12. Adoption of the report of the seventeenth session of the CDCC at the technical level.

For purposes of the ministerial session, the following working agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Consideration of an application by Anguilla for associate membership of CDCC

5. Review of the work of the secretariat:
 - Report of the Director on activities of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean;
 - Consideration of the proposed programme of work for the 2000-2001 biennium
6. Consideration of the report of the seventeenth session of CDCC at the technical level, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 23 and 24 March 1998
7. Action taken on CDCC resolution 38 (XIV) on the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology:
 - Consideration of the report on administrative support arrangements for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
8. Other business
9. Date and venue of the eighteenth session of CDCC

Agenda item 4:
Consideration of an application by Anguilla
for associate membership of the CDCC

Following statements of support made by the delegations of Jamaica and the Netherlands Antilles, the meeting agreed to admit Anguilla as an associate member of CDCC.

Agenda item 5:
Review of the work of the secretariat

- (a) **Report of the Director on the implementation of the work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) for the 1996-1997 biennium**

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC office highlighted the main achievements accomplished by the secretariat during the recently concluded 1996-1997 biennium. She drew attention to the document *Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium* (LC/CAR/G.529).

The Director noted the several disruptions and staffing changes which had taken place in 1997, the latter half of the previous biennium. During that period, the office's premises were

changed, two posts were lost, others frozen, a number of professional and general service staff retired and two staff members resigned to take up posts elsewhere. In other cases, contractual relationships expired. The offices of both the Director and Deputy Director changed hands. Ms. Len Ishmael assumed the post of Director, Ms. Barbara Boland was appointed as Deputy Director and Mr. Michael Hendrickson joined the office as Associate Economic Affairs Officer. The Director disclosed that, at present, four posts were under active recruitment, as follows: Women in Development; Small Island Developing States; Associate Economic Affairs Officer and Regional Economic Adviser.

In her presentation, the Director reviewed the implementation of the 1996-1997 work programme, reporting activities in the 12 programme areas. She highlighted the fact that despite the disruptions alluded to previously, the secretariat had prepared and distributed 53 documents, 10 consultant reports, 34 issues of seven newsletters and had convened 13 meetings and seminars, completing most of the outputs outlined in the work programme for the biennium. The office had, in addition, actively pursued the implementation of 13 extrabudgetary projects, completing seven by the end of the year. By the end of 1997, the work programme of the secretariat had gone through a process of intense review to ensure that it was both focused and relevant to the needs of the subregion.

The Director outlined plans to build a team which shared a common vision and which understood the important role to be played by all in ensuring the success of the efforts of the Organization. An important focus of activity was to implement ways of maximizing outputs through collaboration with other agencies in the Caribbean. To that extent, the secretariat had convened a successful meeting in January 1998 at which its work programme was presented to a number of agencies for the identification of possibilities for cost-saving collaboration.

In the ensuing discussion, one delegation enquired whether any of the approved programmed activities for the 1996-1997 biennium were still outstanding. The secretariat responded that because of staff constraints, activities under the area of tourism had not been completed.

The representative of Cuba observed the discriminatory character of the Miami Summit and of the activities originating from that meeting which did not include all the countries of the subregion. She enquired whether the documents prepared by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had been circulated to all the member countries. In reply, the secretariat stated that the participation of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process was mainly in the provision of technical assistance and in the preparation of studies and other documents for the Working Group on Smaller Economies. The documentation prepared for the FTAA was circulated at those meetings and member countries present had access to that documentation through their participation at those meetings.

The representative of Cuba recognized the importance which the countries of the region held for use of the knowledge and experiences of ECLAC in its preparation for the negotiations of the

programmes without help. She commended the secretariat on the work carried out on the topic of masculinity since she felt that there was not enough information on this subject. She underscored the importance of information gathering in policy formulation. She expressed satisfaction with the reassessment of priorities of the NICCs project and looked forward to a final project document on the matter in 1998.

She then enquired on the status of the Removal of Language Barriers project. The secretariat informed the meeting that at the time of the sixteenth session of the CDCC it had been discussing the possibility of funding for that project with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At that meeting, member countries had also been requested to approach the European Union (EU) for funding. Progress on that project had been hampered by the lack of an officer to carry out the activity. It was expected that recruitment to the vacant post would soon be made and would help in rectifying the present situation of lack of progress.

One delegation commended the secretariat for its ability to collaborate effectively and work with other regional organizations. However, attention was drawn to the fact that there was still much duplication of work programme activities among regional organizations which meant that there were certain areas that were given very low priority by several regional organizations. It was suggested that since ECLAC had more global links through its relationship in the wider United Nations system, it should examine its work plan and consider whether it could accommodate those areas of relatively lower priority.

Another delegation commended the secretariat on its achievement in the last biennium in spite of the restructuring exercise of the United Nations. It was felt that there were very few organizations in the subregion that prepared an overview of current global activities, information gathering and analysis which were vital to policy formulation.

Participants requested clarification of the role of the secretariat in the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS POA), with specific reference to the kind of support expected by governments. The secretariat clarified its twofold role in the area of SIDS:

- (a) Coordination of activities and facilitation of the flows of information on those activities being undertaken at the regional level;
- (b) Assistance in the establishment of national committees and the delivery of technical assistance to countries in need of such support.

The secretariat stated that at least two countries had requested such assistance. The role of the Regional Economic Commissions to disseminate information was clear and that function would continue to be carried out.

At the SIDS Global Conference in Barbados, 1994, the CDCC secretariat had been requested to perform the role of secretariat for the SIDS along with the CARICOM Secretariat. At the SIDS Ministerial Meeting of November 1997 in Barbados that request was reiterated. ECLAC was also asked to provide more information on the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism and to coordinate the activities of the joint work programme which came out of the SIDS meeting.

(b) Review of the approved work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1998-1999 biennium and Report of the Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Meeting on the Work Programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean held in Port of Spain, 29 January 1998

The Director presented the document LC/CAR/G.472/Rev.2 entitled *Revised draft work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1998-1999 biennium*, approved at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly. She noted that in beginning the present biennium the secretariat had recognized the need to put in place systems which would allow a team approach to the many challenges that would undoubtedly emerge. As a result, working relations in the Office had been reorganized to allow for a more multidisciplinary, multisectoral approach to implementing the work programme. She noted that a significant amount of effort had gone into attempting to ensure that the work programme was relevant, focused and effective.

She then identified four facets of the work plan:

- (a) Projects;
- (b) Technical/advisory assistance;
- (c) Meetings; and
- (d) Publications.

She identified six multisectoral and multidisciplinary programme elements. These were:

- International linkages and development of the Caribbean
- Integration and regional cooperation
- Application of science and technology to Caribbean development
- Information management for development

- Human and social development in the Caribbean
- Sustainable development in the Caribbean

Those work programme elements would be supported by approximately 20 planned meetings, 45 planned publications (including 8 newsletters) and advisory services.

The Director informed the meeting that a frequent concern raised by CDCC members had been the need to devote additional resources to operational activities within the subregion. She noted that given the reality of the reform process currently underway within the United Nations system, the only realistic way of securing those additional resources depended on the degree to which the Office could successfully raise extrabudgetary finances through the formulation and successful implementation of project proposals, or to execute projects on behalf of other agencies. Using a proactive approach to this issue, on 29 January 1998 the secretariat convened a meeting of international and regional agencies, which was attended by 18 agencies. The report of that meeting, *Report of the Strategic Planning Meeting on the work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean* (LC/CAR/G.426) was included in the documentation for the present conference. The principal objective of that meeting had been to present the ECLAC/CDCC work programme to assembled agencies with a view to identifying functional areas of collaboration and support for activities contained therein.

Delegates commended the secretariat for placing sustainable development at the core of its work plans. Some delegates had made the effort at several forums for governments to treat sustainable development in an integrated manner. It was felt that the lack of appreciation of its pervasiveness was the main explanation for the lack of significant implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action. The meeting cautioned that development and the environment should be dealt with in a cohesive manner.

The meeting noted that since the SIDS meeting, more attention was being paid to the issue of sustainable development and that in the proposals for the work programme in the 2000-2001 biennium, there was a document on appropriate mechanisms for incorporating sustainable development indicators into development planning. The meeting was aware that those indicators always generated much debate and noted that such indicators were being tested in Barbados. The meeting asked whether an effort could be made to introduce the methodology for integrating sustainable development indicators into national planning frameworks. The secretariat clarified that such an activity had already been planned for the current biennium through a series of national consultations.

Regarding the revised work programme document governing the activities of the CDCC secretariat for the 1998-1999 biennium, the meeting was informed that the revision was made at a Special Meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Working Group that was held in Santiago, Chile. The observation was also made that one of the items in the NICCs programme had been reformulated. That item referred to was listed under subject area 11.2 **Integration and Regional Cooperation**,

item (iv), concerning *An analysis of the potential impact of the creation of the FTAA on the economies of the NICCs and possibilities for cooperation with these countries under the Programme of Action of the Summit of the Americas* which been reformulated to *An analysis of the socio-economic impact of labour migration on development in selected small island States including the NICCs*. Whereas the reformulated item was acceptable, the Chairman of the NICCs would have preferred if the latter activity did not replace the former but was added to the list of planned activities. It was hoped that the secretariat would consider the importance of the impact of the FTAA process on their governments and possibly seek extrabudgetary funding to carry out that study.

The Director noted that the item had been assigned a lower priority in the past due to concern regarding the legal and constitutional implication of attempting to create a forum for the participation of the NICCs in the FTAA process. However, the secretariat would willingly reinsert that item into the work programme with the understanding that the study would assess the impact of the FTAA on the economies of the NICCs, but would not make any assessment of the political ramifications of the process.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC clarified that ECLAC's involvement in the FTAA meetings had been by way of a response to requests for technical input into the deliberations. He pointed out that ECLAC was not part of the negotiating process.

The meeting discussed the issue of the FTAA in more detail stating that the Organization of American States (OAS) was requested to make proposals regarding the establishment of a secretariat in support of the Summit of the Americas process. Participants questioned the extent to which the work of the CDCC secretariat would dovetail with the work of the OAS. The meeting was informed that there were three organizations comprising the Tripartite Committee of the Summit process: the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLAC. In the case of the CDCC secretariat, its main role in this process had been to collaborate with the Working Group on Smaller Economies. The secretariat would continue to serve on the Tripartite Committee of the FTAA process and continue to work with the other organizations in this area. The CDCC secretariat would also provide country profiles of all CDCC countries as no other organization performed that service.

Participants requested clarification on the preparations for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1999, which would review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The meeting was informed by the secretariat that there were three events for which the Caribbean would have to prepare itself: the International Forum in February 1999; the thirty-second session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in March 1999 and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 1999. Preparatory activities would be coordinated jointly by the secretariat, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with a view to ensuring the effective participation of Caribbean countries in those various processes.

One delegate highlighted the importance of the work done by the secretariat in the area of masculinity and requested continued work in this area. The secretariat responded that a meeting on that topic had been convened on 22-23 March 1993 and that a report was available. However, further work would be possible if extrabudgetary funding became available. Some agencies, such as UNESCO, had allocated funds for research in this area. The Centre for Gender Studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI) had also received funding for research but had not yet finalized their areas of study. The secretariat undertook to continue to liaise with the Centre.

(c) Consideration of the proposed work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium

The secretariat introduced the topic referring to the document entitled *Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean - Biennium 2000 -2001* (LC/CAR/G.530).

The objective of the work programme presented was to continue the analysis and assessment of major issues of relevance to Caribbean social and economic development. The programme was also designed to provide technical assistance and advisory services to CDCC countries; to contribute to the adoption of appropriate policies; and to guide the countries' economies towards the type of development which was likely to provide a higher standard of living for the people of the subregion.

Preparation of the work programme had taken into consideration the interrelationships among the major developmental issues which more often than not called for multidisciplinary activities to cover as many aspects of the issues programmed as possible.

The work programme was divided into six major subject areas. In the first area, **International linkages and development of the Caribbean**, the secretariat would seek to monitor and evaluate world trade and financial developments and their impact on the evolution of CDCC economies. The subject area, **Integration and regional cooperation** would assess some of the trade issues likely to arise within the context of the negotiation for a Free Trade Area of the Americas; also convergence within the various integration arrangements in the CDCC area would be examined. In the area of **Application of science and technology to Caribbean development**, the secretariat would examine linkages between competitiveness and technological development and would also examine some aspects of the old and yet very current issue of transfer of technology to the Caribbean. The fourth area, **Information management for development** would seek to assist CDCC countries to take advantage of information technology to strengthen and improve their development prospects. The subject area of **Human and social development in the Caribbean** would seek to strengthen those efforts and to monitor social developments in the CDCC area. The sixth subject area, **Sustainable development in the Caribbean**, would focus on the implementation of the Programme of Action that emanated from the SIDS conference.

In considering the approach to international linkages, one delegation questioned the extent to which the secretariat had considered other efforts on that matter. In this context, he drew attention to the work of the Regional Negotiating Mechanism of CARICOM. The secretariat clarified that it had been attending meetings of the Regional Negotiating Mechanism and had agreed to support

the work of the Mechanism. On an ongoing basis it supported the work of CARICOM and the ACS. The secretariat stated that it had been responding to requests for assistance from the Regional Negotiating Mechanism, however, no new issues had been taken on board.

One delegate requested the reinsertion of the item pertaining to the FTAA as had previously been done, at subject area 12.2(c) of the 2000-2001 work programme which dealt with publications under the topic **Integration and regional cooperation**. He requested the opportunity to submit written comments on that document in the same manner that at least two other countries had requested.

Regarding subject area 12.3, **The application of science and technology to Caribbean development**, the representative of Guyana and Chairman of the CCST viewed the wording of the future activities as a guide. He believed that the wording captured the ideas of the CCST. The secretariat clarified that the broad formulation of the projects provided space for later fine-tuning that would keep the activities relevant in the light of developments that might occur in the ensuing two years. He observed that the relationship between the CDCC secretariat and the CCST had improved significantly within recent times. A similar observation was made by the representative of Saint Lucia.

In commenting on the question of energy, one delegate observed that the issues of efficiency and conservation were of great importance. He asked if those issues could be incorporated into the study as formulated. The secretariat assured the meeting that such incorporation was possible.

The view was also expressed that there should be projects in the 2000-2001 work programme that focused on making non-traditional agricultural products competitive on the global market. This would be beneficial in assisting governments to strengthen their economies.

One of the delegates observed that there was a problem of governmental institutions being unable to transform plans and proposals coming from organizations such as ECLAC into national plans of action and subsequently action at the national level. As such, the work programme of the secretariat might not change very much in the years to come. One solution might be to identify areas of priority to go beyond putting forward plans of action to actually assisting governments to implement those plans.

In reviewing the future work in the area of human and social development, one delegate expressed satisfaction that poverty would be retained in the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001. She noted that under the subheading "Publications", a study on aspects of social development relevant to the Caribbean was proposed and asked if the secretariat had definite ideas as to what would be done or if it was open to suggestions from member governments. The secretariat responded that it was open to suggestions and that its work should take into account specific national issues. The delegate suggested that two areas which should be considered for the study were male marginalisation/underperformance and juvenile delinquency and youth crime.

The secretariat agreed that the situation of the young male was one of widespread concern and noted that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had been conducting research on the employment of that subgroup and that UNESCO had a link with organizations engaged in research on crime prevention. The University of Puerto Rico was establishing a regional network to research the young male in the region. The secretariat indicated that if it were the desire of the CDCC members for it to become involved in that area of work, it would do so subject to the constraints of resources.

Two delegates, commenting on the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium, noted that the topics in the work programme reflected present Caribbean problems. They advocated that the secretariat emphasize positive, forward-looking, practical action to overcome the problems in the next century. They noted that the countries of the subregion had a weak institutional capacity to effect action. They noted that the CDCC secretariat was weak in terms of making an impact on national transformation. They, therefore, expressed the need for CDCC member governments to identify areas of priority to go beyond recommendations and start to put programmes in place to deliver solutions.

The secretariat agreed with that recommendation and that both research and action plans would be addressed at the national level to solve the problems as identified by the delegates.

Some discussion was held on subject area 12.6 which dealt with **Sustainable development in the Caribbean**. In response to a question from one delegate as to whether the work programme on land ownership was the same in the biennium 2000-2001 as it was in the 1998-1999 biennium, the Director explained that the 2000-2001 work programme was a continuation of the previous. She pointed to the good and bad effects of tourism on land ownership. At the end of the 1970s and in the decade that followed, there had been much speculation in land. She observed that at present in some countries the best parts of the coastline were under foreign ownership and were not available to nationals. The SIDS forums had noted this as an area of concern and stated that the secretariat's work programme in this area would assist governments to set policy on those issues. The future work programme was, therefore, an extension of the present and not duplicative.

One delegate suggested that the issue of the State versus the market should be included in the work programme and should be placed under economic management and planning.

One delegate observed that perhaps the most valuable project in the Caribbean was the concern with adaptability to climate change. He noted that it was a small project when viewed against the vulnerability of the small islands of the Caribbean and stated that no programme on sustainable development could be complete without a special emphasis on issues related to climate change. He urged that the secretariat make that a priority issue.

The secretariat acknowledged the importance of the link but clarified that it had to maintain focus and work within the constraints of its in-house resources. A widening of activity and focus would be possible only if extrabudgetary funding became available. The secretariat therefore

advocated a balance between the mix of activities that it should undertake in the next biennium with available resources, both human and financial. The secretariat informed the meeting that it was collaborating with the OAS and the UWI on specific projects dealing with climate change. It further clarified that it was seeking representation in some of the forums from which the smaller member countries were debarred through lack of resources to pay the required contribution. Entry into those forums would allow the secretariat to filter information to those States.

The representative of Saint Lucia agreed that sustainable development was a good thing but that it required collaboration among line ministries to achieve its goal. He stated that in his country such collaboration was difficult and suggested that the secretariat undertake studies to remove those barriers to the achievement of sustainable development and suggest a way forward to the governments.

Several participants at the technical meeting had been unable to present the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 to their respective ministries for comment in the relatively short time that was available to them and felt that at that time they could not comment without consultation in-country with the relevant government agencies. They, therefore, requested more time within which to make their submissions and asked that no decisions be endorsed at the technical level sitting. They proposed to submit their responses in time for the secretariat to amend the document for presentation and political approval at the ministerial level meeting.

The amendments to the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 as received by participants were subsequently presented by the secretariat at the ministerial meeting and the ensuing discussion focused on the subject areas of the work programme which were suggested for modifications.

Under subject area **12.1 International linkages and development of the Caribbean**, the meeting decided to include the proposed comprehensive study on integration of NICCs in technical programmes of the United Nations system and to exclude the study on collaboration between the CDCC and the General Assembly in respect of assistance to seven of the 10 NICCs that were classified as non-self governing

Under subject area **12.2 Integration and regional cooperation**, the meeting agreed to include in the work programme a meeting of regional planners to assess the capability and institutional capacity of member States to implement recommendations and absorb the benefits of projects under the various programme areas.

It was agreed to include a study on an analysis of the potential impact of the FTAA on the economies of the NICCs and the possibilities for cooperation with these countries under the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas. The meeting also agreed to include in the work programme the preparation of country profiles of CDCC member and associate member countries and to exclude the proposed preparation of annual profiles on the economic, constitutional and institutional

developments in non-independent Caribbean countries. It was noted that this type of work was the responsibility of other United Nations bodies.

However concern was expressed that this work was not satisfactorily carried out by the relevant committee of the General Assembly and that action should be taken by Caribbean Ambassadors to the United Nations to redress that situation rather than give the secretariat the task of carrying out the work of the Committee. One delegation also suggested that one of the problems encountered by the Committee of the General Assembly was the reservations to its work expressed by the countries responsible for the NICCs. It was also noted that the preparation of these profiles by the secretariat was already underway but that it would not be possible to prepare these on an annual basis.

Under subject area **12.5 Human and social development in the Caribbean**, the meeting agreed to introduce in the 2000-2001 work programme a study on the factors affecting the marginalisation of young males in the Caribbean and the implications of these problems on the countries' economic and social structures.

Under subject area **12.6 Sustainable development in the Caribbean**, the meeting agreed to introduce under "advisory services" the provision of technical assistance to support the regional implementation mechanism. It also agreed to add to the work programme the provision of technical assistance to conduct education/public awareness programmes to influence and change attitudes/behavioural patterns about sustainable development. In addition, the meeting agreed to include a training seminar for legal and technical personnel in the drafting and implementation of appropriate environmental legislation and noted the secretariat's comment that this line of work was outside its main fields of competence and that it was being handled by other United Nations agencies. It also noted the secretariat's comment about the possibility of building capacity in this area.

The meeting approved the work programme for 2000-2001, as amended.

(d) Recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and ECLAC which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC

In the document entitled *Recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and by ECLAC which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC* (LC/CAR/G.532), the secretariat brought to the attention of member countries a summary of selected resolutions which were adopted at the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the United Nations General Assembly² and selected resolutions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC.

²Please note that the resolutions pertaining to the fifty-second session were obtained from the General Assembly Home Page on the World Wide Web, which did not fully contain all of the resolutions passed at that session. Therefore there may be resolutions pertaining to CDCC member countries that have not yet been posted to the General Assembly home page.

One delegate informed the meeting that there were several resolutions relating to non-self governing territories which were not included in the document. There were two that were particularly important which related to assistance to non-self governing territories, and an omnibus resolution which focused on 10 non-self governing territories. He recommended that in future the document on resolutions should, in addition to presenting United Nations General Assembly recommendations, also include resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

**Agenda item 6:
Update on meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group
established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) of the Commission**

In its presentation of this agenda item, the secretariat reminded the meeting of the purposes of the Ad Hoc Working Group which were to define jointly with the Executive Secretary the priorities of the work programme and to recommend to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities. The Ad Hoc Working Group had met three times since its establishment. The first meeting had analyzed the work programme of ECLAC for the 1998-1999 biennium and had assigned priorities to the various programme elements. The second and third meetings of the Working Group had examined the reforms adopted within a framework of a decentralized management scheme for which ECLAC had been selected by the Secretary-General. During the debate that took place during the third meeting, some member countries expressed concern with regard to the implementation of the proposed decentralization scheme. As a result of those discussions, the secretariat opted for the gradual implementation of the decentralization scheme which, to date, had been implemented only in the area of human resources management.

The secretariat also informed the meeting that it had presented the following reports to the twenty-seventh session of the Commission:

- Report of the Ad Hoc working group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) (LC/G.2010(Ses.27/6))
 - Report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) (document LC/G.2008/Ses.27.4)
 - General Review of the Regional Commission by the Economic and Social Council. The case of ECLAC- Note by the Secretariat (LC/G.2009(Ses. 27/5))
 - Reform of ECLAC management scheme: Delegation of authority and accountability - Note by the Secretariat (LC/G.2011/Ses.27/7)
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The representative of Cuba thanked the secretariat for having included the spirit and intent of her delegation's comments in the report of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

**Agenda item 7:
Report of the Working Group of
Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)**

The Chairman of the Working Group of the NICCs reported to the meeting on the activities of the Working Group since the last ministerial meeting of the CDCC held in the Dominican Republic in 1994. A document on the subject had been previously circulated to delegates. He recalled that the United Nations mandate on assistance to the NICCs was longstanding and was set forth in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC. Consistent with this mandate, the CDCC through its Working Group on Non-Independent Countries had initiated a series of activities to concentrate attention on the issues of particular interest to NICCs pursuant to CDCC resolutions dating back to 1990, culminating in a programme of action endorsed in 1994.

The Programme of Action called for specific activities to be undertaken and included the following:

- (a) A study on the integration of NICCs in technical programmes of the United Nations system;
- (b) Publication of a monthly newsletter on issues of interest to NICCs;
- (c) Initiation of a programme of collaboration with the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly in respect of assistance to seven of the NICCs classified as non-self-governing;
- (d) An initiative to obtain inclusion of the NICCs in the plans of action of the United Nations world conferences;
- (e) The preparation of a comprehensive, economic, constitutional and institutional profile of the 10 NICCs and the three integrated territories; and
- (f) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, in conjunction with economic integration and regional cooperation.

He reported that two issues of the newsletter, *The Associate*, had been prepared and published and a cooperation agreement signed between the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the University of the Virgin Islands.

In the ensuing discussion it was noted that there were pros and cons of being subgrouped as the NICCs. The advantages surrounded the fact that specific problems of NICCs were isolated and

specifically targeted for solution. It was felt, however, that the issues that the CDCC dealt with related to all their member and associate member countries and, therefore, sometimes it was not necessary to deal with those countries as a subgrouping only.

The specific problems of the NICCs were then discussed. One delegation was of the view that there was not enough research in the area on the potential economic and social impacts of the FTAA on the NICCs. Upon invitation, the secretariat informed the meeting of the status of the project on the NICCs that was funded by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. That funding had been made available from a pool of funds made available to the ECLAC system. The meeting was also reminded that the NICCs had benefited from a body of work coming out of that project and to the extent that the secretariat could attract project funding, it would allocate some of that funding to the NICCs. The Office hoped to seek additional funding at the end of the present project for ongoing activities initiated under the project. The secretariat stated that in its general work programme attention had been given and would continue to be given to that group of countries.

The meeting expressed support for the participation of associate members of the CDCC in an official observer capacity in the special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly to review implementation of the programmes of action of the various United Nations world conferences.

**Agenda item 8:
Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)
to the CDCC**

At the technical meeting, the Chairman of CCST presented the report of the work of the Council over the period. Activities consisted of four executive committee meetings, two plenary sessions and a series of technical meetings and seminars in specific fields, carried out with the assistance of various local, regional and international organizations. He stated that recent improvements in the delivery of the Council's work programme had resulted from improved financing and project implementation. The Council would soon develop its next five-year work programme.

The secretariat's officer with responsibility for science and technology affairs put the report of the Chairman of the CCST into context concerning the expressed need for the translation of reports into action and quoted two examples of such a development. He cited work in bananas in the Windward Islands and the relevance of research and development in Costa Rica to Windward Islands bananas. In the Windward islands, CCST had examined the technological aspect of the cultivation of bananas and had sought niche markets. In Costa Rica, paper was being manufactured from banana fibre. That application could be replicated in the Windward Islands. In exploring the development of an integrated approach to water resources management, CCST, in collaboration with the World Bank and the IDB, was engaged in the formulation of a policy that would embrace all users of water. He added that the CCST wished to focus on renewable energy. The first 250

Kilowatt wind turbine had been commissioned in Jamaica in 1997 and was at present selling electricity to the national grid.

The meeting noted the report of the Council.

Agenda item 9:
Action taken on Resolution 38(XIV):
Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

The ECLAC/CDCC Director introduced the report *Interim report on administrative support arrangements for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology* (LC/CAR/G.517) at the technical level meeting. The report reviewed modalities for the continued functioning of the CCST in various degrees of linkages to and support from ECLAC. The report had as its legislative mandate CDCC resolution 38(XIV) and had previously been presented to the fifteenth Plenary Session of the CCST. At that session, ECLAC had requested the CCST to formulate an official response to the proposal in time for submission and discussion at the present meeting but, to date, had not received any submission from the Council. The report presented three possible alternative arrangements for the CCST secretariat:

- (a) Establishing a CCST secretariat outside ECLAC;
- (b) Establishing a CCST secretariat outside ECLAC but with continued backstopping by ECLAC in selected administrative areas; and
- (c) Continuing the present ECLAC/CCST arrangements, with some modifications.

In response, the Chairman of CCST informed the meeting that while the CCST had not yet presented a formal response to ECLAC, a document entitled *Some thoughts on the way forward. A proposal for the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology* had been presented to delegations at the technical meeting. That document, while not final or confirmed, was presented for discussion among CCST members. He stated that the CCST had been urged to have greater involvement in the development process in the Caribbean. In the past, some difficulties had been experienced in carrying out CCST activities, but that there was at present greater readiness to provide funding to the Council. With the increased responsibilities mandated to the Council through increased project funding, the Council therefore wished to have greater flexibility in implementing those projects and in addressing requests made of it by member countries. The Council did not wish to be solely a coordinating body. In that regard, the Council's document proposed two options: (a) a fully independent Council; and (b) a Council that enjoyed a special relationship with the United Nations system through the CDCC.

He observed that while the Council had within recent times enjoyed a more positive relationship with the secretariat, it had concerns about the current interim secretariat arrangements

which did not appear adequate to enable CCST policy objectives to be readily met. The Council was, therefore, seeking an arrangement whereby some flexibility and autonomy regarding administrative arrangements could be made.

The Chairman was supported in his comments by another delegate. That delegate suggested that the current arrangements between CCST and CDCC be reviewed to allow for some autonomy and flexibility, such as what pertained with regard to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and CELADE. He cited an occasion when the request of a member country to the secretariat had been denied. He further requested that the payment of overhead project funds to ECLAC be waived.

The Director of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat responded that while the work of the Council should not be constrained, the Council's work had been enormously impeded by a lack of funds for much of its existence. During that time, the CDCC secretariat had supported the work of the Council, even on occasions when there were no funds available to it. There had only been one occasion when overheads had been charged by ECLAC in respect of CCST project funds. Furthermore, as a United Nations office, ECLAC was subjected to the financial rules and regulations of the Organization.

Another delegate submitted that the discussions on this matter centred on three issues: (a) the long-term viability of the Council; (b) the adequacy of controls and administrative arrangements to ensure mandates were met; and (c) flexibility and freedom required by the Council to ensure implementation of its work programme. He urged the greater involvement of the Council in the determination of those issues.

The representative of Cuba informed the meeting that her country would require more time to analyze the proposals of both ECLAC and the CCST, since they both had budgetary implications. She also requested the secretariat to provide information regarding the second proposal of CCST.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC recalled that ECLAC had received the CCST proposal informally on the previous day and that it deserved careful consideration, but required time to assess its legal and other implications. He described the structure of the CDCC within the ECLAC system, and the role of the Director of the Port-of-Spain office in implementing the wishes of CDCC member countries through ECLAC. He then informed the meeting that only the Secretary-General of the United Nations could delegate to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC the responsibility and accountability for any affairs of the United Nations. He clarified that all ECLAC staff members acted under delegated authority from the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. That arrangement extended to the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. All work of the CDCC secretariat was conducted under delegated authority through the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. To change that, countries would have to go through the General Assembly.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC stated that comparisons regarding autonomy that cited ILPES and CELADE as examples were both inaccurate and misleading. CELADE and ILPES were divisions of ECLAC, had no secretariats and were subjected to United Nations regulations. Although ILPES had an advisory board of planning ministers which advised its Director on its work programme, that work programme was subject to the approval process undertaken by ECLAC for its work programme. He explained that ECLAC was the body that executed projects through the instrumentation of ILPES and CELADE.

He explained the use of the 13 per cent overhead funds and clarified that they were not to be construed to be a profit enjoyed by ECLAC. That figure had been calculated as a part of the cost of project implementation and contributed to consideration for rental, communications and other elements of project facilitation. In addition, it was a legal requirement and had been determined and mandated by countries in the General Assembly.

The CCST Chairman asked that another view be considered regarding the use of overhead funds. Focal points were involved in project development for CCST and in so doing incurred costs. Flexibility was thereby needed to find creative ways of applying rules to allow focal points to draw down on funds to meet those costs without having recourse to ECLAC. That would avoid difficulties and bottlenecks in the disbursement of funds.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC advised the meeting that there was room for flexibility in the procedures for the use of some portion of the 13 per cent to be ploughed back into project activities. It could, for example, be used for travel, if necessary. Much depended on the amount of funding available after the payment of rent, telephone bills and the other elements of cost associated with the administration of the project. He stated that even if funds were available, there should be some orderly process of ascertaining what the money would be used for. He stated that if the overheads committee approved a proposal to spend a given sum of money for a well-documented set of activities, for example horizontal cooperation, then it stood a chance of being approved.

The technical meeting agreed that:

- (a) The CCST Council members would submit the formal responses to document LC/CAR/G.517 to the Executive Committee of the Council;
- (b) The secretariat of ECLAC would explore options for flexibility in the relationship between ECLAC and CCST and the application of United Nations rules to the CCST on the basis of researched relationships that might at present exist;
- (c) The undertakings at (a) and (b) above would provide input into the discussions on that topic at the ministerial session in Aruba.

The meeting noted the observation of the representative of Cuba that she found it difficult to understand that the same countries that had agreed to the provision of the 13 per cent overheads in one forum could, in another, seek to remove it. She noted the difficulty of introducing such a change, especially in view of the many committees of the United Nations System that would have to adjudicate on the matter.

The secretariat informed the ministerial session that no formal response was received from the Executive Committee of CCST. It was agreed that the present arrangements between the CCST and ECLAC/CDCC would remain as they were for the time being. The meeting noted the secretariat's comment that it had introduced more formal administrative procedures regarding the management of CCST activities.

**Agenda item 10:
Any other business**

Four resolutions were submitted to the meeting under this agenda item.

Support for activities to implement the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

This resolution was introduced by Barbados and was co-sponsored by Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad and Tobago. The resolution called upon the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat "to ensure that the activities which it undertakes as the Interim Secretariat for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism are included in the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium."

The secretariat reiterated its commitment to support the SIDS Programme of Action and informed delegates of the estimated costs of undertaking the activities required for the implementation of the resolution.

The meeting adopted the resolution and noted both the cost of the activities proposed and the comments by the secretariat that the implementation of the resolution would depend on the ability of the secretariat to source the necessary funds either through the regular budget process or from extra budgetary sources. The secretariat assured the meeting that it will continue to give high priority to this area of work.

Support for the work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

This resolution, which was sponsored by Barbados, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad and Tobago, approved the proposed work programme for the biennium 2000-2001. Delegates also agreed that the sessions of the CDCC should be held every other year with the convening of a meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC in the intervening years.

In the resolution, member countries of the CDCC expressed their appreciation to the Director and staff of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the assistance provided to the CDCC member countries through the implementation of the work programme for the 1996-1997 and the current biennium.

In the same resolution, delegates requested that the secretariat maintain closer links with member countries with a view to promoting more integral involvement of ECLAC/CDCC in the developmental efforts in the subregion and to ensure more effective dissemination of information during implementation of its work programme.

In the ensuing discussions on the resolution, the delegate from Cuba suggested introducing into the resolution the need for closer collaboration between ECLAC/CDCC and OLADE in the area of renewable energy. In response, the secretariat informed the meeting that its activities in the area of renewable energy were being undertaken through the activities of the CCST.

The meeting took note of the sentiments expressed by the Cuban delegation.

During discussions on operative paragraph 7 of the resolution related to the facilitation of associate member States in special sessions of the General Assembly, the Executive Secretary of the Commission informed delegates that while it was important for the secretariat to facilitate participation of the associate members in the work of the United Nations system, it was not possible to facilitate their participation in any meetings of the General Assembly or other bodies of the United Nations system.

The meeting agreed that the resolution should be amended to use language previously used in resolutions dealing with the participation of the associate member countries of CDCC in the capacity of observers in United Nations meetings and conferences.

The resolution was adopted as amended.

Integration of the CDCC associate member countries in programmes and activities of the United Nations system

This resolution, which was submitted by the United States Virgin Islands, called on the CDCC to continue its efforts at integration of NICCs in programmes and activities of the United Nations system. The resolution was adopted.

Admission of Anguilla as an associate member of the CDCC

This resolution, which was sponsored by the United States Virgin Islands, was adopted and Anguilla was admitted as an associate member of the CDCC.

Agenda item 11:
Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the CDCC

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands extended his country's offer to host the next session of the CDCC in the year 2000.

The meeting deliberated on various options for the structure of the CDCC meetings. One option put forward was the need to have the next technical meeting prior to the ministerial meeting, the latter to be convened at the same time as the twenty-eighth session of the Commission. This was based partly on the difficulty for ministers to attend two separate meetings of ECLAC. A second option was to revert to the CDCC sessions being convened before the Session of the Commission to ensure fuller participation in the deliberations to be carried to the Committee of the Whole.

It was agreed that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would continue discussions with member countries of the CDCC to work out the logistics for the next session of the CDCC.

Agenda item 12:
Consideration of the report of the seventeenth session of the CDCC at the technical level

The report of the seventeenth session of the CDCC at the technical level was adopted.

PART THREE

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION

45 (XVII) SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Barbados Declaration and the Barbados Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 1994;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting (Barbados 1997) on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to ensure that follow-up action at the national, regional and international levels is achieved;

Recalling the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on *Progress in the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, as contained in document E/CN.17/1998/7 presented at the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, 20 April-1 May 1998;

1. Expresses appreciation for the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to facilitate national and regional efforts to implement the Barbados Programme of Action;

2. Requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue efforts to facilitate member States in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, at the national and regional levels, including assistance in the preparation of a portfolio of projects for the Donor Roundtable in early 1999, and to outline a programme of activities for the preparatory process for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to Review the Barbados Programme of Action in September 1999;

3. Requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to ensure that the activities which it undertakes as the Interim Secretariat for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism are included in the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium.

46 (XVII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling that the Ministers of the Caribbean member States of ECLAC established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), as a subsidiary body of ECLAC, in order to enhance cooperation among the countries of the region;

Recognizing the particular needs of the CDCC member countries, which face special development challenges, the result of their relatively small size, open, narrow and undiversified economies, fragile ecosystems and vulnerability to natural hazards;

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat;

Convinced that for the most efficient and effective implementation of the development programmes for the Caribbean subregion the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat should continue to cooperate closely with the ACS, CARICOM, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), OLADE and other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations;

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Director and staff of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the assistance provided to the CDCC member countries through implementation of the work programmes for the 1996-1997 and the current bienniums;

2. Approves Subprogramme 12 of the ECLAC work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium, as amended;

3. Reiterates the desire of the CDCC member and associate member countries to participate meaningfully in all elements of the ECLAC work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium;

4. Requests that special attention be given to the implementation of programme elements which provide support to CDCC member and associate member countries in matters relating to the Free Trade Area of the Americas process;

5. Agrees that the CDCC sessions, both at the technical and ministerial levels, shall be held every other year and that, in order to ensure continuity, meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall be held in the intervening years;

6. Further requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to establish more direct and more regular contact with the CDCC member countries to promote more integral involvement of

ECLAC/CDCC in the development efforts of national governments and to ensure more effective dissemination of information during implementation of the work programme;

7. Also requests support of CDCC member governments for inclusion of provisions extending observer status to associate members of the Commission in meetings, conferences, programmes and activities authorized by the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other organizations of the United Nations system;

8. Commends the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for its extensive contribution to the work of CARICOM and the ACS and requests that such support be continued.

47(XVII) **INTEGRATION OF THE CDCC ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES IN PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Having heard the *Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)* which outlined the longstanding United Nations mandate on assistance to NICCs,

Bearing in mind the information contained in the Report on the status of specific activities in implementation of the NICCs Programme of Action including, inter alia, a study on the integration of NICCs in technical programmes of the United Nations system; a programme of collaboration between ECLAC and the United Nations General Assembly; initiatives to obtain observer status for the NICCs in the activities of the plans of action of the Summit of the Americas and relevant United Nations world conferences, respectively; and the compilation of a profile on economic, social and constitutional developments in the NICCs,

Expressing its gratitude to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its generous financial support provided to undertake a project entitled *Support for the associate member countries of ECLAC and other Non-independent Caribbean Countries relative to developing institutional linkages and accessing benefits from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations*, in implementation of elements of the NICCs Programme of Action,

1. Takes note of the Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries,

2. Deeply appreciates the financial contribution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the relevant project in support of the integration of ECLAC associate member countries in programmes and activities of the United Nations system,

3. Calls on the CDCC to continue its efforts at integration of NICCs in programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

48 (XVII) ADMISSION OF ANGUILLA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Barbados Declaration and the Barbados Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 1994;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the First Caribbean Ministerial Meeting (Barbados 1997) on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to ensure that follow-up action at the national, regional and international levels is achieved;

Recalling the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations *on Progress in the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, as contained in document E/CN.17/1998/7 presented at the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, 20 April-1 May 1998;

1 Expresses appreciation for the work of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to facilitate national and regional efforts to implement the Barbados Programme of Action;

2 Requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to continue efforts to facilitate member States in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, at the national and regional levels, including assistance in the preparation of a portfolio of projects for the Donor Roundtable in early 1999, and to outline a programme of activities for the preparatory process for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to Review the Barbados Programme of Action in September 1999;

3 Requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to ensure that the activities which it undertakes as the Interim Secretariat for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, are included in the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium.

Annex 1

**ADDRESS MADE BY MS. LEN ISHMAEL, DIRECTOR,
ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN
AT THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CDCC
AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL**

Welcome remarks

Honourable Chairman, Your Excellencies, members of delegations and colleagues, it is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to the seventeenth session at the ministerial level of CDCC, for the first time in my capacity as the Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in Port-of-Spain.

Honourable delegates I wish to express my sincere appreciation for signaling your support to CDCC as indicated by your attendance here today. Over the last several years, for a variety of reasons, we have not had the good fortune to convene these meetings as regularly as stipulated under the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, however, I am fully resolved, with your support and goodwill, to put that period of inconsistency firmly behind us. We also pledge to redouble our efforts to bring our other members to the table on a continuing basis and, in so doing, recapture the dynamism, optimism and enthusiasm which characterized the early years of the CDCC.

I also wish to extend, a particularly warm welcome to our colleagues from headquarters in Santiago; first and foremost to Mr Jose Antonio Ocampo, for his participation in this forum as the Executive Secretary, and on behalf of us all, to extend warmest congratulations to him on his appointment; to Mr Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary and Mr Ernesto Ottone, Secretary of the Commission. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to our colleagues from CARICOM, Mr Osmond Gordon and Ms Jackie Joseph in their capacity here as observers.

Our deliberations here today will be informed by the results of the two-day CDCC meeting at the technical level which was convened in Port of Spain on 23 and 24 March 1998. The purpose of that meeting was to engage in substantive discussions so as to articulate concise recommendations for discussion, action and ratification by this body, given the relatively short time allocated to our meeting here this morning. The report of that meeting has been circulated prior to this meeting. In keeping with the spirit of revival of CDCC, one of the recommendations made by the CDCC meeting at the technical level is to convene ministerial meetings every other year, and meetings at the technical level on an annual basis. This we will place before you later on during these deliberations for your consideration.

Overview

Honourable Chairman, in this report, I should like to highlight the main achievements of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat accomplished during the just concluded 1996-1997 biennium and provide a preview of the main tasks which lie ahead as we continue our efforts in the current biennium. Detailed information on the work of the secretariat has been circulated to you previously, and is presented in the document LC/CAR/G.529: *Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium*, and in document LC/CAR/G.472/Rev.2 *Revised Draft Work Programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1998-1999 biennium*, which was approved by the fifty-second session of the General Assembly.

Before launching into a review of past and planned activities, permit me to take a few moments to make a few observations. The second half of the past biennium - the year 1997 - was one marked by a number of upheavals in this office. Premises were changed, two posts were lost, others frozen, a number of professional and general service staff retired, two staff members resigned to take up posts elsewhere. In other cases, contractual relationships expired. The offices of both the Director and Deputy Director changed hands. I assumed the post of Director on 18 August 1997, replacing the former Director, Mr. Daniel Blanchard, five months after he vacated the post in March earlier in the year. At the current time, four posts are under active recruitment. These are the posts of the Women in Development Officer, the Small Islands Developing States Officer, the Associate Economic Affairs Officer and the Regional Economic Adviser. We are close to making appointments to the posts of the Regional Economic Adviser and that of the SIDS Officer.

Despite the loss of time and discontinuity evoked by these various events, and despite the vacancies which exist at the secretariat and also the stipulations set down by the General Assembly on the use of vacant posts, the secretariat prepared and distributed 53 documents, 10 consultant reports, 34 issues of 7 newsletters and convened 13 meetings and seminars, completing the outputs outlined in the work programme for the biennium and actively pursued the implementation of 13 extrabudgetary projects, completing seven by the end of 1997. Moreover, in less than three months after the appointment of a new Director, the office went through a period of intensive mobilization, successfully discharging the challenge of preparing for and convening the First Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of Small Island Developing States in Barbados, in November 1997. Over 150 participants participated in that forum.

We ended 1997 on a note of intense introspection, recognizing the need for internal housekeeping to put in place the systems needed to allow us to meet the new biennium with our feet on the ground, and to face the many challenges which undoubtedly will surface, as a team. As a result, committees to assist with the reformulation and implementation of administrative policies and to guide and monitor the execution of the work programme were revitalized and, in some cases, reconstituted; existing vacancies within the office were transformed into an opportunity to systematically and critically evaluate our strengths and weaknesses, allowing us to better canvass for the type of candidates whose strengths would complement our own. Working relations in the office were reorganized to allow for a more multidisciplinary, multisectoral approach to implementing the work programme.

The work programme itself went through a process of intense review to ensure that it was both focused and relevant to the needs of this region. On the issue of relevance we face a number of critical constraints:

- The first is the fact that a significant part of the work which we undertake is in support of the work of a few other regional organizations with which we have a long tradition of support and collaboration, as a result of our well-known expertise in the area of economics and trade. This body of work contributes in a significant way to critical regional processes but takes place, in a sense "behind the scenes" and may not always be readily associated with ECLAC. Our continuing work on trade, research, analysis and policy formulation in support of CARICOM, and on producing studies on obstacles to trade for every CARICOM State on behalf of the ACS illustrate this point.
- The second constraint is the fact that as a regional commission our first point of entry is at the regional level. We, therefore, perform an important function in bridging the gap between global processes and the implementation of activities at the regional level. While we make contributions at the national level, there is a sense sometimes that to be relevant we should be doing more to assist our members at that level. The need therefore to balance the imperatives of our responsibilities at the regional level, with the need to also be viewed as relevant at the national level is a challenge which we take seriously and are committed to redressing through the allocation of our resources in the months and years to come.

In putting in place the systems necessary to move positively forward, it has been necessary to take cognizance of some of your concerns articulated in past forums of this type. One relates to a long-standing need to take action on CDCC resolution 38(XIV) with respect to the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) which required that the secretariat provide a brief on administrative support arrangements provided to CCST in ECLAC's capacity as secretariat to the Council. We initiated discussion on this issue via our presentation of a working document entitled *Interim report on the administrative support arrangements for the CCST* (LC/CAR/G.517), presented at the fifteenth plenary session of the CCST in December 1997, which was held in Port-of-Spain. The documentation forms part of an agenda item which will be discussed more substantively later on during these proceedings.

Another concern raised by CDCC members has been the need to devote additional resources to operational activities within the region. Given the reality of the reform process currently underway within the United Nations system, the only realistic way of dealing with this is the degree to which we can successfully raise extrabudgetary finances through the formulation and successful implementation of project proposals, or execution of projects on behalf of other agencies. Using a proactive approach to this issue, on 29 January 1998 we convened a meeting of international and regional agencies which was attended by 18 agencies. An impressive number of agency heads were in attendance.

The objective of the meeting was singular and straightforward: to present the work plan for the 1998-1999 biennium to our colleagues - at the start of the biennium, with a view to identifying possible areas of functional collaboration - which would allow us to stretch our resources further - and to identify areas of possible financial support. By all accounts the meeting was a success. Agencies welcomed the opportunity to receive information about our planned activities, and several requests for collaboration were made; indeed a number of agencies used this as an opportunity to express the possibility of financial support to some of our programme areas. We are currently engaged in bilateral discussions with these groups with a view to following up quickly on these initiatives so as not to lose momentum. One initiative coming out of that forum, was a meeting hosted on 23 April at our office for regional institutions to discuss modalities for the rationalization of the technical aspects of information, databases and data needs within the region. We have also started the process of project proposal formulation based on some of these initiatives for submission to the ECLAC Headquarters.

Another concern which has been raised is the relevance of ECLAC's activities to the needs of the region. We have undertaken an exhaustive process of internal review to ensure the relevance of activities within the work plan, however, given the fact that there is at least a three-year time lag between the formulation of the work plan and its actual articulation, it means, by definition, that there will be issues and concerns which will emerge as pressing regional challenges which we may not have planned for. As a result, some degree of flexibility must be part of the underlying philosophy with which we approach our work so as to contribute to the resolution of such issues and crises as they emerge.

As the new Director, I have recently initiated my first round of official calls in the region, both to present my credentials as well as to identify specific areas in which we can lend assistance in an effort to target some of our activities at the national level. Five such visits have been undertaken -- to Trinidad, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic and Guyana. The visit to Belize is already bearing fruit in that we have recently embarked on a programme of technical assistance to that country to assist them to undertake national consultations and to formulate a national action plan for the eradication of poverty. National consultations will take place at the end of June. The recent visit to Guyana has resulted in the formulation of a series of technical assistance projects. One such project will assess the macroeconomic impact of the recent ravages of 'El Niño' on that country, and another the trade and labour implications of the proposed trade "union" of some type, of the Guianas- Suriname, Cayenne, Guyana and Northern Brazil.

Visits are being scheduled to volcano-ravaged Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda with a view to identifying the form of assistance which can be offered by our office as a result of this disaster. In keeping with this initiative to continue the provision of technical assistance at the national level, we will deploy the services of one of our economists to work with two or three countries per year on issues relating to the competitiveness of their agro-industrial and manufacturing sectors on a rotational basis, starting with three countries which are most in need of assistance. Both the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Officer and the Regional Economic Adviser will respond to direct requests for assistance on an ongoing basis. Other staff are currently involved in providing training and upgrading the capability of the census and statistical offices in several countries.

The ministerial meeting on the SIDS Programme of Action (POA) convened by the ECLAC Port-of-Spain office and hosted by the Government of Barbados has further cemented our ties with the Government of that country. A meeting of the Bureau of that meeting chaired by the Government of Barbados is slated to be held at ECLAC on 9 June to discuss the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism to coordinate activities associated with the implementation of the SIDS POA. The secretariat was represented at the recent meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York, at which the constraints facing the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action were discussed, with a view to ensuring continuity between the discussion of issues relevant to the SIDS process at the global level and those at the level of this region. The office will also assist regional SIDS in their preparation for the Donor Council Meeting slated for February 1999, and the UN General Assembly Review in September/October 1999.

Our Science and Technology Unit, through the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, continues to assist the region in the areas of science and technology, training, popularization and technology transfer. The convening of training workshops, conferences, demonstration projects in CCST member countries allows ECLAC to make a direct contribution to the development of science and technology in the region.

Through these and other initiatives involving consultation at the level of other organizations and member countries, it is my intention to ensure that the ECLAC Port-of-Spain office increases its visibility and relevance in the region.

It is also the intention of my colleagues and myself to maintain a close working relationship with the CDCC Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, many of whom are here with us this morning, to keep them briefed and fully informed about the work of this office. To this end, I met with CDCC Ambassadors in New York in November 1997 a few weeks after the SIDS Ministerial Meeting in Barbados to brief them on the meeting's decisions and to highlight what, to my mind, were the critical issues. I also undertook a second briefing on 24 April 1998, in New York, to brief the Ambassadors on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the CDCC at the technical level held in Port-of-Spain on 23-24 March 1998, and to sensitize them to the issues to be raised at the twenty-seventh session of ECLAC here in Aruba. An update on regional activities relating to the SIDS POA was also presented.

The ECLAC Port-of-Spain office is firmly committed to supporting the work of other regional organizations. As the incoming director, I recently paid an official visit to the Secretary-General of CARICOM, and pledged the continuing support of this office for the work of that organization. Indeed both ECLAC and CARICOM will undertake a joint meeting in June at the technical level to discuss areas of common interest and functional collaboration, in an effort to increase efficiency at both ends. The organizations have been jointly mandated to act as the Interim Secretariat for the implementation of the SIDS POA and undertake a number of activities. ECLAC also supports the work of the Association of Caribbean States through the provision of research and other studies which we produce. We have also indicated our willingness to support the work of the Regional Negotiating Machinery by accommodating some of the critical issues to be addressed by the RNM within our research programme. We continue to work closely with the University of the

West Indies, Guyana and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional organizations on a continuing basis.

In this biennium, we intend to deploy our resources in support of issues of significant concern to this region. Among the issues which we will study, with a view to making recommendations for policy, include the socio-economic impacts of migration, both intraregional and return migration and the implications for public policy; the planning, land use and land ownership issues associated with the tourism industry; the impact of globalization and the trend of liberalization on regional economies; the issue of competitiveness and the need to diversify regional economies; analysis of financial markets; studies relating to hemispheric economic cooperation and their significance to Caribbean economies; issues pertaining to technology transfer, masculinity, poverty, and sustainable development - are all included in our programme of work for this biennium. As a member of the Tripartite Committee (together with the OAS and IDB) we will continue to provide technical assistance to the Working Group on Smaller Economies as part of the FTAA process, continue our support for other hemispheric and regional processes currently underway, and assist countries in the implementation of activities following from major world platforms and plans of action such as the Barbados Programme of Action and the International Conference on Population and Development, among others.

The forces of globalization, information and technological transformation are inexorable. We consider it to be our mission to assist our members to both anticipate and adjust to these changes as effectively and efficiently as possible in pursuit of the sustainable use of our natural resources and the well-being of Caribbean people.

Annex 2**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member countries****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Head of delegation:

His Excellency Patrick Albert Lewis
Permanent Representative of ANTIGUA and BARBUDA
to the United Nations
Suite 311, 610 Fifth Avenue
New York N.Y. 10020

BARBADOS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency Carlston Boucher
Permanent Representative of BARBADOS
to the United Nations
2nd Floor - 800 Second Avenue
New York N.Y. 10017

Ms Heidi Jones
Foreign Service Officer
1 Culloden Road
St Michael, Barbados
Tel: 246-436-2990; Fax: 246-429-6652

CUBA

Head of delegation:

The Honourable Raquel Hernandez Herrera
First Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finances and Prices
Obispo y Cuba
Havana, Cuba
Tel: 537-57-3052; Fax: 537-33-8050

Mrs Ana Silvia Rodriguez Abascal
Official in Charge
International Economic Organizations Division
Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Collaboration
Primera No.1803 Esq. A.18
Miramar, La Habana 4, Cuba
Tel: 537-22-4218/537-29-2828; Fax: 537-24-3183
e-mail: doi@minvecl.get.cma.net

GUYANA

Head of delegation:

**His Excellency
Ambassador Bayney Karran
Embassy of The Republic of Guyana to Venezuela
Quinta Roraima Av. El Paseo, Prados del Este
Caracas, Venezuela
Tel: 58-977-1158; Fax: 58-976-3765**

**Mr Navindranauth Chanderpal
Adviser to the President on Science,
Technology, Energy, Natural Resources
and the Environment
Office of the President
Vlissengen Road
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-2-66453; Fax: 592-2-73849**

**Mr Lakshmi Rampersand
Honorary Consul for the Republic of Guyana
64-70 St Vincent Street
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: 868-627-1692; Fax: 868-623-3381**

JAMAICA

Head of delegation:

**Ambassador Evadne Coye
Principal Director
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
21 Dominica Drive
Kingston 5, Jamaica
Tel: 876-926-1229; Fax: 876-929-6733;
email: mfaftjam@toj.com**

**Mrs Diane Quarless
Deputy Director
Caribbean and Americas Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Tel: 876-926-4416-9; 876-926-4220-8; Fax: 876-929-6733**

SAINT LUCIA

Head of delegation:

Mr Bishnunarine Tulsie
Head
Sustainable Development Unit
Ministry of Finance, Planning & Sustainable Development
P. O. Box 709
Castries, Saint Lucia
Tel: 758-451-8746, Fax: 758-452-2506

ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Head of delegation:

Mr Alston Stoddard
Science and Technology Coordinator (Ag.)
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs
Kingstown, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Tel: 784-456-1223; Fax: 784-457-2880

SURINAME

Head of delegation:

Mr Marlon Mohamed Hoesein
First Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Suriname
Fifth Floor, TATIL Building
11 Maraval Road, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: 868-628-0704; Fax: 868-628-0086

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Head of delegation:

His Excellency George Winston McKenzie
Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago
to the United Nations in New York
820 Second Avenue, Fifth Floor
New York NY 10017
Tel: 212-697-7620; Fax: 212-682-3580

Mrs Shastri Ali
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
"Knowsley", Queen's Park West
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: 868-623-4116; Fax: 868-627-0571

Ms Marina Valere
Head, Division of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Donna Henry, Foreign Service Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Patrick Samuel
Senior Planning Officer
Ministry of Planning and Development
Eric Williams Financial Complex
Level 13, Port-of-Spain
Tel: 868-625-0359; Fax: 868-625-0370

Ms Jacinta Bailey-Sobers
Senior Planning Officer
Ministry of Social Development
1st Floor, Salvatori Building
Frederick Street, Port of Spain
Tel: 868-625-5171; Fax: 868-624-7727

B. Associate member countries

ARUBA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency
The Honourable Robertico Croes
Minister of Economic Affairs and Tourism
L G Smith Boulevard No. 76
Oranjestad, Aruba

Mr Henry Baarh
Director of Foreign Affairs
Government of Aruba
Ministry of General Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
L.G. Smith Boulevard 76
Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel: 297-8-34705; Fax: 297-8-34660

Mr Merrill Robles
Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry
L. G. Smith Boulevard 160
Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel: 297-8-21181; Fax: 297-8-34494

Mr Elson L. Lioe-A-Tjam
Directorate of Housing, Physical Development
and Environment
Wayala 31-C, Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel: 297-8-32345; Fax: 297-8-32342;
e-mail: vromaua.fz@setarnet.aw

Mr Gisbert Boekhoudt
Directorate of Housing, Physical Development
and Environment

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Head of delegation:

Mrs Lucita Moenir Alam
Deputy Director, Bureau of Foreign Relations
Foreign Relations Office
Fort Amsterdam No. 4
Willemstad, Curacao
Tel: 599.9.4.613.933; Fax: 599.9.4.617123
Email: bbbnethant@curinf.an

Ms Aimee Kleinmoedig
Second Secretary for Netherlands Antillean Affairs
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
69 Edward Street
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: 868-625-1210; Fax: 868-625-2532
email: nethantgov@wow.net

Mr. Giovanni Melfor
Director, Department of Economic Affairs
Scharlooweg 106
Willemstad, Curacao
Tel: 599.9.4.656.236; Fax: 599.9.4.656.316

Mr Manolito Oomen
Bureau of Foreign Relations
4 Fort Amsterdam
Willemstad, Curacao, N.A.
Tel: 599.9.4.613933; Fax: 599.9.4.617123

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation:

Mr Carlyle Corbin
Minister of State
Representative for External Affairs
Office of the Governor
St Thomas
Tel: 809-774-0001 Ext 322; Fax: 809-774.4988/6917
e-mail: cgcorbinmon@worldnet.att.net

C. Intergovernmental organizations

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Miguel Ceara-Hatton, Director of Trade, Tourism and Integration

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Jacquelyn Joseph, Director, Human Development
Osmond Gordon, Programme Manager (Statistics)

Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

Ramiro Leon Torras, Head of the Executive Secretary's Office

D. ECLAC system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain

Ms Len Ishmael, Director
Ms Barbara Boland, Deputy Director
Mr Erik Blommestein, Economic Affairs Officer (Environment & Development)
Mr Lancelot Busby, Economic Affairs Officer (Statistics)
Ms Sonia Cuales, Social Affairs Officer
Mr Radcliffe Dookie, Associate Programme Officer
Mr Michael Hendrickson, Associate Economic Affairs Officer
Ms Sandra John, Chief, Caribbean Documentation Centre
Mr Sidya Ould El Hadj, Economic Affairs Officer (Trade)
Mr Donatus St. Aimee, Economic Affairs Officer (Science & Technology)

ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, Chile

Mr Jose Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary
Mr Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary
Mr Ernesto Ottone, Secretary of the Commission
Mr Petrus Heins, Officer-in-Charge, Programme Planning and Operations Division
Mr Raul Garcia-Buchaca, Evaluation Officer, Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit
Ms Katya Hanuch, Officer-in-Charge, Division of Administration

