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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Second
International Decade for the Eradication of
Colonialism: next steps in decolonization

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DISCUSSION PAPER

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

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean: 2004- 2007

1 Of the 16 remaining Non-Self Governing Territories, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands have an active relationship with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. These territories regularly participate in activities of ECLAC as associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The CDCC was established in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLAC to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances. Recently, the Cayman Islands received technical assistance from the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, held in March 2006, the Turks and Caicos Islands was admitted as an associate member of ECLAC. Both the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos are expected to be admitted as associate member countries at the next ministerial session of the CDCC in January 2008.

In an effort to provide information on all member countries of the CDCC, including its Associate Member Countries (AMCs), the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has created development profiles on each country. These profiles are available at www.eclacpos.org. Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre – Development Profiles. The information presented below is taken from these profiles, as well as the existing databases of the Secretariat.

3. Recent observations made at the twenty-first session of the CDCC held in Port of Spain, 16 and 17 January 2006, have lead to the identification of the following major economic and social issues affecting the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories:

- The need to facilitate access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within the system that could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of their development process;
- The need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economies the Non-Self-Governing Territories given their size and economic conditions, as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation;
- The need to extend its work in disaster assessment in close cooperation with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and other relevant regional institutions to help small Caribbean States deal with the adverse effects of natural disasters. This assessment should include risk reduction with the objective of strengthening the resilience of the people and societies;
- The need for more direct action, particularly in terms of social and economic analysis and the development of relevant policy recommendations, as well as the strengthening of evidence-based policy formulation to address the issues of vulnerability and social cohesion;

- The need for greater flexibility in the analysis of the position of the associate members with regard to the economic and financial impact of either their inclusion or exclusion in regional trade integration processes;
- The need to understand the economic and financial impact that the inclusion or exclusion of associate members with regard to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) of the European Union (EU) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) would have on their economies.
- The need to address the impacts of the increasing pattern on intraregional migration in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

Monitoring and Management

4. As associate members of the CDCC, these Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean have been afforded the opportunity to participate in global forums of the United Nations System and in the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

5. In this regard, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean includes information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in much the same way as it does of the independent countries in the subregion. This is dependent on the availability of salient information for inclusion in research. In fact, in the 2005 issue of the Economic Survey in the Caribbean, country notes had been prepared for Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands. Also, for the first time, a review of the economic performance of the Turks and Caicos had been included in the CDCC “Economic Survey of Caribbean countries”.

Technical Cooperation

Montserrat

In December 2006, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean provided assistance to the GOM in preparing a project proposal for the conduct of a pre-drilling analysis of geothermal energy potential on Montserrat. A follow-up mission is being planned by ECLAC for June 2007 at the request of the GOM to assist them in evaluating an envelope of technical proposals submitted by a select number of geothermal developers to carry out the pre-feasibility study.

Netherlands Antilles

In 2004, we provided support to a seminar entitled 'Between Sustainable Tourism and Local Development: Prospects and Paradoxes' organized by the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation of the University of Amsterdam.

We also provided technical support in the preparation of project proposals on Trade and Trade negotiations with respect to CARICOM.

In 2005, the SHQ supported the organization of the Second International Trade Conference organised by the Ministry of Economic and Labour Affairs, Netherlands Antilles. We presented papers at the forum on the Netherlands Antilles and the Caribbean Economy and on Special and Differential Treatment, respectively.

In 2006, we visited the Netherlands Antilles to collect macroeconomic data for the preparation of our first-ever Country Survey on the five-island federation for inclusion in our flagship publication the 'Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean'.

We also provided support to the IOM Regional Seminar "Building Capacity to Manage Migration in the Caribbean", convened in Curacao, as well as provided technical assistance to the Government of the Netherlands Antilles concerning migration data.

Aruba

In 2006, a visit was made to follow-up on a request for technical assistance to help the Associate Member countries analyze the impact of trade liberalization and integration initiatives that are ongoing in the Caribbean region, especially the Regional Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM and the European Union.

The SHQ supported the conduct of a national workshop on migration and integration that was organized by the Committee on Population and Development at the Central Statistical Office in Oranjestad, Aruba. Presented a background paper on international agreements and policies addressing migration in the Caribbean region,

Meetings were also held with senior officials of the Department of Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Infrastructures to discuss follow up to the Caribbean.

We continue to collaborate with the Government of Aruba, particularly with the Central Bureau of Statistics, in the area of data collection (with particular reference to migration) and evidence-based policy formulation and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Infrastructure in the area of population ageing at the national and sub-regional levels.

Turks and Caicos

In 2005, at the request of the Government of the Turks and Caicos, we concluded meetings with the Chief Minister and Governor, respectively to discuss further collaboration between ECLAC/CDCC and the territory, including its application for associate membership in the intergovernmental organization.

During the period 23-24 Nov 2006, we supported the convening of the seminar on 'Development Banking in the Caribbean', organized by ECLAC, CDB and Investment agencies of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Assisted in the conduct of a Regional Workshop on Gender-Sensitive National Planning and Budgeting sponsored by the UNFPA and the Government of the Turks and Caicos on 5-6 December 2006. ECLAC presented a paper on National Budgeting: Health, Reproductive Health, Gender and Development.

BVI

In 2005, we concluded discussions with the Government of the British Virgin Islands on their priorities for technical assistance in the areas of economic data analysis, forecasting and modeling techniques.

The Cayman Islands

In 2004, we carried out a Socio-Economic Assessment of the impact of Hurricane Ivan on the island of Grand Cayman.

In 2005, we conducted an orientation of the ECLAC methodology for conducting a macro socio-economic assessment of a natural disaster for the benefit of senior technocrats from the governmental, non governmental and private sectors in George Town, Grand Cayman.