

THIRD CDB/IDB CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) DIALOGUE

January 23 – 24, 2006
Hilton Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago

Report of the Core Team

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Report covers the activities of the Core Team responsible to follow up the recommendations and actions agreed upon at the second CDB/IDB CSO Meeting held in Barbados in January 2005. Core team members include the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and regional organizations, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and University of the West Indies/SALISES (UWI). The team was established following the agreement at the Barbados Dialogue to put in place some mechanism for effective monitoring and feedback to CSO's concerns and issues enunciated at the Barbados Dialogue. The Team also had the responsibility for the planning of future CSO meetings. In this first year of operation, three (3) Core Team meetings were held, two (2) in Barbados and one (1) in Trinidad and Tobago.

The first meeting was used to bring better definition to the role of the Core Team while the other meetings were for review and planning purposes. Other team meetings were held throughout and of course the Team utilized the numerous communication resources at its disposal. As part of the agenda for the first meeting, working protocols were established, terms of reference agreed upon, an Action Plan for Implementation prepared and specific responsibilities were assigned for this new group.

The Core Team also had an overview of the Fifth Regional IDB CSO Meeting in Panama with the following observations:

- a) The agenda was drafted based on a consultation process with a number of CSO who attended the Third Regional Meeting in Jamaica in 2004. The main themes were the IDB's environment policy, physical integration and indigenous people's policy and strategy. Part of the meeting was divided into working groups under five themes: Environment; Poverty Reduction; Governance, Regional Integration and Civil Society Participation. Coming out of the meeting the main question was how the IDB and CSO can work together so civil society can have greater involvement in development outcomes.
- b) Areas of concern for the English-speaking CSO were:
 - Strengthening governance in relation to authoritarian styles of governance and how this mitigates against democratic inclusion of stakeholders in policy dialogue;

- How to facilitate the engagement of civil society as part of horizontal policy networks as opposed to the vertical structure;
- Measures to address the marginalisation of groups such as indigenous people, youth and the disabled in the development process;
- How to address the question of accountability for CSO

For the Second CSO (Barbados) Dialogue, seven summary issues/recommendations were listed as follows:

1. Legitimize CSO participation in all stages from proposal to decision making to implementation (IDB/CSAGS)
2. Translate and increase dissemination of information e.g. on CSME etc
3. Establish a regional strategic plan for CSOs (CARICOM/CPDC)
4. Establish/Strengthen national CSO bodies.
5. National & Regional Consultations must continue with the Banks
6. Increased training for CSOs in critical areas
7. CDB, IDB etc to facilitate fora of CSO in Regional Negotiating Machinery.

CARICOM representative had further summarized the three critical needs of CSO as i) training; ii) information management; and iii) support for CSO core/administrative functions.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Based on the Core Teams review of the reports from Barbados and Panama meetings, it was agreed that the recommendations for an action plan for implementation be grouped into the following eight areas with the attendant follow up tasks:

- (i) **Information Management and Communication**
- (ii) **Training and Capacity Building of CSO**
- (iii) **CSO Access to Financial Resources**
- (iv) **Creation of a Regional Development Foundation**
- (v) **Establishment of a Regional Strategic Plan for CSO**
- (vi) **Strengthening of CSAGs**

- (vii) **Facilitate fora for CSO and Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM)**
- (viii) **Promote increased CSO participation in National Decision Making and Planning**

The Core Team also had the responsibility for organizing the next CDB/IDB CSO Dialogue and considered the possible themes and agenda items for this meeting. There would be provision for a “Development Partner’s Fair” on programmes and resources that can be accessed by CSO. IDB would carry out a consultation with NGOs in participating countries (including non-IDB member countries, through CDB) to determine areas of interest for next sub-regional meeting.

III. STATUS OF ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

So far, the Core Team has had some achievements but there are still many outstanding actions, which will carry over into the next period if these themes remain relevant. The recommendations are numbered for ease of reference and are therefore not stated in any order of priority.

<i>Recommendation # 1: Information Management and Communication</i>
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Actions:

1. CDB has advised CSO participants at the 2005 Meeting of the regional website, <http://www.caribbeanngos.net> established with financing from DFID. Management of the website is being done by CPDC, but additional resources are required for maintenance and updating of the site.
2. CDB will be hiring consultants to re-design its corporate website and to explore the options of creating a CSO webpage. Completion date is scheduled for mid 2006.
3. IDB has updated its civil society website and this can be accessed via the Bank’s website at <http://www.iadb.org> or directly to the civil society webpage at http://www.iadb.org/sds/SCS/site_1461_e.htm. Core Team explored the possibility of adding IDB’s link to the regional CSO website.
4. IDB continues publication and dissemination of the brochure on Civil Society. This brochure is available at the Meeting.

Recommendation #2:	<i>Increased training and Capacity Building of CSO in critical areas</i>
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Actions:

1. The CSO Audit for five countries in OECS being undertaken by the UWI/SALISES with financing from UNDP has commenced and some interviews have already been completed. Questionnaires to be administered will cover areas such as capacity, training needs and advocacy. The Audit is scheduled for completion by the first quarter of 2006.
2. IDB's training institute, the Inter-American Institute for Economic and Social Development (known as INDES), offers training, conducted in English. A source of financing to support participation of CSO in the training courses provided by INDES has been identified. Some of the possible training sessions that INDES can offer include: Organizational Learning and Change; Objective Setting; Strategic Management; Monitoring and Evaluation; Stakeholder Analysis; Leadership; Consensus Building and Negotiation; Participatory Methodologies; Resource Mobilization; Research Methodologies; Social Policy in the Caribbean; and Trade Agreements and the Social Sector. Results from the UNDP/UWI Training Needs Assessment could fit into this initiative. The IDB will carry out a survey of CSO in the Caribbean outlining the topics offered for training courses and at the same time requesting suggestions for additional training needs. Based on the results of the survey, the IDB would put together a five-day training course. Training would be provided at no cost to participants, and would take place in Washington, D.C. in May or June 2006 for a maximum of 30 participants (up to five of these could be from OECS countries). Methodology for selection of participants will be communicated as soon as the details are worked out. Transportation and per diems would also be covered by the IDB financing.
3. CDB has already hired consultants to develop a course in Project Management and implementation training courses to be conducted this year. It is proposed that one-third of available places will be allocated to participants from non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Further details on the selection of candidates, costing and schedule are being prepared.

Recommendation #3:	<i>Civil Society Organization (CSO) Access to Financial Resources.</i>
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Actions:

1. IDB has conducted a search of its trust funds requirements and eligibility and prepared a preliminary report of this database. The revised document is available to participants at the Trinidad Meeting.

2. A press release was published by the IDB inviting calls for proposals for promoting the regional public goods. This release was subsequently distributed by CDB on August 11, 2005 to participants of the Barbados Meeting, informing them of the call for proposals for regional public goods. Proposals had to be submitted between August 10 and October 31, 2005. Interested persons can track the progress at http://www.iadb.org/int/1_English/2_Divisions/h_RPG.htm. Results of the 2005 call for proposals will be available in July 2006.
3. The Inter-American Culture and Development Foundation (*ICDF*) was created in January 12, 2005 in Washington D.C. as a non-profit organization has begun operations. The core purpose and vision of the Foundation is to promote the sustainability and competitiveness of the cultural and creative enterprises of Latin America and the Caribbean with the aim of increasing the contribution of those enterprises to the social and economic development of the region and thus improving the quality of life of its inhabitants. The four basic values are diversity, innovation, the reduction of poverty and pride in the rich cultural heritage of the region. On July 1, 2005, the Foundation signed an agreement with the IDB whereby the Bank would provide a contribution equivalent to US\$1 million per year for three years inclusive of overhead expenses. In December 2005, it approved its first operation to the Quipus Culture Foundation of Bolivia. Visit the website at www.iacdf.org to learn more about the Foundation.
4. CDB is in the process of engaging consultants to develop a Technical Assistance Facility for CSO.

<i>Recommendation #4: Creation of A Regional Development Foundation</i>

Actions:

1. CPDC is continuing work on designing a Regional Development Foundation to support institutional operations and capacity building of civil society organizations. Both Banks have reviewed and conveyed comments to a draft proposal presented by CPDC, the organization responsible for creating this Fund. Also the IDB has identified financing and a consultant to assist CPDC in updating the Feasibility Study.
2. CPDC will provide a progress report on this activity at this meeting and discuss the way forward in the creation of this Foundation.

Recommendation #5: *Establish a regional strategic plan for CSO (CARICOM/CPDC)*

Actions:

1. CPDC had prepared and presented a draft Concept Note of the Strategic Plan to the Core Team. A revised draft will be distributed to participants at this Meeting for feedback. The Plan is related to a specific theme – Capacity Building and Participation. It is anticipated that the outputs from the Audit being undertaken by UWI/SALISES will inform the Strategic Plan.

Recommendation #6: *Strengthen Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAG)*

Actions:

1. For the IDB member countries in the sub-region, (Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago) Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAG) remained active throughout the period. Specific work plans and accomplishments can be obtained from CSAG in the respective countries.
2. IDB's management has agreed to conduct a review and evaluation on the organizational framework, relevance, work and effectiveness of its CSAG. Terms of reference are in the preliminary draft and a source of funding has been identified. The evaluation is scheduled for completion in 2006.
3. CDB has contracted a consultant to prepare proposals on how to operationalize its Governance strategy. Draft tool-kits, which include proposals for greater inclusion of civil society organizations, have now been prepared for the Bank's review. Matters on Governance including the role of CSO, will be refined in the preparation of related CDB country strategy papers with each of its seventeen (17) borrowing member countries. Formation of civil society country groups, (possible similar to the IDB CSAG), will await the completion of this exercise for the respective countries. Output from the IDB CSAG evaluation will be instructive to CDB's effort to strengthen contact with national CSO.

Recommendation #7: *Facilitate fora of CSO and Regional Negotiating Machinery, (CRNM)*

Actions:

1. Select members of Core Team had consultations with CRNM on the need to establish a non-state actors forum to provide an opportunity for information sharing and feedback from this group.

2. CRNM has recently prepared a private sector outreach strategy. Although there is no specific strategy for CSO, CRNM approach is to use a broader definition for “private sector” and also to use this strategy to inform the plan of action in their engagement with civil society.
3. In the discussions with CRNM, they have indicated their willingness to invite civil society organizations to become engaged in the in-country briefs, trade power dialogues and trade business tutorials. Trade power dialogues are 2-hour session with an update on negotiations, two success stories, geared towards presenting 6 recommendations for negotiations. Trade Microscope Business Tutorials are 1-day training programmes where private sector produces in-depth international business cases, with policy recommendations for consideration in negotiations. This session will also explore trade jargon/terminologies. Participants will be tested and receive certificates of participation. A copy of their outreach calendar has been made available at this meeting. To further facilitate the process, the Core Team has now provided CRNM with the contact information of those CSO within the region who are represented at this meeting.
4. CSO are encouraged to also visit CRNM website: <http://www.crn.org> for updates on the trade calendar of events, studies and technical papers, press releases, consultancy openings, and the opportunity to provide feedback.
5. Dialogue with the CRNM is ongoing. Over the next period, the Core Team will explore with CRNM the prospects of expanding the initiatives for civil society and for systematizing the approaches.

<p><i>Recommendation #8: Promote Increased CSO participation in National Development Planning and Decision Making.</i></p>
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Actions:

1. IDB recognizes that it needs to do more in terms of specific training to raise awareness of the Citizen Participation Strategy amongst staff.
2. CDB’s initiatives will be governed by the respective country strategies, on which work is now underway.
3. IDB and CDB will collaborate with CARICOM on associated activities under the “Forward Together Initiative”.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS FROM FIRST CDB/IDB CSO DIALOGUE

Please see details at Annex 1.

IV. PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD CDB/IDB CSO DIALOGUE IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.

Core Team members also had the responsibility for organizing this 3rd Dialogue. In preparation for this, the Banks carried out a consultation with civil society organizations within the region on priority issues for discussion at the meeting and on the particular methodology to be adopted for the meeting. Response rates were high and an analysis of the results revealed that:

- a) Although priority issues differ amongst countries, as expected, there were some recurring themes or issues. Frequent amongst them were Participation and Dialogue (capacity building) between CSO and policy makers; Public Sector Modernization and Reform; and Citizen Security Issues. Further analysis of specific themes and issues resulted in the following ranking:

- 1st Participatory Governance
- 2nd Sustainable Development with emphasis on Equity, Social Protection and Social Inclusion.
- 3rd /4th Public Sector Reform
Crime & Drugs
- 5th /6th Environmental Reform,
Capacity Building and Finance of CSO

- b) Suggestions for the meeting methodology were consistent with those of the previous year with the proposal for a mixed format combining plenary sessions, working group exercises and presentations. There was the caution not to have too many presentations but to allow extended time for the working groups, considered to be an essential aspect of the Meeting.

Annex 1

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS FROM FIRST CDB/IDB CSO DIALOGUE

In February of 2004, civil society groups from the English-speaking Caribbean met at the IDB's first Caribbean Regional Civil Society meeting, which was held in Jamaica. There, they asked the Bank to support an initiative to link the Diaspora (US, Canada, UK) with local civil society groups. As a result of that request, the IDB convened a series of meetings at Bank Headquarters to devise a Diaspora Initiative.

In May of 2005, the ambassadors of the five English-speaking Caribbean countries met with the Manager, Deputy Manager and Division Chief of the State and Civil Society Programs Division of the Regional Operations Department 3 to discuss the IDB's Diaspora Initiative. Subsequent to that meeting, the IDB hosted a high-level focus group seminar with other Caribbean stakeholders in July of 2005.

One of the major suggestions put forward by this focus group was that rather than focusing exclusively on the Diaspora Initiative, the Bank should also work with other private sector groups, public-private partnerships as well as with civil society organizations to promote economic investments in the region. In this respect, the IDB accepted a proposal put forward by the participants at this meeting, to assist countries in the region with an initiative on Health Tourism. This topic was chosen given the area's strong competitive advantage in tourism, its highly skilled nurses and doctors, including those living abroad, as well as current market trends in worldwide health tourism. Subsequently, the Bank hired a consultant to do a strategic overview of the health tourism potential in the Caribbean, as well as to provide a roadmap for action. A conference will be held at IDB headquarters on May 9, 2006, where the consultant will provide the results of his study, and potential investors will discuss investment possibilities in the region.

Initial results of Consultant's study

To date, he has visited Barbados, Trinidad and Guyana with additional trips scheduled to the Bahamas and Jamaica at the end of January and early February, respectively. Initial results so far indicate a strong potential for the region to capitalize on a growing global market demand for health and wellness services. Several areas have been identified as strong sources of potential investment for the Diaspora and other investors. These include:

i) In the area of small-scale Health Tourism, the following opportunities:

- The development of alternative health, herbal and spa resources
- Health and Wellness Marketing Cooperatives, providing marketing, sales and advertising functions for small to medium size HT firms.

- Short Stay Health Insurance and Physician/Dentist Referral Services.
- Small Scale Retirement Homes and assisted Living Hotel Rooms.
- Rehab facilities, obesity clinics, chronic pain and guest quarters.
- Telemedicine and Telephonic Healthcare, as well as nursing call centers.
- Doctor Time Share: Time share villas, clinic for physicians seeking vacation home and clinic on a time share basis.
- Expansion of private support facilities, diagnostic and treatment services for visitors with chronic conditions.
- Specializations: Fertility treatments, dental surgery, plastic surgery etc.

ii) In the area of Health Education Tourism Opportunities:

- The establishment of internationally Accredited Private Medical and Healthcare Education Facilities with Global Sourcing of Students and Faculty.
- The creation of Simulation Facilities for Medical and Nursing Training

The IDB can play a critical role in supporting this initiative by helping to leverage, catalyze and facilitate the financing of private sector investment in some of these areas. The overall goal is to promote growth and development in the Caribbean by increasing opportunities for training and employment. This would be done by harnessing the skills of the major stakeholders in Caribbean development: governments, private sector, civil society organizations and international investors.