

MINUTES

**THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK &
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' DIALOGUE:

**“STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN”**

**JANUARY 25-27, 2005
GRAND BARBADOS HOTEL, BARBADOS**

**CDB/IDB CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS DIALOGUE:
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1. OPENING CEREMONY

1.1 Introductory Remarks were made by Chairman, Mr. McDonald Thomas of the CDB, who reminded the group of the previous consultation which was held in Jamaica in February 2004, and of the four issues which emerged, namely:

- Partnership and Consultation
- Institutional and Capacity building
- Regional Integration
- Economic, social and environmental vulnerability

1.2 In his remarks, **Mr. Desmond Brunton** of the CDB said that the Bank has three main governance strategies

- Promoting efficient use of resources
- Poverty reduction
- Private sector development

These strategies, he said, are informed by a general definition of governance as being **a process by which power and decision-making are shared in society**. Mr. Brunton said that current governmental processes seem to have failed to fully involve the citizenry, and this has led to increased demands from consumers and Caribbean citizens generally. Therefore, he said, government processes and structures now need to be inclusive rather than exclusive and controlling.

He said that **good governance** should

- Lead to stronger economies
- Help to maximize benefits and resources

Mr. Brunton said that good governance is a prerequisite for an enabling environment especially in the transition to making Caribbean economies globally competitive. CSO involvement, Mr Brunton said, is critical to the success of the CDB's programmes.

1.3 Regional Manager of the IDB, **Mr. Ciro De Falco**, emphasised the importance of CSOs in the work of the IDB. He said that one of the important conclusions which the Bank had drawn after the meeting in February 2004, was that the problems of the Caribbean were sufficiently different from those of Latin America to warrant a

separate meeting of Caribbean CSOs. The present forum he said, had three main objectives

- To provide a forum for Caribbean CSOs to formulate a regional perspective ahead of the meeting for the Latin America and Caribbean to be held in Panama at the end of February 2005.
- To provide an opportunity for Caribbean CSOs, CDB and IDB to explore ways of working together to meet the different challenges facing the region
- To involve Caribbean CSOs in a consultation on the new draft environmental policy of the IDB.

Mr. De Falco said that at the meeting of February 2004, there were 5 tasks that it was agreed the IDB- Caribbean would work on

1. Organize similar annual meetings
2. Explore ways to foster regional partnerships by working with IDB CSACs
3. Explore sources of funding for Caribbean CSOs
4. Investigate the usefulness and feasibility of strengthening links between English and Spanish speaking CSOs
5. Approaching the diaspora as a potential source of support/funding

He reported the achievements as being that

- The IDB with CDB were hosting this second annual consultation
- CPDC/CARICOM are focal points being supported by IDB/CDB
- On identifying sources of CSO funding, the CDB has done a study on the setting up of a regional fund and this was a good starting point, and the IADB may be interested in providing initial funds
- In terms of wider participation of CSOs the CPDC is facilitating this however, the IDB could do more and would investigate working with CPDC's members
- In looking at how to support the practical objectives of CSOs and IDB/CDB, issues raised included – the possibility of hosting a special conference and the need for real ideas on how to harness resources for CSOs and IDB/CDB's work with CSOs

1.4 Minister Lynette Eastmond in her remarks, outlined as a context of the dialogue, a paper published by Compton Bourne in 2003 titled **Small States in the Context of Change**. This report, she said, pointed to small states' inability to affect real changes at the global level. This, said Mrs. Eastmond, presented special challenges to national efforts. She noted the special role played by CSOs in putting forward the case of SIDS at global and regional meetings in ways that governments were not able to.

Minister Eastmond said that CSOs have a role in supporting efforts aimed at sustainable development, and that it is important for Caribbean CSOs to maintain their own vision and role, independent of multinational organizations and

international CSOs. She noted that the role of CSOs in the Caribbean is very strong especially that of Trade Unions. In the remainder of her presentation Minister Eastmond addressed the following points.

- The necessity to form more CSOs with more people involved not just the same people repeatedly
- CARICOM countries being at a crossroads in economic development history
- That the impacts of trade liberalization - the opening up of markets, indicate a need for regulatory frameworks to meet international standards
- The need for economic alliances with the objective of enhanced economic and social programmes eg. With the EU, MERCOSUR etc
- That the Caribbean has the CARICOM SME which provides mechanisms and legal provisions for integration programmes in various sectors
- The need to learn from other examples of Free Trade Agreements eg. FTAA which do not have a development agenda
- That the area of science and technology/research and development is being pushed by industrialised countries for their own benefits but being resisted by them in terms of transfer to developing countries. The region needs to maintain a focus on science, technology, research and development and information/communication technologies and must work against the development of a digital divide

2.0 PANEL PRESENTATIONS

2.1 PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE

Mr. Gordon Bispham (CPDC) spoke in place of Mr. Richard Jones on the issue “Increasing Citizen Participation in Strengthening Democracy and Building Capacity at the Community Level”

Mr. Bispham gave a definition of “participation” which he said, encompasses democracy, capacitation, and the creation of enabling environments. He said that good governance is generally seen as mutually desirable and that CSOs are important though there are external and internal constraints. Among the constraints identified by Mr. Bispham were in particular: lack of recognition of CSOs; government suspicion and in some instances, hostility, or desire to control; capacity limitations; and funding inadequacies. These deficiencies, he said, could lead to a loss of vision and focus.

Mr. Bispham identified the following as strategic approaches to be taken.

- Increased recognition of input and contribution of civil society
- Improvement to the enabling environment for the operations of CSOs.
- Policies and legislation that govern relations between state and Non State Actors
- Building effective CSO partnerships for action with governments, research, donors, private sector, media etc.

- Strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of civil society
- Mainstreaming of citizen participation in governance at all levels
- Facilitating CSO contribution to priority issues for sustainable development

2.2 Mr. Carlyle Carter of the Barbados CSAG spoke on the “Barbados’ Experience with the CSAG” He said that the Report of the West Indian Commission had provided the impetus to the emergence of the Barbados Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG). Terms of reference were developed for the CSAG with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Mr. Carter said that the objectives of the CSAG focussed on providing feedback on development issues and the guiding principles for the CSAG’s operations included:

- an inclusionary approach,
- engagement with the wider community including the private sector, and inter-sectoral interaction;
- valuing of the Barbadian people and their culture;
- innovation – openness to explore new perspectives/methodologies on development;
- transparency in dialogue and facilitating open communication;
- accountability; and efficiency in the use of time and resources.

Mr. Carter said that the broad framework of the CSAG’s work programme adopted for 2005 will focus on: the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Environment, Health, Education (building and strengthening the knowledge base of the group); and networking enhancement. He said that participation in public debate, increasing partnerships and technical cooperation with and among CSOs, were the forms of activities to be utilised to meet the objectives. Mr. Carter said that constraints of the CSAG included dependence on external funding, lack of coordination and irregularity in meetings and activities.

2.3 Ms. Jacquelyn Joseph, Director, Human Development, CARICOM Secretariat, spoke on the “Forward Together Initiative”.

Ms. Joseph said that the process had given a special meaning to resilience as it had taken 12 years from 1992-2002 to get CSOs and government to meet in a forum - The Forward Together Initiative.

She said that the first conference was held in 1992 and involved consultation between governments and CSOs on agenda setting. Since that first meeting the challenges faced included managing perspectives from the different “sides”, recognising the complementarities and interrelatedness of Government and CSO approaches, and of processes and mechanisms for working together for the same objectives. Ms. Joseph said that the Charter of Civil Society provided an important instrument for guiding the process, and that the necessary legislation was being prepared/enacted at the national level(s).

Ms. Joseph reminded the meeting that three broad areas of recommendation came out of the first conference.

- A task force was to be set up as a link for CSOs into the formal political process through COSOHOD – the inter-governmental forum that deals with social issues. A Civil Society Task Force was to be established to put issues to COSOHOD which in turn takes them to governments. The Task Force also recommended that civil society should be represented at COTED (Council of Trade and Economic Development) the Heads of Government accepted this and are now working out the rules of engagement.
- CARICOM governments were required to promulgate the NGO Act which would provide a framework for legally recognizing NGOs. St. Lucia, St. Vincent and St. Kitts have actually promulgated such legislation. Other countries are in various stages of development
- There was an acknowledgement that work needs to be done on environmental issues and on the CARICOM Civil Society Charter. No government has yet reported on their attempts to move the Charter forward, however, the Secretariat has been looking at three Articles to do with Women, Children and the Disabled as they recognize these need to be reviewed

Ms. Joseph said that for the next conference in 2005 there will need to be a sharper focus on the national level. She said that national and regional consultations are an important part of the CSME - the regional response to globalization; and that the Forward Together process provide a mechanism for continued dialogue at both national and regional levels.

Ms. Joseph concluded by identifying other processes underway for increasing CSO - government consultations. She referred to Chapter Three of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and indicated that some movement was being seen with new ideas on the sharing of governance. And, with respect to Chapter Four of the Treaty, which deals with the single economy, Ms. Joseph said that the private sector was leading discussions on how to establish the single economy. She concluded that civil society and government have different perspectives related to the region's historical development, each sector brings its own values and interests and their collaboration is a learning process for both. She said that central to the process is the management of information and a focus on confidence building.

2.4 Discussion

In the discussion that followed the presentations it was agreed that there was generally an increase in opportunities for the voice of the ordinary citizen to be heard. The example was given that in Barbados, there were, apart from the CSAG, the Barbados Social Partnership (a three-pronged partnership of government, labour representatives and the private sector), and BANGO (Barbados Association of NGOs). The view was expressed that public unrest or violence could be avoided, reduced or deflected by early consultation between

government and CSOs on matters of possible contention. It was noted too, that a ‘formalised’ relationship between the two parties did not necessarily mean real and meaningful interaction.

It was observed that Governments too, need time to adjust to the changing environment in which CSOs are involved in a sphere of operations that previously “belonged” solely to the government. On the subject of inclusiveness, one participant brought to the attention of the meeting that there was no representation of the disabled there. Another participant highly recommended a greater focus on youth in future CSO meetings. The point was also made that indigenous people were often not sufficiently engaged on matters and projects concerning them and their indigenous talents and capacities were largely ignored or under- utilised in project formulation. The important contribution of small CSOs was also underscored.

3.0 INITIATIVES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

3.1 Gordon Bispham of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) spoke on Civil Society initiatives.

Mr. Bispham said that the CPDC had done an assessment of funding sources and observed that these were becoming more narrow, as in the late eighties and early nineties some funding agencies had moved out of the region. This, he said, resulted in many CSOs being in a state of financial crisis. Rather than looking for resources outside of the region, Mr. Bispham said, the CPDC had proposed the setting up of a Regional Development Foundation for funding CSOs. Working in consultation with the CDB, Mr. Bispham said that an operational framework and implementation plan had been developed and a structure proposed, namely, a Board of Governors with CSOs, representatives of the private sector etc.

Mr. Bispham said that it was proposed that funding for the Foundation would be sourced from

- Endowments
- Direct private sector contributions
- Public sector contributions
- CSO fundraising

And, its core programmes would include

- Institutional strengthening
- Capacity building
- Financial management

Mr. Bispham said that the fund managers would be the CDB which had responded positively and had provided seed funding. He said that the CDB was also

exploring with member countries the possibility of giving tax breaks to private sector companies which make contributions.

Mr. Bispham said that there was now a draft document on the plans for the Foundation, undergoing further consultation with CPDC members. In response to a question as to why the focus was on creating a regional as opposed to national foundation, Mr. Bispham said that the two were not mutually exclusive

3.2 Frances Madden, General Manager of the Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation, presented on an initiative of Grace Kennedy and Company Ltd. (Jamaica)

Ms. Madden described a long-standing initiative of Grace Kennedy and Company Ltd, funded jointly by staff – (one third) and the company itself, whereby the company has, over the last 25 years, sought to assist the poor and drug/crime-ridden community where it is located. Mrs. Madden reported that substantial progress had been made at the level both of the community and the individual, in developing self-esteem, improving employment and reducing crime. She said that the process had benefited from utilising the strengths of both sides and from maintaining continuous dialogue. She said that peace and stability are now a mutually accepted goal considered achievable for the community. Mrs. Madden said that many lessons have been learned by the company on the way concerning building mutual understanding, respect and trust.

3.3 Peter Webster, Portfolio Manager, CDB, spoke about the CDB's initiatives and focus.

Mr. Webster said that US\$2.5 million in CDB grant resources had been allocated to the Regional Development Foundation and that funding had been used for such purposes as participation at international fora, institutional strengthening, training, etc. He said that operational sustainability and good governance were the targets for financing projects. Mr. Webster said that the available CDB grant resources were generally being targeted at regional development initiatives. He said that there was a need for mechanisms for stabilising CSO financing, and suggested strategies such as philanthropy in the form of both time and money, and he suggested, CSOs could also sell their services as commercial transactions.

Mr. Webster pointed to a problem of there being many ad hoc or unreliable CSOs, not rooted in community or addressing needs. He said that this fact has had the effect of tainting the overall CSO landscape. Mr. Webster said that the CDB has established eligibility criteria for funding of CSOs as follows:

1. Legal registration as a charitable trust
2. Tangible or demonstrated impact on socio-economic development

3. Established network linkages outside of the civil society's immediate community
4. Audited accounts for a minimum of the two previous years
5. Evidence of a financial sustainability objective, including a willingness to establish an endowment fund or to be a member of such a fund
6. Track record of sustained fundraising
7. Track record of mobilizing volunteers
8. Track record of good, transparent management which is reflected in documented policies, adequate forward planning and achievement of objectives
9. Services/administration expenses ratio must be greater than 2:1 or administrative expenses should amount to less than 30% of total budget costs
10. Legitimate system of corporate governance based on democratic principles

3.4 Ms. Kea Wollrad, Technical Cooperation Specialist, reported on the IDB 's Regional Public Goods Programme. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Wollrad said that the IDB has, historically, had regional integration and cooperation as a key mandate. This she said, was demonstrated by the fact that the Bank has

- A central operational department dedicated to regional issues
- A regional technical cooperation programme
- A formal programming process by sub-region
- Regional integration as one of four priority areas in the IDB's institutional strategy

Ms. Wollrad gave the definition of a Regional Public Good as:

Any good, commodity, service, system of rules or policy regime that generates shared benefits for participating countries as a result of cooperation and collective action by those countries

The characteristics of eligible projects were identified as

- Being regional in nature – with shared benefits, collaborative and cooperative action in production
- Involving regional and sub-regional countries (more than two)

Ms. Wollard outlined the types of entities which are eligible to submit proposals as being:

- Public organizations in the IDB's borrowing Member Countries
- Private, not-for-profit organizations in the IDB's borrowing member countries
- Sub-regional organizations in the IDB's borrowing member countries
- Operational and central Departments of the Bank
- A consortium of the above

Ms. Wollrad concluded by giving the web site of the Regional Public Goods Programme – <http://www.iadb.org/INT/BPR>

3.5 Ms. Chris Sale, Deputy Advisor, IDB, spoke on the Inter-American Culture and Development Foundation which, she said, was established to do the following

- support sustainable development through cultural industries, and
- strengthen social capital by incorporating cultural values

Ms. Sale cited the UNESCO definition of 'cultural Industries' as

Industries that combine the production and commercialisation of creative content which is intangible in nature are typically protected by copyright and can take the form of a good or a service.

Ms. Sale gave data on the contribution of cultural industries to development in Latin America and the Caribbean. She said, for example, that these industries contribute 3% to GDP in Andean countries and 6.7% to GDP in Mexico. Additionally, she said, in Peru, cultural industries provide 200,000 persons with full time employment and 1.6 million with part-time employment as artisans.

Ms. Sale outlined ways in which cultural industries contribute to social inclusion, indicating that they involve populations that usually experience economic and social exclusion and women and indigenous peoples are also involved.

Ms. Sale said that a Foundation was a flexible instrument to deal with cultural industries as it is able to receive donor contributions which would benefit from tax exemptions, and it can establish working relationships with the IDB in the promotion of development projects to support cultural industries.

Ms. Sale reported that the Foundation had as its goals to

- elevate incomes and quality of life
- achieve long term social stability through enhancing values and traditions and through social inclusion
- facilitate regional integration through cultural exchanges
- raise demand for cultural products and services

- remove legal and regulatory obstacles to the development of cultural industries
- develop effective mechanisms to measure the contribution of cultural industries

The Foundation, said Ms. Sale, would

- provide technical assistance to governments on cultural policies, preparation of satellite accounts to estimate the contribution of cultural industries to income, employment and foreign currency legislation and legislation on fiscal stimulation of cultural activities by corporations and industry.
- Identify and support cultural industries through specific projects jointly financed and executed with governments and corporations
- Identify and support cultural activities executed jointly with regional and sub-regional institutions
- Provide support to governments on the preparation of projects of cultural industries to be presented to the Bank or bilateral donors

Ms. Sale said that the Foundation would be financed through seed funding from the IDB, of both cash and kind, for the first three years; and through matching fund contributions by bilateral donors, particularly corporations in the member countries of the IDB.

3.6 Discussion

With respect to the financial sustainability of CSOs it was said that there appears to be a fairly high level of financial assistance available for CSOs at the international level but access is determined by their programmes of work and the relationship to national objectives and concerns. It was pointed out that the role of the private sector should not be underestimated as that sector can make, and has made, significant contributions to CSO related activities.

In relation to the Regional Development Foundation one participant advised caution with regard to strong centralised institutions that have weak national parts. Centralised operations, he opined, can have both benefits and disadvantages. He said that they can become self-serving in order to ensure their own survival, and their programmes are often in competition with programmes at the national level. It was noted however that small CSOs often benefit from the support of a central institution. One participant however, was concerned that the CDB's eligibility criteria could exclude some of the smaller CSOs.

The meeting noted that there was wide differentiation between types of CSOs and areas of work they cover, some being for-profit, others, not-for-profit. They also varied considerably in their method of operations.

There was general acknowledgment of, and high commendation for, the quality of the social programme administered by Grace Kennedy and Company Ltd. of Jamaica. Participants lauded the company for its persistence over many years, as well as for the generosity of its staff who gave of their time and money for such a worthwhile cause. It was felt that this was an example from which others could learn and which should be replicated where possible.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND VULNERABILITY ISSUES

Mr. Donovan Gentles was unable to attend and so Mr. Jeremy Collymore made the presentation on behalf of CDERA on **Disaster Preparedness and Response**.

4.1 Mr. Collymore in his presentation stressed the following points:

- Disaster management has been largely reactive, and, in response, CDERA has developed the Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework which focuses on disaster management in the context of, and connected to, development. He said that the Framework seeks to integrate disaster management with development through stronger national institutions and greater training.
- Disaster management is not an “office” and the Framework seeks to debunk the assumption that disaster management is about preparedness and response. It seeks instead to have disaster management integrated in the programme of funders, governments and the wider society
- CSOs’ involvement in disaster management has largely also been event driven

Mr. Collymore identified the following as areas of critical importance in an integrated approach to disaster management.

- Disaster plans for the tourism sector
- The need to improve countries’ ‘functional capacities’ for example, in the areas of search and rescue, and water management - to move it beyond responding to floods to include drought and water resources management.
- The need to integrate disaster management in the planning, zoning and construction processes
- The need to develop disaster plans for vulnerable areas
- The need to address social issues – attitudes, perceptions of risk etc.

Mr. Collymore summarized his presentation by saying that the region does not need “Hurricane plans” instead what is needed are integrated development plans that include disaster mitigation and response.

Mr. Collymore’s presentation was followed by Mr. Kari Keipi, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, IDB; and Mr. Nizamuddeen Ameerally, Portfolio Manager, Project Supervision Division of the CDB. Both presented on the theme **CDB and IDB Facilities for Disaster Mitigation and Response**.

4.2 Mr. Kari Keipi spoke on the IDB's facilities for disaster mitigation and response

In his presentation Mr. Keipi indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean have a high damage propensity from natural hazards and that this tendency was increasing. He said that disasters cost the region some US\$3.2 billion per year in physical losses, and since 1975 there had been some 5000 deaths and 4 million people affected by natural disasters. Yet, Mr. Keipi said, an IDB study showed that only Belize and the Dominican Republic had disaster response plans in their country programming, and only one of twelve countries analysed in the study had economic capacity to finance recovery and reconstruction from a major natural hazard.

As a result of the high risk of damage from natural hazards, Mr. Keipi said, the IDB Action Plan 2005-2007 has as its aim to position the Bank to take a proactive approach to disaster risk management through

- Requiring that country programming and portfolio management include risk evaluation, country strategies and programming to manage risk and monitoring of projects to evaluate the impact of risks
- Bank policy and procedures including a new proactive disaster policy and checklists to incorporate disaster risk management in the project cycle
- An organizational structure that includes disaster risk management focal points
- Financial instruments, both current and new

Mr. Keipi gave further details on the elements to be included in the Country Strategy and Programming process, namely,

- Disaster risk assessments in priority development areas which would be discussed with borrowers
- Within Country Strategies - identification of needs, priorities and the role of the Bank in addressing disaster risk management in key sectors
- Institutional capacity and financial protection in countries
- Bank support for appropriate policy and institutional improvements at the request of countries as well as by Bank measures to protect its financial portfolio

Mr. Keipi said that the average annual IDB financing for natural disaster loans was some US\$475 million and US\$2.6 million in disaster technical cooperation.

Mr. Keipi said that the IDB's financial instruments address pre, to post disaster periods, with funds and technical support available for

- Disaster prevention – including institutional and policy development, early warning systems, forecasting and monitoring etc.
- Immediate response – loans with a maximum of 30 days for approval, and of up to US\$20 million, restricted to provisional repairs and reconstruction and limited to nine months without possibility for extension; re-orientation of existing loans under execution and emergency technical cooperation within the discretion of country offices of amounts up to US\$200,000
- Post disaster response – through reconstruction loans, reorientation of existing loans and technical cooperation

In concluding, Mr. Keipi said that challenges for improving financing for disaster risk management were

- Integrating management of risk with prevention
- Considering prevention as an investment
- Protecting the poor
- Participation of the private sector and civil society
- Coordinating international financing
- Resource mobilization from private sources, and
- Development of financial mechanisms

4.3 Mr. Nizamuddeen Ameerally, Portfolio Manager, of the Project Supervision Division of the CDB spoke on the facilities of the CDB.

In his presentation, Mr. Ameerally gave details of the Basic Needs Trust Fund which supports activities in ten countries of the region. He said that in the next eighteen months the CDB would be partnering with the Red Cross in a project to develop community disaster plans which would include vulnerability assessments and mitigation plans.

Mr. Ameerally said that the CDB had been involved for more than 30 years in assisting its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) with disaster relief. Up to 2000, he said, assistance was initially focused primarily on disaster response. This, he said, was mainly through rehabilitation of social and economic infrastructure including housing and agriculture, though some support was provided for important disaster mitigation projects. In 1998, a Natural Disaster Management Strategy and Operating Guidelines were developed, identifying interventions in all stages of the disaster management cycle.

Mr. Ameerally said that since 2000, the CDB has attempted to mainstream disaster risk management into development policy and practice. In 2000, a Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC) grant, funded jointly by CDB and USAID was established with CDB for a period of five years, with the objective of strengthening regional capacity for disaster risk reduction. In 2003, CDB adopted natural hazard vulnerability reduction as one of its corporate

priorities, and its 2005–2009 Strategic Plan includes enhancement of environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting theme.

Mr. Ameerally reported that under the Facility for Disaster Response, funded by the IDB and the government of Venezuela, assistance is available under any one or combination of the following:

- (i) Emergency Relief Grant- up to US\$100,000 to CDERA for rapid initial assessment;
- (ii) Immediate Response Loan: up to US\$500,000 for cleaning and clearing;
- (iii) Rehabilitation Loan at concessionary rates

He said that the DMFC's objectives included:

- (i) strengthening CDB institutional capacity for natural hazard management;
- (ii) integration of Natural Hazard risk reduction into CDB's projects and procedures; and
- (iii) adoption and institutionalisation of natural hazard mitigation policies and practices in the BMCs.

CDB staff, it was reported, had been trained in incorporating natural hazard risk into project formulation and natural hazard risk considerations now inform the design of capital and technical assistance projects. Mr. Ameerally said that more risk reduction tools and practices are available including a Guide and Sourcebook on these procedures. Also, he said, stakeholders are more informed and involved. Other achievements that were reported include: new/revised and legislated natural hazard mitigation policies and plans in collaboration with CDERA; a model national hazard mitigation policy; and national hazard mitigation policies in Belize, Grenada, Jamaica (draft) and St. Lucia.

Under its objective of strengthening the capacity of national, regional disaster management institutions and tertiary education institutions, Mr. Ameerally said that the DFMC had:

- (i) provided training in rapid environmental assessment and hazard mitigation planning;
- (ii) strengthened CDERA's institutional capacity;
- (iii) implemented comprehensive disaster management at the national level in 6 BMCs.;

- (iv) strengthened UWI's capacity building through input into the Graduate programme in Planning;
- (v) prepared a volcanic hazard atlas of the Lesser Antilles
- (vi) developed an advanced training course on integrating natural hazard risk management into development programmes and projects; and
- (vii) developed introductory courses in Natural Hazard risk reduction.

It was reported that plans are in train to, inter alia:

- (i) Update Caribbean Uniform Building Code;
- (ii) conduct hazard/vulnerability assessments;
- (iii) conduct vulnerability audits;
- (iv) train target users;
- (v) develop standardised methodologies; and
- (vi) implement a Pilot Project in community-based disaster management programmes in partnership with CDB's Basic Needs Trust Fund.

4.4 Discussion

In the discussion that followed the presentations much concern was expressed by different participants about interventions which tended to be too centralized in terms of the distribution of resources. It was stressed that NGOs/CBOs need resources since they are often the first responders in a disaster, while the larger response agencies are often delayed formulating strategies. The need was also identified for translation of information and materials for and inclusion of households and community members in disaster strategies

5.0 DAY TWO: ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The second day of consultation began with a panel on Economic Strategy for Regional Development. The main presentation was made by Ms. Cecilia Babb of the Association of Caribbean Economists and the CPDC. Mr. Lennox Forte of the CSME Unit was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency. Ms Jacquelyn Joseph responded to questions and comments on the CSME in Mr. Forte's absence.

5.1 Ms. Cecilia Babb of the Association of Caribbean Economists and the CPDC spoke on integrating social considerations in economic partnerships and Agreements

In her comments on the CSME, privatisation and social goods and needs Ms. Babb said that the advent of one globally integrated economy was making Caribbean leaders become “Managers” and not visionaries. This development, she said, made citizens’ role in governance all the more important, and citizens she said, needed to insert themselves in forums of decision-making. She pointed to the fact that social services, which need to be preserved, protected and expanded, were being neglected. Ms. Babb said that definitions of the “public good” now include what the region terms “social services”. But, under the emerging trade regimes, education and water, for example would become public goods to be bought and sold and as such be taken out of the public purview and placed in the hands of the private sector. This, she said could also apply to other essential services such as transportation. Ms. Babb noted that such developments could have dire consequences on the people of the region. She said that the Caribbean needed to preserve the rights of its people and citizens’ voices must be heard on such matters.

5.2 Discussion

In the discussion that followed participants made the following points

- The cost of imprisonment rivals that of social development and this kind of data is needed to strengthen the case for greater investments in these areas.
- CSOs need to be part of the CSME negotiations. There is a need to establish a non-state actors’ forum to inform the deliberations of the Regional Negotiating Machinery. Citizens need to know more about what is going on in the negotiations for example, in those related to services. The question was posed as to whether, for example, there were negotiations taking place to have Caribbean governments compensated for the costs of training teachers and nurses who are recruited to overseas.
- The private sector has been a part of working groups looking at such issues as sustainable economic development, private sector development and competitiveness; distribution, ICTs and transportation.
- CSOs need to get on board to help shape the CSME in the fine tuning of protocols for example, those related to the harmonization of labour laws and pension arrangements
- The ‘marketization’ of education is increasing exclusivity. There are increased numbers of overseas universities competing with the UWI which has been under-funded and which needs its programmes to be reviewed.

In responding to some of the issues raised Ms. Jacquelyn Joseph said that

- The goal of the CSME was to raise university enrolment to 15% of the population (compared to the norm of 80% and more in the developed world). As such, work was under way to make credits transferable throughout the CSME Member Countries

- The regional nursing body has done the calculations of the value of the training of nurses and what is now needed is the determination of a negotiating position.
- The harmonization of labour laws has been slow moving, however the requisite models are in place.

6.0 WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The panel presentation and discussion was followed by the deliberations of working groups. Each working group was assigned one of the issues identified as being critical for the Caribbean and which was one of the themes of the panel presentations namely

- Participation/consultation and Governance
- Capacity building of CSOs
- Environmental, social/economic vulnerabilities and strategies
- Regional Integration

Working groups' members were asked to respond to the following

- Conclusions they had come to about the issues, following the presentations and based on their experience
- Implications of those conclusions for strengthening partnerships among CSOs and with the Banks
- The next steps they would recommend

6.1 Outcomes of Working Group Discussions

6.1.1 Participation/Consultation and Governance

Participation was defined by the group as “direct or indirect involvement by all citizens of the state in all aspects of governance”.

The conclusions of the group were that

- There is an absence of information sharing and networking between CSOs and CSOs and the state
- The need for the role of CSOs, and the legitimacy of that role, to be made clearer. Terms of Reference should therefore be established and accepted by the CDB and IDB
- CSOs are not sufficiently involved in consultations with national governments and the IDB and CDB for example, in the area of the types/nature and purpose of loans

- The Charter of Civil Society speaks to the need for CSOs to hold national governments responsible and accountable.
- CSOs are under-resourced in light of challenges faced today

The group identified the following implications

- Inclusion reinforces, strengthens and legitimises the role of CSOs
- Governments may view inclusion of CSOs as interference
- All actors need to create a high level of transparency and trust
- There is a need to create higher levels of coherence
- There is a need for funding for the operational costs of CSOs to strengthen their viability.

The group's recommendations were for

- CDB to facilitate dialogue between CSOs and governments at national levels through a body similar to the IDB's CSAGs
- Steps to be taken to legitimise national CSOs' participatory role
- Establishment of a regional fund to support the institutional operations and capacity building of CSOs
- CSOs to be informed and consulted at all times when governments are involved in negotiations and trade agreements, and they should be included from the stage of proposal formulation onwards.

6.1.2 Capacity Building of CSOs

The group's conclusions were that there were a number of weaknesses among CSOs that needed to be addressed as part of a process of capacity building. The weaknesses identified were

- Poor leadership and organizational skills
- Weak implementation skills
- Low levels of participation of members and of citizens attributable in part to a lack of civil society will to embrace change

- Poverty of ideas in terms of tackling issues and solving problems
- Limited financial resources

The implications identified by the group were that CSOs needed

- better understanding of the operations of the Banks
- increased negotiating power and improved negotiating skills
- training in new areas
- new thinking and vision
- greater promotion of participation to the citizenry
- improved strategic planning with clear goals, objectives and procedures; improved administrative and management skills
- improvement of documentation, monitoring and evaluation of activities
- improvement in networking skills and opportunities

The recommendations of the group were for

- funding for administrative support of CSOs
- Creation of a regional strategic plan for CSOs
- Creation of and /or support for national organizations of CSOs
- Broadened national consultations between CSOs and the Banks

6.1.3 Environmental, social and Economic Vulnerabilities and Strategies

The group decided that cultural vulnerabilities would also be considered by them.

The group's conclusions were that there was a need

- For education on intellectual property rights of cultural resources as a basis for sustainable livelihood
- To humanize responses to security problems as a way of reducing a culture of violence
- For IDB and CDB to support regulation and infrastructure for intra-regional trade of indigenous services and foods

The group recommended the following strategies

- Development of an integrated programme to conserve and manage natural resources critical to sustainable development, such as, forests, biodiversity, fresh water resources, coastal and marine resources
- Support for the development of land management plans that guide investments based on an island's natural resources
- Funding of educational programmes to increase access to HIV/AIDS information and treatment of all persons and for support for agencies involved in alternative treatments and research
- Restructuring of economies to achieve a reduction/elimination of mono-crop economies. Restructuring to include fair trade, increased support to organic farming, greater variety of value-added products e.g. banana chips, infant foods etc

6.1.4 Regional Integration

In relation to the CSME the group identified key issues as being

- Lack of information
- Lack of funding
- The need for greater linkages and alliances between CSOs, NGOs etc

Its recommendations were for

- Wider dissemination of information related to the CSME to CSOs, NGOs and the wider society

- Funding for information dissemination and public education to be secured from the private sector and government
- Wider alliances to be created between CSOs and NGOs of the respective countries
- Greater youth involvement in the process

7.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The key themes/issues/next steps identified by the working groups were summarised by the Facilitator as being:

- Legitimize CSO participation in all stages from proposal to decision-making to implementation (**IDB/CSAGs**)
- Translate and increase dissemination of information e.g. on CSME etc
- Establish a regional strategic plan for CSOs (**CARICOM/CPDC**)
- Establish/strengthen national CSO bodies
- National & Regional Consultations must continue with the banks
- Increased training of CSOs in critical areas
- CDB, IDB etc to facilitate fora of CSOs and the Regional Negotiating Machinery

From the discussion which ensued, the three critical needs of CSOs were summarized by Jacquelyn Joseph as being:

- Training
- Information management
- Support for CSO core/administrative functions

There was some discussion on the need to assign the responsibility to carry forward the recommendations to appropriate agencies. This was attempted (see brackets above) but not completed as the meeting agreed to leave the decisions on next steps to a committee convened by the IDB-CDB as part of their follow-up to the meeting.

8.0 RESPONSES OF THE CDB AND IDB

8.1 Mr. Desmond Brunton of the CDB made the following comments in his response.

- CDB could facilitate encounters of CSOs and the Regional Negotiating Machinery as was suggested by participants. The issue would be who CSOs would consider to be a representative group to be invited to the consultations
- Concerning training, CDB has developed modules that could be modified for use with CSOs e.g. modules on management. The CDB would consider supporting training in fundraising/resource mobilization for CSOs to enable them to be less dependent on the Banks. CDB could also support training in project writing such that some support for administrative costs are included e.g. ensuring line items for monitoring, evaluation etc

Concerning the management/dissemination of information, Mr. Brunton said that

- The bank could do more in this regard and could influence national governments to improve
- The CDB puts draft policies on its website
- The CDB could help with funding for CSO activities related to dissemination of information.

8.2 Mr. Ciro De Falco of the IDB responded with the following.

- Concerning CSAGs he said that they were a representative group of CSOs whose role was to advise the bank throughout the project cycle. They were not intended to be a substitute for the Bank holding consultations with the wider civil society. The IDB, he said, could consider term limits and replacements for groups on the CSAGs so that participation is expanded to a wider circle of CSOs, and it could consider including more organizations on the CSAGs
- The Banks are owned by governments which place restrictions on what can/cannot be done and while there is a challenge in justifying the use of public funds for administrative expenses of CSOs, support is possible even for core activities if CSOs have clearly defined plans for what they want to do and have saleable outcomes
- The Bank could undertake to identify resources to fund training of CSOs

- The Bank could discuss with governments the possibility of their making funding available to support the administrative costs of NGOs/CSOs
- Concerning information dissemination – the Bank has a well-defined public disclosure policy and there are public information centres in every country office. However, governments do have certain restrictions on what can/cannot be disseminated.

9.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from Mr. McDonald Thomas of the CDB. Participants expressed a general satisfaction with the meeting and it was agreed that the CDB would ensure that the minutes were circulated and a committee established to identify the appropriate means to carry forward the recommendations and to monitor the implementation of the undertakings of the Banks.