

**Summary Report - "Regional Workshop on Deposit of Treaty Actions
with the United Nations' Secretary-General and Registration of
Treaties" Caribbean Development Bank Headquarters, Barbados, 26
to 27 October 2004**

1. The CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sponsored a regional workshop focusing on the depositary practice of the Secretary-General, registration of treaties under article 102 of the Charter, treaty implementation and reporting requirements, environmental treaties, trade and regional integration, intellectual property, transnational organized crime and terrorism, and the International Criminal Court. The objectives included raising awareness relating to the range of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations; encouraging wider participation in them at the international level as well as a greater compliance at the domestic level with the standards that these treaties establish; contributing in a concrete manner to the advancement of the international rule of law, the development of good governance practices, and consequently, the advancement of social, economic and political goals; and creating networks and strengthening communication among government officials in the region. The Treaty Section/OLA was represented by Mr. Palitha Kohona (Chief, Treaty Section), Ms. Moorhouse (Legal Officer) and Mr. Smith (Legal Officer). Experts were present from the University of the West Indies (Professor A. R. Carnegie, Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Caribbean Law Institute, and Ron Bass, Lecturer), Coalition for the International Criminal Court (Ms. Brigitte Suhr, Director of Regional Programmes), Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (Mr. John Malcolm Spence, Technical Advisor) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (Mr. Kemal Kurspahic, Representative). The CARICOM Secretariat was represented by Dr. Winston Anderson (General Counsel), the Caribbean Development Bank was represented by Mr. Douglas Leyes (General Counsel), and UNDP was represented by Dr. Rosina Wiltshire (Resident Representative). Fifty-six participants attended the seminar representing the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank, UNDP, Member States of CARICOM and other international organizations.

2. The welcoming remarks by Dr. Anderson, and addresses by Dr. Kohona, Mr. Leyes and Dr. Rosina emphasized the challenges facing the Caribbean region when confronted with the prospect of participating in the vast multilateral treaty framework, particularly in the area of signature, ratification, accession, reporting requirements, and the domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations. The speakers also highlighted the importance of the multilateral treaty framework, which underpins much of today's international interaction.

3. The UN team explained the Depositary practice of the Secretary-General, including reservations and declarations, the registration practice of the Secretariat, general principles of treaty law relevant to the functions of the Secretary-General and the

Secretariat under certain treaties, and technical assistance available through the UN system.

4. Participants posed a range of questions with a view to clarifying the role of the Secretary-General as depositary and the role of the Secretariat under Article 102. The feedback received from the participants was very positive.

5. The various experts discussed key environmental treaties applicable to the region, treaties on trade and the experience of regional integration (in particular, implications of the WTO and the decisions of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism), implications for the Caribbean region of the International Criminal Court and recent developments, treaties on intellectual property rights from the perspective of the Caribbean region (a presentation which attracted very favourable comment, and treaties on transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Prepared by B. Smith
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