

the second half of 1997. A fourth area could be support for *the commercialisation, privatization and disinvestment* of public sector agencies which need to be accompanied by changes in state subsidies, financial sector reform and corporate governance.

### Law Reform and Development

54. The creation of an enabling environment for private sector development and advancing the status of women and other disadvantaged groups needs new legislation and the strengthening of legal institutions. Assistance is required in the area of private sector development for the preparation of commercial codes and legislation on capital markets, foreign investment, privatisation, competition policy and the regulation of monopolies. Legislation will also be required for protecting the environment and advancing the status of women and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, the institutions responsible for implementing the laws need strengthening to ensure that the new laws are justly applied and enforced.

### Democratic Development

55. Democratic development is an area where the Commonwealth Secretariat could build on work that is currently ongoing. The focus should be to *strengthen democratic institutions and structures* involving support for watchdog institutions; establish codes of conduct for political parties and politicians; train election officials; conduct voter education programs; train politicians in parliamentary practice including committee stage discussions of the budget and important bills; and establish Public Account Committees etc. *Promoting multiparty systems* by observing the electoral process would be a continuation of the work that the Commonwealth Secretariat is already engaged in.

### CONCLUSION

56. The CFTC's contribution to these programs can only be small. There are a few exceptions such as the programs in debt management and elections monitoring which are significant. Duplication should be avoided and consistency in approach vis-a-vis other donors ensured. It is therefore necessary to coordinate the delivery of the assistance with other agencies active