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The thesis was significantly improved by the supervisory expertise, and the **institutional framework** of foreign economic policy in the Commonwealth Caribbean refers to four main components: foreign aid, foreign direct investment, preferential market access and multilateralism. The execution of this institutional framework has come to characterise **development diplomacy**- a diplomatic strategy utilised by developing countries to advocate assistance for economic development through co-operation with developed countries.

The thesis suggests that there are **institutions** which underlie foreign economic policy, and **institutional response mechanisms** which assist the countries of the region to formulate and execute foreign economic policy. **Institutional strengthening** initiatives constitute strategies aimed at increasing the capability or capacity of these institutions, and ultimately the policy in question. Any initiative aimed at increasing capacity of the policy should therefore be focussed on these attendant institutions. The analysis is based on initiatives geared towards **strengthening institutional capacity**.

The impact of **globalising trends** on the foreign economic policy of the Commonwealth Caribbean is analysed. Specifically, on the institutional framework of the foreign policy in question. The aim of such analysis is to establish that initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacity can be utilised as possible means of strengthening foreign economic policy to address the effects of these globalising trends.

Keywords: Donnette E. Chambers; institutional framework; development diplomacy; globalising trends, strengthening institutional capacity; foreign economic policy.