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**ACTIVITIES OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM TO PROMOTE AND
SUPPORT SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DURING
THE 2006-2007 BIENNIUM**

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UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



SIXTY YEARS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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I. International cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: overview and general trends

Expenditures on technical cooperation activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the 2006-2007 biennium stood at approximately US\$ 30 million. As an integral part of the United Nations system, ECLAC serves as a multilateral platform for providing technical cooperation to member countries in support of their economic and social development policies; in its capacity as a regional commission, ECLAC carries out activities that involve both South-South and triangular cooperation. The core section of this report contains the main data and a brief analysis of the ECLAC technical cooperation programme, with special reference to the South-South component. In order to place these activities in perspective, the report sketches first an overview of the general trends in the area of official development assistance (ODA), which includes technical cooperation.

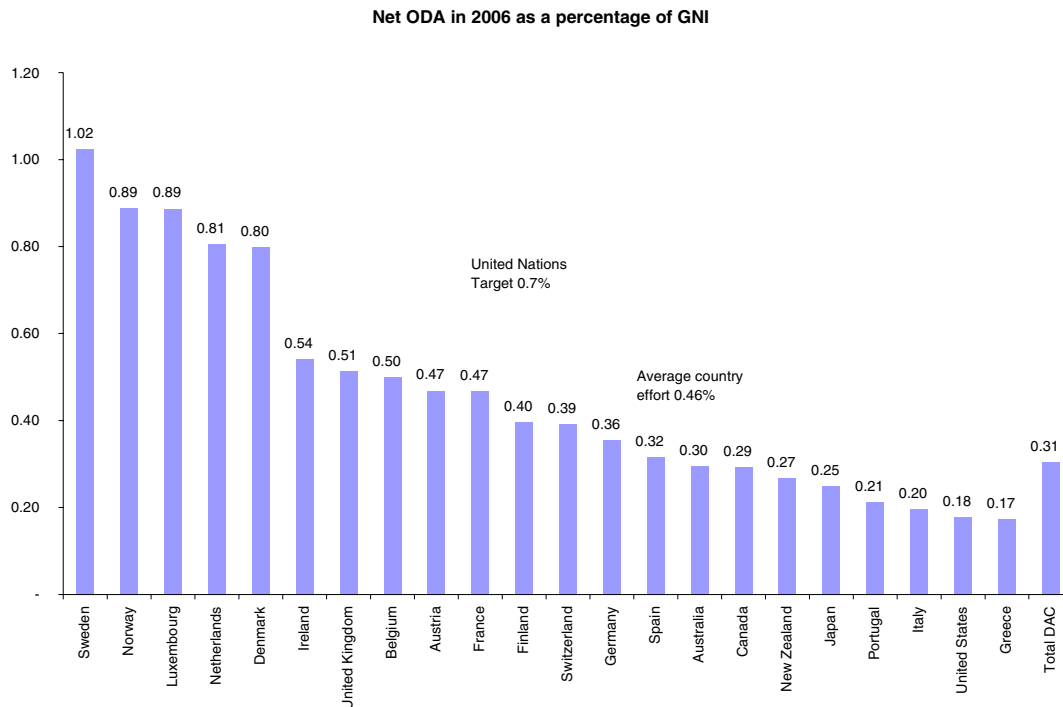
A. Characteristics of official development assistance

1. Overview

According to data released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), official development assistance (ODA) provided by the member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totalled US\$ 104.4 billion in 2006, down 4.5% from the figure recorded in 2005. Indeed, it was the first time since 1997 that ODA showed a decline compared with the previous year. Nevertheless, this is still one of the highest levels ever registered, second only to the 2005 total. In 2005, ODA was exceptionally high owing to the huge sums required for external debt relief for Iraq and Nigeria. If amounts relating to debt forgiveness are excluded, ODA was only 0.8% lower in 2006 than in 2005. In general, assistance for the period 2006-2010 is projected to be less than the US\$ 150 billion estimated to be needed in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The 2007 figure is also expected to show a slight decline since external debt relief operations were less significant. If this component is omitted, however, ODA should be higher, in view of projections and recent pledges by donor countries.

Aggregate ODA flows represent 0.31% of gross national income (GNI) of the DAC member countries as a whole. This percentage is the second highest since 1992, as in 2005, it amounted to 0.33%, a substantial increase compared with the 0.26% recorded in 2004. Nevertheless, this is still far from the goal of 0.7%, pledged at the United Nations. Contributions vary significantly from one donor to the next: some countries contribute more than 0.8% of their gross national income, while others contribute less than 0.25% (see figure 1).

Figure 1
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FLOWS AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME, BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2006
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Organisation of Co-operation and Economic Development (OECD).

While over 90% of ODA comes from DAC member countries, the contribution of other non-members is on the rise. In Latin America and the Caribbean, some of the largest countries and those that are, relatively speaking, among the most developed are both recipients and donors of such assistance; however, the available statistical information is not sufficient to allow a comparison between them and the DAC countries. Contributions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also increased substantially in recent years. Developing countries have also been at the receiving end of growing private financial flows, especially foreign direct investment (FDI), under market conditions. At the same time, innovative forms of development assistance, such as new global funds and taxes are being examined in an effort to fulfil international commitments assumed by the donor countries. As regards the outlook for access to financing for development, a number of significant and positive changes are taking shape. Nevertheless, ODA will continue to play a crucial part, precisely because of its official character, which will make it possible to set priorities and define political will.

Most ODA is provided and received on a bilateral basis. In 2002, 30.4% of all ODA was distributed through multilateral organizations; by 2006, the figure was down to 27.5%. The United Nations is one of the multilateral channels and in 2006, according to DAC reports, US\$ 3.6 billion, equivalent to 3.5% of total ODA, was funded through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; this amount is less, relatively speaking, than the 3.3 billion recorded in 2002, which accounted for 5.4% of the total. To avoid double accounting problems, DAC only takes into account the amounts that come under the United Nations regular budget.

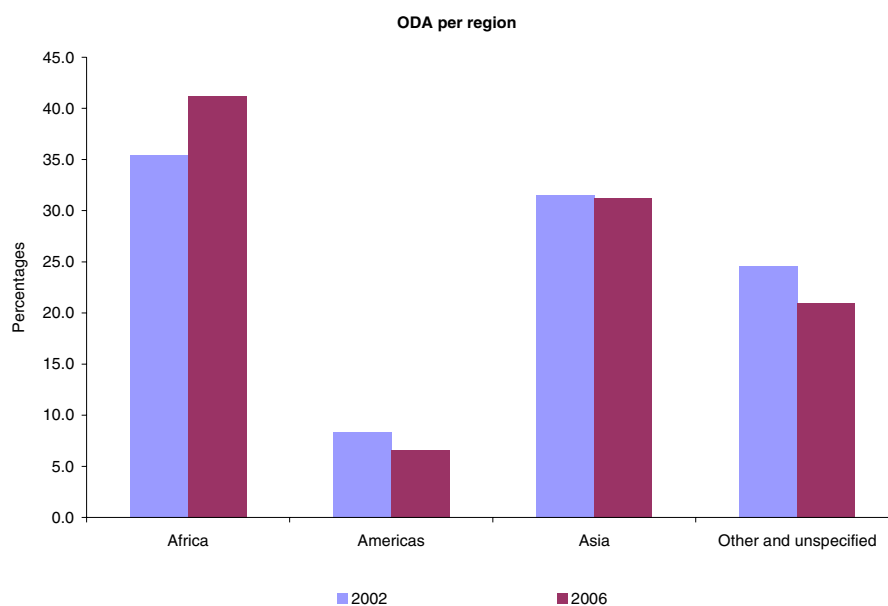
Table 1
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: TOTAL DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS AND THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS
(In billions of current dollars and percentages)

	2002	2006
Official development assistance: total	60	105
Through multilateral channels	18 (30.4%)	29 (27.5%)
Through the United Nations	3.3 (5.4%)	3.6 (3.5%)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Official assistance is being increasingly directed towards the poorest developing countries. Apart from unspecified aid, 96% of the total benefits the least developed countries, with low and middle-low income levels. In geographical terms, Sub-Saharan Africa absorbs approximately 40% of these resources. The proportion earmarked for the Latin American and Caribbean countries has declined from 11.4% in the 1980s to 8.3% in 2002 and 6.6% in 2006. On average, the middle-low-income countries of the region maintained their quota, while the proportion, already small, set aside for the middle- and middle-high-income countries has fallen significantly. As Latin American and Caribbean countries accede to middle-high income levels, their ODA quotas will continue to diminish. Their experience has been very uneven, however. Pockets of poverty persist in most of these countries and initiatives for addressing the problem have not kept pace. This suggests that even the middle-income countries in the region do not have the self-sustaining financial capacity to fund development activities. The middle-income group of countries, which account for around 60% of the poor population, receives approximately 0.8% of ODA.

Figure 2
BREAKDOWN OF GROSS FLOWS OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, BY REGION, 2002 AND 2006



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Development Cooperation Report, 2007*, Paris, 2008, Statistical annex.

2. Technical cooperation

Technical cooperation is one form of official development assistance and according to OECD statistics, in 2006, it accounted for 22.7% of the total; however, this percentage has been falling since the beginning of the decade, when it was close to 28%. Technical cooperation supplements financial flows such as donations and loans, which comprise most of ODA. Relatively speaking, the region receives more technical cooperation than financial support.

Table 2
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
BY CATEGORY, 2002 AND 2006
(In billions of dollars and percentages of the whole)

	2002		2006	
	Billions of dollars	Percentage of global total	Billions of dollars	Percentage of global total
Technical cooperation	2.3	13.9	3.0	12.7
Other official development assistance	2.7	6.2	3.9	4.8
Total	5.0	8.3	6.9	6.6

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In 2002, Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 14% of technical cooperation, but only 6.2% of the other forms of development assistance, especially financial flows. In 2006, the region's share of both categories diminished, but the decline was sharper in the latter case. Unlike other regions of the world, in which most official assistance tends to consist of financial resources, in this case, almost half of this assistance is in the form of technical cooperation, a tendency that becomes more marked as more countries join the ranks of middle-income countries.

Colombia is far and away the country in the region that receives the most technical cooperation. It is followed by Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Haiti, in that order (see table 1.A of the appendix). The United States heads the list of ODA donors to Colombia, which holds fourth place among the major recipients of aid from that country, after Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan. In per capita terms, Montserrat, with just 6,000 inhabitants is the country that receives the highest amount (US\$ 370), followed by Guyana (US\$ 47). Bolivia in South America and Nicaragua in Central America are the countries that receive the most technical cooperation per person in their respective subregions (US\$ 31 and US\$ 20, respectively).

B. South-South cooperation and the United Nations system

As can be noted from the foregoing, in recent years, the international community of donors has stepped up its efforts in the area of cooperation for development. However, assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean has been shrinking, while the use of multilateral channels is also on the wane, with the contribution to the budgets of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes also declining in relative terms. Furthermore, in middle-income countries, technical cooperation activities will continue to account for a greater share than financial flows. Against this background, the performance of the ECLAC technical cooperation programme has been positive. In the early years of the decade, ECLAC allocated between US\$ 18 million and US\$ 19 million per biennium to this programme, and the figure rose to

22 million in the 2006-2007 period, using the same definitions.¹ The sharp fall in bilateral cooperation from countries outside the region was offset by increases in contributions from all other sources, including financing provided by Latin American and Caribbean countries themselves, as well as by non-governmental entities. If these trends continue, the ECLAC technical cooperation programme will tend to be based increasingly on extrabudgetary resources that can be mobilized from multilateral, regional and non-governmental sources, rather than those provided on a bilateral basis by the traditional donor countries and this will help to reinforce the South-South character of such cooperation.

Within the United Nations system, South-South cooperation has long been considered as one of the key elements for promoting development. In recent years, growing emphasis has been placed on this mechanism, since it is becoming increasingly clear that developing countries will need to make a concerted effort to share knowledge and skills if they are to attain the Millennium Development Goals. In 2003, the General Assembly, by virtue of resolution 58/220, declared 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in recognition of the renewed and growing preference for collaboration processes and the adaptability of policies, rather than global policy approaches received from the countries of the North, for furthering economic and social development.

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was launched in 2007 as one of the important new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council. Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the Forum will hold high-level meetings every other year. Participating in this new Forum will be representatives of developed and developing countries; bilateral cooperation entities; United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; the World Bank; the International Monetary Fund (IMF); OECD; regional development banks; civil society; and the private sector.

Various United Nations bodies, such as the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, will play a prominent role in promoting interaction and assistance among countries of the South. This Unit was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978. and its mandate is to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and on a United Nations system-wide basis. Under the third framework programme for South-South cooperation, which comprises the period 2005-2007, new guidelines were set for the work of the Special Unit and greater emphasis was given to cooperation in sharing resources, knowledge and skills with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Other United Nations organizations have also placed South-South cooperation at the core of their work agenda. For example, the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) incorporates intraregional cooperation mechanisms in different plans of action, such as the transfer of technology for the low-cost housing construction programmes being implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has transformed South-South cooperation processes on the basis of its activities in spheres such as the Special Programme for Food Security, whose purpose is to reduce hunger. In its work, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports regional cooperation in various areas, including trade facilitation and transport, dissemination of information on trade, and transport infrastructure planning and financing; this is leading to greater efficiency of trade and to development policies based on lower knowledge costs in different countries.

¹ Expenditure financed out of the regular budget were not included in previous reports.

The United Nations regional commissions have a special role to play in setting up cooperation mechanisms in their areas of work. Their mission, which is to contribute to the economic and social development of their regions through their policy-setting work and applied policy analysis, places them in a unique position for supporting initiatives in the area of macroeconomic policy, trade, territorial development and climate change, among other issues. These activities range from courses for direct capacity-building and seminars or participatory working groups, whose purpose is to generate debate and knowledge sharing, to consultancies and transfer of technical knowledge and skills at the regional level.

ECLAC has implemented cooperation activities in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to strengthening economic and social development. Its main objectives have been to design more effective macroeconomic policies to ensure the construction and stabilization of a sound and reliable macroeconomic framework that will be attractive to investors; to improve global trade linkages for countries of the region with a strategic focus that takes into account the specificities of each country; to strengthen ties between the public and private sectors in order to take advantage of potential synergies; to implement capacity-building programmes for increasing knowledge and action of public stakeholders at the local and national levels; to promote more efficient energy policies; and to foster greater gender equity and support social cohesion. On its own initiative or in collaboration with intra- and extraregional technical entities, ECLAC places special emphasis on taking advantage of knowledge available in developing countries to promote the advancement of the region, principally through triangular cooperation mechanisms. Regionally, working closely with Governments, the Commission seeks to promote cooperation between countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to make the most of economic opportunities and to reduce exposure to risks inherent in the globalization process. At the subregional level, networks of specialized institutions and experts have been set up to share best practices. The following section, which examines the ECLAC technical cooperation programme, presents and analyses information on the Commission's activities during the 2006-2007 biennium.

II. Cooperation activities within ECLAC, 2006-2007

A. Characteristics of ECLAC technical cooperation projects

The technical cooperation that ECLAC provides to its member States and other agencies that request it, complements and reinforces the analytical and policy-setting work of its regular programme of work. This relationship can be represented schematically as a virtuous circle between analysis, policy-setting and assistance: the Commission or other United Nations policy-making bodies hand down mandates to the secretariat for it to carry out analyses, and submit its findings, which are translated into resolutions and recommendations; member countries request technical cooperation from the secretariat in order to strengthen their institutional capacity to implement such recommendations and, in providing its cooperation, the secretariat gains experience and strengthens its own analytical capacity. Thanks to its 60 years of existence, the ECLAC secretariat now has a wealth of information, knowledge and practical experience, which place it in an excellent, and, at times, unique, position for carrying out analyses, supporting policy-setting activities and providing technical cooperation for the economic and social development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In its capacity as a regional commission of the United Nations, ECLAC conducts operational activities that are essentially related to intraregional South-South cooperation. As such, it uses specialized knowledge available in the countries of the region for the benefit of others within the region. Its technical assistance programme could, therefore, be defined as multilateral South-South cooperation and it operates mainly through the exchange of views and experiences and the establishment of networks of policymakers and experts. Several of the intergovernmental bodies that are subsidiary organs of ECLAC, such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), count among their basic objectives the promotion of horizontal and intraregional cooperation. The activities of those bodies include meetings of regional experts to analyse best practices within Latin America and the Caribbean and come up with solutions to the problems relating to economic and social development.

Technical cooperation is carried out in compliance with mandates handed down by the political bodies that govern the ECLAC system and at the request of member countries. Since the resources allocated to the secretariat through the regular channels are not sufficient to meet requests, additional financial resources must be mobilized. These are referred to as extrabudgetary resources and take the form of trust funds established under cooperation agreements. Occasionally, for very specific activities, self-financing modalities are also accepted, in which the requesting agency applying for the technical cooperation covers some of the costs of the ECLAC officials that provide it.

This section reports on technical cooperation provided by ECLAC with the specific funding referred to above. The Secretariat note presented at the thirty-first session of the Commission (Montevideo, Uruguay, 20-24 March 2006) states that the expenditure financed out of trust funds totalled

US\$ 18.6 million.² That sum did not include the Regular programme of technical cooperation, although the document reported on the activities devoted to technical assistance. Based on the same criteria as in the previous biennium, total expenditure in 2006-2007 was US\$ 24.3 million, reflecting a 31% increase over the preceding period. The inclusion of activities funded out of the regular budget for technical cooperation brings expenditure under this heading to US\$ 29.3 million and if the travel and subsistence costs that are covered by the requesting agency were to be added, the total would be in excess of US\$ 30 million.

Expenditure on technical cooperation clearly increased sharply —by more than 25%— in the 2006-2007 biennium and is a sizable component, bearing in mind that it accounts for one third of the activities carried out by the ECLAC system. The increase is attributable to several trends. The first is monetary and is due to price rises and to the exchange rate movements against the dollar, variations in the value of the currencies of the donor countries and those of the country requesting the technical assistance. The second relates to the intensity of activities, given the higher number of consultancy contracts and of participants attending working group meetings. Technical assistance missions and the number of man-months spent on projects have not increased. The third trend may relate to a qualitative improvement, since more senior staff were employed to provide a different type of assistance, with better results. These trends are documented below.

For the purposes of this report, projects are classified according to the following three types:

- (i) National projects. In general, these projects are financed by the countries themselves to address national priority issues and are thought to reflect the recognition and appropriation of the Commission's work by Governments of member countries. Projects belonging to this category, which are often conducted through the ECLAC offices in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay, also include those funded by local and sectoral entities to deal with issues of interest to them. Mention should be made of projects implemented with provincial and municipal governments in Argentina; with national institutes for health, youth and regional development in Chile; with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) in Brazil; with Nacional Financiera in Mexico; with the central banks in Dominican Republic and Uruguay; and with the Port Authority in Ecuador. Other projects in this category include those carried out with national or local non-governmental organizations, such as universities and private-sector associations.
- (ii) Regional projects. These are funded mainly by the United Nations system, multilateral organizations, donor countries and government agencies from outside the region. They are implemented when the donor's strategic interests match those of the region and fit in with the ECLAC programme of work. The Commission gives preference to multisectoral programmes under a broad thematic approach (as opposed to specific projects) and those that are carried over beyond the biennium in order to provide more in-depth technical assistance. During the 2006-2007 period, technical cooperation programmes were carried out with countries from outside the region, such as Canada (through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)), Germany (mainly with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)), Spain (through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)) and Sweden (through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)); with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); with multilateral

² Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the 2004-2005 biennium (LC/G.2306(SES.31/4)), Santiago, Chile, 2006.

donors, such as the European Commission, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ibero-American Secretariat; and with non-governmental organizations, such as the Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation. On occasion, the donor prefers to fund activities of multi-bilateral interest; this is the case with activities carried out with Denmark, France, Italy, Japan and Republic of Korea; in such cases, the project finances knowledge transfer between the donor country and the receiving region, or the issues are selected on the basis of the donor country's specialist knowledge.

- (iii) Global projects. Such projects are frequently carried out in collaboration with entities in the United Nations system, which help countries of the region to prepare for participation in global United Nations forums or to monitor and implement the outcomes of such forums. This category includes, for example, projects designed to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals of relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean. The continued support of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC is vital for the implementation of UNFPA projects in the region. Development Account projects have been particularly effective in promoting capacity-building in Latin America and the Caribbean and encouraging collaboration with other developing regions.

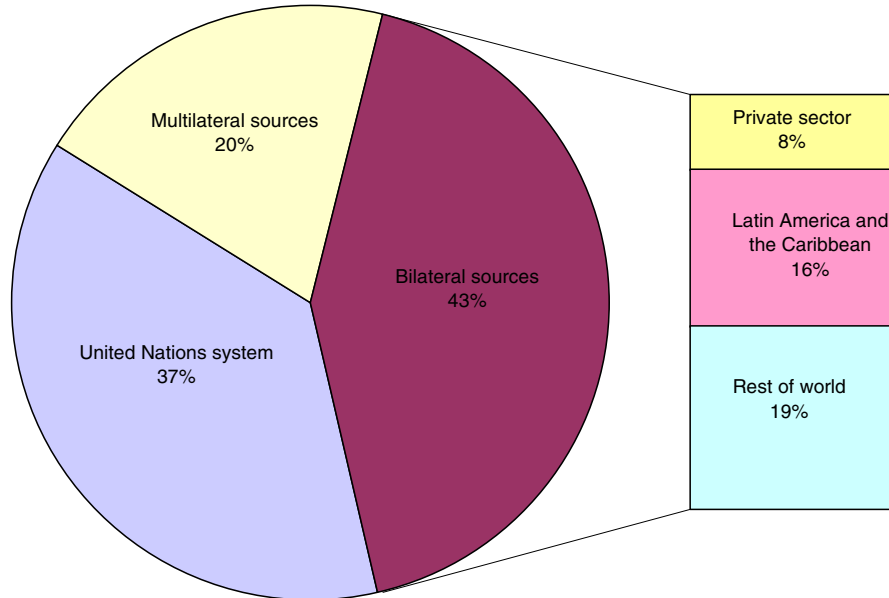
B. Sources of financing

Most ECLAC technical cooperation activities are funded with extrabudgetary resources; to be precise, US\$ 6.3 million came from the regular budget (Regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account), compared with US\$ 23 million from other sources. Extrabudgetary sources also include resources from ECLAC itself (contributions to ILPES and others), as well as from United Nations agencies, programmes and funds. As shown in figure 3, funding from the United Nations system accounts, in total, for more than one third of the cost of the ECLAC technical cooperation programme.

Financing of the ECLAC technical cooperation programme in the 2006-2007 biennium came from multilateral sources not belonging to the United Nations system as well as from bilateral sources, under which are included, for convenience, all the non-governmental sources, in proportions of 20% and 43%, respectively (see table 3).³

³ ECLAC has also signed agreements with non-governmental multilateral organizations, such as the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute, Plan International and the Global Water Partnership. Such agreements are included here under the heading "Private sector". The amounts involved are relatively small.

Figure 3
**ECLAC: BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES
 SHOWING EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDING, 2006-2007**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Table 3
ECLAC: FINANCING OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, BY SOURCE, 2006-2007

Source of resources	United States dollars	Percentages
United Nations	10 956 403	37.4
Other multilateral agencies	5 870 772	20.0
Bilateral donors	12 464 812	42.6
Governments of Latin American and Caribbean countries	4 683 647	16.0
Governments of other countries	5 481 570	18.7
Non-governmental organizations	2 299 595	7.9
Total	29 291 988	

Fuente: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

1. Sources of financing within the United Nations system

In the 2006-2007 biennium, ILPES funded cooperation activities within ECLAC amounting to US\$ 2.5 million or 8.4% of total expenditure. The Commission also has at its disposal resources generated by course tuition fees and user fees for software designed at ECLAC. Out of these funds, US\$ 400,000 were contributed to cooperation activities and accounted for 1.3% of total expenditure for this purpose (see Various contributions in table 4).

In addition to the Regular programme of technical cooperation, which contributed US\$ 5 million, ECLAC executed major projects corresponding to the fourth and fifth tranches of the Development Account, a budget apportioned by the General Assembly to finance technical cooperation activities and administered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, often in collaboration with the regional commissions. By the same token, these projects are the best examples of interregional South-South cooperation within the ECLAC technical cooperation programme.

ECLAC has, for many years, maintained very close cooperation ties with UNFPA and has undertaken to carry out substantial parts of the regular programme on population and development. In the 2006-2007 biennium, specific cooperation agreements with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO, Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), accounted for a relatively small amount of expenditure. Nevertheless, slightly over one third (37.4%) of cooperation for development activities was financed by different sources within the United Nations system.

2. Other multilateral sources of financing

The activities financed using resources from multilateral entities external to the United Nations system accounted for US\$ 5.9 million (20% of total). Of particular note is the support provided by the European Commission (see table 4), for example, for the implementation of the Alliance for the Information Society (@LIS), which consisted in drawing up the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, eLAC 2010, in order to harness progress in information and communications technologies (ICTs) with a view to promoting economic and social development in the region. Another significant activity financed by European cooperation agencies during the biennium was the Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA), which is an example par excellence of South-South cooperation within a multilateral framework; resources have also been allocated for putting into practice initiatives that advance the concept of social cohesion.

Table 4
EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION FINANCED BY ECLAC, THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER MULTILATERAL SOURCES, 2006-2007

Source of funding	US\$	Percentages
ECLAC system	2 847 842	9.7
Regular contributions to ILPES	2 472 082	8.4
Various contributions	375 760	1.3
Other sources within the United Nations system	8 108 561	27.6
Regular programme of technical cooperation	4 964 888	16.9
Regular programme on population and development	1 103 697	3.8
Development Account	1 279 796	4.4
Agreements with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes	760 000	2.6
Other multilateral sources	5 870 772	20.0
European Commission	4 019 134	13.7
Inter-American Development Bank	829 998	2.8
Ibero-American Secretariat	620 755	2.1
Other multilateral agencies	400 885	1.4

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

During the biennium, ECLAC forged close collaboration ties with the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), providing support in the preparation of the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2006, and the seventeenth Summit, which was held in Santiago, Chile, in 2007; in both cases, SEGIB and its member countries relied on ECLAC for the preparation of technical documentation. The Ibero-American organization has also boosted collaboration among its members, all of which also belong to ECLAC and, the majority of which are countries of the South.

(a) Bilateral sources: Latin America and the Caribbean

Table 5 shows that the expenses covered by contributions from countries in the region totalled US\$ 4.7 million (16% of total) during the biennium 2006-2007. ECLAC provides a varied technical cooperation programme to Argentina, especially through its office in Buenos Aires, and has agreements with no less than nine government entities and four non-governmental organizations in that country. The ECLAC office in Brasilia follows a similar pattern and lends support, in particular to the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and to the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE); the same applies in the ECLAC offices in Bogotá and Montevideo; in Chile and Mexico, where ECLAC has subregional headquarters, cooperation is provided to different government agencies and academic institutions. Other countries, such as Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, have requested the Commission to conduct substantial technical cooperation projects and have provided financing for their implementation. All of the activities that are financed on a bilateral basis with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with others that receive funding from non-governmental sources, correspond to the category of national projects referred to earlier.

Table 5
**EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION FINANCED BY ECLAC WITH BILATERAL AND
NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, 2006-2007**

Source of financing	US\$	Percentages
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	4 683 647	16
Governments of other countries	5 481 570	18.7
Canada	1 212 344	4.1
France	179 995	0.6
Germany	2 552 488	8.7
Italy	594 735	2
Japan	46 560	0.2
Republic of Korea	115 300	0.4
Spain	284 465	1
Sweden	417 380	1.4
United Kingdom	40 969	0.1
United States	37 311	0.1
Non-governmental organizations	2 299 595	7.9
Ford Foundation	156 051	0.5
Kellogg Foundation	1 582 125	5.4
Others	561 419	1.9

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The contribution of Governments of countries of the region, including bilateral funding to the ILPES contribution to cooperation, stands at approximately US\$ 7 million (25% of total).

(b) Bilateral sources: other countries

Financing for technical cooperation in the form of trust funds received bilaterally by ECLAC from Governments of other countries stood at US\$ 5.5 million (18.7% of total) in the biennium 2006-2007. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) maintains a multi-year, multisectoral programme that covers a broad range of priority issues for the executing agency, in which German cooperation has comparative advantages. The Government of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) also supports several major projects relating to the information society and other important issues.

In many cases, the contribution of the donor countries of the region results in triangular cooperation in the sense that the projects funded by third countries employ experts from Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out cooperation activities in countries of the subcontinent. This applies to IDRC projects and most of the components of the programmes financed by GTZ of Germany, SIDA of Sweden and AECI of Spain. In specific cases, such as collaboration referred to above with Denmark, France, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the projects prioritize bilateral cooperation ties.

(c) Non-governmental sources

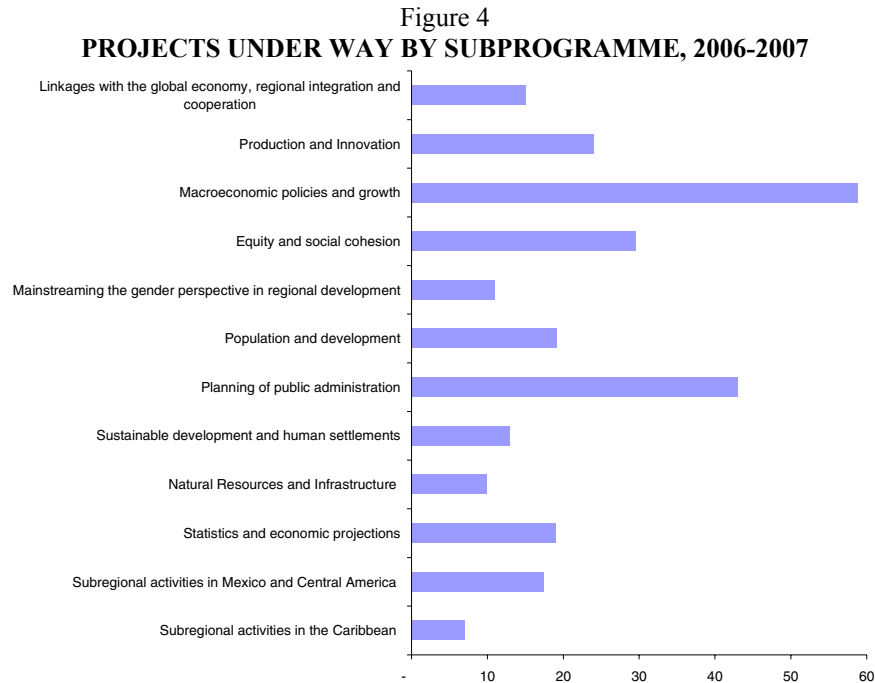
The private sector (foundations, universities, non-governmental entities) financed US\$ 2.3 million (7.9% of total expenditure for the biennium), as may be seen in table 6. The principal donor was the Kellogg Foundation, which contributed US\$ 1.6 million (5.4% of total), mainly through the contest Experiences in social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by ECLAC since 2004 in order to identify, analyse, recognize and disseminate innovative experiences in areas such as community health, primary education, youth programmes, income generation, rural/agricultural development, food security and nutrition, social responsibility and volunteerism. The Ford Foundation, for its part, financed 0.5% of expenditure. The interest demonstrated by certain associations and sectoral groupings in receiving technical assistance from ECLAC is noteworthy. Assistance was sought on specific issues, as exemplified by the agreements with the Argentine Beef Promotion Board (IPCVA), or with the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute, for analysing medium- and long-term consumption projections. Traditional collaboration which ECLAC maintains with universities and research institutes, both within and outside the region, accounted for 1.9% of total expenditure in 2006-2007.

C. Activities

During the 2006-2007 biennium, 267 projects were executed, divided up among the 12 ECLAC subprogrammes (see figure 4). This figure reflects a 48% increase with respect to activities registered in the period 2004-2005. These data suggest that the average amount spent per project in the biennium was close to US\$ 90,000 and that this amount therefore represents the average profile of an ECLAC project.

Macroeconomic policies and growth, the subject of Subprogramme 3, is the main thematic area, with a 23% share of total projects. The activities relating to this subprogramme are implemented by the Economic Development Division of ECLAC, in collaboration with the ECLAC offices in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. The fact that there are so many projects in this thematic area is due precisely to the considerable number of technical cooperation activities conducted under this subprogramme in the ECLAC offices in these countries. The subprogramme with the second highest proportion of projects (16%) is subprogramme 7, Planning of Public Administration. This is implemented

by ILPES, which is in charge of training activities on behalf of ECLAC. Many of the projects carried out under this subprogramme are training courses. Subprogramme 4, Equity and social cohesion, comes third, with 11% of the total number of projects.



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data for December 2007.

1. Technical assistance missions

In the 2006-2007 biennium, ECLAC officials and consultants conducted a total of 1,541 technical assistance missions, down slightly from the number for the preceding biennium (1,564). This suggests that while there was an expansion in technical cooperation, the actual number of trips was not higher.

Technical assistance missions are financed through the regular programme and extrabudgetary funding, or directly by agencies that request the assistance. Approximately one third (527) of the missions are carried out at the invitation of the requesting entities.

Table 6 shows the breakdown of technical assistance by geographical area and by the three main areas of work: economic, social and environmental. The figures are very similar to those for the preceding biennium, but vary in emphasis: the economic area has consolidated its position as the area of highest demand (49.1% in comparison with 43.5% in 2004-2005), and the number of missions to Central American countries and Mexico has shown a relative increase in this area. Nevertheless, technical assistance missions continue to show a balanced structure, both geographically and in terms of thematic coverage.

Table 6
ECLAC: NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND THEMATIC AREA, 2005-2006

	Economic area	Social area	Environmental area	Total	Percentage breakdown by geographic area
Central America and Mexico	225	119	107	451	29.3
South America	459	226	194	879	57.0
Caribbean	73	66	72	211	13.7
Total	757	411	373	1541	100.0
Percentage breakdown by thematic area	49.1	26.7	24.2	100.0	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Map 1
ECLAC: TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS BY COUNTRY AND THEMATIC AREA, 2006-2007



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

(a) Missions in the economic area of work

The predominant thematic area in technical assistance missions undertaken by ECLAC is economics and is covered mainly by the Economic Development Division, the Division of International Trade and Integration, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the subregional headquarters, national offices and the economic area of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division. The increased number of requests reflects higher demand in the areas of international trade, regional integration and competitiveness, with 171 missions undertaken during the biennium. These are followed by: local and regional development; macroeconomic policies; sectoral policies in the productive sphere; and financing for development, by order of the number of requests fulfilled.

Table 7
ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY ISSUE, ECONOMIC ISSUES, 2006-2007

	Economic issues	Number	Percentage
1	International trade/Trade agreements/Competitiveness/Regional integration	171	22.6
2	Economic development/Financing for development	79	10.4
3	Local and regional development	119	15.7
4	Productive development/Industrial policy/Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)/Production clusters	86	11.4
5	Statistics and national accounts	60	7.9
6	Public management, budgetary policies and public investment	82	10.8
7	Macroeconomic/fiscal policy and coordination	87	11.5
8	Information and communications technologies (ICTs), Innovation, Information society, Intellectual property	73	9.6
	Total	757	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

(b) Missions in the social area of work

The social area is covered mainly by the Social Development Division, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the Women and Development Division, the Social Statistics Area of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, and the subregional headquarters. During the 2006-2007 biennium, a total of 411 technical assistance missions were conducted. The breakdown, by sub-category, is very even, with the first place being held by statistics and indicators, which include the missions for monitoring the degree of fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. Under social policies, social protection and cohesion, two areas that received priority attention at the previous session, were the most important topics.

Table 8
ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TOPIC, SOCIAL ISSUES 2006-2007

Social issues	Number	Percentage
Demography and information/Social statistics	72	17.5
Development and social policy	57	13.9
Youth/Childhood/Family/Ageing/Population	64	15.6
Millennium Development Goals: gender equality and empowerment of women	51	12.4
Millennium Development Goals: Poverty/Hunger/Undernutrition/Education	71	17.3
Migration	27	6.6
Social protection and cohesion	69	16.8
	411	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Map 2
ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, ECONOMIC ISSUES 2006-2007



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map 3

ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, SOCIAL ISSUES, 2006-2007

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

(c) Missions relating to the environment and sustainable development

Table 9

ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TOPIC, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2006-2007

Sustainable development	Number	Percentage
Climate change	19	5.1
Environmental law and economics	30	8
Natural disasters	79	21.2
Energy	111	29.8
Millennium Development Goal 7: Environmental impact assessment and sustainability	66	17.7
Natural resources and infrastructure	68	18.2
	373	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The issue of sustainable development falls under the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division and the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, as well as the subregional headquarters in Mexico and the Caribbean. During the 2006-2007 biennium, 373 missions were conducted in this thematic area. The predominant sub-category was energy, which accounted for one third of missions, followed by natural resources and infrastructure. Environmental sustainability, which is covered by Millennium Development Goal 7, was also the subject of a significant number of technical missions; the same is true, unfortunately, of the issue of the socio-economic impact of natural disasters.

Map 4
ECLAC: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY THEMATIC AREA, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 2006-2007



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

D. Subprogramme activities and their linkages with the Millennium Development Goals and South-South cooperation

Subprogramme 1: Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation

The objective of this subprogramme is to reinforce the integration of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the global economy as well as regional cooperation and subregional, regional and hemispheric integration models. The Division of International Trade and Integration is responsible for its implementation and works in collaboration with the ECLAC Office in Washington, D.C., from which it receives contributions.

The activities that fall under this subprogramme are linked to Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. The project described below supports strengthening South-South cooperation in relation to this goal.



Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine for growth through knowledge management and information and communications technologies
Donor: Development account



With ECLAC as the lead agency, all the United Nations regional economic commissions (ECLAC, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) have collaborated on the implementation of this joint project, which supports the Millennium Development Goals as well as the particular goals of the Development Account, while building on the specific advantages of each regional commission and benefiting from the varying development situations existing in the different regions. The project seeks to strengthen the international competitiveness and bargaining power of developing countries by sharing knowledge on problems and best practices in the various countries and regions in the areas of trade promotion and diversification; to achieve greater participation by small and medium-sized enterprises in global supply networks by designing and implementing trade facilitation policies at the national and regional levels; and to promote greater use of knowledge management and information and communications technologies (ICTs) in supply chain management. The project has been successful in promoting the understanding and implementation of trade facilitation instruments and in supporting World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiators in their deliberations on the issue. The activities have helped to spread knowledge and technical expertise relating to trade facilitation among the regional economic commissions.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/comercio/>

Subprogramme 2: Production and innovation

This subprogramme seeks to strengthen the capacity of the countries of the region to prepare and implement macroeconomic and sectoral policies aimed at promoting production, innovation and knowledge systems, taking due account of their economic, social and environmental conditions and their linkages with the global economy. The execution of this subprogramme is the responsibility of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, which works in collaboration with the ECLAC Office in Brasilia.

The activities of this subprogramme are related to Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. The following is a description of a project that seeks to strengthen South-South cooperation in this area.



Modernization of the State, Productive Development, and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Component 2: Promotion of productive development.

Donor: German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)



gtz

Within the framework of the cooperation programme between ECLAC and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC promoted the establishment of mechanisms for integration and knowledge sharing both among countries and subnationally, with a view to fostering the establishment of integrated development schemes in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC has created and is consolidating networks of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the national level, an initiative that seeks to improve the capacity of countries to define a common and integrated policy for industrialization and export. To this end, it has conducted missions in countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and El Salvador, during which it has organized workshops with public-sector institutions and private-sector stakeholders. It has also set in motion a process for comparing successful experiences and best practices among countries of the region; one of the outcomes of this activity has been the preparation of a manual of technological policies, which proposes solutions that take into account the specificities of the countries of the region, on the basis of the experiences compiled by the working group. A database on technological policies has also been set up for use by the network of public stakeholders generated by the project.

Strengthening networks of private stakeholders at the subnational level, and of members of political institutions at the regional level has become a key element for improving integration and coordination among countries in terms of the preparation of policies for development.

Internet link : <http://www.eclac.cl/id.asp?id=23727>

Subprogramme 3: Políticas macroeconómicas y crecimiento

This subprogramme seeks to strengthen the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to prepare and implement macroeconomic policies with a view to achieving long-term growth. The implementation of the relevant activities comes under the Economic Development Division, which works in collaboration with the ECLAC offices in Bogotá, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The activities of subprogramme 3 are related to Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. The Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA), which is described briefly below, operates to strengthen South-South cooperation in this area.



Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA II)
Donor: European Union



Since 2005, ECLAC, with support from the European Union, has been implementing the second phase of the project Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA II), which is designed to provide technical support for the Latin American integration processes. This project fosters macroeconomic dialogue and sharing of good practices between decision-makers and high-level officials of the ministries of finance and the central banks of the region.

Meetings are organized with representatives of the Andean Community (REDIMACAN), Central America (REDIMACA) and MERCOSUR, plus Chile (REDIMASUR). South-South cooperation is fostered through the creation of channels for dialogue and sharing of good practices in macroeconomic issues, including fiscal aspects of convergence of the economies, debt management and the role of regional reserve funds. The meeting of the REDIMACAN group (24 October 2006) enabled countries to share experiences and good practices on coordination of public spending in relation to transport infrastructure and the repercussions of the free-trade agreements in the Andean Community countries. Similarly, at the REDIMACA meeting (7 and 8 June 2006), discussions were held on issues relating to changes in the subregion in terms of growth, public spending in Central America and the Dominican Republic and the efficiency of the alignment of the exchange rates in the subregion. For its part, the REDIMASUR meeting (26 October 2006) addressed macroeconomic asymmetries between countries of the subregion and their impact on integration processes, as well as the opportunities emerging on the derivatives markets.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/redima/>

Subprogramme 4: Equity and social cohesion

The activities listed under this subprogramme seek to speed up poverty reduction and achieve social equity in the region. They are the responsibility of the Social Development Division and are linked to Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The project outlined below supports strengthening South-South cooperation in relation to these goals.



Social cohesion: Inclusion and a sense of belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dissemination and debate in the region
Donor: Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB)



ECLAC and the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) collaborated on and published the results of an analytical and conceptual research project on social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of the European experience. This study was presented at the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Santiago, Chile), and as a result the issue of social cohesion and its determining economic and social factors was incorporated into the working agenda of member countries and public policy recommendations were put forward on the basis of the European experience and ECLAC analyses.

The Commission and SEGIB decided, however, to go further and raise the issue from the perspective of the peculiarities of the different Latin American and Caribbean countries; this necessitated the establishment of a mechanism for triangular cooperation in which the work of these bodies as well as the inputs provided by the countries of the region would be integrated in order to share experiences and appropriate solutions for consolidating social cohesion. Three subregional seminars were held in which the representatives of the public institutions of neighbouring countries could discuss and deepen the proposed recommendations for improving social cohesion in relation to the specific characteristics of their societies.

Triangular cohesion is one of the Commission's priorities in the area of technical cooperation; this emphasis is justifiable in view of the positive results obtained for example in this project, in which countries have pledged to work together to work out efficient policies in the area of social cohesion.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/dds>

Subprogramme 5: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into the regional development process

The objective of this subprogramme is to mainstream the objectives relating to gender equity into the principal public policies of Latin American and Caribbean countries by strengthening institutionalization of those that contemplate a gender perspective. The implementation of the activities of this subprogramme, which consists of a single thematic area, is the responsibility of the Women and Development Division. The subprogramme relates to Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. The project presented below supports the strengthening of South-South cooperation in this area.



Elaboration of Gender Indicators for English-speaking Caribbean Countries
Donor: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)



Objective: To provide policymakers in Caribbean countries with relevant up-to-date information on crucial problems of gender inequity in the subregion and the consequences for women and men. Organization of a joint workshop with experts from national machineries for women and statistical offices of Caribbean countries.

The main objective was to evaluate the available data in the databases of Caribbean organizations and the United Nations system and to analyse selected national experiences in the production and use of gender statistics, in a context of dialogue between producers and users of gender indicators.

Participants included representatives of national machineries for women or national statistical offices, or both, of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as representatives of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and the Women and Development Division of ECLAC, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), the Barbados office of UNDP, the UNFPA regional office for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean Countries, the UNIFEM Caribbean Regional Office and the University of the West Indies Centre for Gender and Development Studies.

The main recommendations of the meeting include concrete initiatives for harmonizing gender indicator concepts and methodologies, at both the national and regional level; encouraging coordination between producers and users at the national level to facilitate the establishment of national statistical systems; devoting more attention to dissemination and communication; and addressing migration issues from a gender perspective.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer>

Subprogramme 6: Population and development

Este subprograma responde a la necesidad de mejorar la generación de información sociodemográfica. This subprogramme responds to the need to improve the generation of sociodemographic information and knowledge on demographic issues to enable countries of the region to use these inputs in their social programming.

Under the direction of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC, the activities of the subprogramme relate to Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 4: Reduce child mortality; and Goal 5: Improve maternal health. The project presented below supports strengthening South-South cooperation in these areas.



CELADE/UNFPA Regional programme on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005-2007
Donor: United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)



Objective: To strengthen the capabilities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the design, monitoring and evaluation of population-related policies and programmes aimed at improving the quality of life, particularly of the most vulnerable groups, within a framework of human rights and poverty reduction.

ECLAC meetings on management and financing of policies that affect families are opportunities for reflection and discussion by experts and family policy officers, non-governmental organizations of the region and bodies within the United Nations system. The objective is to bring a new diagnostic approach to the study of the situation of the entities responsible for policies and programmes for the family and to identify challenges and advances in the execution of such policies and programmes at a time of change for State institutions and budgetary constraints and difficulties. Ways must be found of determining such policies and programmes and coordinating them with the rest of the State and local apparatus.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/celade>

Subprogramme 7: Planning of public administration

The objective of this subprogramme is to improve public-sector administration in countries of the region in the area of planning, budget management and local development. The relevant activities come under the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which acts as the training centre of the ECLAC system. In this area, it fully supports South-South cooperation, as exemplified by the project outlined below.



Modernization of the State, Productive Development and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
Component 1: Management of Local and Regional Economic Development and Fiscal Management
Donor: German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

gtz

As part of the ECLAC programme of work for 2004-2005, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), held seminars, workshops and training courses for representatives of national and subnational governments and other public agencies in the region.

These activities were centred on the following areas: (i) strategic budgetary planning for the public sector (based on promotion of methodologies and practices for multi-year expenditure programming, participatory budget formulation and evaluation of the performance of public programmes, among others), and (ii) design and implementation of strategic management instruments for local or regional development and for improving territorial competitiveness. This programme has given rise to major contributions to South-South cooperation, since in this context, the proposal is to consider the advances of reforms carried out in different countries of the region and share these findings with those responsible for public policy formulation in Latin America and the Caribbean. With these targets in view, ILPES organized during the biennium six international workshops and eight national training workshops, as well as the regional seminar on fiscal policy, which it holds each year with support from BMZ, GTZ and other international agencies. This seminar, which brings together at ECLAC headquarters senior representatives of fiscal policy from all the countries of the region, has become a forum for sharing sound fiscal practices and for including new issues in national fiscal programmes. The seminars and training workshops organized under this project, and the above-mentioned seminar, have been excellent instruments for disseminating initiatives and have yielded positive results in a number of countries of the region; they have also promoted the exchange of good practices among participants.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/ilpes>

Subprogramme 8: Environment and human settlements

This subprogramme serves to improve integration of environmental and urban management objectives into policies relating to the economy, social development and land use within the framework of sustainable development. The Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC assumes responsibility for conducting the relevant activities, which seek to promote the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

The programme described below illustrates how these activities strengthen South-South cooperation.



Environmental management training programme for Latin America and the Caribbean
Donor: Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)



With the cooperation of the Government of Sweden, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division has implemented a training programme in environmental management for officials from environment ministries to instruct them in the methodological basis of environmental management and to enable them to benefit from the lessons learned from successful initiatives. Between 2006 and 2007, over 450 participants from 18 countries of the region received training and, in many of the countries of the region, sustainability evaluation exercises were launched on the basis of the knowledge and methodologies shared during the workshops. Officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico participated actively in this South-South cooperation by sharing with other participants their experiences in developing systems of national indicators. Some former participants of the courses have become trainers themselves, both in international courses and in their home countries. The training courses and workshops have also given rise to a network of participants that has made a significant contribution to the exchange of experiences and knowledge among the countries concerned.

Source: Online, <http://www.eclac.cl/dmaah>

Subprogramme 9: Natural resources and infrastructure

The purpose of this subprogramme is to promote the adoption of practices recommended for the sustainable management of natural resources and to improve access by the population to more efficient public services and infrastructure. The subprogramme is assigned to the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division. Its activities relate to Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

The following programme shows how this subprogramme reinforces South-South cooperation.



Programme Modernization of the State, Productive Development, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
Component 3: Comprehensive management of natural resources for sustainable development.
Donor: German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)



Within the cooperation programme with the German Federal Ministry of Cooperation and Development and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the ECLAC Division of Natural Resources and Infrastructure implemented the component on Comprehensive management of natural resources for sustainable development. The project seeks to enable countries of Latin America and Caribbean to apply new concepts and instruments to the comprehensive management of natural resources for sustainable development. Among the activities of the programme in 2006-2007 were a number of seminars and meetings in which representatives of member countries discussed proposals drawn up within the framework of the project, thus strengthening South-South cooperation. In July 2006, in the framework of an international seminar on agroenergy and biofuels, held in Santiago and organized by FAO and the Government of Chile, the ECLAC Concept Proposal on Biofuels was presented for the consideration of countries of the region. In September 2006, the Ibero-American Interministerial Meeting on Renewable Energies brought together Latin American energy and industry authorities in Montevideo, Uruguay, under the auspices of SEGIB, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Uruguay. ECLAC presented the document "Renewable Energies in Latin America and the Caribbean: two years after the Bonn Conference" (LC/W.100-P).

Source: Online, <http://www.eclac.cl/drni>

Subprogramme 10: Statistics and economic projections

This subprogramme is designed to improve the production and dissemination of statistical information and indicators with a view to the adoption and follow-up of economic and social policies in the region. The relevant activities are the responsibility of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, which, by virtue of its interdisciplinary mandate, collaborates closely with the other ECLAC divisions. Its support contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty.

South-South cooperation is advanced through activities such as the one described below.



Strengthening the Capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to Fulfil the Millennium Development Goals
Donor: Development Account



Objective: To strengthen the capacity of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, adjusted according to their realities, by strengthening capacities to generate and disseminate quality information on a timely basis and to analyse information and formulate policies.

The training workshop and the expert meetings organized by the project have helped to raise awareness of the importance of obtaining accurate and reliable information for monitoring progress towards the Goals. They have enabled statisticians to share experiences and learn from each other, thereby fostering South-South Cooperation. Future country reports are expected to show an improvement in the design of indicators and to allow better monitoring of the Goals.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/mdg>

Subprogramme 11: Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America

The Subregional Headquarters for Mexico and Central America is responsible for the execution of this subprogramme, which seeks to support countries of the subregion in their efforts to achieve dynamic, sustainable and qualitatively stable economic development, together with an inclusive and just social development underpinned by a sound democratic institutional framework, in order to enable the subregion to advance towards the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. The activities contemplated relate to those Goals, in particular Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, and Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

The project described below illustrates how South-South cooperation is promoted within this framework.



**Strengthening Competition in the Central American Isthmus:
National Policies and Institutions, Regional Coordination and
Participation in International Negotiations**
Donor: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada



The objective of the project was to strengthen institutional capacity in competition policy for the benefit of consumers and producers in Central American countries. At the start of the project (February 2004), only two countries had an anti-trust law in Central America (Costa Rica and Panama) and by the end of 2006, five of them had enacted such laws and only one country remained without the appropriate legal and institutional framework.

As part of the project, 18 studies on competition were completed for six Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) and three others were produced on Mexico (most of the latter were funded by ECLAC). These cover three sets of issues; the first, on a general legal and institutional framework for competition; the second, on competition and regulation in the telecommunications sector, and the third on competition and regulation in the banking sector.

In addition, three comparative papers were prepared on the basis of national studies for each topic. Lastly, a comparative study on Argentine and Brazilian competition policies and another on the effectiveness of technical assistance on competition in developing countries were produced.

Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean

The implementation of this subprogramme is the responsibility of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which also serves as the secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The activities conducted within this framework seek to support countries of the subregion in their efforts to achieve economic and social development that is dynamic, sustainable and equitable, improve linkages with the global economy and consolidate their integration in such a way as to ensure that, together, they may fulfil the Millennium Development Goals. The subprogramme is linked directly to these Goals, in particular Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, and Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

The project outlined below is an example of the activities which help to foster South-South cooperation in this subregion.



**Policies for improving the productivity of small and medium-sized
enterprises by strengthening corporate networks**
Donor: Government of Italy



In this project, the component devoted to the Caribbean seeks to strengthen the capacity of public agencies of countries of the subregion to design active policies and instruments for promoting the formation of SME networks.

The countries of the Caribbean took timely measures to overcome the small scale of their domestic economies through subregional integration. The efforts of the Caribbean Community to create a broader regional market through the establishment of a common external tariff were part of a lengthy, at times, lacklustre, process.

Some of the smaller island States belonging to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States have achieved advances by consolidating a currency union and more effective functional collaboration. The Caribbean Community, for its part, is continuing to progress towards its goal of establishing the CARICOM single market and economy. In turn, some countries are negotiating free trade agreements: these include the agreements between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic; Belize and Central America; and Guyana and Suriname, on the one hand, and Brazil, on the other. Talks are also under way aimed at arriving at an economic association agreement with the European Union. All of these efforts prefigure an intensification of competitiveness in regional markets, a reality which small and medium-sized enterprises in the Caribbean will have to confront.

Annex 1

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA), BY COUNTRY AND PER CAPITA, 2006

Country	ODA in millions of 2006 dollars	Population in thousands of persons	Per capita ODA
Anguilla	0.37	12	30.8
Antigua and Barbuda	0.44	84	5.2
Argentina	55.21	38971	1.4
Aruba	...	104	
Bahamas	...	327	
Barbados	2.81	293	9.6
Belize	4.76	282	16.9
Bolivia	303.79	9627	31.6
Brazil	208.44	190 128	1.1
Cayman Islands	...		
Chile	51.76	16 436	3.1
Colombia	779.71	45 518	17.1
Costa Rica	29.79	4 399	6.8
Cuba	37.11	11 249	3.3
Dominica	1.36	68	20.0
Dominican Republic	69.76	9 608	7.3
Ecuador	148.41	13 404	11.1
El Salvador	75.02	6 991	10.7
Grenada	1.16	106	10.9
Guatemala	120.82	13 018	9.3
Guyana	35.04	739	47.4
Haiti	195.29	9 445	20.7
Honduras	90.73	7033	12.9
Jamaica	27.68	2699	10.3
Mexico	198.25	105 258	1.9
Montserrat	2.2	6	366.7
Netherlands Antilles	...	189	
Nicaragua	116.33	5 530	21.0
Panama	37.95	3 283	11.6
Paraguay	50.68	6 009	8.4
Peru	327.23	27 574	11.9
Saint Kitts-Nevis	0.31	50	6.2
Saint Lucia	4.09	120	34.1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2.14	163	13.1
Suriname	7.25	455	15.9
Trinidad and Tobago	4.15	1 328	3.1
Turks and Caicos	0.31	25	12.4
Uruguay	15.66	3 324	4.7
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	32.16	27 007	1.2
Virgin Islands (UK)	...	111	
Latin America and the Caribbean	3 038.17		

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).