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IN THE PERIOD 1975-1977

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REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

(Havana, Cuba, 31 October to
4 November 1975)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT
ITS FIRST SESSION

1 (I) PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling that CEPAL resolution 358 (XVI) requested the Executive Secretary to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen the co-operation of the other member States of CEPAL and Latin American integration groupings with the Committee;

Stressing that the aforementioned resolution emphasized that such studies should be directed especially toward those countries within the spheres of action of the CEPAL offices in Mexico and Bogotá;

1. Invites the Associated Members and observers present at the first session in Havana - Belize, the West Indies Associated States and the Netherlands Antilles - to attend all future sessions and meetings of the Committee;

2. Decides that when approving its programme of specialized meetings or calling any such specialized meeting, it will determine what other Caribbean States coming within the spheres of activity of the CEPAL offices in Mexico and Bogotá should be invited to attend as observers.

2 (I) POSSIBLE AREAS OF CO-OPERATION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE WITH OTHER MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF CEPAL

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which recommends the establishment of a Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and which in its operative paragraph 3, requests the Executive Secretary to undertake studies and promote initiatives designed to strengthen co-operation between the member countries of the said Committee and the other member countries of CEPAL and integration groupings in Latin America;

Recognizing that the possibilities for the co-operation called for in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 358 (XVI) are most immediately promising among the countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL offices in Port of Spain, Mexico and Bogotá, because of their geographic proximity and community of interests;

Reaffirming the need to maintain and strengthen Latin American co-ordination and solidarity,

1. Reiterates the request made by CEPAL to the Executive Secretary to undertake, without further delay, a study aimed at identifying concrete activities that would contribute to strengthening the co-operation between member countries of the Committee and other member countries of the Commission within the sphere of action of the CEPAL offices in Mexico and Bogotá;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and pertinent United Nations specialized agencies to support the initiative referred to in the previous paragraph.

REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Caracas, Venezuela, 30 June to 4 July 1975

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE DECLARATION OF CARACAS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The representatives of the Governments participating in the Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements, having come to the following conclusions:

- The magnitude and characteristics of the problem of human settlements and their future trends represent a challenge to all the countries of the world, and especially to the developing countries, which require priority attention. In certain cases, this situation calls, for the adoption of economic, social and administrative structural changes to permit the formulation of national development plans and operational action aimed at securing the full and dignified existence of mankind in his environment;

- Unsuitable human settlements affect the essential objective of all economic and social development in that they affect man, the quality of his life, and that of his environment;

- The problems of human settlements must be considered within the overall picture of the economic and social development of peoples, and not an isolated basis. This development process is seriously affected by the unfair international trade relations, and this particularly affects the nature of human settlements, so that it is even more necessary to set up a new international economic order and achieve effective control of transnational enterprises;

- Land is the essential resource for both urban and rural human settlements. This makes it essential to recognize the need to consider land as a resource which should be subject to public control. Public ownership of the land is not an end in itself, but it is the fundamental

/instrument for

instrument for the achievement of the basic economic and social reforms designed to make possible the proper execution of national human settlement policies;

- The dramatic present situation and future prospects of human settlements call for the adoption of new land occupation ethics and a change in fundamental attitudes towards the growth of the cities. In essence, there is an urgent need to take measures to reduce the tremendous gap which exists between rural and urban areas as regards services and opportunities and to ensure the proper preservation of land for agricultural use;

- International co-operation in the field of human settlements must be very considerably expanded, both in its financial aspects and as regards technical assistance and the training of human resources. Furthermore, such co-operation should be provided on the basis of flexible operational criteria suited to the specific conditions of each country;

- The 1976 World Conference in Vancouver will represent a unique opportunity to exchange experience, solutions and political and social arrangements to facilitate the adoption by Governments of the decisions which are indispensable in order to face the challenge of man, his environment and his manner of life on this earth. Therefore, in view of the foregoing and bearing in mind that each country will apply measures in the manner considered most appropriate within the framework of its economic and social conditions, the representatives of the participating countries,

Recommend:

1. That the highest political, financial and social priority should be given to the question of human settlements.

/2. That

2. That the well-ordered and systematic growth of human settlements should be promoted so as to raise the social efficiency and quality of life of the peoples. While Governments should take the lead in this process, the peoples themselves should play an active and creative part in it.

3. That national policies of the following type should be established for the planning and ordering of human settlements:

(a) Such policies should be integrated with the economic and social development effort;

(b) They should cover, in a single co-ordinated approach, the whole range of sectoral policies affecting human settlements;

(c) They should include policies at the national, regional, metropolitan and municipal level, with clear assignment of fields of competence and resources.

4. That as a general principle, a bigger proportion of national income should be allocated to the improvement of human settlements. To this end, suitable measures should be taken for the promotion of savings (including systems of protection from the effects of inflation) and their mobilization towards the long-term financing of housing and urban and rural development.

5. That an essential objective of human habitat policies should be the correction of present shortcomings, the reduction of differences in styles of life, the conservation and proper distribution of scarce resources and the raising of the quality of human life in general.

6. That within the systems of present and future cities, the development and organization of intermediate population units with sufficient dynamism to counteract the attraction of the big cities should be promoted. In addition, the population distribution within the territory of each country should be kept in line with the possibilities of regional development; the flows of migrants from the country to the city should be regulated, taking into account freedom of movement; and the geographically dispersed part of the population should be grouped together in settlements which will enable them to obtain the benefits of development.

/7. That

7. That the full participation of the population in decisions directly and indirectly affecting the quality of their habitat should be encouraged.

8. That emphasis should be placed on the need to give land ownership a clear sense of social function and to reformulate the traditional concepts regarding landholding, creating when necessary new laws and new policies to facilitate the execution of real urban and rural reforms and changes which will permit Governments:

(a) To play an active role in the process of the incorporation of land into cities by determining suitable areas of expansion and layouts for urban areas; laying down a well-ordered rate for their growth; stamping out land speculation, and assigning land to the most suitable purposes from the social point of view.

(b) To preserve the agricultural land needed for the present and future food production needs of mankind.

9. That measures should be taken for the recovery by the State or by its public agencies of future increases in the price of land caused by its relative scarcity, the funds thus recovered being used for purposes of general social benefit.

10. That measures should be taken to ensure that the State has the capacity and right to acquire land for future public use at a price which should in no case be higher than that prevailing before the development plans for that land were announced.

11. That each country should set up public bodies at the highest political level, integrated into the system of economic and social planning, to be responsible for the preparation, promotion and co-ordination of national policies for urban and rural human settlements.

12. That an appraisal should be made of the desirability of establishing national funds for financing investments with sufficient capacity to collaborate with the decentralized public agencies responsible for executing national human settlement policies.

/13. That

13. That there should be an expansion of the capacity of the authorities of metropolitan areas to:

(a) Plan the economic, physical and social development of the areas under their jurisdiction on an integral basis within the framework, norms and guidelines of the national planning policy;

(b) To provide public services of a metropolitan nature, especially in such aspects as land use, water supply, environmental protection and transport and communications services;

(c) To co-ordinate the execution of programmes having metropolitan implications by the municipalities coming within their area;

(d) To co-ordinate the activities of national, federal or local bodies operating within their area.

14. That public corporations should be set up which can intervene in the land market, the execution and operation of public services, and the promotion of the measures needed to improve the habitat.

15. That a primary objective of human settlement policies should be attention to urban and rural marginal areas through the determination of strategies and the adoption of measures to guarantee full employment and the generation of income for the inhabitants. In the short term, dwellings should be made available which are well located with respect to the other activities, which have suitable services for all, and which are of a type in keeping with human dignity.

16. That the powers of decision-making and execution should be decentralized so as to increase the participation of the communities and individuals in the planning and execution of programmes for the improvement of the habitat within a primarily humanistic concept.

17. That national Governments should assume bigger responsibilities in promoting the updating of political, administrative and financial structures to enable cities to comply with minimum urbanization requirements. In addition, they should promote the rational utilization of scarce resources, further the establishment of basic norms, and provide financial and administrative support for local programmes.

/18. That

18. That the conceptions of administrative institutions and of the existing legislation should be revised so as to make possible new designs of cities and guide their integral growth, to preserve the agricultural land in their zones of influence for agricultural and recreational use, and to protect the urban and suburban environment from contamination and deterioration.

19. That new forms of transport should be adopted which enable the use of private motorcars to be reduced so as to achieve better utilization of scarce resources and factors.

20. That a set of criteria and minimum standards regarding human settlements should be adopted, framed like a declaration of human rights. These specific criteria or minimum standards only have significance within the framework of the cultural, social, economic and ecological conditions of each people, and their determination is consequently the responsibility of each people, with the active participation of the local communities.

21. That special note should be taken of the harm that can be done by the transfer from developed countries of standards and criteria which are not adapted to the developing countries and can only be adopted by privileged minorities in the latter, so that their effect is to render still more acute the prevailing inequalities, waste of resources and cultural and ecological decay.

22. That, in addition to formulating minimum standards, maximum rights should also be fixed in the light of the cultural, social and ecological conditions of each people in order to avoid scarce resources being accumulated and consumed by a minority of the population and thus preventing satisfaction of the needs of the majorities.

23. That the programmes of international financial bodies should be oriented towards the development of national settlement policies having the necessary flexibility for the various uses of the funds provided under such programmes; similarly, advantage should be taken of the solutions which have proved successful in the various national programmes and care should be taken to see that such experiments are

/evaluated and

evaluated and their results disseminated so as to facilitate the spread of new technologies and their transfer from country to country.

24. That a special United Nations Habitat Programme should be set up to carry out the work of promotion, co-ordination and technical assistance in matters connected with human settlements, giving priority to developing countries which request its aid. The headquarters of such a special programme should be located in one of the developing countries.

25. That a network of Latin American centres should be set up for training, technical assistance, scientific and technological research, and dissemination work on priority aspects of urban and human settlements. To this end, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should convene subregional meetings before the end of the year so that the system can immediately be put into operation.

26. That international financial co-operation should be expanded, with aid being concentrated on integrated human settlement programmes and projects which respect the sovereignty and ecological and cultural characteristics of the countries and regions concerned and stimulate the creation and utilization of the technology of the recipient countries themselves.

27. That action should be taken to promote the holding of national meetings on human settlements to arouse public awareness, among all nations and sectors of the community, of the complexity and urgency of the concept of inhabiting the earth with dignity.

28. That the United Nations Foundation for Habitat and Human Settlements should be put into operation and strengthened as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Foundation should play an active part in the 1976 Vancouver Conference if possible.

29. In view of all the foregoing, it is considered highly desirable that all countries should participate actively in the 1976 Vancouver Conference.

SOVEREIGN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE

The representatives of the Governments participating in the Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements,

Considering

- That the sovereign utilization of natural resources, as a fundamental element for the economic, social and political development of peoples, is a principle recognized by the United Nations;
- That this principle is closely linked with the objectives of this Latin American Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements, specially as regards the utilization of land;
- That both the system of land ownership and the jurisdiction over land are aspects of special significance in the planning and development of human settlements,

Decide

1. To recognize that the political and administrative demarcation known as the Panama Canal Zone is one of the main obstacles to the normal development and expansion of the main human settlement of the Republic of Panama,
2. To express their earnest hope that the negotiations being carried on between the Republic of Panama and the United States of America will culminate in a just and equitable solution which will permit the Republic of Panama to make full use of its sovereign rights over that part of its territory known as the Canal Zone and consequently carry out a national development policy which will redound to the benefit of the country's human settlements.

LATIN AMERICAN CEPAL/FAO FOOD CONFERENCE *

Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976

RESOLUTION NO 2

The Latin American CEPAL/FAO Food Conference,

Considering:

1. That large areas of Latin America, which cover the greater part of the Region, are characterized by a predominance of soils whose cultivation is subject to severe constraints imposed by insufficient or excessive moisture and steep slopes,
2. That rational utilization of these soils is particularly difficult and costly, calling for new techniques suited to social and ecological conditions in the Region,
3. That almost all of these lands are being utilized in ways that result in the destruction of their production capacity through severe erosion, the disruption of water flows, and severe climatic changes,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the governments of the countries of Latin America that they apply an integrated rural development policy, and to request that FAO provide in its next programme for the integration of crop-growing, livestock, forestry and fishery activities in such a way as to optimize the utilization of renewable natural resources, particularly soils, water, forests and wildlife, in order to preserve the natural equilibria and future productivity of ecosystems, with a view to the well-being of the population and to optimizing the quality of life, with very special regard for the needs of national majorities. FAO will have to harmonize the plans and actions of its specialized department to this end;

* The Latin American CEPAL/FAO Food Conference was held in the framework of the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America. Resolution NO 1 deals with matters which are exclusively the concern of FAO.

2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO the urgent need of research in the use and management of soils and water in tropical areas of Latin America in co-ordination with existing tropical research centres in the Region, with, to the extent possible, the replication of experimental work throughout the Latin American tropics.

Note: Adopted by consensus.

RESOLUTION Nº 3

The Latin American CEPAL/FAO Food Conference,

Considering:

1. The proposal of the Minister of Food of Peru, General Rafael Hoyos Rubio, that a Latin American agreement on integration and food security be arrived at in the framework of SELA,
2. That the objectives of Latin American integration include, notably, the expansion of reciprocal trade in the Region's agricultural products to cover shortages of national supply, economic complementation to favour specialization based on the natural resources and capabilities of the several countries, and technical co-operation for the dissemination and application of regional technologies that will improve food production and distribution,
3. That there have been positive experiences of agreements for supply and co-operation in the food field between countries in the Region that attest to the feasibility of developing common policies within Latin America,
4. The principles laid down in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 3201-3202 (S-IV),
5. The provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 3281 (XXIX).
6. The resolutions adopted in the World Food Conference held in Rome in 1974, which confirmed for the world the priority of solving the food problem,

/7. The

7. The conclusions of the Third Ministerial Meeting in Manila of the Group of 77, to which many countries belong, about increasing and diversifying agricultural production in order to achieve national self-sufficiency in foods and the production of essential agricultural inputs,

8. Bearing in mind that one of the specific objectives of SELA is to stimulate the attainment of satisfactory levels of production and supply of agricultural, energy and other basic products, with special attention to food supply, and to favour actions in the area of co-ordination and supply with a view to arriving at a Latin American policy in this field,

9. Considering the imperative need to establish on the Latin American level effective co-operation machinery that will give effect to the solidarity of the Region, in order substantially to improve the food situation and eliminate dependence in this area,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Latin American governments that they formulate their national food policies, plans and programmes bearing in mind the need to contribute to the improvement of the regional food situation;

2. To recommend to the Latin American countries the study, on the level of the Latin American Economic System, of supply, economic complementation and technical co-operation agreements between countries and groups of countries such as to permit the development to the highest possible level of specific relations between countries in the Region and so contribute to the attainment of the objectives enunciated by the Minister of Food of Peru;

3. To recommend to the Latin American governments that they give maximum support to regional co-operation in the food field through the conclusion of agreements designed to give effect to the actions proposed;

4. To request that the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of CEPAL give their utmost support to the stated purposes and measures.

Note: Adopted by consensus with a general reservation of Brazil, a reservation of Chile and Uruguay about operative paragraph 2, and a reservation of the United States about preambular paragraphs 4, 5 and 7.

RESOLUTION No 4

The Latin American CEPAL/FAO Food Conference,

Considering:

That the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States establishes in article 2, paragraph b) the treatment to be given to transnational enterprises,

Considering:

That the Commission on Transnational Enterprises, in its second session held from 1 to 12 March 1976 at Lima, Peru, and in compliance with paragraph 7 of Resolution 1913 (LVII) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, prepared a draft programme of work on all problems relating to transnational enterprises,

Considering:

That in paragraph 28 of that programme the Commission on Transnational Enterprises requests the Centre for Information and Research on Transnational Enterprises to perform in-depth studies on inter alia, the food and beverage industries,

Bearing in mind:

That that Commission reached a consensus to give highest priority to the drafting of a code of practice to regulate the activities of transnational enterprises and eliminate their negative effects,

Recalling:

That General Assembly Resolution 3514 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the corrupt practices of transnational and other enterprises, their intermediaries and others involved in such practices, directed the Commission on Transnational Enterprises to make recommendations on ways to effectively prevent those practices, and

/Bearing in

Bearing in mind:

The grave problems generated in Latin American countries by transnational enterprises, which in many cases do not hesitate to resort to legally and ethically reprehensible practices,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that he give support to the Commission on Transnational Enterprises of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to facilitate the execution of its programme of work, and particularly the formulation of a code of practice for transnational enterprises to control the activities of those enterprises and eliminate their negative repercussions, and thereby enable them to make a real contribution to the autonomous development of the agricultural sector in the Latin American countries and so promote the improvement of nutritional levels in the Region;

2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that, to this end, he collaborate with the Centre for Information and Research on Transnational Enterprises in:

(a) the performance of studies to develop information for the formulation of the code of practice, and particularly on the negative implications of transnational food production enterprises in the Latin American countries and on their behaviour from the legal and ethical standpoints,

(b) the provision of information for inclusion in the vast System of Information on transnational enterprises,

(c) research into the political, legal, economic and social repercussions of the operations and practices, including corrupt practices, of transnational enterprises engaging in the production and processing of, and trading in, foods and agricultural products in general, and,

(d) training programmes and advisory services designed to enhance the negotiating power of the developing countries in their relations with transnational enterprises operating in the agricultural sector, and particularly in the food field;

3. To exhort the governments of the Latin American countries to continue their consultations toward broadening, specifying and elaborating the common Latin American position on the code of practice for transnational enterprises through the Latin American Economic System (SELA);

4. To exhort the governments of the Latin American countries members of the Commission on Transnational Enterprises to participate actively in the intergovernmental working group that is to draft the code of practice in order to ensure that it properly safeguards the interests of the Region.

Note: Adopted by consensus with the abstention of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, the Netherlands, Paraguay and Uruguay and a reservation of the United States.

RESOLUTION NO 5

The Latin American CEPAL/FAO Food Conference,

Stressing the important financial prospects opened up by the International Fund for Agricultural Development for food production in Latin America,

Bearing in mind the terms of reference given to the World Food Council by the World Food Conference and by the United Nations General Assembly,

Urges that maximum co-operation and the greatest possible collaboration be established between CEPAL, FAO, SELA, IFAD, the IICA and the World Food Council on all matters relating to food production and agriculture in Latin America,

Requests that the Director-General draw the attention of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and of the World Food Council in its Second Session, to the results achieved by this Conference, and that he emphasize to the members of that Council the interest of the Latin American countries that IFAD, in its programme, be most particularly heedful of the expectations and needs of our Region.

Note: Adopted by consensus, Cuba and Mexico objected to the inclusion of the IICA in the third paragraph.

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ILO WORLD CONFERENCE ON
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND
THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR

Cartagena, Colombia, 3-7 May 1976

CONCLUSIONS

63. The Meeting reached the following conclusions:

A. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Occupational structure

(a) Approximately 35 million persons, almost half of the labour force of the region, were unemployed or wasted their working skills in low productivity activities which were insufficiently remunerative. The most recent figures prepared by PREALC showed that both forms of underemployment represented a loss of working capacity equal to that of almost 21 million persons openly unemployed. If these persons had jobs, even at the current low levels of productivity, the region's product would grow by approximately 25 per cent.

(b) The historical features of the development process in the region had produced an employment structure which highlighted not only the large proportion of the labour force in rural areas, but also the high levels of underemployment in that sector. It was estimated that approximately 17 million persons were in this situation.

(c) The rigidity of the system of land ownership and the deficient forms of exploitation, together with other factors such as the sluggishness of the market for the majority of traditional agricultural products, the concentration of investment in urban centres and population growth were among the factors responsible for the minor improvement in the employment situation in rural areas, and this had contributed to the heavy migratory flows to metropolitan areas in recent decades. This meant, on one hand, that the levels of underemployment in rural areas were not higher but, on the other, that the employment problem had to a large extent transferred to the cities.

/(d) Open

(d) Open unemployment was concentrated in the cities where it accounted on average, for almost 8 per cent of the regional urban labour force. However, urban unemployment had increased, helped partly by the migratory process, exceeding in size that of open unemployment and affecting approximately 15 million persons.

Inequality in income distribution

(e) The prevailing employment situation was one of the important determinants of inequality in income distribution. Approximately half of the population of the region received only 13 per cent of the income whereas almost 60 per cent of the total went to 10 per cent of that population. The difference in incomes provided by both capital and labour showed that income at the top end of the scale was 23 times higher than that at the bottom.

Abject poverty

(f) A worker did not only generate a product for the community but also income for himself and his family. For this reason, to speak of 35 million unemployed or underemployed people implied that several million households in the region received incomes which failed to cover the basic needs of the families.

(g) It has been observed that those who bore the main responsibility for maintaining the family - the breadwinners - very rarely could "afford the luxury" of remaining unemployed until they found suitable employment, because the pressing need to have some sort of income to feed their families forced them to take whatever job was available; this implied that it was highly likely that a breadwinner was underemployed. Thus, on the basis of the figures given, it was estimated that no less than 12 million households live from hand to mouth with the scanty income of the underemployed breadwinner.

The ineffectiveness of traditional policies

(h) In spite of the rapid economic growth experienced by the region over the last 15 years, there were reasons for affirming that the employment situation had not shown any significant improvement. This was due to the features of recent economic growth, which had been concentrated in the sectors of high technology which provided high

/incomes for

incomes for those who succeeded in finding employment in them, whereas the large majority of the population did not share in the benefits of the process. In the successful cases, the growth generated sufficient jobs to absorb a large part of the increase in the labour force, but it failed to reduce the size of the underprivileged groups.

(i) To a large extent, this was due to the predominant development approaches which were based on the assumption that the traditional economic mechanisms would ensure productive employment for the entire population, which would in this way participate in the fruits of growth thereby ensuring that these would be shared equitably among all the members of the community.

(i) This situation, which was even more serious in the other developing areas, had generated growing concern over the problems of employment and poverty and had led to the creation of the World Employment Programme in the ILO and the consequent convening of the World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress and the International Division of Labour. The World Conference offered an opportunity for discussing the dimensions of the problem, evaluating the work completed, and drafting policy decisions for orienting subsequent efforts in order to eliminate unemployment and poverty.

B. POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ILO

The Regional Preparatory Meeting recognized that the report submitted by the Director-General of the ILO as the basic document of the Conference represented an effort which had the value of having given rise to a process of thought and discussion, at the international level, on the problem of employment and basic needs. There was agreement with some of the points analysed in the report, but it was pointed out that its recommendations did not coincide with the positions which the countries of the region had put forward in different international forums, and had reiterated during the Meeting.

/C. REGIONAL

C. REGIONAL POSITIONS

It was agreed to present the following regional positions to the ILO World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress, and the International Division of Labour:

1. Basic needs

(a) The satisfaction of the basic needs, both quantitative and qualitative, of the population should be a priority objective of development strategies; employment should be a fundamental instrument to enable them to be satisfied.

(b) The national development strategies of the countries of the region should guarantee at least the satisfaction of the minimum needs of all their inhabitants, within the shortest possible time;

(c) The satisfaction of basic needs should be a first step in the process of eliminating inequality in the distribution of income;

(d) The level of basic needs should be determined for the region as a whole, taking into account and respecting the particular characteristics of each country. It is therefore considered pertinent to encourage studies, technical meetings and other suitable mechanisms.

2. General lines

(a) There was consensus on the general lines to be followed by national employment strategies with employment objectives. It was considered necessary to reformulate the development strategies with the priority objective of increasing the employment and the incomes, and to this end the productivity, of the underprivileged groups.

(b) To achieve these objectives each country must find its own balance between economic growth, the creation of productive employment and income distribution, through selective sectoral and area policies. This included in many cases, the rapid growth of productivity in the activities where it was necessary because of the demands of international competition, technological rigidities or the strategic nature of the activities in question.

/(c) There

(c) There was also consensus in reaffirming the points made in the Quito Appraisal on the importance of the public sector and planning as ways of conciliating particular interests with national objectives. The sovereign control and utilization of productive resources, the modification of the ownership and system of exploitation of land, the adoption of the forms of public or mixed ownership deemed desirable by each country, the reform of the taxation system, public spending and credit policies and policies governing the treatment of foreign investment were mentioned inter alia, as main instruments of economic and social policy.

(d) There was consensus in affirming that the region could not accept an international division of labour which limited its participation in international trade to the exportation of raw materials, intermediate products and manufactures with high labour density and the importation of highly capital-intensive industrial products. A number of countries of the region were already exporting the latter, and should continue to do so; others were trying to reach this position, and their aspirations should continue to be supported.

(e) There was consensus in reaffirming the importance of regional and subregional integration as a fundamental instrument of achieving the widening of domestic markets and thus facilitating the use of more modern technology, efficient industrialization, a better insertion into the world economy and greater weight for the positions of the region in international relations.

(f) Finally, there was consensus in affirming that national and regional institutional machinery should be set up to implement the strategy described in the above paragraphs, and in particular to strengthen the action of the Ministries of Labour in the planning of economic and social development with employment objectives, as well as in the execution of the action within their competence in that framework, particularly in the field of the development of human resources.

3. International manpower movements

(a) It was recognized that international migration is caused by the shortcomings of economic development and the employment problems in the sending countries, and by the expectations of higher earnings in the receiving countries.

(b) The importance was also recognized of the migration of unskilled workers, both within and beyond the region, and their positive contribution to the receiving countries.

(c) There was consensus in pointing out the high economic and social cost to the countries of the region of the emigration of skilled manpower. It is estimated that this cost exceeds the total amount of the financial assistance for development received from outside the region.

(d) It was agreed that it was desirable to adopt machinery for the protection of migrant workers, by resorting for this purpose to bilateral or subregional agreements, such as that existing among the countries of the Andean Group, without prejudice to the legislation in force in each State.

(e) With regard to skilled migrant workers, it was necessary to envisage measures such as compensation from the developed countries to the developing countries on the basis of the benefits they receive from migration, and the creation by the latter of mechanisms to retain and attract their skilled manpower.

(f) There was consensus in encouraging the creation of the necessary machinery for setting up a permanent information network on the supply of and demand for professional and technical workers among the countries of the region, so as to avoid, by means of effective orientation, their emigration to the developed countries.

4. Technology

(a) There was consensus that the countries of the region should continue to incorporate the most advanced technology into those activities in which this was necessary in order to eliminate the technological gap.

/(b) It

(b) It was also most important to adopt suitable technologies for generating a higher level of employment in the countries of the region. In this connexion, their bargaining power in the acquisition of technology should be strengthened; simultaneously, efforts should be made to carry out research into and to develop technologies at the national or regional level.

(c) It was agreed to stress the importance of establishing a suitable information network for orienting the acquisition of technology, for revising the records of patents and royalties, for the disaggregation of the technological package in order to ensure the gradual substitution of imported technology by a national one, and for concerting bargaining activities at both regional and subregional levels, in accordance with decision 84 of the Andean Group.

(d) The establishment of international machinery such as the formation of a Consultative Group and of an International Appropriate Technology Unit could contribute both to the selection of alternatives and to the appraisal, dissemination and innovation of technologies for the creation of the latter and their incorporation. However, the new mechanisms must not in any way imply the creation of new international institutions but should be created within existing ones.

(e) It was necessary to establish a Code of Conduct, having binding force, to regulate the transfer of technology.

5. Transnational corporations

It was agreed to ratify the position presented by the Latin American Group at the first and second sessions of the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations, in the sense that the Code of Conduct which the transnational corporations would have to respect would contain the following basic principles:

(a) Transnational corporations shall be subject to the laws and regulations of the host country, and in the event of disputes accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the country in which they operate;

(b) Transnational corporations shall refrain from all interference in the internal affairs of the States in which they operate;

/(c) Transnational

(c) Transnational corporations shall refrain from interference in the relations between the government of a host country and other States, and from influencing those relations;

(d) Transnational corporations shall not serve as an instrument of the external policy of another State nor as a means of extending to the host country juridical regulations of the country of origin;

(e) Transnational corporations shall be subject to the permanent sovereignty which the host country exercises over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

(f) Transnational corporations shall comply with national development policies, objectives and priorities, and make a positive contribution to their implementation;

(g) Transnational corporations shall supply the Government of the host country with the relevant information on their activities in order to ensure that those activities are in accordance with the national development policies, objectives and priorities of the host country;

(h) Transnational corporations shall conduct their operations in such a way that they result in a new inflow of financial resources for the host country;

(i) Transnational corporations shall contribute to the development of the domestic scientific and technological capacity of the host countries;

(j) Transnational corporations shall refrain from restrictive trade practices;

(k) Transnational corporations shall respect the socio-cultural identity of the host country.

6. Adjustment assistance policies

There was consensus that this was a problem which concerned the developed countries. Consequently the countries of the region only wished to reiterate that the proposed fund should be financed entirely by the countries involved without affecting the funds for official development assistance.

7. International action

(a) There was recognition of the significant contributions made by the World Employment Programme and in particular its regional instrument, the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), to the understanding of the employment problem and the forms in which it should begin to be solved; as a consequence, the need was stressed to strengthen both programmes with the adjustments and reorientations approved by the Conference.

(b) ILO should continue to provide technical co-operation, by contributing to the creation and strengthening of the machinery for implementing the employment strategy and, in particular, by supporting the Ministries of Labour in this task. At the same time, the content of international technical co-operation should be improved and the form in which it was provided rendered more flexible.

(c) It was agreed that the ILO should contribute to the carrying out of studies, seminars and other activities aimed at the definition and quantification of basic needs at the national and regional level, and also collaborate with the countries of the region in the field of international manpower movements.

(d) There was consensus on the desirability of studying new machinery for the financing of employment policies, with national or international funds.

REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE
COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR
THE UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

Lima, Peru, 30 August - 3 September 1976

THE LIMA CONSENSUS ON WATER PROBLEMS

The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Countries of Latin
America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Water Conference.

Having analysed the main problems in the development of the water resources of Latin America and the Caribbean and the available policy options, in the light of the reports presented by the member Governments and by the international specialized agencies,

Bearing in mind:

(a) That the unsuitable utilization of water imperils the essential goal of economic and social development, which should be to preserve and improve the quality of human life on earth and promote full human dignity and happiness,

(b) That the magnitude and characteristics of water problems and their future trends represent a real challenge to the countries (particularly the developing countries) which requires priority attention,

(c) That it is urgently necessary to adopt adequate measures for the formulation and modernization of national plans which will promote the integral development of all natural resources,

(d) That water problems should be considered within the general context of the economic and social development of the peoples rather than in isolation,

(e) That water is essential for all nations of the world and should consequently be considered as a resource which is subject to effective government control,

(f) That international co-operation with regard to water should be broadened substantially in its financial, technical assistance and training aspects and should be based on flexible operational criteria suited to the particular conditions of each country and region,

/(g) That

(g) That the World Water Conference to be held in March 1977 in the city of Mar del Plata (Argentina) will offer a splendid opportunity to bring up problems, exchange experience, seek solutions and work out technical arrangements which will help Governments to make decisions on the subject, concentrating on the major themes in the sphere of water which require action by the international community,

Have agreed, in view of all the foregoing and recognizing that each country will apply the measures it considers most appropriate and opportune within the context of its legal, economic and social conditions, on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Action at the national level

A 1. Planning

(a) There is great interest in planning in the region, and considerable progress has been made in this field. However, in many countries there is dissatisfaction with the institutional arrangements for the planning of the use and control of water, and it is felt that their modification would lead to an appreciable improvement in the use and conservation of the resource. In the majority of the countries, planning is approached on the basis of user sectors and projects or groups of projects, without arriving at a unified approach to water resources properly inserted into national development plans.

(b) NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES SHOULD SPECIFY THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF WATER USE POLICY, WHICH SHOULD IN TURN BE TRANSLATED INTO GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIES SUBDIVIDED, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, INTO PROGRAMMES FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE.

(c) The above could be facilitated by:

(i) The creation of a single planning authority for water resources or, failing this, co-ordination among planners of the different sectors connected with water and between the latter and the higher national planning authorities.

(ii) The improvement of the necessary basic information: hydrometry, data on water-linked natural resources and eco-systems, inventories of possible works, water demand projections, social costs of goods and services, etc.

/(iii) The

(iii) The use of modern planning methods (systems analysis, computers, programme budgeting, etc.).

(iv) The systematic evaluation of the performance of projects already carried out, with a view to learning lessons for the future, particularly about the social benefits and ecological changes, which develop slowly.

(v) The training of personnel specializing in planning principles and methods.

(vi) The exchange of experience with other countries which have made progress in solving similar problems.

(d) Planning must be a systematic and continuous process giving rise to strategies, guidelines and specific programmes for water use and including a system of periodic evaluations permitting these to be adjusted as necessary.

A 2. Water management institutions

(a) In most of the countries of the region there are many bodies with responsibility for the planning and development of water resources whose powers often overlap and are not properly co-ordinated. This constitutes an obstacle to the promotion of technological progress.

(b) IT IS NECESSARY TO ADAPT THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER MANAGEMENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EFFICIENT PLANNING AND UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCE AND TO THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.

(c) For this purpose it is recommended that:

(i) The institutional organization for water resources should be reformed so as to secure administrative centralization under a single authority to ensure the co-ordination required for the multiple and integral utilization of water, the programming of investments and the implementation of the relevant national policies.

(ii) Interest in water conservation should be promoted among the users of the resource. Users should be afforded adequate representation and participation in the management of the institutions which have responsibility in both the planning and the design and operation of water development projects.

/(iii) As

(iii) As regards the promotion of technologies, the action of the institutions concerned with water should be co-ordinated so that the action of each of these supports that of the others.

A 3. Legal provisions

(a) In many countries of Latin America the provisions which regulate water management are contained in various different laws and regulations and this makes it difficult to know and apply them. There are also cases of incompatibility between legal provisions of a national character and regulations emanating from regional or local authorities.

(b) IT IS DESIRABLE THAT ALL THE PROVISIONS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SHOULD BE COMBINED IN A UNITARY LEGAL INSTRUMENT, HAVING AS ITS BASIC CONCEPT THE PUBLIC CONTROL OF SUCH RESOURCES AND THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION TO USE THEM THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE CHANNELS, AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER PERMANENT REVIEW, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WATER SYSTEM.

(c) In this respect it is recommended that:

(i) Working groups should be set up to analyse the existing provisions, put them in order, and make proposals on their organic codification.

(ii) A systematic and continuous compilation of the provisions on water management emanating both from new laws and from regulations enacted by national or regional authorities should be carried out by a single institution.

(iii) There should be frequent exchange of information and consultations between the specialists of different countries (symposiums and seminars) concerning their experience in the application of legal provisions and in the modernization of the corresponding legal codes.

(iv) Simplified explanations of water legislation and regulations should be published for the information of users in general.

B. Evaluation of the availability of water

(a) The information about the availability of water is unsatisfactory in many parts of the region. In some cases the coverage provided by the network of stations is insufficient, and in others the processed data are not published with due promptness. In addition, there are sources of water, particularly ground water about which little is known. Hitherto, relatively little importance has been attached to the systematic measurement of the quality of the water in natural water courses from either the biological, chemical or physical standpoint.

(b) TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER SUPPLIES IN RELATION TO FORESEEABLE NEEDS.

(c) To this end it is recommended that:

(i) The networks of hydrological and meteorological stations should be expanded and extended, taking a long-term view of future needs and following as far as possible the recommendations of United Nations specialized agencies and local experience, while quality measurement systems should also be improved.

(ii) As much use as possible should be made of modern technology, including remote sensors, to collect hydrometeorological and hydrogeological information and data on the origin and transmission of pollutants.

(iii) The processing and publication of data should be organized and standardized as far as possible so as to keep the statistics up to date and take advantage of the observations made in stations operated by different institutions.

(iv) The search for and determination of the variables of aquifers should be increased, with evaluation of their potential and the possibilities of recharge.

(v) Lakes, lagoons, glaciers and snowfields should be studied, together with their contributions to surface and subterranean flows.

/(vi) The

(vi) The work of the National Committees for the International Hydrological Programme should be supported and promoted.

(vii) Experimental and model basins should be set up.

C 1. Measurement and projection of the demand for water

(a) In most of the region no systematic measurements are made for planning purposes of the use and consumption of water by user sectors. The absence of this information has hampered the use of more sophisticated methods of estimating future requirements.

(b) IN ORDER TO PROJECT FUTURE WATER NEEDS IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE STATISTICS ON USE AND CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF USER AND ALSO INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ESTIMATE THE EFFECT OF THE APPLICATION OF DIFFERENT POLICY INSTRUMENTS (TARIFFS, TAXES, ETC.) IN INFLUENCING THE VARIOUS AREAS OF DEMAND.

(c) In this respect it is recommended that:

(i) The statistics on the use and consumption of water should be organized, improved and amplified on the basis of those prepared by the existing services supplemented by censuses, surveys, etc. Censuses on productive activities should include information on volumes of water used, sources of supply, coefficients of re-use, and quality data.

(ii) For the long term, the approach should be based on the use of methodologies involving models which include the population and population location variable, taking into account an evaluation of the overall demand for water-consuming basic goods and services on the part of this population and the balanced fertility rate, which permits subsequent analysis of the stability of the global eco-system and in particular the balance with natural resources.

(iii) There should be a considerable increase in the execution of retrospective analyses, comparative studies inside and outside the countries, simulation models and pilot experiments of the effect which the policy instruments may have on the demand for water. All this should be carried out within the context of general plans covering the various sectors in the light of their importance and of a realistic view of the degree of technical efficiency which can be attained in the use of water.

C 2. Instruments to improve the efficiency of water use

(a) In many areas of the region water is wasted or used in excess of actual needs.

(b) WATER IS A LIMITED AND VALUABLE RESOURCE WHOSE USE MUST BE ORDERED WITH A VIEW TO SECURING THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF NATIONAL WELFARE. ITS INTEGRAL USE GENERALLY REQUIRES RELATIVELY HIGH INVESTMENTS.

(c) It is therefore recommended that:

(i) Research should be carried out on appropriate rates of water use in the various sectors and their effective application should be encouraged.

(ii) Differential scales of charges should be introduced which reflect the real cost of water: if this is not possible the subsidies should be rationalized and made explicit. In any case incentives should be created to increase the efficiency of water use and measurements should be made to detect leaks in the distribution networks.

(iii) Where possible, the discharge of contaminants into bodies of water should be curbed by means of taxes, prohibitions, compulsory permits, etc.

(iv) Clear punitive arrangements with adequate powers of applying deterrents and punishments should be enforced.

(v) The modernization of waste water purification systems and the adoption of less polluting technologies should be promoted by means of suitable incentives.

(vi) Measures should be taken to encourage the use in productive activities of technologies which consume little water or which re-use it.

(vii) Courses and seminars of a practical nature should be established for water managers and users.

D. Improvement of the water supply of the population

(a) In many countries of the region the supply of drinking water and waste water disposal services are not satisfactory, especially in rural areas. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

(Vancouver, 1976) made reference to this problem, while the Third Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas (Santiago, 1972) established regional targets in this field.

(b) THE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER OF SUITABLE QUALITY AND THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER IN SANITARY CONDITIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN ATTENTION THROUGHOUT THE REGION. IT IS DESIRABLE THAT ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO SHOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO MEET THE TARGETS FIXED AT THE THIRD SPECIAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF THE AMERICAS.

(c) In particular it is recommended that:

(i) The supply of drinking water and its final disposal should be planned in co-ordination with the overall development policy for water resources.

(ii) Programmes of works in connexion with the supply of drinking water and the sanitary disposal of waste water in urban and rural areas should be increased, and their implementation speeded up.

(iii) Users should be encouraged to co-operate in the construction, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure for the supply of drinking water and the disposal of waste water.

(iv) Inequalities in the standard of the drinking water and sewerage services between different sectors of the population should be reduced as far as possible.

(v) Water tariff structures should be established which do not prevent the lower income groups from making reasonable use of water, mainly in its health aspect.

E. Efficient use of water in agriculture and stock-raising

(a) In the majority of the countries of the region, water is not used efficiently for agricultural purposes due to losses in transit, unsuitable irrigation systems and a lack of institutional co-ordination. This is particularly serious in the case of irrigation because considerable volumes of water are consumed for this purpose.

(b) IT IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES, BY REDUCING LOSSES IN TRANSIT AND DISTRIBUTION AND AVOIDING THE USE OF VERY WASTEFUL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

/(c) To

(c) To this end it is recommended that:

(i) The institutional organization should be well-adapted to the proper management of the water supply systems for agricultural purposes, bearing in mind the physical interdependence between surface and ground water and the various uses.

(ii) Measures should be adopted for the supervision and control of water distribution and use, taking into account livestock and irrigated crop-farming needs in keeping with the type of crop, soil and zone, the level of agricultural technology which can be attained, and the risk of salinization of the soil and water, with the adoption, as far as possible, of arrangements to measure the amount of water supplied.

(iii) The main causes of waste in the use of water and the limitations on the adoption of more efficient irrigation systems should be identified, particularly in the case of those of an educational and financial nature.

(iv) Irrigation plans should be formulated (preferably by stages) which co-ordinate the implementation of the infrastructure with rural development and the promotion of suitable technology inter alia for the improved cultivation of heavy soils; the introduction of new species, and provision for the training of personnel and the use of the necessary technical assistance.

(v) Agricultural practices aimed at the improvement of water courses in humid areas should be promoted, particularly where periods of heavy rains alternate with period of drought, with a view to avoiding flooding and achieving better organization and regulation of water supplies.

F. Use of water for energy purposes

(a) The region has a vast hydroelectric potential, of which only about 8 per cent is currently being exploited. The execution of this kind of project may be very attractive as a result of the world energy crisis. Furthermore, the demand for electricity grows steadily at a rapid rate and must be satisfied in timely fashion.

(b) IN THE FORMULATION OF EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE ATTENTION IN ALL CASES TO THE ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS, WHICH ENSURE THE PERMANENT ENJOYMENT OF THIS RENEWABLE RESOURCE AND DO NOT CONSTITUTE A SOURCE OF POLLUTION.

(c) To this end it is recommended that:

(i) National inventories of potential hydroelectric projects should be promoted and supplemented with the aim of identifying those projects which, because of their characteristics, can satisfy electricity and water flow demands while at the same time taking the place of other energy sources.

(ii) Studies should be made on the multiple and integrated development of the water resources in watersheds with a high hydroelectric potential.

(iii) National plans for the energy sector should be promoted, with special emphasis on the use of hydroelectric projects.

(iv) When deciding on the location and selection of thermal power station cooling systems, careful study should be devoted to the availability of water and the effects of environmental pollution.

G. Use of water in other sectors

(a) In the region there are areas where rivers are the main means of communication. At the same time, the growth of the population calls for ever larger areas for recreation, and fishing is of interest to a large number of countries both from the commercial standpoint and as a sport.

(b) THE PLANS FOR THE USE OF WATER RESOURCES AND FOR TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE USE OF WATER FOR NAVIGATION, RECREATION AND FISHING AND OF ECOLOGICAL NEEDS.

(c) In particular, it is recommended that:

(i) Transport studies should include the use of rivers, including the modernization of port installations, as a complement to land transport systems.

(ii) Regulations should be adopted which make it compulsory to install equipment in ships to avoid the discharge of untreated

/organic and

organic and chemical effluents into the water and to construct installations in ports to receive tank and bilge wastes; furthermore, the dumping of radioactive wastes should be prohibited.

(iii) Recreational uses should be considered an integral part of water projects.

(iv) Bodies of water should be used to increase the population's supply of protein by promoting commercial and sport fishing; to this end it is necessary to introduce species in keeping with the ecological characteristics, set up fish-breeding stations and build up the corresponding complementary infrastructure.

H. Application of technologies

(a) Some transplanted technologies for the management of water resources are not being applied in the region or have not produced the results expected.

(b) THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY APPLIED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SHOULD BE ADAPTED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS, TO THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE USERS, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS BEING PURSUED.

(c) In this respect it is recommended that:

(i) New technologies adapted to local conditions should be introduced and developed, while efficient local techniques should be used and developed, both types being backed up by research in experimental stations, laboratories, etc. In addition, the low-cost transfer of technology already existing in other more developed countries should be promoted.

(ii) Consideration should be given to the most advantageous combination of labour and capital and the use of most advanced technologies as a means of accelerating economic and social progress.

(iii) Courses and seminars should be organized with special emphasis on the critical aspects of science and technology, in close consultation with scientists and technicians specializing in the subjects concerned. At the same time, the exchange of knowledge among the countries of the region should be promoted.

/(iv) Support

(iv) Support should be given to users by providing them with easy access to technology and with facilities and incentives for adopting and developing it.

I. Water use and preservation and the environment

(a) There is growing concern in Latin America and the Caribbean about the adverse consequences which urban, industrial and agricultural development can have on hydrological basins as a result of the use of natural resources without taking account of their interrelation with water.

However, very little is being done to measure and evaluate this impact. It is also recognized that control measures regarding the discharge of urban, industrial and mining effluents are inadequate.

(b) IT IS NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH THE VARIOUS USES OF WATER HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, TO SUPPORT THE MEASURES AIMED AT CONTROLLING WATER-BORNE DISEASES, AND TO PROTECT ECO-SYSTEMS.

(c) In particular it is recommended that:

(i) Research and systematic measurement work should be increased on the effects which development projects have had on the environment and on other natural resources.

(ii) Improvements should be made in the institutional arrangements for the observation and control of the impact which works may have on water resources and the environment.

(iii) Rational methods of treatment and management of watersheds and their vegetal cover should be promoted so as to avoid erosion and the consequent sedimentation of dams, water courses and river banks, and to normalize drainage patterns.

(iv) Research and systematic measurements should be carried out on the pollution of surface and groundwater by agricultural fertilizers and biocides, with a view to regulating their use.

(v) The discharge of industrial, urban and mining wastes into bodies of water should be regulated by the establishment of the necessary control measures.

(vi) Measures to control mosquitos and other disease vectors should be strengthened on the basis of the proper management of water systems.

/(vii) In

(vii) In budgets for water development projects a percentage of the total cost, in keeping with the degree of degradation of the catchment areas of the hydrographic basins which generate the water resources to be used, should be set aside for the improvement of those areas.

J. Strategies to deal with extreme hydrometeorological conditions

(a) There are extensive areas in the region where severe hydrometeorological phenomena (hurricanes, floods, droughts, landslides, etc.) frequently occur and cause great damage, leading to setbacks in development and loss of life, but no success has been achieved in establishing satisfactory precautionary and warning measures.

(b) IT IS NECESSARY TO PLAN AHEAD AND CO-ORDINATE THE MEASURES THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID OR REDUCE THE DAMAGE PRODUCED BY SEVERE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA. IN SOME CASES MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CO-ORDINATE SIMILAR ACTIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

(c) In particular it is recommended that:

(i) The origin and historical pattern of these phenomena should be studied and the losses caused in the most affected areas should be evaluated, taking into account their physical, economic and social characteristics, in order to forecast the likely nature and frequency of damage.

(ii) Protective measures proportionate to the magnitude of the risk should be planned sufficiently well in advance.

(iii) Systems should be set up at the national and international levels for observation, preparation, forecasting and for the exchange of information between threatened areas.

(iv) Legislation and institutional arrangements should be adapted to cope with extreme situations, with co-ordination of action with neighbouring countries.

(v) Systems for the observation and control of the processes of desertification should be established.

/Action at

Action at the regional and international levels

K. International rivers 1/

(a) In the case of shared resources, co-operative action was necessary to generate appropriate data on which future management can be based, and to devise appropriate institutions and understandings for co-ordinated development.

(b) COUNTRIES SHARING WATER RESOURCES, WITH APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND OTHER SUPPORTING BODIES, SHOULD REVIEW EXISTING AND AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES FOR MANAGING INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASINS AND RESOLVING DISPUTES, AND CO-OPERATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMMES AND INSTITUTIONS NECESSARY FOR THE CO-ORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH RESOURCES.

(c) Such activities could include:

(i) Studies sponsored by international agencies and other supporting bodies to compare and analyse existing institutions for managing rivers shared by different countries or different states within countries, with a federal form of government, and to report on their relative strengths and weaknesses.

(ii) Development of joint committees between countries to co-operate in the collection, standardization and exchange of data, the co-ordination of watershed management, the prevention and control of water pollution, flood control and river improvement activities, and flood warning systems and similar matters.

(iii) Joint education and training schemes to provide economies of scale in the training of both professional and sub-professional officers to be employed in the basin.

(iv) Exchanges between different countries and meetings between representatives of existing international or interstate river

1/ In the case of this item, the Meeting adopted the text already approved at the Regional Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, so as to help in the co-ordination and the positions to be taken on this question by the respective regional preparatory meetings of governments for the United Nations Water Conference.

commissions to share experiences. Representatives from countries which share resources but have no developed institutions to manage them could be included in such meetings.

L 1. Co-operation in hydrological studies

(a) In hydrological studies it is desirable to consider entire basins or areas with similar geographical formations: in Latin America there are many such areas which do not coincide with the political frontiers. International co-operation in these cases has progressed, as in the Central American Hydrometeorological Project, but there is still much to be done.

(b) ENCOURAGEMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CO-OPERATION IN HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH AND CONTROL OF ENTRAINED SOLIDS AND WATER QUALITY BETWEEN COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RELATED GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

(c) In particular it is recommended that:

(i) Encouragement should be given to the preparation of subregional hydrometeorological projects.

(ii) The unification of methods of processing hydrometric data should be promoted among the countries.

(iii) Joint working groups should be organized to study water resources.

(iv) A hydrometeorological project for the Caribbean countries, similar to the one undertaken for the Central American isthmus, should be initiated.

L 2. Recommendations for the United Nations system and other bodies which operate in the region

(a) The work which the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international bodies operating in the region have carried and are carrying out has effectively contributed to the exploitation of water resources.

(b) IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE REGION SHOULD BE CONTINUED, STRENGTHENED, AND CO-ORDINATED WITH AND COMPLEMENTED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

(c) In particular it is recommended that:

/(i) Co-ordination

(i) Co-ordination at the regional level among the bodies of the United Nations system, and between them and the other international organizations operating in Latin America and the Caribbean should be strengthened.

(ii) CEPAL should continue its work on studies of the optimum and integrated use of water with appropriate and timely participation by professionals and technical experts from the countries involved: it should include in its programme projects dealing with the interaction between water and the other environmental components; and it should co-operate with national and international bodies in the training of human resources.

(iii) The studies on water in relation to the environment begun by UNEP, CEPAL and UNESCO should be continued and enlarged and further topics of interest should be included among those specifically studied.

(iv) The work carried out on similar subjects by the International Law Commission should also be continued and expanded.

(v) The Pan-American Sanitary Bureau and the World Health Organization should continue and strengthen their technical co-operation activities in the field of the supply of drinking water, waste water disposal, and water quality control.

(vi) The joint Inter-American Development Bank-Pan-American Sanitary Bureau project for the supply of water to small communities should be continued and strengthened.

(vii) FAO should attach special importance to the execution of drainage works in agricultural land.

(viii) The United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, in collaboration with CEPAL, should carry out a study of river transport systems, taking into account the interests of the countries which share navigable international waters.

(ix) International agencies such as IDB and IBRD should increase financing both for basic studies and for plans, feasibility studies, projects and the construction of the necessary works for the

exploitation of water resources, in view of the social benefits involved in such activities.

(x) Support should be given to the work of the Comité Regional Centroamericano de Recursos Hidráulicos so that it can continue its activities on a permanent basis with an executive secretariat, and the United Nations bodies should continue to collaborate with the Central American Hydrometeorological Project.

(xi) An inventory should be made of the Human resources in the countries of the region with training in research into and the development of water resources and exchange of this personnel should be promoted in order to allow first-hand exposure to differing technologies and procedures.

(xii) The OAS should continue its efforts at the technical level aimed at helping the implementation of projects for the exploitation of water resources in respect of which it provides regional technical co-operation, when so requested by the countries concerned.

(xiii) The Latin American Economic System (SELA) should be urged to give priority attention in its co-operation programmes to regional or subregional projects for the exploitation of water resources.

(xiv) The United Nations University should set up a Water Institute in the Latin American/Caribbean region, on the basis of existing bodies, to carry out research and the interdisciplinary training of management, technical and sub-professional staff in the various aspects of science and technology related to the management of water resources, including economics, legislation and administration.

OTHER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

206. The meeting welcomed the proposals of the Secretary-General in connexion with the organization of the United Nations Water Conference to be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 14 March to 25 March 1977,^{2/} and recommended that Governments should lend the necessary support to the organization of working groups in order to develop the recommendations contained in the resolutions concerning the supply of water to rural communities adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the resolutions relating to water requirements to meet the targets indicated at the World Food Conference and those relating to technical co-operation among developing countries. The reports of those working groups should be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference for preliminary consideration at its meeting in January 1977.

207. One delegation presented the following draft resolution:

The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Water Conference, Recommends,

That the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference, taking account inter alia of the work being carried out by the Special Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system, should prepare a document, for consideration initially by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its meeting next January and later by the Conference itself, on institutional measures for securing better co-ordination of the activities carried on in the sphere of water by the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and for co-ordinating the activities of that system with those of the intergovernmental organizations operating at the regional level.

^{2/} See Annex 1, the opening address of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference.

208. A considerable number of delegations supported this draft, which was adopted. Several countries stressed that the arrangements made in this matter should not lead to the creation of a new international agency.

209. The Secretary-General said that the organizations of the United Nations system were preparing a study of methods of improving co-ordination within the United Nations system in the water field. This report, which was being prepared in accordance with a decision of ECOSOC would be submitted to the Conference and to the Preparatory Committee at its meeting in New York, in January. If resources and time permitted, it might be possible to broaden this study.

OTHER MATTERS

210. The Delegation of Panama submitted a draft resolution on the use of the water resources in the Panama Canal Zone (Conference Room Paper No 1).

211. Many countries supported the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Panama, which was adopted by the Meeting in the following form:

The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Water Conference, Considering,

- That the sovereign utilization of natural resources, as a fundamental element for the economic, social and political development of peoples, is a principle recognized by the United Nations,
- That this principle is closely linked with the objectives of this Regional Preparatory Meeting of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Water Conference,
- That both the system of water resource ownership and the jurisdiction over this resource are aspects of special significance for the planning and development of water resources,
- That the problem of what is known as the Panama Canal Zone is one of the main obstacles to the integrated development of the water resources of the areas around the cities of Panama and Colon,

Expresses its earnest hope that the negotiations being carried on between the Republic of Panama and the United States of America will culminate in a just and equitable solution which will permit the Republic of Panama to make full use of its sovereign rights over that part of its territory known as the Canal Zone and consequently carry out a national policy for the integrated development of its water resources.

212. After the draft resolution had been adopted, the United States delegation requested that the following reservation should figure in the report:

"The United States Delegation regrets that it cannot support the Draft Resolution proposed by the Delegation of the Republic of Panama. In the view of the United States Government, this Resolution is not in accord with the joint statement of principles agreed to by the Governments of the United States and Panama in February 1974, since it does not recognize the interest of both countries in the Canal. In the 1974 joint statement on which the Canal negotiations are based, the Republic of Panama pledged to grant to the United States 'The right to use the lands, waters and airspace which may be necessary for the operation, maintenance, protection and defense of the Canal and the transit of ships'. The Draft Resolution does not take this position into account.

"It should also be noted that the proposed resolution seeks to introduce into multilateral discussions topics which are complex and best settled in the bilateral negotiations underway between the United States and Panama. In a joint report to the OAS General Assembly in June this year, the United States and Panama identified the 'arrangements in land and water areas comprising the Panama Canal Zone' as one of the important issues still unresolved. The United States Delegation believes strongly that the proper forum for discussions of this matter is the negotiations between the two Governments, in which, as the Joint Statement to the OAS General Assembly in June reported, 'the parties have made further significant progress on the highly complex issues before them'. The Delegation of the Republic of Panama, more than any other delegation here, should know that the question of lands and waters within the Panama Canal Zone is too complex for meaningful discussion in a Multilateral Forum and that real progress can only be made in its negotiations with the United States."

213. Two delegations stated that if the draft resolution had been put to the vote they would have abstained. Two other delegations indicated that they would have abstained because they did not have instructions on the matter, while a third reserved its position. The delegation of an Associate Member of the Commission pointed out that under the Rules of Procedure it was not entitled to vote.

LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

San Jerónimo Lídice, Mexico City
13-17 September 1976

RECOMMENDATIONS ON REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE
FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The representatives of the governments at the Latin American Regional Meeting on Human Settlements

Bearing in mind that the Vancouver and Caracas Declarations - adopted at HABITAT: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America on Human Settlements, respectively - are instruments that set the guidelines and criteria at the international and regional levels in this field, as well as the criteria approved by the countries of the region in matters relating to environment as established in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Governing Council of UNEP,

Recognizing that if present patterns of development in Latin America continue with their resulting concentration of population in urban areas, in the next 25 years between 10 and 12 million people per year will swell the population of their cities and towns, which is approximately equivalent to the region's present population of 300 million, and that the proper solution for this problem requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, sub-regional and regional levels,

Recognizing that the objective of integrated economic and social development should have as its focus Man and the improvement of the quality of his life, and that it is the responsibility of governments to prepare national plans and programmes which will include policies on human settlements in line with that goal,

Recognizing further that those policies should constitute the indispensable element of a comprehensive strategy for development, linked and co-ordinated, inter alia, with those relating to industrialization, agriculture, employment, housing, population,

/education, health

education, health, recreation, social security, and the protection of our environment and culture, and that, to this effect, our governments ought to establish institutions and mechanisms in order to work out and implement those policies,

Conscious of the need to consolidate the relationship for international co-operation which is a responsibility shared by all States, and that they should make all the necessary efforts to accelerate the conditions which permit them to adopt positive and concrete measures at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, in order to find and put into effect solutions designed to improve the quality of life of the Latin American peoples,

Recognizing that regional and sub-regional co-operation constitutes an effective way of finding solutions for the problems of our countries, especially those that affect under-privileged social groups, and tends to create a Latin American community based on a genuine commitment which culminates in the application of a new international economic order based on equity, justice, and solidarity, as in the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Taking into account the urgent need to initiate co-ordinated action at the regional level for co-operation in matters related to human settlements, and recognizing the efforts made by CEPAL in this field and that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) constitutes a forum for regional consultation in order to co-ordinate the efforts made with regard to international economic co-operation,

Bearing in mind the need to establish permanent mechanisms for consultation between the countries of the region in the field of human settlements, which will permit the encouragement of co-operation between them in order to utilize their own resources in a complementary manner,

Acknowledging the fact that it is necessary to put into practice new formulas for co-operation among all countries of the region, which will permit them to achieve development based on the recognition of the qualitative aspects of such development,

/Recommend:

Recommend:

A. To the governments of the region:

1. That they determine the co-ordination at the national level which they consider appropriate, with the aim of integrating activities related to regional co-operation in the field of human settlements;

2. That, with this end in view, they should set up a mechanism for reviewing and defining their needs and priorities in this field;

3. That, with the aim of facilitating regional co-operation, the following information on matters related to human settlements be prepared as soon as possible:

(a) An inventory of their professional and technical personnel in this field;

(b) Local experiences;

(c) Local methodologies and techniques used;

4. That, in national and international efforts made in this field, top priority be given to implementing the Guidelines for Action contained in Chapter III of the Vancouver Declaration.

B. To the secretariat of CEPAL, in consultation with the governments:

1. That the necessary conditions be created for the establishment of a regional intergovernmental committee on human settlements composed of the countries of the region;

2. That the secretariat of CEPAL, in co-ordination with regional bodies concerned with this subject, prepare a report specifying the institutional arrangements and procedures that would be most effective towards the achievement of international co-operation at a regional and sub-regional level, as well as a programme based on the following objectives in the field of human settlements:

(a) To facilitate national activities in this area, within the framework of the agreements and recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held at Vancouver, and the basic principles approved by the governments in connexion with the natural environment;

/(b) To

(b) To establish permanent mechanisms for consultation between the countries of the region;

(c) To encourage co-operation between the countries of the region in order to utilize their own human, technological and methodological resources, in a complementary manner;

(d) To define regional and sub-regional programmes of common interest, and experimental pilot projects for urban and rural areas, which will take into account economic, social and cultural needs of the populations that are to benefit from them, mobilizing for this purpose the resources obtained from financial organizations inside and outside the region,

(e) To take into account the following among other aspects:

- Rural habitat
- Urban marginality
- Land use and tenure
- Legislation on human settlements
- Areas of high population density
- Intermediate cities
- Participation of the people
- Technology suited to socio-cultural requirements
- Technology for conservation and recycling
- Techniques for the preservation of the natural environment
- Natural disasters;

(f) To include the following basic functions:

- Research
- Training of human resources
- Technical co-operation
- Financial co-operation
- Information services;

3. That the above report be presented at the next meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts of CEPAL, so that the Committee can prepare the recommendations to be submitted at the seventeenth session of CEPAL that will be held in Guatemala;

4. That it explore with the countries and with international co-operation agencies of the United Nations system, and with others where appropriate, the possibility of obtaining funds in support of action in the field of technical co-operation.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS
WATER CONFERENCE

The representatives of the governments at the Latin American
Regional Meeting on Human Settlements

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Water Conference will be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in March 1977,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver recommended that the supply of potable water and the sanitary disposal of waste materials be given priority by each country,

Recognizing also that the above-mentioned Conference recommended that each country establish quantitative and qualitative goals, setting a date on which its inhabitants would have the aforementioned public services, and that these goals be reviewed at the forthcoming United Nations Water Conference.

1. Recommend that the countries of the region adopt programmes to supply, if possible, potable water to the inhabitants of Latin America before 1990;

2. Recommend further that the governments of the region take an active part in the United Nations Water Conference, and that they present programmes there that they have developed for supplying potable water to their respective regions; and

3. Request the international organizations and technical co-operation agencies to provide assistance to the countries of the region in implementing the programmes they have established.

MEETINGS HELD WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CEPAL

(Summary of some of the decisions)

SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE OF SOUTH AMERICA

This Meeting was held at Montevideo from 11 to 17 November 1976 and was attended by representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. On the basis of the document entitled El transporte multimodal internacional en el Cono Sur y su necesidad de apoyo institucional (E/CEPAL/L.139), the Meeting decided to request CEPAL to continue with the preparation of studies that will permit the adoption of the common standards required for the establishment of international multimodal transport services in the southern cone of South America, and to give priority in those studies to questions related to the establishment of limits of civil responsibility and the respective reasons for exemption in those transport media for which they have not yet been determined.

SECOND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

(Buenos Aires, 14-17 December 1976)

This Meeting was convened by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and was organized by the Government of Argentina; advisory assistance was provided by CEPAL, the OAS/CEPAL Maritime Transport Programme and UNCTAD.

The basic working documents were: Evolution of the Latin American position regarding the negotiations for a convention on international multimodal transport (E/CEPAL/L.141) and Remarks on the provisional agenda of the Second Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting on the International Convention on Multimodal Transport (E/CEPAL/L.145), both of which were prepared by the OAS/CEPAL Maritime Transport Programme.

/The Meeting

The Meeting requested CEPAL to extend to the whole of Latin America the mandate it received from the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Public Works and Transport of the Southern Cone of South America (Montevideo, November 1976) to prepare a convention defining responsibilities and establishing the reasons for exemption in international land transport operations. It also decided to request CEPAL to prepare a document on the minimum requirements to be met by multimodal transport operators, to be submitted for consideration at the Third Latin American Regional Meeting.

In March, CEPAL was informed by the secretariat of UNCTAD that, in the second part of its third session, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group on a Convention on International Intermodal Transport had asked it to prepare an information document based on the information provided by the regional economic commissions concerning the minimum requirements to be met by multimodal transport operators.

CEPAL replied that it was prepared to comply with the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group's request and that it would consult with the governments of the region to make sure that the CEPAL document reflected the views of its Member States.