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THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND THE ROLE OF THE CEPAL
SYSTEM IN CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Note by the Secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

In its comprehensive resolution 363 (XVII), adopted at its last session, the Commission decided "to include an item on co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas in the agenda of all the biennial sessions of the Commission as a permanent question examined by the Member Governments".

This topic has come to have great importance following the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries (Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which states that

"the entire United Nations development system must be permeated by the spirit of TCDC and all its organizations should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts of TCDC. The United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations family, including the regional commissions, have already directed a number of activities towards TCDC. The decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries should lead to the strengthening and expansion of these efforts in order to complement further those made at the national, subregional, regional and interregional".^{1/}

This Plan of Action contains recommendations aimed at the regional commissions which refer explicitly to the role they should play at the subregional, regional and interregional levels in this new dimension of technical co-operation for development. At the subregional and regional levels, the recommendations concern the following matters:

(a) To collaborate in strengthening the capacities of subregional and regional organizations (recommendation 15);

(b) To support the appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations in the identification, development and implementation of TCDC initiatives among developing countries (recommendation 16) and in the preparation of studies and recommendations on action programmes to enhance the contributions of the professional and technical organizations concerned in support of TCDC (resolution 17);

^{1/} See paragraph 45 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

(c) To participate in the formulation of projects and in supporting activities in respect of TCDC at the subregional and regional levels in such areas of particular concern as may be identified by governments individually or jointly (recommendation 18);

(d) To contribute towards improving the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the Information Referral System (INRES) of the United Nations Development Programme and similar systems and ensure the pooling and dissemination of information on TCDC requirements and capacities (recommendation 20);

(e) To support national research and training centres with multinational scope to promote TCDC (recommendation 21).

At the interregional level, the Plan of Action calls in particular on the regional commissions to collaborate with interregional organizations, institutions or arrangements in initiating an evaluation of their capacity to promote TCDC, strengthen the interregional linkages in subregional and regional organizations with similar interests and complementary capacities, identify jointly development problems that are interregional in scope and have a TCDC dimension, initiate joint programmes among interregional organizations or entities of different regions, and identify additional needs or organizational gaps where new arrangements may be called for (recommendation 22).

The Plan of Action also includes a number of recommendations which apply broadly to the specialized agencies and programmes and organizations of the United Nations system for development (which include the regional commissions), on the following questions;

(a) To provide assistance in the preparation of programmes and projects through which the wealth of experience accumulated in the developing countries may be shared (recommendation 24);

(b) To foster links among national and international technical organizations working in the same development problem area, so as to give support to TCDC projects agreed upon by developing countries (recommendation 25);

/(c) To

(c) To establish appropriate linkages between the Information Referral System (INRES) and the information systems of other organizations of the United Nations development system and of the subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations to improve the flows of information for TCDC (recommendation 26);

(d) To assist the developing countries in the formulation of measures for strengthening their capacities to encourage patterns of voluntary migration of skilled people between developing countries and the return of scientific, professional and technical personnel living outside their countries of origin (recommendation 27);

(e) To support the developing countries in general to channel through TCDC the technical and financial resources to assist the least developed, landlocked, island and most seriously affected countries (recommendation 28);

(f) To make efforts to strengthen, improve and maintain all means of transport and communications between the developing countries (recommendation 20);

(g) To contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action through efforts aimed at:

- (i) Identifying TCDC solutions, or TCDC contributions to solutions, for specific development problems, inter alia, by incorporating TCDC aspects into international meetings and/or organizing when necessary international meetings on specific fields of interest to developing countries;
- (ii) Applying TCDC approaches and techniques in their programmes;
- (iii) Supporting the preparation and execution of TCDC projects;
- (iv) Developing new ideas and approaches for realizing the full potential of TCDC and, for this purpose, undertaking the necessary studies and analyses;
- (v) Developing, strengthening and reorienting specific sectoral, subregional and regional information systems and establishing functional linkages between such systems and INRES;
- (vi) Organizing and assisting public information support for TCDC;
- (vii) Utilizing to the maximum extent possible the inputs available locally and from other developing countries (recommendation 32).

/Finally, the

Finally, the Plan of Action also recommends the organizations of the United Nations development system to reorient their internal policies and procedures in order to respond adequately to the principles and objectives of TCDC, for which purpose they should make the necessary internal adjustments and arrangements in their secretariats in order to integrate TCDC in their programmes of work (recommendation 33).

II. CEPAL AS AN AGENT OF REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

CEPAL has a long tradition as a forum in which the governments of the region express their concerns and priorities on a broad range of economic and social development problems in Latin America. In that forum, the countries guide the secretariat and provide mandates for the implementation of activities of interest to the governments members of the Commission, in view of CEPAL's thorough knowledge of the region's problems stemming from the variety of topics and sectors its activities cover, its interdisciplinary approach and the wealth of information and experience it has accumulated over the years.

As a body of the United Nations system, CEPAL is also a channel for the concerns of the international community as expressed at conferences and specialized meetings at the subregional, regional and world levels, and through the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. This puts CEPAL in touch with political currents and outlooks, which meet at the crossroads of intellectual creation.

Thus, as a "think-tank" on the region's development problems and due to its interaction with the rest of the world, CEPAL is not a mere academic centre for pure research since the final objective of its intellectual activity is to support the countries of the region through the transfer and practical implementation of the results of its work. Its action-oriented thinking thus helps the countries to increase their knowledge in order to be better prepared in their development efforts.

This specific role of CEPAL as an action-oriented think-tank means that its efforts are aimed in the first place, at an interaction between the reality it serves and the objectives of the United Nations and

/the mandates

the mandates issued through it. In second place, through its activities CEPAL seeks to serve as a catalyst for the promotion of regional co-operation in sectors or areas in which it has an installed capacity. In other words, CEPAL activities are aimed at bringing countries of a region together, in various ways and directions, so that they may share their development experience and efforts, thus establishing a genuine network of mutual co-operation among public, private and academic institutions.

The co-operation fostered by CEPAL among the countries of the region should be channelled through the transfer or exchange of knowledge or experience, which is the goal of horizontal technical co-operation. Another objective may be that the countries, by recognizing the existence of common problems and becoming aware of the advantages of undertaking specific joint development activities or projects, will allocate resources for that purpose, thus arriving at horizontal economic co-operation. CEPAL should provide support for this purpose in order to show the countries of the region the possibilities open to them in both these directions.

A prior condition for effective interaction between CEPAL and the countries and institutions of the region is that there should be readiness or interest in coming together, and for that purpose CEPAL should act as something of a promotor to catch the interest of the different national, subregional or regional institutions. This implies, in the light of CEPAL's mandates and programme of work, a need to identify the problems calling for study and reflection and those where there is greater awareness of and interest in the sphere or sector in question on the part of the countries. It is therefore a fundamental responsibility of CEPAL to establish valid contacts in the countries, a subregion or the entire region.

Latin America possesses countless subregional and regional institutions, whether public, academic or private, and CEPAL should know them and at the same time consider whether they can be the desired contacts to serve as a basic structure or bridge to connect CEPAL with a specific regional interest group or sector or with a set of country institutions. Thus to evaluate the possibility of institutionalization generated spontaneously or /intentionally among

intentionally among government, university or private bodies at the subregional and regional levels is a first condition for achieving a systematic flow of contacts between CEPAL and the countries of the region in order to promote co-operation among the countries with direct, flexible and imaginative support from CEPAL.

III. THE POTENTIAL OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM FOR REGIONAL TCDC

The CEPAL activities with horizontal co-operation potential which could help to bring together not only the countries of the region but also the CEPAL system and the countries, through its research, advisory and training programmes, may be identified in the system's work programme.

As a first step in the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,^{2/} CEPAL reviewed its ongoing research activities and its programme for the near future with a view to identifying areas offering TCDC opportunities. It was found that a number of its activities could be transformed into TCDC action or oriented towards it through various forms of traditional co-operation. What is the difference between TCDC and traditional technical co-operation? As far as CEPAL is concerned, it lies primarily in the intention to undertake TCDC in each of its activities and in the forms or arrangements that action may involve.

CEPAL, for example, carries out a given study through its professional staff, publishes the results and makes them known to the countries of the region. The intention behind this activity is to pinpoint and analyse a problem, contribute to awareness of it and suggest possible solutions. However, the same study could in some cases be carried out by co-ordinating co-operative efforts with national research centres on a specific topic or by bringing together officials of institutions which might be interested in

^{2/} See in particular recommendations 17, 20, 26 and 32 (B).

the results of the study. They could study possible action or make joint contributions and perhaps derive from the research a programme or topic of co-operation among the interested national institutions of the region.

In such a case, the intention is to include an element of horizontal co-operation in a research project, by allowing national institutions to participate in a given study.

In the sphere of advisory services, CEPAL might for example respond to a request by a country or group of countries not only by contributing its own experts but by seeking specialists in the countries of the region with suitable experience and qualifications to be included in the mission through co-operation agreements between the interested governments, thus recognizing the achievements and greater capacities existing in some countries in comparison with others. In this way, the intention and the modus operandi are oriented towards promoting co-operative relations between the countries of the region, with CEPAL playing the role of catalyst or intermediary. Similar arrangements could be made through regional technical associations, which could constitute a major vehicle for promoting co-operation among national bodies.

There follows an analysis of the activities through which CEPAL's intellectual work can provide the foundations for promoting the effective implementation of intra-regional technical and economic co-operation.

1. Agricultural development

CEPAL activities in this sector include, inter alia, keeping data on the agricultural development of the countries of the region; preparing studies on economic aspects of agricultural development; promoting the integration of the agricultural sectors of member countries and interregional trade of agricultural products; and collaborating with LAFTA, the Andean Pact and other subregional and regional arrangements and entities.

Some of the activities in this field could incorporate forms of horizontal co-operation, an example being the international trade of Latin American agricultural commodities, which was one of the central topics of the eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America (Montevideo, August 1978).

/The promotion

The promotion of a formal or informal network of co-operation among the nutrition institutes of the region could be channelled through the interagency linkage mechanisms which characterize the UNICEF/FAO/CEPAL/WHO/PAHO/UNESCO Inter-Agency Project for the Promotion of National Food and Nutrition Policies (PIA/PNAM). A co-operation network has already been set up by PIA/PNAM in its contacts with the Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama (INCAP) and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute.

The study of the relations between agriculture and the economy as a whole is a possible area of co-operation and exchange of experience. To that end, CEPAL might seek the participation of interested national authorities in the preparation of studies in this field, with a view to achieving effective participation and exchanging experience in the stages of research, analysis, interpretation and conclusions. The on-going study on the impact of terms of trade between agriculture and the economy as a whole and of other mechanisms for the transfer of resources have made it possible to undertake a field study in two countries of the region and an initial analytical and theoretical exercise. This effort could perhaps be applicable and generalized as a frame of reference for similar studies in other countries of the region in which the local experts who already participated in those two studies could co-operate as a form of transferring experience and knowledge.

In addition, the search for a definition of the role of agriculture in the context of the style of development of the countries of the region is an important element for the promotion of TCDC. Thus one possible means of implementing specific collaborative action on a permanent basis in this field would be to induce the Latin American countries which have accumulated experience in the formulation and execution of long-term development strategies in the agricultural sector to collaborate with other countries which have not yet acquired such experience.

2. Economic development

Broadly speaking, activities in this wide field cover the analysis of the economies and development strategies and policies of the Latin American countries and the main trends of their developments; the analysis of the short-term economic trends of the region as a whole; studies of individual countries; and publication of the annual Economic Survey of Latin America.

/Among the

Among the specific activities in this sector, work in the area of transnational corporations offers a fruitful field for horizontal co-operation.

On the basis of the case studies already completed on the bargaining power of the countries of the region with regard to the production of some basic commodities for export (tin, bananas, bauxite), seminars could be organized in the countries of the region which have already carried out negotiations with transnational corporations in this sector, as a means of transferring experience and knowledge and thus improving the bargaining capacity of other interested countries. The studies carried out in CEPAL on integration processes and transnational corporations in the framework of the Andean Group and LAFTA could also be used as material for the organization of seminars, inter alia, on methods of bargaining with transnational enterprises. These seminars could be timely when the member countries of those groups attempt to use the expanded market in a sectoral programme of Andean industrial development of LAFTA complementarity agreements.

Again in the area of transnational corporations, consideration might be given to setting up a Latin American information and monitoring system for transnational corporations linked with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in New York. This would involve the organization of a network with national contact points and a common system of storage and processing of information for exchange among the countries of the region or with countries of other regions of the developing world. This would make it necessary to systematize national data and co-ordinate the role played by foreign investment committees, central banks, the bodies responsible for overseeing corporations, the committees responsible for the authorization of remittances of dividends or payments for patents or licences, etc. This would make it easier to exchange experiences and could become a broad field for the promotion of TCDC.

3. Industrial development

CEPAL activities in this sector include the undertaking of studies to promote Latin American industrial growth and the adaptation of industrial development strategies to available resources and socio-economic objectives; the analysis of the impact of subregional and regional economic integration

/programmes in

programmes in specific industrial sectors: the undertaking of studies on the technical and economic characteristics and future potential of specific industrial branches in the region; collaboration with governments in the programming and co-ordination of industrial development through the diversification and integration of sectors of small-scale industry.

The Latin American industrial sector possesses institutions at the subregional and regional levels, in both the public and the private sector, which could open up a vast field of action for the promotion of co-operation through the intermediary of CEPAL. For example, CEPAL could act as a forum to which they would bring their problems and prospects, thus opening up a broad relationship with and within the industrial sector for the sharing of experience and the transfer of knowledge, while CEPAL would contribute the results of its own analysis and research.

The major interlocutors of CEPAL in this sector would include the technical or business associations of industrial producers or exporters, technological development institutes, centres to assist and promote small-scale enterprise and the corresponding Latin American business organization, and the industrial development banks and corporations.

Among the activities recently completed by CEPAL and UNIDO in the industrial sector, work in the field of leather and leather products and vegetable fats and oils would appear to offer good prospects for TCDC. At the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for consultations on the leather and leather products industry ^{3/} (Santiago, 6-10 June 1977), it was recognized that little progress had been made in co-operation and communication at the regional and intra-regional level with developed countries and international bodies, and this was considered to be extremely negative for the region. It was therefore considered important to lay the foundations for the creation of the Latin American Committee for the Development of the Leather Industry (CLADIC). It was stated that this Committee would co-ordinate regional and international action undertaken for the development of the leather sector in respect of: (i) economics; (ii) information; (iii) the market; (iv) human resources, and (v) technology.

^{3/} See E/CEPAL/L.160.

The implementation of these activities could begin through the Latin American leather industry association and the national technological research centres specializing in that area, particularly the Leather Technology Research Centre (CITEC) of Argentina.

With regard to the vegetable fats and oils industry, the meeting dealing with this industrial branch 4/ (Santiago, 13-17 June 1977) emphasized that very little information is available to the vegetable fats and oils industry on the production of oleaginous raw materials, oils, cakes and meals or on technological development, markets, plants, etc. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the exchange of experience on these questions among countries of the region is limited. To make good these shortcomings, the meeting recommended the creation of a regional body which, in close collaboration with regional and national entities connected with these activities, would compile and disseminate technical, economic and commercial information on oilseeds and their products and serve as a focal point and centre for links with other countries and regions.

The study on the outlook for the supply and production of capital goods in Latin America, which CEPAL is to begin shortly with UNDP support, will mobilize the exchange of information and experience among the countries included in the study and will facilitate the exchange of suitable local technology.

4. International trade and integration

CEPAL activities in this sector are, broadly speaking, the analysis of the changes affecting international economic relations and their impact on Latin America: the undertaking of studies on ways and means of encouraging exports of manufactures and promoting trade within Latin America and with other geographical areas; the examination and analysis of monetary and financial policies in Latin America; and the continuous study of the process of economic and social integration of Latin America.

4/ See "Informe de la reunión latinoamericana preparatoria para las consultas sobre la industria de grasas y aceites vegetales en América Latina" (E/CEPAL/L.164).

The activities with the best potential for developing TCDC are outlined below.

Some countries of Latin America have not shown a steady interest in the negotiations aimed at the establishment of a New International Economic Order. This might be due partly to the disenchantment caused by the scanty results achieved in recent years and also in part to the fact that the region, as a group of countries with an intermediate level of development, has its own interest and priorities which are not always adequately reflected in those forums.

While Latin America continues to be concerned by subjects such as raw materials, official development assistance and external public debt, the region is increasingly interested in the local processing of natural resources, access to the markets of the developed countries for its manufactures, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the process of industrial redeployment from the centres to the periphery, improvement of the conditions of access to international private banking and financial markets, and negotiating better terms and conditions with foreign investors, suppliers of technology and transnational corporations.

In order to help to define better these specific interests and promote TCDC, it would be necessary to carry out a close examination of the situation of each country and possess far more and far better data and analyses than are currently available. Both objectives could be achieved through more systematic and closer collaboration with and between the national research centres which have accumulated the most experience in this area. In particular, CEPAL could collaborate in the development of machinery for regular co-operation with and between the mechanisms or associations of academic centres of the region in the field of international economic relations.

The studies underway on the implications for Latin America of the state of the international monetary and financial system are aimed at providing the governments of the region with the necessary information to improve the access of Latin American countries to external financing sources and suggesting policy measures to increase the availability of internal non-inflationary financing resources so that the combined volume of internal
/and external

and external financial resources of the region can be used more efficiently. The aim here would be to use the experience acquired by some countries of the region to mobilize technical and economic co-operation among countries of the region. One of the studies under preparation will analyse the links between financial aspects and international trade and attempt to propose possible machinery for intra-regional financial co-operation, which would make possible further research of particular importance for the mechanisms fostering regional trade and economic integration.

The study on economic relations between Mexico and Central America deals with the sectors and fields in which existing economic links between those countries could be expanded with mutual benefit and indicates the measures and action needed to increase joint economic co-operation.

CEPAL's co-operation with economic integration groups has always been an important aspect of its work, and it has provided support and advice for the various initiatives aimed at integration which have developed in the region.

The study being completed by CEPAL on the experience of the Latin American economic integration process is aimed at determining guidelines and contributing ideas for the undertaking of joint action among countries of the region with a view to promoting their economic and social development through the various intra-regional economic co-operation mechanisms. In this connexion, CEPAL could co-operate with the different integration processes in promoting technical studies and discussions to strengthen linkages.

The documents being prepared by CEPAL - with the valuable support of the United Nations Development Programme - on the subject of the multilateral trade negotiations taking place within the framework of GATT are designed to:

- (a) make a thorough evaluation of the possible results of those negotiations for Latin America, and also of tariffs, non-tariff measures, the six draft codes of conduct and possible juridical reforms to be made in GATT; and
- (b) to assist the Latin American countries in implementing the undertakings they acquire in the negotiations, i.e., all the legal and procedural aspects to be taken into account in national tariff, non-tariff and other policies which represent a change in trade policy areas where they have offered compensatory treatment or have acquired different obligations.

/These studies

These studies will provide the Latin American countries with more concrete information so that they can combine efforts and thus play a more effective part in the final stages of the negotiations and thereafter.

5. Natural resources and the environment

CEPAL activities in this sector are aimed at collaborating with the countries of the region in developing their mining resources; formulating strategies for the use and protection of water resources; adjusting energy policies to economic and social development needs; co-operating with governments and regional intergovernmental bodies in questions of water resources, energy and mineral resources; and studying the relationship between development and the environment and formulating methodologies for the analysis of the problems involved.

An analysis of CEPAL research activities suggests some TCDC possibilities in this sector.

The study on "Water, Development and the Environment" made it possible to establish active links with many specialized centres of the region. A second stage of that study will propose, inter alia, forms of practical application of illustrative cases which would make it possible to create the basic conditions for promoting TCDC among those specialized centres.

The studies on habitat and human settlements have made possible a wide-ranging survey of specialized institutions in Latin America through which an attempt will be made to foster the exchange of experience.

The project on the environment in the wider Caribbean region is primarily aimed at preparing a programme of action to contribute to improving the quality of life for present and future generations through the application of the concept of suitable environmental management activities in this field in the broader Caribbean area. This programme of action will include recommendations to facilitate and promote co-operation in the sphere of environmental management in relation to economic and social development.

Latin America does not possess a regional organization which facilitates and promotes the exchange of information, experience and knowledge in the field of mining, except in the case of iron and steel where there is the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFI). The

CEPAL Work Programme in this area envisages the promotion of technical co-operation among mining enterprises of the region, primarily State bodies, through an evaluation of the benefits of such co-operation in consultation with the relevant authorities.

6. Transport and communications

Activities in this sector include co-operation with governments and subregional and regional public and private organizations in Latin America in the modernization and expansion of existing transport systems; the study of specific aspects of transport and provision of advisory services; co-operation with the Latin American Shipowner's Association (ALAMAR) and the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF) in questions relating to maritime and rail transport, respectively.

CEPAL has been developing a method of work with some specialized Latin American regional organizations through which horizontal co-operation could suitably be promoted in order to implement recommendation 30 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Thus in the framework of the joint ALAF/World Bank/CEPAL Project on Railway Information Systems, CEPAL published a document prepared by the Argentine railways describing that company's experience with its single system of workshop costs. This document will serve as the basis for a course which the Argentine railways are planning to offer to officials of all Latin American railway companies interested in applying the system. Subsequently, Argentine railways specialists will be available to collaborate in setting up the system in the Latin American railway companies which so desired. This joint programme also envisages carrying out similar action in the field of management information systems.

Together with ALAF, CEPAL has seen the need to promote the exchange of experience among Latin American railways with respect to the training of executives, middle-level management and railways technicians since this is a difficult task for railway companies to tackle individually, besides the unquestionable comparative advantages of joint action.

An agreement has been reached with ALAMAR to prepare a handbook on the documentation needed by ships calling at Latin American ports, which would make it possible to standardize the documentation required for such /purposes. The

purposes. The Joint OAS/CEPAL Programme will prepare the initial draft of the handbook and ALAMAR will be responsible for keeping it up to date through the contributions of its members.

Activities relating to the facilitation of transport and trade are aimed towards action to standardize, simplify and, as far as possible, reduce governmental and institutional red tape, formalities and requirements which hinder trade and are a financial and economic burden on the free international movement of goods, transport equipment, crews and passengers. CEPAL publishes a bi-monthly bulletin which informs the countries of the region about the facilitation measures adopted by a country which may be of interest to other countries. Since solutions to the problems of the facilitation of trade and transport might be found through direct contacts, studies and discussions among trade partners, this is unquestionably an area involving an effort of horizontal technical co-operation.

7. Social development

CEPAL activities in this sector are, in general terms, to analyse social changes in the region and the composition, relations and participation of some key social groups; promote the unified approach to development, analysis and planning; prepare studies on income distribution with reference to structural aspects and economic and social styles in Latin America; collaborate with the countries in establishing criteria for the inclusion of demographic variables in development plans; review job market trends and structures; and participate in activities connected with the integration of women in development through the preparation of regional studies leading to a better understanding of the position of women in Latin American societies.

Among the activities in this sector, the following problem areas seem to offer possibilities of TCDC as such or in combination with traditional co-operation.

The studies on the integration of women in Latin American development could serve as a basis for promoting a programme of co-operation among the relevant centres in the countries of the region, whether planning ministries, public or private institutes or centres responsible for improving the status of women.

/Once the

Once the stage of diagnosis and policy outlines is completed in the study of critical poverty in Latin America being carried out by CEPAL with UNDP support, it is planned to promote co-operation among national centres working in this area which, with the orientation CEPAL can provide, could share their knowledge and experience with regard to the design of possible strategies to eliminate critical poverty.

The studies undertaken, again with generous UNDP support, in the field of education and development in Latin America, show that there is not necessarily a correlation between a country's level of economic development and its achievements in the sphere of literacy and basic education. In this connexion, some national cases have been studied where basic education is advanced in relation to the country's level of development, which shows inter alia that the obstacles in the way of educational policies do not necessarily lie in the society's economic capacity. At the same time the studies present some cases of countries with a large rural population where educational achievements are considerable, which would indicate that while educational coverage in rural areas is more difficult it is not impossible when a coherent, firm policy exists.

On the basis of the studies carried out to date, consideration might be given to holding a technical meeting to analyse the results of literacy and basic schooling policies in small Latin American countries and exchange experience on methodologies used to eliminate illiteracy and set up a primary education cycle. The meeting could constitute a clear example of co-operation among developing countries, since the countries to be chosen would have common features from the structural point of view - linked to their small scale as national societies - and have already successfully implemented policies and strategies in the field of basic education.

The outcome of this experience would also make it possible to design a programme under which some countries could provide co-operation to others with similar structures, but with clear educational shortcomings, in order to solve their problems.

8. Statistics and quantitative analysis

In the statistical field, CEPAL activities focus on the collection, analysis and presentation of statistical data; keeping series of basic statistics up-to-date; promoting the improvement of basic statistics in the countries of the region and contributing to establishing national statistical programmes; and advising the countries on statistical samples, household surveys national accounts and foreign trade statistics.

The evident need for the standardization of methods and procedures for the collection, processing and delivery of basic information makes this area a broad field for the use of statistical techniques which some countries have perfected in programmes of technical co-operation and in-service training on behalf of other, less advanced national statistical services. These programmes, to which CEPAL could contribute its experience and the results of its studies, could adopt one or more the forms described below:

(a) Working groups on particular subjects: this would consist in convening groups of national experts on a particular subject, who would be chosen in such a way that they could contribute the experience acquired in their respective countries in the field in question. The aim would not be to "codify" recommendations but to discuss concrete problems and encourage consideration of them in the countries with relatively less executive capacity and to shape methodological guidelines which would be more in keeping with Latin American problems, by adapting rather than transplanting the methods developed in the industrial countries and at the same time taking into account the successful experience of other developing regions.

(b) Training seminars and workshops: it is both possible and necessary to organize seminars or workshops for information and the exchange of experience on various aspects - methodology, concepts, operation and methods of access and use - involved in statistical activities in the countries which need to make significant progress (household surveys, population censuses, industrial censuses and surveys, prices, national accounts, income distribution, social indicators, public sector statistics, etc.).

/(c) Data

(c) Data banks and data bases: CEPAL has begun to implement a programme for the gradual creation of a Latin American bank of socio-economic statistics (consisting in the development of systems of electronic storage and retrieval of information for each specialized data base), the creation of mechanisms to collect the data to constitute each base, and the setting up of an integrated administrative system for all of them. So far, the operating System of the Regional Archive of Latin American foreign trade statistics (ARECEL) - constituted on the base of country tapes - and the Household Survey Data Archive have been developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank.

This concentration of statistical information will indirectly furnish a means of evaluating the relative capacities and development of each country as well as the possibility of promoting data bank and software know-how among the countries of the region, the exchange of experience, the adaptation of available systems to each country's needs and ability, and the dissemination of and training in the use of techniques of standardization, checking and using the information accumulated in the data banks.

9. Technical information

CEPAL activities in the field of economic and social information and documentation are carried out through the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) which is the secretariat unit responsible for promoting the creation of national systems of technical documentation and information in Latin America, guiding the technology of their systems in such a way that they are sufficiently compatible to allow a timely transfer of information on an intergovernmental and regional basis, and co-ordinating the action of national institutions in this field with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and investment in systems and equipment.

The work carried out so far or currently being undertaken by CLADES constitutes a major vehicle for promoting and facilitating co-operation among Latin American countries. The following CLADES activities have clear elements of horizontal co-operation and fall under recommendation 26 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

/(a) Directories:

(a) Directories: CLADES has published 24 national directories of information units for development (libraries, documentation centres and similar units) in Latin American countries, whose purpose is to provide a working tool which, through knowledge of the existence of institutions with similar goals, will make it easier for them to implement co-operative activities and to exchange information and experience, inter alia, through the exchange of information by means of inter-library loans, the exchange of documents produced by the institutions, agreements between question and answer services, the creation of collective catalogues, etc.

On the basis of these national directories, a Regional Directory of Information Units for Development will shortly be published covering approximately 800 libraries, information centres and similar centres in the countries of the region, and a Directory of Information Units of subregional, regional and international institutions and organizations in Latin America is under preparation.

In the publications programme of directories of institutions working in the same sector or on similar topics in Latin America, a regional directory of environment institutions (Directorio Regional de Instituciones del Medio Ambiente) has been published to date, and other sectoral directories are expected to be published in the future.

A regional directory on subregional and regional training institutions and programmes existing in the countries is also expected to be published. These and other related activities will be carried out in close co-ordination with the UNDP Information Referral System.

(b) Creation and adaptation of limited languages (thesauri). The thesaurus is working tool which standardizes day-to-day language by transforming it into a limited language which enables documents to be classified by topics. This standardization permits the transfer and retrieval of the information at a later stage by manual or computerized methods. The wide use of the thesaurus not only permits the exchange of information by standardizing one of the most important elements of any information system, but also the standardized retrieval, of the data by topics and the identification and classification of the particular problems of the region.

So as to standardize the methodologies for the composition of the thesauri and bring the different vocabularies into line with each other and with the macrothesaurus, CLADES is acting as the centralizing and co-ordinating agency for activities in connexion with the creation of the sectoral and general types of thesauri which are being prepared in specialized centres in the region. It is expected by means of this co-ordination to bring the different information systems at present proliferating in a very scattered form throughout the region into line, do away with the duplication of efforts in centralizing in a single institution data on the activities being carried out in the region in connexion with limited vocabularies, bring the sectoral languages into line with the OECD Macrothesaurus, make an inventory of the institutions and specialists who are at present engaged in activities in the region in connexion with limited vocabularies, and disseminate information on such activities in the different countries of the region, with a view to promoting the exchange of experience.

In order to comply with these aims, CLADES will shortly begin to select focal points in each country of the region to co-ordinate the activities of the national institutions concerned with constructing limited languages. At the same time, programmes will be designed for training these focal points in the use and construction of these limited vocabularies so that in turn they will be prepared to communicate their expertise to other specialized national centres.

The objective of the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL) of CELADE,^{5/} is to improve the flow of reports, articles, monographs and other documents on population with reference to Latin America. Using modern technology based on computing systems, DOCPAL is collaborating in the transfer of documentation between Latin American countries through the publication of its Revista de Resúmenes, the preparation of a specialized bibliography with computerized research, and the delivery of copies of documents existing in the System. This experience of computerized systems

^{5/} The International Development Research Centre of Canada is giving generous support to this activity.

and a data bank is being transferred to national centres in Latin America, with the adaptation of the technology to the conditions and requirements of each local institution. A network of these local institutions is being set up in order to standardize procedures and facilitate the exchange of population data and the technology for processing it.

Lastly, ILPES, through CLADES, will be setting up a Planning Information System (INFOPLAN) in the near future with the aim of supplying information to all the national planning agencies on development plans, programmes and projects, other official publications on planning, results of the work of the planning agencies results of the research on planning, and other documents produced by the planning agencies, such as planning methodology, training programmes and handbooks and instructions for the preparation of plans, programmes and projects.^{6/} The data will possibly be processed by computer and will give such results as summaries of the work done, lists with various degrees of detail, classified data by countries, regions, sectors, etc.

10. Public information

CEPAL's information services prepare special articles and press communiqués on the work of the Commission, and publish Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina on a regular and periodic basis. In carrying out these activities they maintain permanent links with the mass media in the countries of the region.

Through the use of Latin America's mass media with which CEPAL's information services maintain a close and constant contact, efforts will be made to make the necessary arrangements to stimulate and support these media and establish and facilitate regular information flows on TCDC among them, in accordance with the provisions of recommendation 32 (f) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as a means of developing and strengthening the awareness of the countries of their capacity to initiate and implement mutual co-operation programmes. One means of establishing these links will be through Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina, or the regular publication of notes on TCDC.

^{6/} This activity will be carried out with the generous contribution of the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

11. Economic and social planning

The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) forms part of the CEPAL system and is responsible for the organization and implementation of training programmes for the specialized training of officials from national, sectoral and regional planning offices; the provision of advisory services in connexion with the preparation of economic and social development plans and strategies and in the formulation of development projects; research work in support of training and advisory activities; publication of the results of the research and teaching material for the training programmes, and support to co-operation activities among ministries and national planning offices in the region. In order to carry out these activities, CEPAL receives substantial support from UNDP.

The First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America (Caracas, 13-16 April 1977) approved the creation of the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America. In order to collaborate in carrying out the mandates resulting from this Conference, ILPES set up a Programme of Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America, the duties of which include support in improving the System, collaboration in the exchange of experience among the planning bodies, support of joint action by the countries to promote integration, and co-ordination of the participation of the authorities and technical experts of the national planning offices in the activities of ILPES.

With regard to horizontal co-operation proper, ILPES is taking part as an intermediary in various direct co-operation activities which have already been carried out among some local planning bodies in Latin America, as a result of which officials from planning offices are visiting the offices of other countries in order to become acquainted with their economic and social planning systems.

Lastly, ILPES has also programmed the creation of a horizontal co-operation planning system which will include among other things an inventory of the technical capacities of the national agencies for providing co-operation, an analysis of the co-operation institutions existing in the region, machinery for the materialization of supply and /demand, a

demand, a mutual co-operation fund, and a system for evaluating the results of the horizontal co-operation in economic and social planning.

12. Demography and population

Activities in this sector are the responsibility of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) which is part of the CEPAL system. The duties of CELADE in general include the study of the determining factors and consequences of population dynamics, models for economic and social planning and population policies; the organization and implementation of training programmes and seminars in demography and population; the publication and dissemination of the demographic information collected, processed and computerized, and the results of the research; provision of advisory services in matters relating to the strengthening of local institutions responsible for the design and implementation of population policies and evaluation of population programmes, the analysis of demographic information, and the improvement of the design and implementation of surveys. These activities are largely financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The following activities of CELADE have considerable potential for promoting TCDC in the countries of the region:

(a) Computing systems applied to the production and analysis of population data. The countries of the region possess different capacities in terms of types and sizes of computing equipment available and the level of know-how of the specialized staff employed. The experience acquired and progress made by the countries best provided with this technology could be transferred to others using mutual co-operation programmes with specific objectives, including, for example, the processing of population censuses and surveys, in such matters as the selection of computing equipment, staff training, the introduction of computer systems and the organization of duties and activities. With this in view, CELADE could assist by providing information and if necessary technical complementarity, as well as acting as intermediary.

/(b) Development

(b) Development of national capacities for formulation, implementation and evaluation of population measures and policies. The governments of the region are giving increasing attention to population policies as an important element of their general policies and of economic and social development planning. The majority of the countries of the region require appropriate machinery for this purpose, including special legislation on population and organizations with specific duties in this area.

In the Second Latin American Meeting on Population (Mexico, March 1975), the countries supported an initiative to set up high-level councils, commissions or other equivalent units, empowered to co-ordinate action in the field of population, whose functions would include the formulation of comprehensive population policies integrated into national development strategies and plans, and the duty of ensuring the timely implementation by the competent national bodies of the policy adopted and periodic evaluations of its implementation and results.

Although it is incumbent on the countries of the region to take decisions with regard to their need for adequate instruments for population policies, the machinery for horizontal co-operation could be an effective means of exchanging ideas and experience on the Latin American situation as regards population and development problems. This could be achieved through periodic meetings of representatives of the competent bodies, the aim of which would be to become acquainted with the state of the activities carried out by the countries in the field of population policies, examine the main problems encountered by the countries in the creation, restructuring or operation of population councils, or equivalent units, and identify the areas of research, training and advisory services which might be required to evaluate the need for appropriate instruments for population policies.

13. Activities in the Caribbean area

The CEPAL Office for the Caribbean was set up to co-operate in the economic integration efforts of the area and to carry out studies and periodic analyses of the economies of the Caribbean countries, both globally and in terms of specific sectors. More recently, this office was assigned the duties of technical secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), a subsidiary body of the Commission.

Among on-going activities or those programmed for the immediate future by the Office for the Caribbean, the following contain definite TCDC elements:

(a) Promotion of collaboration among universities and other research institutions in the area on questions of science and technology, production and preparation of food, and education in so far as it relates the development;

(b) Creation of a Documentation Centre for the Caribbean countries, capable of stimulating collaboration among the countries and among the academic centres of the area;

(c) Holding of a survey in the Caribbean countries so as to collect information on associations of producers, traders and exporters of the main agricultural and livestock products which will make it possible to set up machinery for producing greater rapprochement and co-operation among them;

(d) Preparation of the bases for a co-ordinated programme for eliminating language barriers and a programme for setting up an educational network of innovative projects;

(e) Pre-feasibility study on setting up a multinational Caribbean enterprise for the production and distribution of printed and audiovisual material, and centres for retrieving and stimulating culture;

(f) Initiatives for preparing a common policy on science and technology and developing programmes relating to the intra-Caribbean application and transfer of science and technology and the development of indigenous technologies in the subregion;

(g) Feasibility study on the creation of a network of centres for the conservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage.

/(h) Studies

(h) Studies aimed at increasing trade among the CDCC countries and the creation of machinery which will facilitate the exchange of trade information within the subregion.

14. Activities in the Central American area

CEPAL's activities in the Central American area are carried out through its office in Mexico, which includes among its duties studies and periodic analyses of the economies of the countries of the area, provides advisory services in matters of industrial, agricultural, natural resources and energy, development and policy, and international trade and development, and co-operates with the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and other Central American integration agencies in questions relating to this process.

Among recent collaboration by CEPAL to promote co-operation among the Central American countries is the preparation of a joint study with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), on the feasibility of setting up a Central American enterprise for fishing and marketing tuna fish, and a feasibility study on producing vegetables in this area for export to the markets of the eastern United States and Canada.

CEPAL also collaborated with the Central American governments in formulating a proposal to the international financial community to obtain support for subregional economic integration, and a proposal was prepared on the needs for international technical co-operation to strengthen the Central American integration process.

In the industrial sector CEPAL collaborated with BCIE on preparing a study of possibilities for the integrated development of the iron and steel industry of the area based on the establishment of a plant which would be supplied from the iron resources available in the Central American countries. CEPAL also collaborated in formulating the bases for the establishment of the Regional Industrial Development Consultative System and the Joint System of Regional Projects for Latin America.

At the request of the authorities of the Central American countries and Mexico, the Mexico Office prepared a study suggesting measures and

/activities which

activities which could be taken to raise the level of co-operation among these countries. One proposal was to set up a high-level intergovernmental forum in which the governments of Central America and Mexico can review periodically the progress in and obstacles to a rapprochement in the economic relations among the parties and formulate recommendations to give impetus to this proposal. The Mexico Office would possibly act as technical secretariat for the forum. In a second stage it is expected to arrive at a reciprocal technical co-operation arrangement between Mexico and the Central American countries, particularly in the agricultural, energy, tourism, manufacture, transport and science and technology sectors in order to assist economic co-operation among these countries.

15. Meetings

CEPAL, as the regional forum where the countries review questions of common interest in the economic and social spheres, has in addition to its biennial meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies convened several specialized meetings over the past year at the intergovernmental level as well as meetings of experts gathered on a personal basis. Generally speaking, the objective of these meetings has been to help in the development process of the countries of Latin America, to exchange knowledge and experience and strengthen regional links for mutual co-operation. The more important of these meetings are mentioned below.

High-level experts from the region took part in the meeting on protectionism in the developed countries (Buenos Aires, 31 October to 3 November 1978);^{7/} they examined this protectionism and its effects on the Latin American economies and activities which the governments of the region could usefully initiate to tackle the problem. Mention was also made at the meeting of the desirability of exploring the possibility of carrying out activities which may contribute to overcoming the problems created by this protectionism; one suggestion was to hold negotiations among all the countries of the developing world with a view to intensifying co-operation and generating preferential treatment among them.

^{7/} See E/CEPAL/1057.

In order to achieve the objectives emphasized by the experts during the meeting it was considered of paramount importance to strengthen co-ordination for joint action by the governments of the region in all the negotiating forums, and it was proposed that CEPAL, among other bodies, could make a useful contribution by studying the problems of protectionism and their repercussions and prospects in developed countries, in order to assist in preparing the viewpoints and position of Latin America in this respect.

From 4 to 8 September 1978, CEPAL served as a forum for the preparatory intergovernmental meeting on a draft Latin American Convention on the civil liability of carriers in international land transport.^{8/} This draft Convention aims at setting up in Latin America a system of civil liability for Latin American international transport enterprises with the objectives of promoting intra-Latin American trade and more participation by Latin American insurance enterprises in the regional insurance market, thus facilitating the necessary regional co-operation.

In the Latin American Regional Meeting on the Action Plan of the United Nations Water Conference (Santiago, 9 to 13 October 1978), convened by CEPAL in order to become acquainted with the viewpoints of the governments of the region on possibilities and problems of the application of the recommendations of this conference at the regional level, CEPAL presented a document entitled "Regional and international co-operation for the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan".^{9/}

Among the resolutions adopted at this meeting, ^{10/} mention should be made of the resolution recommending that "measures should be taken, with immediate effect, to foster the launching of projects for horizontal co-operation in the field of water resources in Latin America".^{11/}

^{8/} See E/CEPAL/1054.

^{9/} See E/CEPAL/Conf.63/L.3/Rev.1.

^{10/} See the report of the Meeting, E/CEPAL/Conf.63/L.4/Rev.1.

^{11/} See resolution V (a) on "Technical co-operation among developing countries".

Another resolution recommends that "a system should be set up through CEPAL to permit the assessment of the technical capacity existing in the region, priority being given to the use of the available technology and installed capacity for horizontal technical assistance",^{12/} and that "CEPAL should promote the holding of courses and seminars in different countries of the region, make arrangements for the periodic exchange of information, and prepare a list of cases of special interest which could provide useful experience for all the member countries".^{13/}

At the First Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Panama, 16 to 21 August 1978),^{14/} the need was expressed, among other things, of integrating scientific and technical development programmes into the framework of the economic and social development plans of the countries of the region, and that while the capacity for individual action by these countries was limited, such restrictions could be overcome through mutual co-operation. Stress was also laid on the value and importance of maintaining a network of national focal points for the exchange of technological information, and of creating adequate awareness in the countries of the region and in those which effectively and efficiently generate science and technology about means of establishing links and transfer machinery between these groups of countries. At this meeting the general guidelines of a preliminary nature were prepared to serve as a basis for the preparation of an action programme in the field of science and technology for development. They suggested that "scientific and technological policy should aim at creating or strengthening the capacity of the countries to generate and adapt the know-how and technologies most suited to their needs and their resources, thus fulfilling the objectives of endogenous

^{12/} See resolution VI (a) on "Technical and financial co-operation".

^{13/} Ibid., (b).

^{14/} See ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.3/Rev.2.

development based on self-reliance".^{15/} These guidelines also request the international organizations to support action to arrive at collective technological collaboration for development.

At the second Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Montevideo, 29 November to 1 December 1978),^{16/} at which the CEPAL secretariat presented the regional document it had prepared,^{17/} it was stressed that science and technology should play a more direct and important role in the integral development of the Latin American countries. After an exhaustive analysis, the representatives of the governments adopted the recommendations which make up the programme of action in science and technology for development. The meeting also adopted a resolution on the establishment of a financial mechanism to speed up scientific and technological progress in developing countries.

In the intergovernmental and specialized meetings which CEPAL has programmed for 1979, and in those which will be convened in the future, ways will be found of incorporating aspects of TCDC, in so far as the topic to be dealt with allows, as another means of enabling the countries of the region to seek co-operative solutions for common problems and lay the bases for joint undertakings, as well as enabling the Latin American experts to identify possibilities for TCDC in the different sectors for later consideration by the governments or subregional and regional intergovernmental agencies.

^{15/} Ibid., chapter II, paragraph 15.

^{16/} See ST/CEPAL/Conf.68/L.3.

^{17/} See E/CEPAL/L.183/Rev.2.

IV. INTERREGIONAL TCDC IN ACTION

Resolution 363 (XVII) adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session requested the Executive Secretary to:

- "(b) Take the necessary measures to develop and intensify mutual co-operation with the secretariats of other regional economic commissions with a view to promoting programmes and projects for the mobilization of economic and technical co-operation at the regional and interregional levels, including the organization and holding of seminars and meetings of working groups, if required and in co-operation with other competent bodies of the United Nations system, in which a technical dialogue and exchange of experience can be effected;
- (c) Invite the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize jointly a meeting at the technical level on interregional horizontal co-operation between the secretariats of both regional commissions and to convene in due course an interregional meeting at governmental level to discuss appropriate measures for the implementation of concrete projects of co-operation among the African and Latin American regions."

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action contains a special paragraph concerning the development and strengthening of interregional co-operation,^{18/} a subject in which the regional commissions are called to play an important role.

There is no doubt as to the need to encourage and strengthen the links among the different geographical regions of the developing world and mobilize mutual co-operation, either through the exchange of information and experience or through joint co-operation programmes and projects. The regional commissions may make an important contribution in this respect, since they constitute a world network of support and co-operation with their respective member states, while their technical structures cover a wide variety of fields, and may contribute to

^{18/} See paragraph 44 of the Plan of Action.

achieving the objectives of interregional co-operation in the light of their own mandates and the relevant recommendation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

In this respect, the regional commissions could, generally speaking, co-operate in formulating bilateral programmes of mutual co-operation among developing countries and subregional groupings from different geographical regions. This co-operation could, for example, be provided through the preparation of joint studies on matters or sectors selected in accordance with the amount of experience or interest of any one of the countries or groups of countries of the different geographical regions taking part.

The regional commissions which agree to take part in intersecretariat agreements on co-operation among developing countries in different geographical regions would previously prepare a diagnosis of the potential and limitations of their respective regions for TCDC and an inventory of the exchange or co-operation flows which already exist in different fields or sectors (commercial, financial, scientific and technological, educational, cultural, etc.). On the basis of this diagnosis and inventory, an agreement would be reached among the regional commissions taking part and the interested countries on a selection of priority sectors or areas for interregional mutual co-operation and the preparatory studies which would if necessary, be made for this purpose.

More specifically, the regional commissions taking part could act as promoters or intermediaries in such activities as: (a) organization of expert meetings for the purpose of exchanging experience and technical know-how on specific topics of common interest to the developing countries of the geographical regions involved, for which purpose the respective regional commissions would contribute the results of their own analyses and experience; (b) organization of special training programmes for intermediate-level professionals from a given geographical region, which would be carried out in training centres existing in the countries of another geographical region; (c) organization of study tours and planning of work specialization programmes for government officials, with a view to exchange experience and work jointly to solve specific problems.

/The formulation

The formulation of mutual co-operation programmes among subregional and regional groups of countries from different geographical regions may also be a further form of collaboration by the regional commissions, which could act as agents in stimulating co-operation between these groups in such activities as: (a) the systematic exchange of technical information and documentation; (b) the organization of short-term exchange programmes among the technical staff of the secretariats of these groups, with the double aim of acquiring know-how and communicating experience; (c) the organization of technical meetings for the exchange of experience among these groups on questions of common interest.

1. Co-operation between Latin America and Africa

At the meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) held in February and May 1977 respectively, resolutions were adopted on the strengthening of existing technical co-operation arrangements and promotion of new programmes of technical co-operation among the countries of their respective regions,^{19/} using for that purpose their respective regional commissions within the framework of their mandates and available resources. Pursuant to these resolutions, and under the terms of recommendation 22 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the secretariats of the two commissions formulated a draft "Interregional action programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America" with the following objectives:

(a) Establishment of appropriate mechanisms between the two Commissions for a continuous dialogue and exchange of information on technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in Latin America and Africa;

(b) Identification of potentialities and requirements of individual countries and groups of countries, and definition of possible areas of mutual technical and economic co-operation;

^{19/} ECA resolution 302 (XIII) of 28 February 1977, and CEPAL resolution 363 (XVII) of 5 May 1977.

(c) Formulation of specific programmes and projects and establishment of priorities for 1979-1980 and a long-term programme for 1981 onwards;

(d) Formulation of work plans including financial requirements;

(e) Identification of sources of finance and development of mechanisms and methods for the mobilization of resources and execution of operational activities in the selected priority fields.

CEPAL and ECA envisage four levels of co-operation between the two regions: (a) between governments of the two regions through bilateral arrangements; (b) between one country in Latin America and several countries in Africa, or between one African country and several Latin American countries; (c) between two or more Latin American countries and two or more African countries; and (d) between intergovernmental organizations from these two regions through multilateral co-operation arrangements.

In both Latin America and Africa there are some countries which have more capability to provide technical co-operation to other countries. ECA and CEPAL could play a useful role in promoting this form of technical co-operation through the identification of countries having such capability and requirements of potential recipient countries in their respective regions, and in acting as intermediary between the "donor" country and "recipient" country as well as providing backstopping facilities.

Several Latin American and African countries already have bilateral technical co-operation agreements. Although this form of co-operation may be carried out most efficiently on a direct government-to-government basis, CEPAL and ECA could contribute to this effort, if required, by preparing studies which would be placed at the disposition of the interested governments.

With regard to multinational co-operation, both regions have accumulated a wealth of experience over the years. In both Latin America and Africa there are intergovernmental organizations which have been created to promote economic integration or the development of certain sectors. The two regional economic commissions could be effective catalytic agents in the promotion or activation of technical co-operation arrangements among intergovernmental institutions in the two regions.

/The two

The two regional commissions could, inter alia, promote exchange of information on programmes and projects among the: intergovernmental organizations in Latin America and assist in the identification of areas for mutual technical co-operation programmes, e.g., exchange of expertise, joint training and research programmes, joint ventures, mutual assistance in negotiations with transnationals, etc.

In a first phase which would cover the period 1979-1980, CEPAL and ECA envisage carrying out the following programme of work in the sectors indicated below:

(a) Promotion of trade

- (i) Exchange of information on the characteristics of foreign trade of the countries of the two regions and the breakdown of imports and exports;
- (ii) Mounting of field missions of government officials to selected countries in Africa and Latin America and communication by CEPAL and ECA on the results of these missions to interested Governments;
- (iii) Convening of meetings of chambers of commerce (exporters and importers) and trade officials of selected African and Latin American countries to discuss the results of the above field missions as well as mechanisms for the promotion of external trade between the two regions.

(b) Manpower development

- (i) Exchange of information on existing training facilities and fellowship programmes specifying disciplines;
- (ii) Exchange of lists of specialists and consulting organizations in the countries of both regions, and the study of the possibility of setting up interregional advisory agencies (binational or multinational);
- (iii) Exchange of information on in-service training available at the national subregional and regional levels and creation of means of offering in-service training programmes to Africans in Latin American enterprises and institutes and vice versa;
- (iv) Promotion of university exchange programmes for students, researchers and teachers.

/(c) Science

(c) Science and technology

- (i) Exchange of information on adaptation, transfer and development of appropriate technology in specific areas with emphasis on the conservation, processing and utilization of raw materials produced in African and Latin American countries;
- (ii) Promotion of training programmes in defined areas of technological adaptation and development.
- (iii) Promotion of specialized expert meetings, seminars and conferences.

ECA and CEPAL will take appropriate measures for joint programming of activities to be carried out during the period 1981 onwards. Such joint programme will be submitted to a joint interregional meeting to be convened by both regional commissions.

Individual governments and the secretariats of regional and subregional groups of Latin America and Africa will be invited to join in these efforts of the regional commissions and submit guidelines and suggestions to the secretariats of the respective regional commissions on subjects or sectors for possible projects of horizontal co-operation between countries and country groupings of Latin America and Africa and for analyses and studies of possible TCDC and ECDC programmes by the technical staff of both secretariats.

For the implementation of the above programme the countries of Africa and Latin America will require adequate financial resources, which could come from the following sources: (a) African and Latin American countries; (b) United Nations Development Programme; (c) voluntary contributions from developing countries with financial capacity; (d) regular budget of the regional commissions; and (e) voluntary contributions from developed countries.

2. Co-operation between Latin America and Asia and the Pacific

The Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) plan to draw up an interregional programme for technical co-operation between Latin America and Asia and the Pacific within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in pursuance of resolutions adopted by the intergovernmental organs of the two regional commissions.

The government of India has expressed its interest in joining CEPAL and ESCAP in providing a forum in which a start can be made on exploring the possibilities of technical co-operation between India and the countries of
/Latin America

Latin America. To that end, it is felt that a suitable time for an initial meeting might be the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Manila.

Such a meeting between Latin America and India could be the start of a series of similar exercises in other countries to explore possibilities for interregional TCDC between Latin America and Asia and the Pacific, sponsored by CEPAL and ESCAP. It might, for example, be followed by discussions and/or study tours organized by the Government of the Philippines for the Latin American representatives at UNCTAD V in Manila. Later on, the secretariats of the two regional commissions might help to organize Latin American missions to another Asian and Pacific country or countries, as well as missions from those countries to Latin America, with the aim of identifying the potentialities and needs of specific countries and groups of countries and possible areas of mutual co-operation.

The dialogue to be organized between representatives of Latin America and India might include the following subjects:

(a) Organization of joint CEPAL/ESCAP missions to Latin American countries designed to secure concrete information for the identification of technical capacities and requirements in specific fields;

(b) Consideration of ways and means of promoting links between research and training institutions in India and appropriate national or subregional institutions in Latin America;

(c) Identification of joint research topics for development of specific technologies;

(d) Drafting of guidelines for exchanges of information, with the assistance of the programmes of the regional commissions and the UNDP Information Referral System (INRES) on TCDC;

V. MACHINERY FOR ACTION

1. Provisions at the internal level

In resolution 363 (XVII), the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to "expedite the necessary institutional arrangements to establish a special unit" to promote regional and interregional co-operation. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action recommends that the organizations and bodies of the United Nations System should make the necessary internal readjustments and arrangements in their secretariats in order to integrate TCDC in their programmes of work.^{20/}

The functions of TCDC are for the moment centralized in the unit of the secretariat responsible for operational activities and receive support from the sectoral substantive divisions and the centres and the institutes which form part of the CEPAL system,^{21/} particularly with regard to the formulation and technical implementation of TCDC projects and programmes.

With the more precise approach and the increase in the activities required to support TCDC, measures should be taken to provide the necessary resources to establish in the CEPAL secretariat in due course a special servicing unit with direct responsibility for the activities of promotion, information and co-ordination of the co-operation between developing countries and regions. These activities would be carried out with the close collaboration of all the sectoral divisions and units of other types in the CEPAL system since the support and materialization of TCDC is first and foremost a dimension which should be integrated into all the activities of the CEPAL system, while only secondly does it represent a programme of special activities.

2. Measures at the regional level

The CEPAL system includes the secretariat proper and the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the

^{20/} See recommendation 33.

^{21/} CLADES, ILPES and CELADE.

Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), in addition to special units and programmes, such as those on transnational corporations, science and technology, education and development, human settlements and habitat, environment and integration of women in development.

At its fourth session, the Commission adopted a resolution in which it invited the Central American Governments to form a committee on economic co-operation (Comité de Cooperación Económica del Istmo Centroamericano (CCE)). This resolution expressed the interest of the Central American Government "in the development of agricultural and industrial production and of transportation systems in their respective countries so as to promote the integration of their economies and the expansion of markets by the exchange of their products, the co-ordination of their development programmes and the establishment of enterprises in which all or some of these countries have an interest."^{22/} The committee was set up at the first meeting of Economic Ministers of Central America (Tegucigalpa, 23 to 28 August 1952) where it was decided to undertake a programme of gradual and progressive integration of the Central American economies based on co-operation and reciprocity among the governments of the countries.

As a result of several studies prepared by CEPAL and other agencies, the governments of the area little by little set up technical bodies the functions of which would be to give impetus to the Central American Economic Integration Programme and aim at co-operation among the countries of the area. These technical bodies include, among others, the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) in 1949, the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA) in 1949, the Advanced School of Public Administration for Central America, (ESAPAC) in 1954, which in 1967 became the Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP), the Central American Technological Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI) in 1955, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) in 1960, the Central American Corporation for Aerial Navigation Services (COCESNA) in 1960, the Federation of Industrial Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAICA) in 1960, the Central American Clearing House in 1961.

^{22/} See resolution 9 (IV) of 16 June 1951.

In addition to the CCE, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) was set up in November 1975 as a subsidiary body of CEPAL, pursuant to resolution 358 (XVI) of 13 May 1975.

In the Constituent Declaration of the Committee, the member Governments of the CDCC 23/ declared their political will and their resolution to "carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the subregion thus promoting its economic and social development and advancing progressively towards superior forms of co-ordination of their economies in the future. Based on the recognition of the advantages of economic complementation, this policy will give impetus to co-operation among member countries, particularly in the form of implementation of joint projects, the exchange of experience and mutual aid, and also through mechanisms including trade which will contribute to this end".

Lastly, outside the system of CEPAL and its above-mentioned inter-governmental subsidiary bodies, at the First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America (Caracas, 13 to 16 April 1977) it was agreed to set up the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America with the main purpose of serving "as a forum for the planning bodies of the countries of Latin America, to bring about better knowledge and closer links among them, to promote and carry out exchanges of national experience in economic and social planning and to establish ways of implementing joint action to promote, through planning, suitable machinery in order to strengthen co-operation among the countries of the region". 24/ ILPES carries out the important duty of assisting the Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America in their joint co-operation efforts through this system.

23/ Full members of the CDCC are: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Associate members of the Commission and of the CDCC are: Belize and West Indies Associated States.

24/ See paragraph 30 of the "Report of the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America" (INST/98).

/Latin America

Latin America also has an increasingly large number of specialized sectoral bodies at the subregional and regional levels, as well as training and scientific and technological research institutes, development banks, documentation centres and others.

The co-operation arrangements which may be reached among independent bodies, regional development banks and institutes and similar centres in the region and between these and similar units in the CEPAL system, together with the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America, the CDCC and the CCE, would enable Latin America to have access to an informal network of similar institutions to provide member States and subregional and regional organizations with the necessary tools and technical expertise which, with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system and with the collaboration of CEPAL, would facilitate the design of mutual co-operation programmes and projects, especially those requiring a multidisciplinary approach.

Lastly, it should be noted that although the regular sessions of CEPAL provide a valuable opportunity for reviewing TCDC,^{25/} the size of the agenda does not usually allow this to receive the special treatment which the governments would desire. Consequently, in the context of the recommendation formulated to the regional commissions by the General Assembly in resolution 32/197, paragraph 27 of the annex, and recommendation 37, paragraphs 62 - from (a) to (e) - and 63 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the forthcoming session is possibly a suitable occasion to review the desirability of setting up a special committee for technical co-operation among the countries of Latin America, or of convening periodically special intergovernmental or expert meetings to analyse the TCDC work of CEPAL in terms of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and thus guide the work of the secretariat, provide policy elements and formulate specific proposals for TCDC strategies and action-oriented programmes.

^{25/} Like the seventeenth session of the Commission, the agenda for the eighteenth session includes the topic of co-operation among developing countries and regions "as a permanent question to be examined by the member governments", in the words of resolution 363 (XVII) of 5 May 1977.

3. Measures at the interregional level

The links between the regional systems of the regional commissions would make up an informal action network for interregional TCDC in the context of recommendation 22 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

In this respect, the biannual meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, which include TCDC in their agendas as a matter for permanent review, would provide a valuable point of periodic and informal contact for reviewing the on-going activities of the regional systems with regard to interregional co-operation, agree on new programmes and projects with a view to mobilizing TCDC among developing countries and groups of countries from different geographical regions, compare relative experiences with regard to the activities of each regional system in this sphere, and exchange information with UNDP and other bodies and agencies of the United Nations on the regional and interregional activities of the network and such activities as these bodies are promoting in pursuance of their own mandates.

The information exchanged in this way would enable each of the parties to become acquainted with what the rest are doing in the different geographical regions and spheres of competence and to review the co-operative activities already undertaken by different bodies. It would also facilitate a better co-ordination both at the policy level and in activities to avoid the duplication of efforts and maximize the efficient use of resources.

Another informal mechanism of functional linkage for interregional TCDC could be constituted by holding special joint meetings of subregional and regional intergovernmental bodies from different geographical regions, such as country groupings, development banks, technological and training institutes and others. These meetings could be sponsored by the regional commissions concerned with the participation of other agencies of the United Nations development system, including UNDP, and could provide an efficient forum for orienting the development of this interregional network, both at the policy and technical levels. The first step envisaged could be to convene a first interregional meeting at which the bases for promoting and mobilizing interregional co-operation between groups of countries and subregional and regional institutes and centres with similar interests and

/complementary capacities

complementary capacities could be discussed. Subsequent joint meetings would serve to review on-going activities, agree on programmes and projects with a view to solving common problems in the different geographical regions, and compare and exchange experiences.

The institutional interregional arrangements referred to above would enable the regional commissions and other agencies of the United Nations development system to be better prepared for an active and efficient participation in the periodic high-level meetings of representatives of all States participating in the UNDP, anticipated in recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

4. Measures in the world context

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action put forward the need of strengthening the capacity of UNDP "to work in close collaboration with the regional commissions" in activities which encourage and support TCDC.^{26/} In this respect, the Plan of Action recommends that the Special Unit should be strengthened in order to assist the Administrator of UNDP, inter alia, in "developing, in full collaboration with the participating and executing agencies and regional commissions, new ideas, concepts and approaches for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, and for this purpose, arranging for the necessary studies and analyses to be undertaken ...".^{27/}

The experience accumulated by CEPAL as the regional body for reflexion, research and operation will no doubt be very valuable for analysing problems and putting forward ideas to promote TCDC, as has already been seen in chapter III, where some examples of TCDC activities are given arising out of the intellectual work of the secretariat and the work of the institutions which form part of the CEPAL system. This work permits access to the tools and knowledge required to facilitate the planning of mutual co-operation programmes and projects which could receive support from UNDP.

^{26/} See recommendation 34, paragraph 58.

^{27/} See recommendation 34, paragraph 59 (b).

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action also recommends that UNDP should co-ordinate its activities in the field of TCDC with those of the regional commissions and the specialized and executing agencies.^{28/} In this respect, it should be observed that CEPAL maintains a close link with UNDP through its Regional Bureau for Latin America, which takes the form of the generous support which this Bureau frequently gives to CEPAL initiatives to assist in speeding up the development process of the countries of the region.

In the implementation of the TCDC activities entrusted to it by the Commission and by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, CEPAL proposes to make existing links with UNDP even closer, collaborating as far as its resources will permit, inter alia, in carrying out studies and analyses and generating ideas for programmes and projects required for the aims and objectives of TCDC. CEPAL also proposes to take an active part in the work of high-level meetings of representatives of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme, as the Plan of Action recommends.^{29/} Since the UNDP regional network, made up of its resident representatives, provides a valuable liaison between CEPAL and the governments and subregional and regional groupings in Latin America, CEPAL will seek to use this network in developing its activities to foster and support TCDC.

Through the above arrangements a rational and efficient use of existing resources for TCDC activities is sought through co-operative efforts between CEPAL and UNDP in their respective spheres of competence and in the framework of their own mandates and the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

VI. FINANCING FOR THE PROMOTION OF TCDC

In resolution 363 (XVII), the Commission requests the Secretary-General "to make adequate provision in order to enable the secretariat of the Commission to carry out its activities effectively in the sphere of

^{28/} Ibid., (c).

^{29/} See recommendation 37, paragraph 63.

/co-operation among

co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas." The Buenos Aires Plan of Action points out that it is necessary "for the developed countries and the United Nations development system to support these activities financially ...".^{30/}

As an active participant in the Latin American development process, CEPAL recognizes the need of reallocating part of the resources of its regular budget for carrying out TCDC activities which have been entrusted to it through resolutions adopted by the Commission and in the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. However, the scant volume of such resources would only permit the initial stages of activities to be implemented and limited support to be given to some TCDC undertakings in countries of the region.

The new activities to foster TCDC which it is planned to initiate at the regional and interregional levels require additional resources not covered by the existing regular budget of the secretariat. In addition, the number of staff in the future special unit for internal (secretariat) co-ordination, regional (system) co-ordination, and interregional (network) co-ordination will further increase the need for regular budget additional resources. It is therefore essential for CEPAL to have access to stable and permanent regular budget resources for such TCDC activities as are indicated in several Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly resolutions.^{31/}

In view of the severe restrictions recently imposed by the General Assembly on increases in regular budget resources, prospects of obtaining such resources for the forthcoming biennium are hardly promising, and this makes it necessary to explore actively possibilities of obtaining financing from other sources, whether of multilateral (UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP) or bilateral origin, voluntary contributions from individual governments), in order to implement CEPAL general and sectoral intra- and interregional TCDC activities.

Meanwhile a large part of the work in this area which CEPAL is promoting at the present time and the tasks which it plans to implement in

^{30/} See recommendation 38, paragraph 65.

^{31/} See in particular operative paragraph 7 of resolution 2043 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council and paragraphs 24, 25 and 26 of the annex of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

the immediate future are being supported by extra-budgetary resources. In this respect, the government of the Netherlands recently announced a very generous contribution so that CEPAL can promote TCDC activities, while UNDP is inter alia, supporting activities involving co-operation among the planning bodies of Latin America which are being implemented through ILPES.

1. General a/
- To collaborate in strengthening subregional and regional institutions and organizations to carry out activities and implement projects in the field of TCDC.
 - To support the subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations in the identification, development and application of TCDC initiatives and in the preparation of studies and recommendations for TCDC programmes of action.
 - To collaborate in programming national, subregional and regional programmes by means of which the wealth of experience accumulated in the countries and organizations of the region can be shared.
 - To apply TCDC approaches in CEPAL programmes.
 - To take part in the qualitative and quantitative improvement of the UNDP Information Referral System (INRES) and in ensuring the collection and dissemination of information on TCDC needs and capacities.
 - To support national research and training centres of multinational scope for the promotion of TCDC.
 - To promote the organization and sponsorship of subregional and regional consultative meetings and working groups on TCDC methods and activities.
 - To incorporate aspects of TCDC in intergovernmental and technical meetings sponsored by CEPAL.
- a/ See the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.
2. Agricultural development
- To prepare comparative studies of country experience on the relations between agriculture and the economy as a whole.
 - To promote co-operation among countries of the region to communicate experience accumulated in the formulation and implementation of development programmes and projects and long-term agricultural development strategies.
 - To give impetus to setting up an informal co-operation network among regional food and nutrition institutes.
3. Industrial development
- To promote and sponsor meetings with national, subregional and regional institutions of the industrial sector with similar interests in order to share experience and transfer expertise.
 - To give impetus to the creation of regional bodies for sectors or specific branches of industry with the aim of collecting and disseminating technical, economic and commercial information, which will serve as a focal point and centre of liaison between these sectors or branches.
 - To make feasibility studies for the creation of Latin American multinational industrial enterprises.
4. International trade
- To promote and give impetus to systematic co-operation with and among national study and research centres on international economic relations, as a form of improving Latin America's position in its negotiation within the framework of the New International Economic Order.
 - To suggest policy measures to increase the availability of domestic resources for non-inflationary financing and propose possible machinery for intra-regional financial co-operation which will stimulate regional trade and economic integration.
 - To carry out studies, at the request of the governments or groups of countries interested, on sectors and fields in which economic links could be made.
 - To promote technical studies and discussions which will make it possible to establish closer mutual links in the different subregional and regional economic integration processes in Latin America.
 - To prepare studies to assist the countries in obtaining elements for a more efficient participation in the multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of GATT.
5. Natural resources
- To set up machinery for the practical application of demonstration cases to promote TCDC among specialized centres of the region with regard to water and its relations with development and the environment.
 - To evaluate existing technical capacities in the region's water sector in order to facilitate the use of the technology and installed capacity of the countries for TCDC activities.
 - To promote the exchange of information and expertise in the area of water and prepare a list of cases of special interest which could provide the countries of the region with useful experience.
 - To promote mutual technical co-operation among mining enterprises in the region.
6. Environment and human settlements
- To give impetus to and strengthen the links and the exchange of experience and expertise between national institutions responsible for environment matters.
 - To promote mutual co-operation in the Caribbean area in environmental management in relation to economic and social development.
 - To stimulate the exchange of experience, information and knowledge and experts to share experience in the field human settlements, with particular reference to human settlements technology.
7. Transport and communications
- To collaborate with ALAF in the organization of a training course with Ferrocarriles Argentinos for officials of other Latin American railway systems with reference to the application of the unified system of workshop costs.
 - To promote, together with ALAF, the exchange of experience among the Latin American railway systems in connection with the training of executives, cadres and railway technicians.
 - To collaborate with ALAMAR in the preparation of a handbook which will permit the standardization of the documentation required from ships docking in Latin American ports.
 - To promote the uniformity, simplification and reduction of official formalities and requirements which obstruct the free international flow of goods, transport and passengers in Latin America.
 - To make efforts to strengthen, improve and maintain all the means of transport between Latin American countries.
8. Social development
- To stimulate the linkage and exchange of national experience between the public and private centres and institutions of the region responsible for promoting the integration of women in development.
 - To give impetus to co-operation among national centres studying the problem of critical poverty so as to share experience in planning possible strategies to eliminate poverty of this type.
 - To promote the exchange of experience on the methodologies used by some countries of the region to eliminate illiteracy.
9. Statistics and quantitative analysis
- To promote and sponsor the meeting of groups of Latin American experts to discuss ways and means of homogenizing methods and procedures for collecting, processing and transmitting basic data to the statistical services of the countries of the region.
 - To strengthen the CEPAL data bank in order to facilitate the exchange of data among countries.
10. Economic and social documentation b/
- To publish regional directories of institutions working in the same sector or on similar subject in the countries of the region.
 - To prepare a regional directory on training institutions and programmes in Latin America.
 - To standardize methodologies for the construction of the thesauri and bring into line the different vocabularies being prepared in the region's specialized centres in order to facilitate the exchange of information between these centres.
 - To strengthen the regional networks made up of the development information units and institutions responsible for the construction of limit languages.
 - To organize training programmes for officials of these units and institutions so that they can transfer the know-how acquired to other national centres in their own countries.
 - To set in motion the planning information system (INFOPLAN).
- b/ These activities will be co-ordinated with the UNDP Information Referral System.
11. Public information
- To stimulate and support the Latin American mass media in order to establish with them and facilitate among them regular flows of information on TCDC.
12. Economic and social planning
- To strengthen the programme for co-operation and exchange of information among the national planning bodies of Latin America.
 - To encourage the participation of experts from national planning offices in advisory missions and ILPES training courses as a means of implementing TCDC.
13. Demography and population
- To foster co-operation programmes among national bodies for the exchange of experience in processing population censuses and household surveys and in formulating global population policies integrated into development strategies and plans, either through specialized meetings or visits of experts to countries with greater experience in such matters.
 - To identify priority areas for research, training and advisory services in demography and population in order to prepare programmes and projects for TCDC action.
14. Transnational corporations
- To organize and sponsor seminars for the exchange and transfer of experience and expertise in negotiations with transnational corporations.
 - To stimulate the creation of a regional information system to store and process data on transnational corporations.
15. Caribbean area
- To promote collaboration among the universities and other research institutions on matters relating to education, science and technology and production and processing of foodstuffs.
 - To put into practice the creation of a subregional centre for social and economic documentation.
 - To promote linkage and co-operation among associations of producers and exporters of raw materials.
 - To collaborate in the preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of a Caribbean multinational enterprise for the production and distribution of printed and audiovisual material.
 - To co-operate in preparing a common policy on science and technology.
 - To promote the creation of a network of centres for the conservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage.
 - To give impetus to the creation of machinery to facilitate the exchange of trade information in the subregion and help to increase intra-Caribbean trade.
16. Central American area
- To collaborate in strengthening the economic integration links of the subregion through the preparation of general and sectoral studies.
 - To collaborate in the preparation of feasibility studies for the creation of Central American multinational industrial enterprises and for increasing subregional trade with other Latin American countries.

B. Activities at the interregional level

1. General c/

- To collaborate with organizations, institutions or interregional agreements in:
 - (a) Initiating an evaluation of the capacity of these organizations to promote TCDC;
 - (b) Strengthening interregional links between the subregional and regional organizations with similar interests and complementary capacities;
 - (c) Identifying jointly development problems of an interregional nature containing aspects of TCDC;
 - (d) Initiating joint programmes among these interregional organizations or among bodies from different regions;
 - (e) Identifying organizational requirements or deficiencies which may require new arrangements.
- To co-ordinate with the other regional commissions the implementation of interregional co-operative TCDC programmes such as, for example:
 - (a) Organization and sponsoring of meetings of experts from two or more regions to share experience and know-how on specific topics of common interest to these regions;
 - (b) Contribution to designing special training programmes so that experts from one geographical region can receive specialized training in national, subregional or regional academic centres or institutions of another geographical region with better comparative advantages;
 - (c) Organization and co-sponsoring of study tours for government experts or experts from subregional groupings in any region with a view to exchanging experience on matters of common interest with similar experts from another region;
 - (d) Promotion of the exchange of technical information and documentation between subregional and regional groupings which are similar or have complementary interests in two or more geographical regions;
 - (e) Promotion, and if necessary, co-sponsoring of short-term exchange programmes among the technical staff of the secretariats of these groupings;
 - (f) Organization and co-sponsoring of technical meetings for the exchange of experience among these groupings on matters of common interest.

c/ For some of these activities, see the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

2. Co-operation between Latin America and Africa

- To identify capacities and needs of countries and groups of countries in the two regions as a basis for defining mutual technical and economic co-operation programmes.
- To formulate priority activity projects for implementation in the period 1979-1980 and an interregional programme of long-term activities for promotion by CEPAL and ECA (during a first stage, the priority activities would include the sectors of external trade, training and science and technology).
- To promote the exchange of information and know-how among inter-governmental organizations of a similar nature or with complementary interests from the two regions.
- Continuous dialogue and exchange of information between CEPAL and ECA on matters of technical and economic co-operation between the two regions.

3. Co-operation between India and Latin America

- To promote a dialogue between government officials of India and Latin America in order to review possibilities of carrying out mutual technical co-operation programmes and projects, such as, for example:
 - (a) Visits by Latin American officials and experts to India and visits by Indian officials and experts to some Latin American countries in order to identify the capacities and needs of both parties in specific sectors;
 - (b) Forms of promoting linkage and co-operation between research and training institutes in India and similar institutes at the national, subregional and regional levels in Latin America;
 - (c) Joint research which can be carried out with regard to specific technologies;
 - (d) Norms to establish between the parties flows of development information, linked to the information systems of CEPAL and ESCAP and the UNDP Information Referral System.