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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING ON POPULATION OF THE COMMITTEE
OF HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

Quito, Ecuador, 12-14 March 1979

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING	1- 9	1
Date and place of the meeting	1	1
Attendance	2- 3	1
Opening and closing sessions	4- 5	1
Election of Officers	6	1
Agenda	7	2
Documentation	8	2
Adoption of the report	9	2
II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	10-47	3
Demographic trends and their implications for the economic and social development of the region (Item 3 of the agenda)	17-32	5
The CEPAL regional population programme: CELADE action in the field of population and guidelines for the 1979-1980 regional population programme (Item 4 of the agenda) ..	33-47	10
III. RESOLUTIONS	48	13
1. CELADE work programme, 1979-1980		13
2. Technical assistance in population and development planning		18
3. Decentralization of CELADE activities and training in population and development planning		19
4. Institutional arrangements in the field of population		21
Annex - List of documents presented by the secretariat		23

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Date and place of the meeting

1. The First Meeting on Population of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) took place in Quito, Ecuador from 12 to 14 March 1979. It was held in pursuance of CEPAL resolution 357 (XVI), which instructed CEGAN to hold specialized meetings, in accordance with the mandates of the Commission in the field of population.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

3. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was also represented.

Opening and closing sessions

4. The opening session, held on the morning of 12 March, was addressed by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Mr. Enrique Inglesias, and Mr. Eduardo Santos, Technical Director of the Ecuadorian National Planning Board.

5. At the closing session, statements were made by Mr. Juan Carlos Elizaga, Director of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), and by the representative of Cuba, Mr. Celestino Alvarez Lajonchere, who thanked the Government and people of Ecuador on behalf of the participating delegations for their hospitality and also paid tribute to the work of CEPAL, CELADE and UNFPA and the skilled leadership of the Chairman.

Election of Officers

6. At the first meeting, on 12 March, the participants elected the following Officers: Chairman: Eduardo Santos (Ecuador); First Vice-Chairman: Gustavo Cabrera (Mexico); Second Vice-Chairman: Nelson Ramírez (Dominican Republic); Rapporteur: Luiz Henrique Da Fonseca (Brazil).

Agenda

7. At the same meeting the participants adopted the following agenda:
 1. Election of Officers
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Demographic trends and their implications for the economic and social development of the region
 - (a) Review of the present situation and prospects
 - (b) Government plans and recent action in the field of population
 4. The CEPAL Regional Population Programme: CELADE action in the field of population and guidelines for the 1979-1980 Regional Population Programme
 5. Consideration and adoption of the report to the Commission.

Documentation

8. In order to facilitate their work, the participants had before them the documents prepared by the secretariat which are listed in Annex 2.

Adoption of the report

9. At its final meeting, on the morning of 14 March, the First Meeting on Population of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts adopted the present report.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening meeting, the Executive Secretary of CEPAL began by referring to the qualitative changes which had occurred in the areas of concern of the United Nations during the 1970s. The holding of world conferences to analyse the problems of population, the environment, human settlements and technology had highlighted the fact that discussion had already passed beyond the purely economic approach to development, and that it was necessary to move on to a more global approach, focused on mankind. Those changes had also been felt within CEPAL, and one of the results was the growing concern of the Office of the Executive Secretary that due attention should be paid to the demographic aspects of development, which had taken concrete form in the Regional Population Programme adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth session (Port of Spain, 1975).

11. The Executive Secretary went on to refer to the progress made in recent years in activities related to population, emphasizing three particular examples. Firstly, agreement had been reached on certain basic principles, such as the sovereignty of countries in the definition of their population policies, the rights of individuals and the duties of the State, and the subordination of population problems to the broader problems of development. Secondly, in view of the importance acquired by such phenomena as the expansion of the labour force, which was likely to double in less than a generation; urbanization, which entailed a far-reaching change in human geography, with the emergence of many giant cities and migration, both domestic and international, the significance of population matters for development planning was no longer questioned. Thirdly, he noted, many governments had made advances in institutionalizing and applying population policies.

12. In conclusion, he proposed that the present CEGAN meeting on population should aim to exchange information on national experience, familiarize itself with the programmes of work of CELADE, and provide guidelines for its future activities.

13. The next speaker was Mr. Eduardo Santos, Technical Director of the Ecuadorian National Planning Board, who acted as Chairman of the meeting. He began by recalling that the "Quito Appraisal", carried out by CEPAL in 1973, advocated a more human conception of development, suitably incorporating the economic, social, cultural and political dimensions.

14. He then referred to Ecuador, highlighting some of the challenges posed by the country's particular geographical features in the pursuit of some central objectives of development. The first was the task of raising levels of education, improving living conditions and generating productive employment for a population which was continuing to grow rapidly. Next was the challenge posed by domestic migrations, and particularly the substantial flow of workers leaving the highlands for the coast in search of employment and better living conditions: a journey which often proved to be no more than a move from marginal status in the countryside to marginal status in the towns. Finally, he mentioned the challenge of settling the eastern region of the country, which offered large areas capable of being integrated into the country's economy through the expansion of the area under cultivation and the development of a system of populated centres.

15. Returning to the regional perspective, he drew attention to the vast potential for renewal offered by the low average age of the population of Latin American countries, emphasizing the concern which governments should have regarding the role of children and young people in the process of the economic, social and cultural development of Latin America.

16. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance which should be attached to the task of consolidating a proper institutional base for the adoption of population policies, adding that such policies were of enhanced significance within the framework of an integrated approach to development that made possible a balance between economic and social objectives and permitted the reduction of disparities between regions and between social sectors within countries, and between the countries of the region and the developed countries.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION (Item 3 of the agenda)

17. Prior to discussion of this item of the agenda, the secretariat introduced the working documents.

18. The representative of Mexico then described the recent activities of the National Population Council (CONAPO). This body, which was set up in Mexico in 1974 when the General Law on Population was promulgated, had devoted its activities during its first phase to the formulation of a national population policy aimed at reducing the growth rate of the population. He reported that this policy had been mainly implemented through the health sector, by drawing up a national family planning programme, complemented by activities in the field of education and social communication, and that as from 1978, the need had arisen to progress to a further phase in which a policy would be formulated at the regional level, taking due account of the relations between the natural growth of the population and migratory movements. He said that the policy recently adopted by CONAPO defined national and regional growth targets for the period 1978-1982 and, in addition, proposed a programme designed - depending on the particular circumstances - to retain the potentially migrant population in certain localities, to redirect migratory flows or to relocate migrants. He added that Mexico had begun to make systematic efforts to bring population policy into the field of the planning and application of sectoral policies.

19. The representative of the Dominican Republic referred to the development in recent years of the National Council for Population and the Family (CONAPOFA), which had been set up in 1968. The Council's activities had been focused on developing a programme of family planning, which had been initiated in the urban areas and had later been extended to the rural population. According to information collected in 1975, a reduction of about 35% had been achieved in urban fertility by that date, but only a reduction of about 10% in rural fertility. He then stated that in recent years the Council had been broadening its field of action, principally by embarking on a four-year programme of socio-demographic

/studies on

studies on fertility, mortality and migration designed to establish the basis for an all-embracing population policy, and by initiating contacts with the planning agencies. He said in conclusion that the principal problem in his country was the lack of trained staff to carry out population studies and incorporate demographic variables in development planning.

20. The representative of Ecuador observed that his country had always regarded population policies as an integral part of development policies, and that the recently promulgated new Constitution provided for the creation of the National Development Council, which would explicitly include among its functions the establishment of the country's population policy. As regards the present population situation, its main features were the continued high rates of fertility and population growth, and the existence of large-scale migratory flows from rural to urban areas and from the Sierra region to the coastal region, which resulted in different growth rates in the different regions and the very rapid growth of some small cities. He went on to say that population studies had been institutionalized by the creation in 1972 of the Centre for Demographic Analysis, a subsidiary of the National Planning Board. He ended by saying that the National Planning Board was preparing a project, with assistance from UNFPA and CELADE, aimed at creating a population unit to advise the future National Development Council in designing the population policy, in close collaboration with the Centre for Demographic Analysis.

21. The representative of Argentina said that, in view of the country's low population growth rate, the objectives of the population policy adopted by the Government in December 1977, on the proposal of the National Demographic Policy Commission, were, first, the quantitative and qualitative growth of the population, and next the achievement of more balanced population distribution in the country and the improvement of the quality of life. He then referred to the instruments proposed for the application of these policies, which were described in the document "Objetivos y políticas nacionales de población", distributed to the participants by the secretariat at the request of the Argentine delegation. Finally, he noted that the Commission was at present translating the overall population policy into concrete terms in sectoral policies.

22. The representative of Cuba began by referring to his country's special interest in demographic problems and its active participation in the various international conferences on the subject, particularly since the World Population Conference. He highlighted the international assistance received in various fields, especially regarding mother and child protection programmes and population activities. He then mentioned the work carried out by CELADE, especially through its office in San José, Costa Rica, in training highly skilled demographic personnel. Finally, he outlined Cuban experience in the field of population policies to show that structural reforms could substantially modify the demographic behaviour of the population.

23. The representative of Brazil expressed general support for document E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/2, particularly paragraph 65 (integration of population matters in the framework of development planning), paragraph 67 (priority for the reduction of mortality) and paragraph 68 (concerning the fundamental human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of one's children). His Government's priorities in the field of population included the improvement of the quality of life in the lowest-income groups.

24. The representative of Paraguay, referring to the population activities being carried out in his country, emphasized the importance of a current project which the Technical Secretariat for Planning was implementing in Paraguay with financial support from UNFPA and technical assistance from CELADE, with the ultimate objective of establishing a basis for the formulation of population policies in such priority areas as the spatial distribution of the population, employment and the training of human resources. He then referred briefly to the policies implemented by his Government in the fields of land settlement and agrarian reform, which had had a significant effect on the reorientation of internal migration flows, as well as the impact of the great hydroelectric works being carried out in conjunction with Brazil and Argentina.

25. The representative of Honduras informed the Committee of the projects being implemented by the Honduran Department of Population and Migration Policy, emphasizing the drawing up of a population register which would serve as a basis for future work to be undertaken in that field.

26. The representative of Nicaragua explained that in his country there was no explicit population policy, in the sense of measures designed to modify population trends, because of three factors: the persistence of moderate rates of population growth as the result of a death rate that continued to be high, together with low population density; the deficiencies in vital statistics; and the lack of human resources trained in social sciences who could investigate the relations between population and development and thus create awareness in this regard. With reference to the latter point, however, important progress had been made by holding a population survey with technical assistance from CELADE and financing provided by UNFPA, and a start had now been made on analysing the results. He said that although a family planning programme had been drawn up within the framework of mother and child health services, this activity did not pursue any objective in terms of population matters, but the numerous development programmes introduced in recent years would probably affect population dynamics in his country.

27. The representative of Jamaica pointed to the importance of examining changes in the status of women and the impact of these changes on fertility. He raised for consideration the question of external migration as it affected demographic variables and observed that Jamaica was currently losing through emigration the equivalent of more than half its annual natural increase in population.

28. He referred to the need for demographic studies to focus on the vulnerable groups in society, e.g., the young (especially young women), the aged and the handicapped. There was a need to combine population policies with other policies aimed at the conservation and management of natural resources, while it was also necessary to mobilize resources for demographic research, including censuses. Lastly, he pointed to the need to place population policies in the whole framework of human resource development strategy.

29. The representative of Chile referred to the principles guiding population policy in his country, as expounded in the document "Política de población, política de cultura", which was distributed to the participants by the secretariat at the request of the Chilean delegation. He went on to say
/that population

that population policy in Chile came within the conceptual framework established in the Declaration of Government Principles, which meant that, in accordance with the principle of subsidiaridad, whereby each couple was fully responsible for the number of children and how they were spaced, the State would not take any measures to alter the birth rate. He ended by referring to the concept of formal education in his country, defined in terms of the deep-seated relations between education, culture and the regulation of human reproduction.

30. The representative of Guatemala said that, although there was no government population policy in his country, concern at the need to link population dynamics and population change with the factors of economic and social development was manifested in a significant manner in various public bodies. Analysing the difficulties which in his view hindered the establishment of the necessary links, he mentioned inter alia the shortage of trained human resources, the lack of adequate basic information, the absence of sufficient research and the lack of an operational institutional framework: it was worth highlighting, in that connexion, the recent establishment within Guatemala's planning system of a department of human resources and population, designed to promote and implement various activities aimed at acquiring knowledge of the characteristics and dynamics of the population and their relationships with development, and drawing up population policies to be incorporated in the development plans.

31. The representative of Bolivia said that activities designed to incorporate population variables in the overall and sectoral development plans had been initiated only recently. In the Bolivian planning system, population had been regarded as one among many other social aspects, and perhaps the biggest problem the country faced was the need to gain acceptance at various levels of the public administration of the need to consider population as an integral feature among the other economic and social factors. He said that progress in that regard was regarded as crucial, that his Government felt that the assistance provided by CELADE had been valuable, and that it was necessary to strengthen the forums and mechanisms in which the governments of the region could participate to define the population activities being carried out by CEPAL.

32. The representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) recalled that the Fund had been operating for the past 10 years in accordance with various mandates from governments, especially within the framework of the directives laid down in the World Population Plan of Action adopted in Bucharest, and with full respect for national sovereignty regarding the forms in which each country formulated and applied its population policies. He mentioned the Fund's activities in connexion with health programmes, improvement of basic data, research and dissemination, and co-operation in national population policies, and observed that in the latter connexion the Fund had financed studies on law and population, basic requirements, and the setting-up of population units. He said that the Fund was also financing training programmes, fellowships and courses, as well as paying for salaries and equipment, and that in its work in Latin America it had always received efficient collaboration from CEPAL and CELADE. Lastly, he reported on the forthcoming meeting of Ministers of Planning and directors of projects which the Fund was organizing with the collaboration of CELADE and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), at which it was hoped that the governments of the region would formulate recommendations for the future development of technical co-operation in this field.

THE CEPAL REGIONAL POPULATION PROGRAMME: CELADE ACTION IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION AND GUIDELINES FOR THE 1979-1980 REGIONAL POPULATION PROGRAMME (Item 4 of the agenda)

33. The participants decided to focus their work under this agenda item on consideration of the four draft resolutions submitted by various delegations.

34. They first considered the draft resolution on the CELADE work programmes for 1979-1980 contained in conference room paper DSC/2 and submitted by the delegations of Ecuador, Grenada and Uruguay.

35. In that regard one representative emphasized the need to consider in addition the relationships between cultural aspects and human reproductive behaviour.

/36. After

36. After a lively exchange of views, that concept was incorporated in the draft resolution, together with other changes suggested by various delegations. The draft resolution was finally adopted in amended form, as resolution 1.1/

37. The Committee next examined a draft resolution on technical assistance in population and development planning, submitted by the delegation of Bolivia and contained in conference room paper DSC/3.

38. During consideration of the draft several delegations referred to the importance of the contribution made by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the action which had been taken in that field.

39. The draft resolution was finally adopted as Committee resolution 2.

40. The participants then turned to a draft resolution on the decentralization of CELADE activities and training in population and development planning, sponsored by the delegation of Paraguay and contained in conference room paper DSC/4.

41. One representative expressed concern at the apparent contradiction between the need for professional training in the field of interrelationships between population and development deriving from the agreements adopted at the World Population Conference, and the number and content of the training programmes which had actually been carried out in the region in recent years. He further pointed to an apparent contradiction in the fact that international financing agencies granted funds for national projects whose implementation presupposed the participation of professionals trained to examine such interrelationships, but did not grant adequate resources to permit them to be trained in sufficient numbers or at levels appropriate to the requirements of such projects. He also observed that an excessively large proportion of budgets for national projects were aimed at satisfying formal requirements and paying for the administration of the projects.

42. The Director of CELADE said that the policy applied by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in recent years had given national projects preference over regional projects, and this had resulted in relatively fewer resources being available for the development of regional and subregional training programmes.

1/ The resolutions adopted by the Committee appear in section III.

43. The representative of UNFPA, however, said that although it was true that the Fund was giving decided support to national projects, the resources available for regional training programmes had actually increased in absolute terms.

44. Following a lengthy exchange of views, the participants adopted as resolution 3 the draft resolution reproduced in section III of this report.

45. During the discussion of a draft resolution on institutional arrangements in the field of population, presented by the delegations of Cuba, Mexico and the Dominican Republic and contained in conference room paper DSC/1, one delegate said that his government was opposed to the creation of new machinery for considering population matters. Another delegate stressed the fact that it was only "meanwhile" that population matters had been entrusted to CEGAN, and that his government would appreciate it if the secretariat of CEPAL could prepare options for consideration at the eighteenth session of the Commission so that more permanent arrangements could be reached in the field of population.

46. A working group appointed by the Chairman and made up of the delegations of Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico carefully reviewed the draft resolution and introduced some amendments. The amended draft resolution was then adopted by the meeting as resolution 4.

47. Before the close of discussion on this topic, a member of one of the delegations which had sponsored the original draft said that his only concern was that, in discussing the matter at the eighteenth session of CEPAL, the governments should be able to select the best option with regard to institutional arrangements in the field of population. A member of the delegation which had questioned the draft said that his delegation was also seeking the optimum formula: in the opinion of his government, this was that CEGAN should continue to be responsible for population matters, thus avoiding the creation of another intergovernmental body.

/III. RESOLUTIONS

III. RESOLUTIONS

48. At its First Meeting on Population, the Committee of High-Level Government Experts adopted the following resolutions.

1. CELADE work programme, 1979-1980

The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, at its First Meeting on Population

Taking into account the fact that resolution 357 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America instructed the Committee of High-Level Government Experts to provide among other matters, at specialized meetings, general orientation with regard to the Latin American Regional Population Programme.

Also taking into account that CEPAL resolution 376 (XVII) recommended to the Committee of High-Level Government Experts that, at specialized meetings, it should consider matters relating to population in the region within the framework of the International Development Strategy as it applies to Latin America and in conformity with the proposals for the New International Economic Order and the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, paying due regard to national policies.

Bearing in mind both the conclusions and recommendations of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population (Mexico City, 1975), as the expression of a regional consensus on the nature and importance of the relations between economic and social development and population trends, and the need to consider the population variable in economic and social development plans and policies, and stressing those recommendations referring to action by regional bodies in research, training and technical assistance, owing to their particular relevance for this first meeting of CEGAN on population.

Considering that it is the duty of the Commission to assist in promoting the development of Latin America, and that population policies are an integral part of socio-economic development policies, and bearing in mind the importance of and the need for a regional programme of specific activities by the secretariat in the field of population,

/Recalling the

Recalling the recognition by the international community of the implications of the demographic trends prevailing in countries in the process of industrialization for the economic, social, environmental and political problems of development, and the effect of the rate and forms of that development on those demographic trends,

Also recalling that the Regional Population Programme, in view of the resources available, can only offer a selective response to the needs of the region, and that action must therefore be oriented in the first place towards a group of topics which will identify those areas of critical problems in which population variables play a recognized role, and to which the governments devote most attention in their policies and plans, including regional and urban development, employment and income distribution, critical poverty, habitat and the quality of the urban and rural environment, basic social services (health, education, social security), the status of women and protection of the family,

Further recalling that in view of the socio-economic differences and differences in demographic behaviour resulting from the internal structural diversity of national societies, attention should be concentrated on population groups which are considered to be strategic from the point of view of policy and planning objectives, such as the lowest income groups, the scattered rural population and the migrant population,

Also taking into account that since the aim of the Regional Population Programme is to create and expand the know-how, capabilities and inputs required for the formulation of sovereign policies, development plans and programmes in the field of population, the Regional Programme should continue with and as far as possible intensify activities aimed at improving the population data base of the countries, increasing knowledge of the interrelations between population variables and the socio-economic factors of development in the particular context of each country, and promoting and facilitating the training of local staff and the dissemination of information, with a view to the institutionalization of such activities,

/Also taking

Also taking into account that until the countries of the region create adequate institutional conditions, possess their own technical resources and are able to commit sufficient funds to establish and maintain in operation the programmes of activities required to meet their needs, external assistance will continue to play a significant qualitative role,

Also considering that substantial additional demands are anticipated for technical assistance as a result of the opening up of new areas of concern, more complex approaches designed to achieve more integrated understanding of population dynamics, and the introduction of more advanced technology in computing and information sciences,

Recalling at the same time that one of the basic principles of technical co-operation is to help to foster the self-reliance of the developing countries as soon and as rapidly as possible, thus requiring that the countries should attach high priority to the development of human resources through training programmes and the transfer of technology, and to the development of institutions responsible for producing and analysing basic population statistics, preparing population studies and formulating and implementing population policies and programmes, including the type of high-level body in the national administrative structure whose creation - or strengthening, should it already exist - was recommended by the Second Latin American Meeting on Population,^{2/}

Taking note of the section referring to population (Programme 804) of the CEPAL Medium-term Plan for 1980-1983, approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session,

Taking note also of the resolutions and recommendations of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population,^{3/}

Likewise taking note of secretariat reports E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/2 and E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/3 and the Report on the Activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre, 1977-1979,

^{2/} See ST/ECLA/CONF.54/L.9/Rev.1, chapter III, paragraph 134.

^{3/} See ST/ECLA/CONF.54/L.9/Rev.1.

1. Endorses the following general objectives of the CEPAL Population Programme:^{4/}

(a) To foster understanding in the different areas of national life of the nature and importance of the mutual relations between the demographic, socio-economic and environmental factors of development;

(b) To develop and improve the continuing capacity of the countries to organize and implement population censuses and surveys (including the processing of data and their publication);

(c) To develop and promote improvement of the quality of population statistics, their adaptation to the needs of economic and social planning, and analytical techniques and methods for making better use of them;

(d) To maintain up-to-date basic information on the situation and prospects of the demographic evolution of the countries of the region;

(e) To promote and develop research projects aimed at clarifying the interrelation between population and development, especially in connexion with quantifying the determinants and consequences of population dynamics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, bearing in mind the differing sub-national regional systems and social groups;

(f) To develop analytical tools, adapted to the conditions of the countries of the region, for the incorporation of demographic variables into the planning process;

(g) To promote and develop the preparation of conceptual frameworks (including objectives, targets and instruments) and inputs for formulating, implementing and evaluating population policies and programmes;

(h) To stimulate, maintain and improve the training of professionals in demographic analysis and population topics, including specific fields;

(i) To publish studies, manuals and other technical reports and disseminate them among the public of the different countries; and

(j) To keep up a flow of data and documentation on population matters in Latin America.

^{4/} This CELADE work programme was submitted at the seventeenth session of CEPAL (Guatemala City, 1977) and adopted together with the rest of the programme of work of CEPAL in resolution 381 (XVII) of the Commission.

2. Recommends that the CEPAL population programme 1979-1980 should give priority to the following topics and activities, as part of the general objectives described above:

(a) Monitoring of population trends

Maintenance of up-to-date information on the population situation and prospects of the countries of the region;

(b) Advisory services in population statistics

Advisory services aimed at strengthening national capacity for organizing, preparing and analysing census data and population surveys;

(c) Regional development, migration and urbanization

Research on the interrelations of the main economic and social dimensions of urban and regional development, the geographical distribution of the population, and international migrations, highlighting key population groups and strategic variables, in order to provide suggestions for the planning and formulation of policies on migration and urban and regional development;

(d) Development and population growth

Continuing deeper research, in specific historical situations, into the causal relations between the levels and trends of population growth in the countries of the region, the structural changes which accompany their development, and socio-economic factors at the family level, concentrating the analysis on the social groups regarded as being of key importance and the variables considered of strategic value by each country in the light of its own circumstances;

(e) Population and economic and social planning

Development of a regional methodology for incorporating demographic variables into the planning process and for the analysis of the relationships between alternative patterns of economic and social development and population dynamics in specific national circumstances;

(f) Technical advisory services in population and planning

Aid to the countries, by means of technical assistance missions, in developing know-how, training staff and preparing the inputs needed in order to be able to incorporate population aspects into the formulation of sovereign policies and development plans;

(g) Training

Continuation and expansion of the present training programme in the field of population, and the holding of courses and seminars in specific areas;

(h) Latin

(h) Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL)

Updating and maintenance of the DOCPAL computerized data base and provision of documentation services to users in the region; periodic publication of a review of bibliographical summaries; provision of data and documents; technical advisory services on documentation systems;

(i) Supporting computing services and advisory services

Supporting services to the substantive activities of the Regional Population Programme, including support to DOCPAL and advisory services to governments through missions to the countries;

(j) Publications service

Publication, printing and distribution of research reports, studies, information on population programmes, population data and other outputs from the various activities of the Regional Population Programme;

(k) Human reproductive behaviour and cultural changes

Investigation of the interrelations between the reproductive behaviour of human groups and their cultural evolution, with an evaluation of their impact on each other and the implications for society as a whole.

2. Technical assistance in population and development planning

The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, at its First Meeting on Population,

Bearing in mind the recommendations and conclusions of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population, and particularly the contents of paragraph 168,

Recognizing the progress made in the organization of national government teams responsible for formulating, implementing and evaluating population policies;

Bearing in mind the content and orientation of the CEPAL population programme,

1. Recommends that CEPAL should intensify technical assistance to interested governments with a view to the creation or strengthening of national institutions and machinery which will contribute to the integration of population policies into the countries' global, sectoral and regional planning;

2. Further recommends the CEPAL should request the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue increasing its support for technical assistance activities carried out in the region.

/3. Decentralization

3. Decentralization of CELADE activities and training
in population and development planning

The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, at its First Meeting on
Population,

Bearing in mind the recommendations and conclusions of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population, and particularly the contents of paragraph 145 (d),

Taking account of what has been said by the delegates to this meeting regarding the inadequate supply of trained human resources for analysing in each concrete situation the specific relations between population trends and the characteristics inherent in development, so as to permit the introduction into economic and social planning of policies aimed at changing those population trends,

Recognizing that it is necessary that CEPAL's action in population matters should adequately cover the different subregions and areas, giving attention to the specific individual features of each,

Acknowledging with satisfaction the support being provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for population activities in Latin America, both to the Commission and directly to the countries,

Considering the content and orientation of the population programme of the Latin American Demographic Centre, and particularly the objective laid down in it of stimulating, maintaining and improving the training of professionals in demographic analysis and population matters, including specific fields,

1. Recommends that CEPAL should strengthen action aimed at decentralizing the activities of the Centre so that it serves subregions with common problems, seeking for that purpose the support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities;

2. Also recommends that as part of CEPAL's Population Programme for 1979-1980 high priority should be given to the intensification of courses and seminars aimed at the rapid training of government officials from the countries of the area in matters concerning population and development planning;

3. Recommends that CEPAL should request the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to try to increase the support which it has been giving to activities of this type in the region, so as to make it possible to put the foregoing recommendations into practice.

/4. Institutional

4. Institutional arrangements in the field of population

The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, at its First Meeting on Population

Recalling that the action taken by CEPAL, through the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), in connexion with population in the context of the region is mainly aimed at collaboration with member States in the various activities required for the formulation of sovereign population policies and their inclusion in development plans and strategies,

Stressing the fact that demographic variables and their dynamics are an inherent part of the development processes, and that they cannot be harmonized through piecemeal action regarding the economy or the social system, but require co-ordinated action which will be consistent with a given historical and geographical context, in which government action plays a decisive role,

Bearing in mind that resolution 345 (AC.68) adopted by the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL at its tenth extraordinary session, and subsequently ratified by the Commission at its sixteenth session, provided for the incorporation of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) in the CEPAL system as a permanent institution with its own identity,

Also bearing in mind that at the Second Latin American Meeting on Population, the Latin American countries recommended that CELADE should, in the regional context, strengthen and adapt its activities, within its field of competence, in such a way as to consolidate its role as a regional technical agency in the field of population,

Considering that the above resolution recommended that the secretariat should study appropriate means of enabling the Latin American governments to take more regular, direct and effective action in the field of population and its relations with economic and social development,

Considering that the Commission, in resolutions 357 (XVI) and 360 (XVI) on institutional aspects, recognized the need to intensify efforts aimed at improving the institutional machinery for action in certain areas,

/Also considering

Also considering that the Commission, in resolution 357 (XVI), decided "meanwhile" to instruct CEGAN to take up the topic of population,

Recommends that the Commission, at its eighteenth session, should take a decision regarding the best way of placing CEGAN's activity in the field of population on a regular and permanent basis.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARIAT

E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/1	Provisional agenda
E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/2	The present demographic situation, prospects and implications for development planning in the region
E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB/3	The prospects for action in the field of population in Latin America and the Caribbean
DC/20	Conclusions and recommendations of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population
DC/21	Report on the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), 1977-1979