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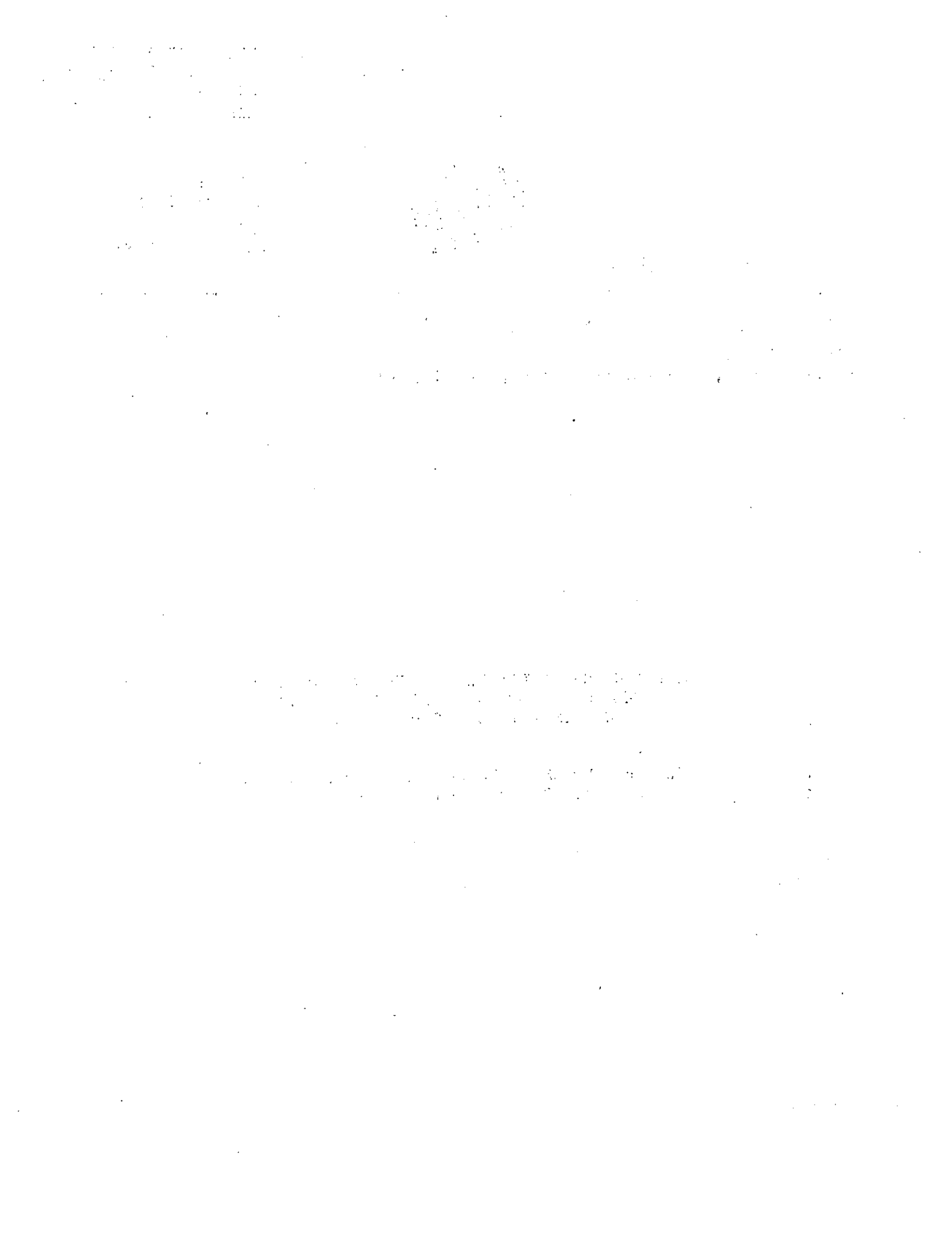
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Sixteenth session  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-15 May 1975

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

(Joint note by the ECLA secretariat and the UNDP  
Regional Bureau for Latin America)



1. Within the framework of regional and subregional co-operation, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its eighteenth session, discussed the role of the regional economic commissions in the operational activities of the United Nations. After hearing the views and comments expressed during the discussion of the subject, the Governing Council adopted the following decision at its meeting on 20 June 1974:1/

- "(a) Recommended that the Administrator, in co-operation with the developing countries concerned, encourage the participation of the Regional Economic Commissions in the planning and co-ordination of UNDP and UNFPA assistance available for regional and subregional projects within their respective regions;
- (b) Recommended that the Economic and Social Council, taking into full account the financial implications involved, consider the feasibility of appropriate arrangements allowing for the delegation of the appropriate functions of executing agency to the Regional Economic Commissions for regional and subregional projects, financed by UNDP, in cases where this is recommended by the Administrator and the countries concerned;
- (c) Recommended further that the Economic and Social Council request the Regional Economic Commissions to co-operate with the Administrator of UNDP by participating in the planning and implementation of relevant regional and subregional projects and by ensuring co-ordination with UNDP of their own activities, in particular the activities of the United Nations development advisory teams;
- (d) Recommended that the Administrator, upon appropriate arrangements with the United Nations, endeavour to make full use of the expertise available to the Regional Economic Commissions by utilizing them, as appropriate, as executing agents of selected UNDP projects in their respective regions aimed at regional and subregional economic co-operation, where this is recommended by the countries concerned;
- (e) Urged that the Resident Representatives of UNDP make full use of the multidisciplinary services of the United Nations development advisory teams, as appropriate;
- (f) Urged the Administrator to make effective liaison arrangements at the headquarters of all Regional Economic Commissions."

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1/ See document E/5543/Rev.1, section III, paragraph 111.

2. In its resolution 1896 (LVII) on regional co-operation, the Economic and Social Council took note of the decision adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP and requested the Secretary-General "to make the necessary arrangements allowing for the delegation of the appropriate functions of an executing agency to the regional economic commissions for regional, subregional and interregional projects". These functions would be delegated by the Administrator of UNDP, where such delegation is requested by the countries concerned and recommended by the Administrator of the Programme.<sup>2/</sup>

3. Next the Council requested the regional economic commissions to extend their co-operation to UNDP by participating in the planning and, as appropriate, the implementation of relevant regional, subregional and interregional projects, and by ensuring the co-ordination with the Programme of their own activities and those of the multinational interdisciplinary United Nations Development Advisory Teams.<sup>3/</sup>

4. The General Assembly, in its discussion on the decentralization of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme, considered the report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its eighteenth session, in particular section III of the decision of the Governing Council on regional and subregional co-operation.

5. In this connexion, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3252 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974 in which, inter alia, it took note of the desire to speed up the implementation and delivery of country and regional programmes and projects that was expressed at sessions of the Governing Council of the Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly:

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<sup>2/</sup> See Economic and Social Council resolution 1896 (LVII), section II, operative paragraph 5 (1919th plenary meeting on 1 August 1974).

<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., operative paragraph 6.

- "1. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twentieth session to consider, taking into account the report of the Administrator, the question of the decentralization of the activities of the Programme, in particular the establishment of regional field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, in liaison with the regional economic commissions, with a view to improving the programming, delivery, implementation and follow-up action of country programmes and regional and subregional projects."
6. On the basis of these resolutions, certain measures have been adopted to strengthen the co-operation and communication between ECLA and UNDP, both at the institutional level and in connexion with operational activities.
7. At the fifteenth session of ECLA in Quito, the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America held discussions with a view to developing a permanent system of co-ordination between ECLA and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America aimed at making the essentially complementary action of the two agencies in the region more efficient.
8. In this respect, there is a firm conviction that a system of joint action should be established in order to harmonize the different but essentially complementary functions of the two agencies, thus reflecting the fundamental role of ECLA as a source and centre of dissemination of ideas and policies designed to promote economic and social development in the region, with responsibility for evaluating the implementation of the International Development Strategy and putting into effect of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3202 (S-VI), and the role of UNDP as an operational agency responsible for framing policies of technical co-operation to assist countries in translating those ideas into practical action.
9. The first step towards establishing a systematic link between the two organizations was taken in 1973 when the Resident Representatives of UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean were informed of the points on which ECLA and UNDP would initiate systematic and continuing action

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in the region. The necessary exchange of reports and documents was specified, as well as the assistance which ECLA and ILPES could give to UNDP, at both the national and the multinational level, co-operating in the preparation of background documents which is one of the basic requirements for country programming, and participating where appropriate in the annual reviews and appraisal. The Resident Representative in Chile, then Liaison Officer with ECLA, was directed by UNDP to study and implement these provisions.

10. The Executive Secretary of ECLA and the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America agreed to carry out a study on the regional operational activities financed by UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean and their links with ECLA and other interested institutions. The first part of this study was completed in December 1974. For the first time a thorough examination was made of the relationship between the regional activities financed by UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean and the overall and regional development strategies adopted by the United Nations system; of the methodology used for programming these activities; of the procedures used to formulate, execute, evaluate and ensure the follow-up of regional projects; and of the complex regional structures of the United Nations system with responsibility for carrying out these activities in the region.

11. The study is serving as a basis for the discussions currently in process between the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America with a view to devising a system of programming and management that will respond more fully to the region's development needs and will achieve a greater impact in UNDP-financed activities at the country level, and make for a fuller integration of the efforts of UNDP, ECLA and the specialized agencies which are linked in one way or another with both these institutions. As a first step in this direction, at the sixteenth session of ECLA in Port-of-Spain, a meeting will be held on 8 and 9 May 1975 in which in addition to the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America, other staff members of ECLA and UNDP, and the directors of some of the most important regional projects of UNDP will participate.

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12. UNDP's multinational activities in Latin America and the Caribbean have started to develop on the basis of an extensive regional programme of activities which will serve as an instrument of action enabling UNDP to respond rapidly and efficiently to the most pressing needs of the region as a whole. The technical co-operation provided within the framework of this programme would therefore cover the requirements currently perceived and definable by the real situation and the decision of governments in the region, and those emerging in the future. ECLA's co-operation should yield important results both in the analysis of the situation in the region and in the identification of problems.

13. New imaginative approaches to development and, particularly, to technical co-operation are being applied in several UNDP regional projects that have recently been initiated, and in others in course of preparation. Once the usefulness of these approaches has been demonstrated, they could be used with a catalytic effect in country programmes. The regional programme is centred on providing support for sub-regional economic integration and for high-priority activities, particularly in the science and technology fields, making use of the human capacity existing in regional institutions. On the basis of the experience and knowledge available in Latin America and the Caribbean and through the mobilization of the region's resources, intensive efforts are being made to facilitate the transfer and use of technologies between countries in the area.

14. Thanks to the support given by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, several interdisciplinary projects along these new lines are in process of execution or being formulated jointly by UNDP and ECLA. These include the fourth phase of activities of ILPES, which continues to be the most important project financed by UNDP in Latin America, and which has been prepared with a view to responding to new needs; the project for providing co-operation to the member States of CECLA in connexion with trade policy and their preparations

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for participating in the multilateral trade negotiations; projects within the framework of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, with the purpose of analysing the necessary basic characteristics for the creation of new conditions in the world economic structure in the fields of both commodity trade and the monetary and financial system; a study for the establishment of a Latin American multinational fertilizer enterprise with the aim of identifying appropriate fields for the mobilization of Latin American human and financial resources in order to put into operation a programme of multinational co-operation in the production, supply and marketing of fertilizers; a project on development and education aimed at exploring development policy options that would include education and other social aspects; a mission for the prevention of natural disasters in the Andean countries, and a similar mission for Central America; an appraisal of the implications of the energy crisis for Central America; and a project for co-operating in the formulation of policies that will ensure the maximum development and use of regional resources for the generation of electric energy. A training programme on planning and industrial projects, with emphasis on evaluation, supervision and execution, is also envisaged for the English-speaking Caribbean area. In addition, consideration is being given to co-operation between ECLA and UNDP in an analysis of the possibilities and obstacles to economic co-operation between the countries of the Caribbean area, with a view to their obtaining greater benefits from the common efforts proposed or under way.

15. In order to institutionalize the co-operation between UNDP and ECLA/ILPES and to improve the efficiency of the common effort to achieve development in the region, a UNDP Liaison Office with ECLA and ILPES was established in January 1975. This Liaison Office, operating under the general direction of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America, will co-operate in the preparation of joint projects or programmes of activities of both ILPES and UNDP, and ECLA and UNDP. It will also assist the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Director-General of ILPES, and the directors of other important UNDP

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regional projects with headquarters in Santiago, in achieving greater co-ordination between these projects and the activities of ECLA and of other UNDP regional projects.

16. The functions of the Liaison Office are, inter alia:

- (a) To ensure the maintenance of permanent channels of communication between ECLA and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America, and facilitate the participation of ECLA and ILPES in country and regional programming exercises; and
- (b) To make the necessary arrangements for the formulation, execution and management of regional projects of interest to ECLA.

17. This permanent contact maintained by a UNDP Liaison Office in Santiago supplements the continuous and periodical consultations between the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Executive Secretary of ECLA on general policy and programming issues and the biennial meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions, which are attended by representatives of UNDP.

18. A UNDP and United Nations working group is currently studying the best way of carrying out multinational operational activities so that the appropriate functions of executing agency for regional, sub-regional and interregional projects financed by UNDP can be delegated to the regional economic commissions, at the request of the countries concerned and on the recommendation of the Administrator of UNDP.

19. The delegation to ECLA of the functions of executing agency for regional, sub-regional and interregional projects financed by UNDP in matters related to the secretariat's own activities would achieve the purpose of transferring to the countries the results of ECLA's research through operational activities.

20. At the country level, the Resident Representatives in those countries in which ECLA has no regional offices established are in fact representing and providing services and facilitating the operational capacity of the Commission. Moreover, consideration is being given to the possibility of formally appointing the UNDP Resident Representatives as representatives of ECLA. Arrangements have

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already been made for the Resident Representatives in Latin America and the Caribbean to have informative interviews at ECLA headquarters on their appointment or whenever appropriate.

21. In order to improve the planning and co-ordination of the assistance provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in the region, another permanent arrangement between UNFPA and ECLA was established in 1974 to the effect that the Regional Co-ordinator of UNFPA with headquarters in Santiago should also perform liaison functions between UNFPA and ECLA and ILPES.