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PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

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81-3-573

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

The main goals and issues of the nineteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) were summarized for member Governments by the secretariat at the fourteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 November 1980, and also in the cables sent on 23 December 1980 and 16 March 1981, and particularly in the formal letter of convocation.

As stressed in that letter, the session is of particular significance for Latin America at this point in time, on the threshold of the 1980s. It offers both the Latin American and Caribbean countries as well as the other member countries of the Commission the chance to carry out a constructive review of the New International Development Strategy which has just been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to guide the Organization's economic and social activities during the 1980s, and more particularly of its implementation in this region. Naturally, the more a review of this kind comes to grips with national and regional situations and faithfully reflects them, the greater will be its significance.

It is in this context that the countries of the region must decide on the strategy which they wish to follow, establishing their own targets and priorities for the activities and programmes of collaboration they wish to undertake among themselves and with other countries and regions, as well as the tasks which they wish CEPAL and its secretariat to undertake in coming years, in suitable co-ordination with other international bodies and agencies within the United Nations system or outside it.

The purpose of this additional note from the secretariat is to forward a number of suggestions concerning the organization of the work of the nineteenth session which, if adopted by member Governments, could help to smooth the way for the work of the session.

In conformity with established practice at CEPAL meetings, the method of work proposed for the nineteenth session could be considered at the informal meeting of heads of delegation at the technical level which it is hoped to convene at 9:30 a.m. on Monday 4 May 1981 at the venue of the conference (Intendencia Municipal of Montevideo). The opening plenary meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on the same day and in the same place, as will the registration of delegates and observers accredited to the session.

The secretariat believes that for the proper consideration of the attached provisional agenda, it is necessary, as on earlier occasions, to divide the nineteenth session into two consecutive stages. In the first, primarily technical stage, work will be carried out primarily through committees, which will meet from 4 to 9 May.

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The second stage, beginning on Monday 11 May, will consist of plenary meetings, on the basis of the reports already adopted by the committees which are set up and meet during the technical stage as suggested below. It should be stressed that the plenary meetings of the second stage are normally attended by Ministers of State or Heads of Delegation of equivalent rank, and that they begin with a special ceremony befitting the high level of such government representatives. The details of this ceremony will be divulged in due course in Montevideo, or earlier if possible.

The Ministers or Heads of Delegation will consider the conclusions and recommendations forwarded to the committees and adopt the resolutions and other decisions they consider desirable in connexion with the various agenda items. They have also to decide in the plenary meeting on the place and date of the twentieth CEPAL session and, finally, to consider and adopt the final report of the nineteenth session prepared by the Rapporteur with the assistance of the secretariat.

It is worth repeating that, pursuant to resolution 386 (XVIII), one of the basic tasks which the Commission must perform at its nineteenth session is to consider "a regional programme of action for the instrumentation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and also to consider the recommendation that "the development decade for the Latin American countries be proclaimed". These and related matters should be tackled under item 3 of the attached provisional agenda, starting on Wednesday 6 May in the morning, by Committee I which is to be constituted for that purpose. This Committee, like Committee II, which the secretariat suggests should be entrusted with the consideration of items 7 and 8 of the attached provisional agenda, are plenary committees in the sense that they are normally open to the participation of all member States and associate members of the Commission, and also to observers from other countries and other official participants, including the representatives of international organizations.

The items "Co-operation among developing countries and regions" (agenda item 4), "Water resources" (agenda item 5), and "Human settlements" (agenda item 6) should be dealt with by the corresponding sessional committees set up for that purpose at the first plenary meeting in conformity with earlier CEPAL decisions to that effect.

It is proposed that the sessional committees set up to consider agenda items 4 and 5 should meet simultaneously on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May. The third sessional committee, to deal with agenda 6, could meet on Friday 8 May and if necessary also on Saturday 9 May, in order to facilitate the participation of government experts in this field who may also have first to attend the fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements to be held in Manila, Philippines, from 25 April to 6 May 1981.

/According to

According to resolution 419 (Plen.14) adopted on 20 November 1980 by the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL on the rationalization of the institutional structure and of the pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system, "government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered".

In the annotations to the provisional agenda given below in part III, further details are presented with a view to facilitating the organization of work of the nineteenth session as a whole.

In addition, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in consultation with the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, has decided to convene on Wednesday 13 May 1981 a special regional intergovernmental meeting pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council and of the UNDP Governing Council concerning the joint determination by the countries of the region of the priorities for the use of the indicative planning figure for regional projects in the third UNDP programming cycle for the five-year period 1982-1986.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers

2. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work of the nineteenth session

3. Latin America and the 1980s
   (a) Strategy for the economic and social development of Latin America in the 1980s and Regional Programme of Action for the instrumentation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy
   (b) Machinery and procedures for appraising the implementation of the new Strategy and the Regional Programme of Action

4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions 1/

5. Water resources 1/

6. Human settlements 1/

7. Activities of the CEPAL system since the eighteenth session, and programme of work for the biennium 1982-1983
   (a) CEPAL
      (i) Subsidiary bodies
      (ii) Regional meetings
      (iii) Activities of the secretariat between May 1979 and April 1981
      (iv) Programme of work of the CEPAL system for the biennium 1981-1982
      (v) Schedule of conferences for the biennium 1981-1982

1/ To be dealt with in the respective Sessional Committees.

/(b) ILPES

(b) ILPES
(i) Activities of ILPES between May 1979 and April 1981
(ii) Future activities of ILPES
(c) CELADE
(i) Activities of CELADE between May 1979 and April 1981
(ii) Future activities of CELADE

8. Medium-term Plan 1984-1989

9. Date and place of the twentieth session of CEPAL.

10. Consideration and approval of the Report of the nineteenth session of the Commission, including the Regional Plan of Action for the 1980s.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers

In conformity with rule 16 of the CEPAL rules of procedure, at the commencement of each session of the Commission or of its subsidiary bodies a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur must be elected. According to the practice established at earlier CEPAL sessions, the head of the delegation of the host country is normally elected Chairman. Rule 20 of the rules of procedure further establishes that "the Chairman or the Vice-chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited".

If one or more committees are set up, as has generally been the case in earlier sessions, it will be necessary to elect a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur for each of them.

Again according to the practice followed at earlier sessions of the Commission, the countries represented by the officers elected to conduct the business of the session at the technical level in plenary will not change when the plenary stage at the ministerial level commences, with the sole difference that the corresponding heads of delegation will occupy the positions.

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and organization of the work of the nineteenth session

The delegates may adopt the provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/G.1148) prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter II of the CEPAL rules of procedure, or put forward whatever observations or modifications they consider necessary in accordance with the rules of procedure. The following paragraphs outline the background and put forward some observations on the various agenda items, and refer to the basic and background documents to be taken into account when dealing with them.

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The suggestions of the secretariat concerning the organization of work of the nineteenth session are contained in part I of this document. As mentioned there, both the organization of work and issues concerning the agenda and the officers are usually considered at an informal meeting of heads of delegations of member governments held before the beginning of each session.

3. Latin America and the 1980s

(a) Strategy for the economic and social development of Latin America and the 1980s and Regional Programme of Action for the instrumentation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy.

(b) Machinery and procedures for appraising the implementation of the new strategy and the Regional Programme of Action.

Documents

- Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), Quito, Ecuador, 9-13 March 1981 (E/CEPAL/G.1155)

- Latin American Development in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1150)

Reference documents

- The regional appraisals of the international development strategy: Quito, 1973; Chaguaramas, 1975; Guatemala, 1977 and La Paz, 1979 (Cuadernos de la CEPAL, No. 30)

- Collected Resolutions on the International Development Strategy and the New International Economic Order adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (E/CEPAL/G.1157)

- Strategy for the Caribbean Countries for the Third Development Decade (E/CEPAL/G.1132)

- Agricultural Development in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1159)

- The External Economic Relations of Latin America in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1160)

- Latin America: Industrial Policy in the Context of the New International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/G.1161)

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- The Financial Demands of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1165)

- Regional Integration and Co-operation in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1151)

- The Health Sector in the 1980s 2/

- Underemployment in Latin America. Past trends and future needs.3/

The general framework within which the Commission should tackle the substantive agenda items is provided by a number of mandates of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council and of the Commission itself or of its Committee of the Whole.

The principal institutional framework for any economic and social body of the United Nations system - including CEPAL and its subsidiary bodies - is currently provided by General Assembly resolution 32/197, adopted on 20 December 1977.

With regard to the regional commissions, including CEPAL, and its subsidiary bodies, the fundamental provisions and mandates are set forth in section IV of the annex to that resolution entitled "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation".4/ Here, the General Assembly established that:

> "19. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, having due regard to the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities.
>
> "20. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, they should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. They may convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions."

2/ Document prepared specially by the Pan-American Health Organization for the nineteenth session of CEPAL.

3/ Document prepared specially by the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) for the nineteenth session of CEPAL.

4/ The full text of annex IV of resolution 32/197 is given in General Assembly document A/32/45.

/Pursuant to

Pursuant to this and other relevant mandates of the General Assembly, on 20 November 1980 the fourteenth extraordinary session of the CEPAL Committee of the Whole was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, for the primary purpose of deciding on supplementary measures to improve the institutional functioning of the CEPAL system in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. On that occasion the CEPAL Committee of the Whole adopted by consensus inter alia resolution 419 (Plen.14) on the rationalization of the institutional structure and of the pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system.5/

In the operative part of the resolution, among the institutional arrangements adopted by the member Governments of CEPAL it is stated that:

"(c) The regular sessions of the Commission should continue normally to be preceded by a meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), in conformity with resolution 310 (XIV) and other pertinent resolutions of the Commission, in particular those relating to the implementation and appraisal of the International Development Strategy and to the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

"(d) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) should also normally meet prior to the ordinary session of the Committee of the Whole in the years in which the Commission does not hold a session in order to carry out the additional responsibilities entrusted to it under resolution 357 (XVI) with respect to population, industrialization and science and technology.

"(e) The statutory rationalization of the meetings of the Commission, the Committee of the Whole and the Committee of High-Level Government Experts as described above shall be without prejudice to any extraordinary session which it is decided to convene in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure in order to deal with emergencies such as those caused by natural disasters and other problems considered urgent by member Governments."

At its eighteenth session, held in La Paz in April 1979, the Commission proper, drawing largely on the recommendations of CEGAN and expanding them in some cases as a result of the joint deliberations of all CEPAL member Countries, adopted resolution 386 (XVIII) on preparations and contributions by CEPAL for the formulation of the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.6/ In the operative part of that resolution, inter alia, the secretariat is requested:

5/ The full text of this resolution appears in document E/CEPAL/G.1157.

6/ The full text of resolution 386 (XVIII) is contained in document E/CEPAL/G.1157.

/"(b) To

"(b) To prepare a regional action programme for the implementation of the Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to be adopted by the General Assembly, as regards the countries of Latin America."

Furthermore, the resolution also recommends "that member Governments of the developing countries of the region prepare plans or programmes which include the formulation of economic and social development objectives and goals for the next decade, together with their relevant strategies and policies, suitably linked with the instrumentation and implementation of the strategy as far as the Latin American countries are concerned".

The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 1980 in resolution 35/56, establishes in section IV, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the New International Development Strategy",7/ the role to be played by the regional commissions in the review and appraisal process, and in the preparation of the regional programmes of action. It states inter alia that:

"173. At the regional level, the review and appraisal will be conducted by the respective regional commissions. Development banks, regional and subregional groups and organizations could collaborate with the regional commissions for this purpose. Furthermore, the regional commissions should carry out, as part of their regular activity of preparing economic surveys of the region, periodic reviews of major aspects of development in the evolving development experiences in their regions.

"174. The regional commissions should consider the feasibility of preparing action programmes to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in their respective areas. Furthermore, the regional commissions, in conjunction with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and multilateral development institutions, might suggest ways of improving United Nations assistance efforts and enhancing their co-ordination in the context of the particular economic and social development needs of each region."

In conformity with the above-mentioned mandates and guidelines, particularly those contained in CEPAL resolution 386 (XVIII) and 419 (Plen.14) of the Committee of the Whole, the fifth meeting of CEGAN was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 March 1981, to carry out its duties in connexion with the implementation and appraisal of the New International Development Strategy and the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

7/ The full text of the New International Development Strategy appears in document A/RES/35/56.

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As a result of its discussions, CEGAN adopted by consensus the Regional Programme of Action aimed at stepping up the economic and social development of Latin America in the 1980s which appears in Part Two of its report (document E/CEPAL/G.1155). That report, and the secretariat document entitled "Latin American development in the 1980s", (E/CEPAL/G.1150) constitute the key documents for the works of Committee I which will deal with the item "Latin America and the 1980s".

4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions 8/

Documents

- "Action by the CEPAL system to promote and support technical and economic co-operation among developing countries" (E/CEPAL/G.1167).

In many regional and international forums the governments of the developing and developed countries alike have stressed the importance and need of promoting increasing technical and economic co-operation among the developing countries. In this connexion, in resolution 363 (XVII) the Commission decided, inter alia, "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 to be examined by the member Governments".9/ This issue became still more topical as a result of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, at which the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries was adopted.

As a result, at its eighteenth session the Commission in resolution 387 (XVIII) recognized the need further to boost technical and economic co-operation among the countries of the region, and the importance of forging closer and stronger links of this kind of co-operation with other regions of the developing world. In order to carry into practice this recognition voiced unanimously by all members of the Commission, the Executive Secretary was requested inter alia to adopt the necessary measures to carry into practice the recommendations aimed at the regional commissions in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

8/ This item will be dealt with by a sessional committee in accordance with operative paragraph 9 of resolution 387 (XVIII) and the provisions of paragraph (h) of the operative section of resolution 419 (Plen.14) adopted on 20 November 1980 by the CEPAL Committee of the Whole.

9/ See also resolutions 316 (XV) and 354 (XVI) adopted at the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission respectively.

/he was

he was also requested to set up within the CEPAL secretariat appropriate machinery to take responsibility for promotion, information and co-ordination activities concerning technical and economic co-operation among developing countries. The Commission also decided that the question of horizontal co-operation should be reviewed at each session of the Commission by a sessional committee "in order to examine the intra-regional and interregional co-operation activities carried out by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to formulating appropriate support measures to promote such co-operation".

The secretariat document (E/CEPAL/G.1167) presented on this occasion gives a general idea both of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat as one of the agents of the United Nations system for development in the field of horizontal co-operation and also of the guidelines for the operational programme being undertaken by the secretariat in order to implement those activities both within the CEPAL system and the intra-regional and interregional level. Finally, the document provides precise information on the operational activities to promote and support technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and regions in specific sectors and areas at the regional and interregional levels since the eighteenth session, and summarizes CEPAL secretariat thinking on the "why" and "how" of TCDC and ECDC in the broad perspectives of the economic and social development of the developing countries.

Although it is for the sessional committee to adopt its own agenda and decide on the organization of its work, the secretariat wishes to suggest, as a guide, that the committee should include in its deliberations the following topics: (a) review of the operational activities to support and promote technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and regions undertaken by the secretariat in the last two years at the regional and interregional levels; (b) determination of the priority areas which the committee believes the secretariat should tackle in the period 1981-1983; (c) consideration of the institutional forms and means adopted by the secretariat to undertake these activities; and (d) collaboration and co-ordination with other bodies and organizations, both within the United Nations system and outside it, for the purpose of undertaking activities to support horizontal co-operation at the regional and interregional levels.

5. Water resources 10/

Documents

- Progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level (E/CEPAL/G.1172)

10/ This topic will be dealt with by a sessional committee established specifically for this purpose, as suggested in the first part of this document and as provided for in resolution 419 (Plen.14), operative paragraph (h), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL on 20 November 1980.

/- International

- International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade: the situation in Latin America on the eve of the Decade and the prospects for the future (a joint report prepared with the Pan-American Health Organization) (E/CEPAL/G.1166)

Reference documents

- Report of the first Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (E/CEPAL/G.1171)

- The financial demands of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1165)

In October 1978 the Latin American Regional Meeting on the Action Plan of the United Nations Water Conference, the report of which is contained in document E/CEPAL/G.1056, was held at the headquarters of CEPAL in Santiago, Chile. On this occasion the government representatives recommended inter alia, that the Economic Commission for Latin America should, "in order to promote the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level, directly assume concrete permanent responsibilities to this end at its regular sessions, preferably through a sessional committee" (resolution 1, operative paragraph 1 (a).)

At the eighteenth session of the Commission in La Paz, the Sessional Committee on Water was formally constituted for the first time, and its conclusions and recommendation subsequently includes by the Commission in resolution 411 (XVII) 11/ on organizational measures to promote the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. According to this resolution, the Commission decided to assume directly "concrete permanent responsibilities at its regular sessions, through a sessional committee", and urged governments "to send to all the sessions as a normal practice experts who are highly qualified to take part in this Committee".

In the same resolution the Commission entrusted the following functions to the Committee:

"(i) To assume the central role referred to in the Mar del Plata Action Plan, by reviewing relevant aspects of the work carried out and planned in the various water programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations;

"(ii) To encourage and undertake research to improve knowledge of water resources and the possibilities of developing them;

"(iii) To encourage and conduct training activities on topics related to water resources."

11/ This resolution appears in document E/CEPAL/G.1172.

/Pursuant to

Pursuant to the mandates of resolution 411 (XVIII), the Water Resources Unit was formed within the institutional structure of the CEPAL secretariat, as part of its Natural Resources Division. The secretariat also organized the intersecretariat meeting on water resources for Latin America held by the Unit in June 1980 and attended by experts from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international bodies; at this meeting it was agreed to set up an intersecretariat working group on water resources in Latin America as the most adequate means of satisfying the interest of the member Governments in improving and increasing the co-ordination of the relevant activities of the different organizations in this field.

In substantive aspects, the secretariat has continued with its work on the environmental aspects of the administration of water resources and the exploration of appropriate fields for horizontal co-operation. Two Latin American seminars have been organized on horizontal co-operation in drinking water and sanitation. The first of these was held in Santiago, from 9 to 13 March 1981 and the second is programmed for 6-9 July 1981 in Mexico City.12/

In accordance with these aims and pursuant to the mandates contained in resolution 31 adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1979, and resolution 35/18 unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 November 1980,which proclaimed the period 1980-1990 as International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the CEPAL secretariat has remained in very close contact with governments and organizations directly interested and active in this field in Latin America and particularly with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in its capacity as a regional agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), with which it jointly prepared document E/CEPAL/G.1166 entitled "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade: the situation in Latin America on the eve of the Decade and the prospects for the future". It is expected that this document, together with the rest which have been prepared for the consideration of the Sessional Committee on Water and the Commission, will make it possible for the formal proclamation of the International Decade at the regional level to take place during the nineteenth session of the Commission in Montevideo. A special event is being programmed for this purpose during the last stage of the meeting, attended by Ministers of other high government officials and directors of international bodies at the meeting.

As regards the Sessional Committee on Water, its members will have to nominate the officers who will preside over them and define the agenda for their discussions when they meet in Montevideo. However, in the light of existing mandates and procedures, the secretariat assumes that the government representatives will in any case wish to include in the agenda the report on the work and activities carried out since the first meeting of the Sessional Committee on Water, the presentation by government delegations of the progress

12/ See document E/CEPAL/G.1171.

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made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level, and proposals for the future work programme of the secretariat as regards water resources.13/

6. Human settlements 14/

Documents

- Report of the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements (E/CEPAL/G.1112)

- CEPAL's activities as regards human settlements in Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1168)

As regards human settlements, the Commission decided in resolution 407 (XVIII), that this topic "should be the subject of analysis and specific examination by committees especially established for the purpose at the sessions of CEPAL", and urged each government to include an expert in this field in the delegation to be sent to the sessions of the Commission.

It will be the responsibility of the sessional committee on Human Settlements to review the activities carried out by CEPAL and its secretariat in this regard since the eighteenth session, pursuant to the mandates of the relevant organs of the United Nations, including the Commission itself. For this review the delegates will have before them document E/CEPAL/G.1168, CEPAL's activities as regards human settlements in Latin America. This document sums up the activities of the secretariat, including the organization and holding of specialized seminars in Mexico, Havana and Managua in 1978 and 1980, which dealt with appropriate human settlement technologies and in which modern teaching methods based on active participation were tried out, aimed at expanding and improving programmes for training and human resources.

The governments will also have before them for their consideration document E/CEPAL/G.1112, which is the report of the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements held in Mexico City from 7-11 November 1979, for the main purpose of assessing the work programme provided for in CEPAL resolution 378 (XVII). At this meeting four resolutions were adopted on the subject.

Lastly, the sessional committee will have the responsibility of considering the work programme as regards human settlements for the period 1982-1983, submitted by the secretariat at a special consultative meeting held in Mexico City on 20 and 21 March of this year.

13/ See document E/CEPAL/G.1172.

14/ This topic will be discussed at a sessional committee, in accordance with operative paragraph 9 of resolution 387 (XVIII) and with the provisions of resolution 419 (Plen.14), operative paragraph (h), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Commission on 20 November 1980.

/7. Activities

7. Activities of the CEPAL system since the eighteenth session, and programme of work for the biennium 1982-1983

(a) CEPAL
(i) Subsidiary bodies
(ii) Regional meetings
(iii) Activities of the secretariat between May 1979 and April 1981
(iv) Programme of work of the CEPAL system for the biennium 1981-1982
(v) Schedule of conferences for the biennium 1981-1982

(b) ILPES
(i) Activities of ILPES between May 1979 and April 1981
(ii) Future activities of ILPES

(c) CELADE
(i) Activities of CELADE between May 1979 and April 1981
(ii) Future activities of CELADE

(a) CEPAL

Documents

- Report on the activities of the Commission since 27 April 1979 (document E/CEPAL/G.1163)

- Conclusions and recommendations of intergovernmental meetings held by CEPAL since the eighteenth session (document E/CEPAL/G.1154)

- Draft programme of work of the CEPAL system 1982-1983 (document E/CEPAL/G.1162)

- Calendar of intergovernmental meetings proposed by CEPAL for the period 1982-1983 (document E/CEPAL/G.1152)

- Report on the subregional offices for Central America and Panama and for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America, prepared by Alfred D. Norde, United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/80/13)

In reviewing the activities carried out and the programme of work for the years to come, Committee II will have to bear in mind above all the decisions and priorities established by the member Governments. In this regard, the secretariat has included in the basic documentation the collection of conclusions and recommendations of intergovernmental meetings held by CEPAL over the last two years (E/CEPAL/G.1154).

As regards the programme of work for the years to come, it will be indispensable to establish an appropriate interrelation between what the member Governments adopt in the Strategy and Regional Programme of Action for the 1980s and what is included in the Programme of Work and the Medium-Term Plan which should be aimed at achieving these objectives, goals and priorities.

/Also pursuant

Also pursuant to decision 35/440 taken by the General Assembly at its thirtyfifth session, it is the responsibility of the regional commissions to consider at their 1981 sessions the consequences for their role and functions of resolutions 32/197 15/ and 33/202,16/ in the light inter alia, of the observations and recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary General A/35/546, 17/ particularly in aspects referring to the allocation of resources which will strengthen the capacities of the regional commissions.

Bearing in mind the complexity and breadth of these topics, the Executive Secretary will, at the opening meeting of Committee II, make a general presentation of the agenda, which if the proposals of the secretariat are adopted would be treated as follows:

15/ Section IV, paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 states that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role "as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions". In paragraph 8 of the same annex to resolution 32/197, the General Assembly also says that in order for the regional commissions to be effectively able to discharge these responsibilities the necessary authority should be delegated and "adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made for their activities".

16/ General Assembly resolution 33/202 decided in section V, operative paragraph 3, "that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right", for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects, "and requests the Secretary General to take the necessary steps in this regard". In operative paragraph 4 this resolution requests the Secretary General, inter alia, to proceed with "the decentralization to the regional commissions of appropriate research and analysis activities" which will enable the regional commissions "effectively to exercise their responsibilities for co-ordination at the regional level".

17/ The report which the Secretary General of the United Nations submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session constitutes a first attempt, since the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197, at analysing the general consequences of this resolution for the regional commissions in particular. At the same time, this document gives a fairly clear picture of the extended duties anticipated for the regional commissions in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and also gives an idea of the immediate programming priorities of the regional commissions within the restructuring process.

/(i) Subsidiary

(i) Subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole, made up of all the member Governments of the Commission, has met on three occasions since the last session of the Commission.

At its twelfth extraordinary session, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 27 and 28 September 1979, the Governments members of the Commission concerned themselves with assistance to the government of Nicaragua in the reconstruction of that country, following a prolonged conflict which produced serious economic damage. In a resolution adopted on this occasion, the governments committed their help and gave instructions to the different United Nations bodies to provide full assistance for this purpose.

The Committee of the Whole of the Commission held its thirteenth extraordinary session on 19 October 1979 at United Nations Headquarters to analyse the serious damage experienced by Dominica and the Dominican Republic as a result of hurricanes David and Frederick, which had devastated these Caribbean islands two monts previously. A resolution was adopted in which the member governments were requested to provide assistance for the reconstruction of these two countries.

The Committee of the Whole held its fourteenth extraordinary session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 19 November 1980, to consider the adoption of new measures to improve the institutional operation of the CEPAL system, in accordance with the directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the restructuring of the United Nations (particularly General Assembly resolution 32/197). Three resolutions were adopted, referring respectively to measures to rationalize the structure, and particularly the biennial plan of meetings of the CEPAL system, the report of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee on its fifth session, and the financing of the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

At this meeting some member Governments expressed their concern for the increasing disparity between the responsibilities and duties assigned to the CEPAL secretariat and the limited resources at its disposition, stressing the need for the Executive Secretary of the Commission to hold consultations with the member Governments so as to have access to other sources of financing.

Committee of High Level Government Experts (CEGAN)

The Committee of High-Level Government Experts held its fifth session in Quito, Ecuador, from 9-13 March 1981. The members of CEGAN analysed the document prepared by the CEPAL secretariat on Latin American development in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1150) in accordance with the directives received at

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the eighteenth session of the Commission; pursuant to the mandates of the La Paz meeting, they prepared and adopted a regional programme of action to speed up the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which is contained in the second part of the report of the meeting of CEGAN in Quito (document E/CEPAL/G.1155). Both documents will serve as a basis for discussions of Committee I.

Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE)

Although this Committee did not programme any meetings during the period under review, the Inter-Agency Commission for the Implementation of the CCE Resolutions held its eighth and ninth meetings. In addition to considering how the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented, the Commission tackled two major topics:

(i) international technical co-operation for the integration process; and

(ii) review of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the CCE.

Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)

During the period under review, the CDCC held its fifth session in Kingston, Jamaica, from 4-10 June 1980.

At this session the member Governments established priorities for the work programme of the CDCC secretariat, mainly serviced by the CEPAL office for the Caribbean, and formulated some recommendations on the role and operation of the CDCC. Specifically, the Committee recommended that additional authority should be delegated to the CEPAL office for the Caribbean, and more resources granted so that it could carry out its work. The Committee also stressed the need for the CDCC secretariat to promote close collaboration between the CDCC and the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development.

The report of the fifth session of the CDCC (document E/CEPAL/G.1133) was considered at the fourteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL held in New York on 20 November 1980. The Committee of the Whole welcomed this report with appreciation and endorsed the resolutions contained in it. It also acknowledged the efforts made by the CEPAL office for the Caribbean to implement activities included in the CDCC work programme in its function as focal point for the secretariat of the Committee. It also expressed satisfaction at the steps taken by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to delegate authority to the CEPAL office for the Caribbean with regard to functions of an operational and administrative nature and requested the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts and his representations vis-à-vis the appropriate United Nations authorities with a view to ensuring that the latter seek to arrange the budgetary appropriations necessary to enable the CEPAL office for the Caribbean to carry out those activities in the work programme which have been assigned priority and cannot be postponed. Lastly, the Committee of the Whole requested the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of making formal and informal arrangements with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the implementation of specific activities in the CDCC work programme.

/In considering

In considering the activities of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, it would be advisable for the delegates to bear in mind the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the subregional offices of the Commission for Central America and Panama and for the Caribbean (JIU/REP/80/13), and the comments of the Secretary-General on this report.

Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America

The auxiliary institutional body or mechanism set up by CEPAL on a permanent and regular basis to deal with matters relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of the region, is the Conference which, by decision of the member Governments, should be convened at periods of not more than 3 years, pursuant to the resolution adopted on 21 November 1977 by the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL.

Pursuant to this mandate, and as the preparatory regional stage of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Copenhagen, July 1980, CEPAL held the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America in Macuto, Venezuela, from 12-16 November 1979.

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference - who constitute the liaison between the governments and the CEPAL secretariat in the field of the integration of women into development - held its fourth meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on 9 and 10 March 1981, as laid down in paragraph 88 of the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development. The general purpose of the meeting was to examine the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the Macuto and Copenhagen conferences, so as to prepare a document which would contain proposals to incorporate the subject of women into the regional programme of action linked with the implementation of the New International Development Strategy adopted by the General Assembly for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The conclusions and recommendations of the Presiding Officers are contained in the report of the Quito meeting (document E/CEPAL/MDM/9), and were submitted by their Chairwoman at the fifth session of CEGAN.

(ii) Regional meetings

The various conferences and meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by CEPAL since the last session of the Commission are listed in annex 2 (pages 132 to 139) of the biennial report on the activities of the Commission (document E/CEPAL/G.1163). In addition to the conferences or meetings of the subsidiary bodies indicated above, regional conferences were held, inter alia, on industrialization (jointly with UNIDO) in September 1979; on human settlements in November 1979 in Mexico, in close collaboration

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with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and on new and renewable sources of energy, in Mexico in March 1981, in co-ordination with OLADE and the General Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy; two regional meetings were also held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1980, as preparatory stages for the International Year of Disabled Persons. The other meetings, seminars, working groups, symposiums, workshops, and encounters of a regional, subregional or sectoral nature are listed in the annex of the biennial report mentioned above, and are also summarized in the relevant sections of this report, to be reviewed by Committee II.

(iii) Activities of the secretariat from May 1979 to April 1981

Pursuant to Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Executive Secretary shall at each session of the Commission "present a report on the work programme of the secretariat during the period between the previous and current sessions". Also according to the same Rule "in the periods between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, in so far as possible, the member Governments are informed of the work in progress and of the opinions expressed by the member Governments regarding such results".

(iv) Programme of work of the CEPAL system 1982-1983

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the practice followed by CEPAL, the secretariat has submitted the draft programme of work of the CEPAL system for the period 1982-1983 for the consideration of the member Governments in document E/CEPAL/G.1162. The structure of the programme of work follows the basic lines of previous presentations; however, some changes have been introduced so as to supply more information which will permit the delegates of the member countries to have a broader and more thorough view of its content. Each programme, the nomenclature of which corresponds to that adopted by the United Nations, is preceded by a brief presentation summarizing its general trends.

(v) Calendar of conferences

According to the provisions of resolution 419, operative paragraph (b) (Plen.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole on November 1980, "at its nineteenth session the Commission should decide on the new calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system with a view to implementing it, duly synchronized with the General Assembly's budget programming cycle, as from 1982 and taking into account the objectives and priorities established in the various work programmes and regional action programmes approved by member Governments"..

In addition to the above-mentioned adjustment, resolution 419 (Plen.14) just quoted on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system introduced other changes. These changes are that: (a) the dates of the sessions of the Commission should be

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changed from odd to even years, so as to coincide with the General Assembly's budget programming cycle; (b) it was decided that as a general rule no more than five substantive regional conferences or meetings should be held each year; (c) at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next ordinary session should be considered, stipulating where possible the date, duration and location of each meeting.

In order to implement this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table with the meetings programmed for the period 1981-1982, and projected meetings for the period 1983-1984, including not only meetings of a statutory nature with a fixed periodicity, but also regional preparatory meetings for world conferences and in connexion with commemorative years. The suggestions and recommendations of the secretariat regarding the adjustments in the calendar of conferences of the CEPAL system are contained in document E/CEPAL/G.1152.

(b) Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

(i) Activities of ILPES between May 1979 and April 1981.
(ii) Future activities of ILPES.

Documents

- Activities of ILPES between May 1979 and April 1981 and future prospects.

- Reports of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City in November 1980.

- Draft programme of work of the CEPAL system (E/CEPAL/G.1162).

The documents submitted by the secretariat will permit the delegates to analyse the work performed by the Institute since the previous session and give guidelines for its activities over the next two years.

ILPES, which in accordance with resolutions of the member Governments belongs to the CEPAL system, has carried out its activities through its programmes on training, research, advisory services and co-operation among planning bodies. As regards advisory services it has continued to co-operate with the governments in the preparation of development plans and programmes and in strengthening institutional organization. Training has been aimed at capacitating the technical staff of the planning bodies both at the headquarters of ILPES and in the different countries; the link with national training centres has been an important one. Research has centred partly on the review of the situation of planning in Latin America and on an in depth review of such topics as social development, participation, the integration of social and economic variables into planning and the review of topics which are being explicitly incorporated into planning, such as the environment and science and technology.

/As regards

As regards co-operation among planning bodies collaboration has continued with the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies, so as to foster mutual co-operation among the planning bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the nineteenth session of the Commission, ILPES will submit a detailed report of its activities and will submit to the delegates proposals relating to each of the programmes which it is its responsibility to implement.

It will also submit the reports of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, held in Guatemala in November 1980.

(c) The Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

Documents

- Report of the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) 1979-1980 (E/CEPAL/G.1170).

- Programme of work of the CEPAL system (E/CEPAL/G.1162).

Supporting document:

- "América Latina: Situación demográfica evaluada en 1980" (E/CEPAL/CELADE/G.3).

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) at its fourteenth extraordinary session, gave preferential attention to the financial difficulties which CELADE is facing in fully implementing the priorities laid down by the governments in the field of population. The Committee of the Whole adopted resolution 421 (Plen.14), which recommends that the governments of member countries should study the possibility of establishing bilateral agreements with CEPAL/CELADE in order to implement activities in priority areas of development in the field of population, and of making special contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) so that the latter may intensify its support for the activities carried out by CELADE in the region, and also urges financing institutions and co-operation agencies to intensify the financial support necessary for the efficient implementation of the CELADE work programme.

The activities carried out by CELADE during the period 1979-1981 and the tasks anticipated for the period 1982-1983 fall within the general framework of CEPAL's regional population programme and are aimed at the creation of the capacities, know-how and inputs needed for the formulation of population policies and their integration into national development strategies and plans, as well as advisory services to the countries for implementing these tasks, so as to contribute to achieving the harmonization of population trends and the objectives of economic and social development.

Document E/CEPAL/G.1170 describes the specific tasks carried out during the period 1979-1981 in the areas of demographic analysis, estimates and projections, population and development, teaching and training, and documentation and data processing. Document E/CEPAL/G.1162 (pages 72-83) gives the CELADE work programme, describing the priorities established by the governments in the field of population. The supporting document E/CEPAL/CELADE/G.3 reflects the demographic situation of the countries of the region evaluated in 1980, an essential element for the governments in the formulation of their economic and social development plans.

8. Medium-term Plan 1984-1989

Documents

- Plan de Mediano Plazo 1984-1989 (document E/CEPAL/G.1164).

The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a body composed of representatives of 21 States which reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, is responsible for the revision of the medium-term plans and programme budgets of the United Nations.

At its twentieth session the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (May 1980) recommended that "the chapters of the proposed Medium-Term Plan for the period 1984-1989 should be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental organs prior to their review by the Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly".

The status of the Medium-Term Plan is indicated in General Assembly resolution 31/93, paragraph 3 (c) which states that "after approval by the General Assembly, the Medium-Term Plan will constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations". This was reaffirmed by General Assembly resolution 34/224, paragraph 2 (c).

Member Governments of the Commission are invited to analyse this draft plan so as to orient the priority activities which the Commission should undertake in the medium-term future and assist the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in the review of the medium-term plan for the Economic Commission for Latin America.

It should be noted that the plan submitted for revision was drafted in accordance with the new programme classification of the United Nations, which differs slightly from that previously used for the preparation of the draft programme of work of the CEPAL system, 1982-1983 (document E/CEPAL/G.1162).

9. Date and place of the twentieth session of CEPAL 18/

According to the provisions of chapter I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Commission should consider at each session where its next session is to be held.

18/ See complete schedule of conferences given in document E/CEPAL/G.1152.

/In considering

In considering this subject, the Commission should review the invitations which it may have received from member Governments or which member Governments may formulate as regards the venue for the twentieth session, and should adopt a resolution recommending the place and date of this session, subject to the approval of the Conference Committee established by the United Nations General Assembly to co-ordinate the calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire organization.

To date, CEPAL has held sessions in the following cities:

1. Santiago, Chile, 7-25 June 1948
2. Havana, 20 May-14 June 1949
3. Montevideo, 5-21 June 1950
4. Mexico City, 26 May-16 June 1951
5. Quitandinha, 9-25 April 1953
6. Bogotá, 29 August-16 September 1955
7. La Paz, 15-29 May 1957
8. Panama, 11-23 May 1959
9. Santiago, Chile, 4-15 May 1961
10. Mar del Plata, 6-18 May 1963
11. Mexico City, 6-18 May 1965
12. Caracas, 2-13 May 1967
13. Lima, 14-23 April 1969
14. Santiago, Chile, 27 April-8 May 1971
15. Quito, 23-30 March 1973
16. Port of Spain, 6-14 May 1975
17. Guatemala City, 25 April-5 May 1977
18. La Paz, 18-26 April 1979.

10. <u>Consideration and approval of the report of the nineteenth session of the Commission, including the Regional Plan of Action for the 1980s</u>