

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CEPAL/G.1152  
21 April 1981

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

CEPAL  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Nineteenth Session  
Montevideo, Uruguay, 4-16 May 1981

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES OF  
THE CEPAL SYSTEM, 1981-1984



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### Introduction

For some years past the member governments of the United Nations have sought to secure greater rationalization of the economic and social sector of the world Organization in order to be able to respond more effectively to the new and broader tasks needing to be carried out under the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order 1/ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.2/ In addition, in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations it has become common practice in recent years to entrust the regional commissions with numerous new activities connected with the regional preparation and subsequent follow-up of world conferences on such topics as technical co-operation among developing countries, water, human settlements, women, the environment, science and technology, energy, and disabled persons.

In view of the increased responsibilities assigned to the economic and social sector of the United Nations system, the legislative bodies of the world Organization adopted a number of resolutions and decisions whose complete text is given in document E/CEPAL/G.1137 of 17 October 1980. The most important of these was General Assembly resolution 32/197, section IV of the Annex which lays down guidelines for the institutional functioning of the regional commissions. This resolution makes recommendations on the rationalization of the structures of the regional commissions by, inter alia, streamlining their subsidiary machinery.

#### 1. Efforts to rationalize the structure of CEPAL

At the eighteenth session of the Commission (La Paz, April 1979), the Executive Secretary of CEPAL made a statement on the systematic expansion of the tasks of the Secretariat and the tendency of representatives attending some sectoral meetings to request the establishment of new committees and subsidiary bodies. He therefore suggested that it would be desirable to convene an extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL to

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1/ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

2/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

consider proposals for rationalizing the structure of the CEPAL system and the pattern of meetings for the coming years.

At the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 20 November 1980, consideration was given to the document prepared by the Secretariat entitled Rationalization of the institutional structure and pattern of meetings of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1137), which includes a table giving a full picture of the main organs and present meetings of the CEPAL system.<sup>3/</sup>

As reflected in the report of the meeting,<sup>4/</sup> after a general debate on the topic the Committee of the Whole adopted by consensus resolution 419 (Plen.14) entitled "Rationalization of the structure and pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system".<sup>5/</sup>

In its operative part, the resolution adopted by the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL "Decides to maintain the existing fundamental institutional structure of the CEPAL system, while further rationalizing its machinery, procedures and meetings" and lays down, inter alia, that "the biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of the Committee of the Whole in the years when the Commission does not meet should constitute the focal points around which the other meetings of the CEPAL system ... should be organized."

Both the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) and the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, which was set up as a permanent subsidiary body of the Commission in 1977, will continue to meet in accordance with their respective mandates. As regards the subsidiary bodies of a subregional nature, i.e., the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), it was decided that, at their next session, these should "consider the best means of adapting their general institutional functioning - including the adjustment of their annual subregional meetings - to the biennial pattern established for the United Nations by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council".

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3/ See annex 1.

4/ See document E/CEPAL/G.1142.

5/ For complete text, see annex 2.

Finally, note should be taken of the decision of the Committee of the Whole in this resolution to the effect that the subjects of water, human settlements and co-operation between developing countries and regions should be discussed regularly in sessional committees.

2. Changes arising from resolution 419 (Plen.14)

The most important changes arising from resolution 419 (Plen.14) are: (a) the holding of CEPAL sessions in even instead of odd years, in order to bring them into line with the biennial budget programming cycle applied by the General Assembly; (b) the limitation of the number of substantive conferences or meetings of a regional nature held in any one year to a maximum of five, as a general rule; (c) the consideration at each regular session of the Commission of the complete calendar of conferences and meetings programmed up to the next regular session, stipulating, as far as possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting.

Consequently, in order to comply with the changes approved in resolution 419 (Plen.14), the nineteenth session will have to consider the complete calendar of conferences and meetings programmed up to 1984. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a table showing the meetings programmed for the biennium 1981-1982 and has made a projection of the meetings for the biennium 1983-1984 which includes not only the meetings of a statutory nature which must be held at fixed intervals, but also the regional preparatory meetings for United Nations world conferences and those connected with commemorative years.<sup>6/</sup>

As may be seen from this calendar, the CEPAL session - which continues to be the focal point of all the other meetings - has been changed from odd to even years.

In view of this, it will be necessary to consider whether it would be better to hold the twentieth session of the Commission in 1982 or in 1984. If the second of these alternatives - which is that given in the table in annex 3 - is decided upon, then the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL would be convened in 1982 and in 1983. This alternative would have the advantage of

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<sup>6/</sup> See annex 3.

enabling more adequate preparations to be made for the twentieth regular session in 1984, and at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole in 1982 the member governments of the Commission would consider the programme of work and activities of the CEPAL for the biennium 1984-1985 sufficiently in advance for its submission to the United Nations, together with any other matter which the members of the Commission might see fit. In this respect, it should be recalled that the Committee of the Whole includes all the member countries of CEPAL, and its decisions and resolutions have the same validity as the resolutions adopted at the regular sessions.

As provided for in operative paragraphs (c) and (d) of resolution 419 (Plen.14), and bearing in mind the recommendations of the fifth session of CEGAN (Quito, March 1981), the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) would meet annually for the purposes mentioned in the resolution. Likewise, the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America should meet in 1983 in line with operative paragraph (g) of the same resolution.

As regards the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), it would be for the CDCC itself to consider at its next session the best way of complying with the provisions of operative paragraph (i) of resolution 419 (Plen.14) calling upon it to adapt its institutional functioning to the biennial pattern established for the United Nations by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

In the attached calendar of meetings, a meeting of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee has been scheduled for 1982.

Finally, as laid down in operative paragraph (h) of the resolution, provision has been made for meetings in 1981 and 1984 of the three sessional committees of CEPAL, jointly with the sessions of the Commission.

#### Conclusions

This calendar of meetings, if approved by member governments, would not exceed the limit of five substantive conferences or meetings of a regional nature per year and, in accordance with the terms of resolution 32/197, the establishment of new intergovernmental committees would be avoided while at the same time governments would be given the opportunity to meet at subject-

/oriented sessions.

oriented sessions. The foregoing does not affect the holding of seminars, expert meetings, inter-agency meetings, round tables or other informal meetings, which are convened by the Executive Secretary within the framework of the Programme of Work approved by the Commission.

In considering the calendar of conferences, the representatives of member governments should bear in mind that although the proposals made include the regional and intergovernmental meetings for which mandates already exist, it could happen that it might be necessary to add unforeseen meetings, especially in the biennium 1983-1984, because CEPAL, like the other regional commissions, might receive mandates from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the holding of regional meetings on specific topics. It may therefore be necessary for the calendar of meetings to be reviewed again by the Committee of the Whole when it meets in the years in which no regular session of the Commission is held.

## Annex 1

## MAIN BODIES AND CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Commissions, sessions	1948	Economic and Social Council Res. 106(VI)	All CEPAL member countries and associate members	Every two years	All economic and social issues in accordance with article I of the Commission's terms of reference. See also rule 8 of the rules of procedure relating to the provisional agenda for any session.
Committee of the Whole, regular and special sessions	1952	ECOSOC Res. 106(VI) (para. 3)	All CEPAL member States and associate members	Originally every year in which no Commission session was held, convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL; now when necessary	Twelve regular sessions of the Committee have been held to discuss similar issues as at the Commission's sessions. In 1968 the Commission agreed that when a question calling for an urgent decision by the Commission arose the Executive Secretary could convene a special session of the Committee following the procedure in rule 1 (b) of the rules of procedure (para. 490, doc. E/4639, E/CN.12/841/Rev.1). Thirteen extraordinary sessions of the Committee have been held.
CEPAL sessional committees	1948	Rule 53 of CEPAL rules of procedure	All CEPAL member States and associate member States	As required during sessions	The Commission may assign to sessional committees any item within its sphere of competence that is not already assigned to an existing body in the system. At the 19th session there will be 3 sessional committees on water, human settlements and technical co-operation among developing countries, in conformity with earlier CEPAL decisions.
Regional inter-governmental conferences	-	Generally resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, CEPAL or its Committee of the Whole	All CEPAL member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues. These are often preparatory meetings of a regional nature prior to world conferences of the United Nations on the issue.

## Annex I (cont.)

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Latin American Conference on the Integration of Women in Development	1977	Resolution adopted in November 1977 by the Committee of the Whole at its 11th extraordinary session	All CEPAL member States and associate members	Every three years at most	Regional Action Programme on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America.
<u>Ad hoc meetings of government-appointed experts</u>	-	Rule 24 of rules of procedure. CEPAL resolution 401(XVIII) and other decisions	All CEPAL member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues stemming from the Programme of Work adopted by the Commission or programmes co-ordinated with other inter-governmental bodies.
Seminars, forums, round tables and other meetings convened by the Executive Secretary pursuant to mandates from Governments	-	Rule 24 of rules of procedure Various CEPAL resolutions, including 401(XVIII)	Experts invited by the secretariat according to the issue and available resources	As required	Specific issues stemming from the Programme of Work adopted by the Commission or programmes co-ordinated with other inter-governmental bodies.
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	1971	Res. 310(XIV)	Developing countries members of CEPAL	In good time, at least once a year, normally before the session of the Commission or as required	To act as a forum for analysing the various aspects involved in the implementation and appraisal of the objectives of the International Development Strategy in Latin America (Res. 310(XIV), para. 5).
CEGAN (population) CEGAN (industrialization) CEGAN (science and technology)	1975	CEPAL Res. 357(XVI)	Developing countries members of CEPAL		To deal with <u>population, industrialization and science and technology</u> , at specialized meetings, in conformity with the Commission's mandates. CEPAL resolution 357(XVI).

## Annex I (concl.)

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
ILPES Technical Committee	1974	Res. 340(AC.66) Eighth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole	Countries of the Latin American region	As required	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To act as the guiding governmental body for ILPES activities in the matters entrusted to it.</li> <li>2. To serve as a consultative body of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL.</li> <li>3. To review and adopt the ILPES work programme.</li> </ol>
Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation <sup>a/</sup>	1951	CEPAL Res. 9(IV)	Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua	As required	To act as co-ordinating body for activities aimed at encouraging the integration of the national economies of the member countries and serve as a consultative body for the Executive Secretary, both to orient studies and to consider their conclusions.
Caribbean Co-operation and Development Committee	1975	CEPAL Res. 358(XVI). CDCC Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure (E/CEPAL/1022)	Countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean and Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean countries attaining independence	Once a year Special sessions may be convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL	CDCC rules of procedure, chapter II, para. 10: "To act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of CEPAL in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances".

<sup>a/</sup> Panama has also participated as an observer in some activities of the Committee.

Annex 2

419 (PLEN.14). RATIONALIZATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND  
THE PATTERN OF MEETINGS OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Also recalling resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, basically so as to bring it into line with the new and expanded requirements emanating from the above-mentioned resolutions, and resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the General Assembly adopted a group of measures and provisions of an institutional nature recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee which since then constitute the most recent basic mandate for all the organs and machinery of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions, to which Section IV of the annex to that resolution, entitled "Structures for Regional and Interregional Co-operation", particularly applies, and resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 (particularly Section IV) and 34/206 of 19 December 1979, requesting the decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions,

Taking into account the resolutions on technical co-operation among developing countries adopted by the General Assembly, such as 32/182 and 32/183 of 19 December 1977 and 33/134 of 19 December 1978, and resolutions 3177 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, 3241 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3442 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 31/119 of 16 December 1976, 32/180 of 19 December 1977, and 33/195 of 29 January 1979 on economic co-operation among developing countries,

Also taking into account the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, especially section IV on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the new international development strategy and the role to be played by the regional commissions in that review and appraisal, in co-operation with development banks and regional and subregional groups and organizations, and in the preparation of regional action programmes,

Recalling resolution 386 (XVIII) on preparations and contributions by CEPAL in connexion with the new strategy, which provides for the preparation of a regional action programme,

Reaffirming in particular paragraph 20 of resolution 32/197, "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation", which states that the regional commissions "should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level",

Taking into account resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system (especially its provisions relating to the establishment of priorities), Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/74 of 4 August 1978, 1979/64 of 3 August 1979 on regional co-operation and development, and CEPAL resolutions 316 (XV) of 29 March 1973, 354 (XVI) of 13 May 1975, 363 (XVII) of 5 May 1977 and 387 (XVIII) of 26 April 1979 on co-operation among developing countries and regions, as well as the corresponding criteria adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its meeting in June 1980,<sup>1/</sup> particularly as regards determining the priorities of the multinational programmes for the five-year period 1982-1986, to be discussed at special intergovernmental meetings convened by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the executive secretaries of the respective regional economic commissions,

Also recalling other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the control and limitation of documentation and the calendar of meetings, particularly General Assembly resolutions 31/140, 33/55, 33/56, 33/417, 34/50 and 34/405, Economic and

Social Council resolutions 1768 (LIV), 1913 (LVII), 1979/41, 1979/69 and 1979/1, and ECOSOC decisions 52 (LVII), 281 (LXIII), 1978/1 and 1979/81.

Recognizing that the present structure of the CEPAL system generally corresponds to the basic requirements stemming from the original terms of reference and subsequent mandates given to the Commission,

Also recognizing that the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and the regional conferences, expert meetings, technical seminars, working groups and other meetings constitute valuable contributions to achieving the objectives and accomplishing to the full the responsibilities entrusted to the CEPAL system and its Secretariat,

Conscious, however, that the increasing scope and variety of tasks entrusted to the CEPAL system make it necessary to rationalize still further its institutional machinery and procedures, including its pattern of meetings, taking particular account of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission itself and of its subsidiary bodies,

Decides to maintain the existing fundamental institutional structure of the CEPAL system, while further rationalizing its machinery, procedures and meetings and introducing the following adjustments:

(a) The biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of the Committee of the Whole in the years when the Commission does not meet should constitute the focal points around which the other meetings of the CEPAL system in the forthcoming bienniums should be organized, in conformity with the decisions and priorities adopted by member governments and with the mandates of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council;

(b) The CEPAL system, beginning with the Commission itself, should bring its pattern of conferences and meetings into line with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly. To that end, 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;

(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 meet when necessary 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 CEPAL 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 sessions which it may be 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;

(f) With respect to the statutory meetings of the CEPAL system, it is necessary to indicate as clearly and early as possible the priority issues which member governments wish to consider in some depth, correlating them with the issues to which the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly attach priority, thus facilitating co-ordinated and convergent action with the other relevant international bodies both within and outside the United Nations system;

(g) The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, which was established as a permanent subsidiary organ of the Commission in 1977, will continue to be convened periodically at intervals of not more than three years in conformity with the resolution adopted on the subject at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL;<sup>2/</sup>

(h) Without prejudice to the specialized conferences or technical meetings which it may be decided to hold from time to time at the regional level, at each of the Commission's biennial sessions the subjects of (i) co-operation between developing countries and regions, (ii) human settlements, and (iii) water must be discussed in sessional committees, in accordance with CEPAL resolutions 387 (XVIII), 407 (XVIII) and 411 (XVIII). In order to ensure that these committees function efficiently during the Commission's regular sessions, government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered;

(i) It is recommended that, at their next session, the permanent subregional subordinate bodies of the Commission, that is to say, the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, should consider the best means of adapting their general institutional functioning - including the adjustment of their annual subregional meetings - to the biennial pattern established for the United Nations by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(j) The Technical Committee of ILPES will continue to serve as the governmental organization guiding the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of the CEPAL system, and will meet for this purpose when necessary in the manner provided for in resolution 340 (AC.66) of the Committee of the Whole and resolutions 371 (XVII) and 397 (XVIII) of the Commission;

(k) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) will continue to review and approve the reports of activities and programmes of work of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), which is also part of the CEPAL system, and will meet at least every two years in order to establish guidelines for the Latin American Regional Population Programme and to deal with other matters relating to this field, in conformity with the provisions of CEPAL resolutions 357 (XVI) and 400 (XVIII);

(l) As a general rule, no more than five substantive regional conference or meetings should be held each year, including the above-mentioned statutory sessions of the Commission, the statutory meetings of the Committee of the Whole and of CEGAN, and extraordinary preparatory meetings for world conferences or international years, the costs of which, like the costs of

the statutory sessions of the Central American Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, must be provided for in CEPAL's regular budget and approved by the General Assembly;

(m) At each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system planned up to the next ordinary session must be considered, stipulating, where possible, the date, duration, and location of each meeting;

(n) The regional meetings which must be organized within the geographical area of the CEPAL system in preparation for world conferences or international years of the United Nations to be carried out under mandates of the General Assembly must be provided with the necessary financing duly authorized by the General Assembly itself. The CEPAL secretariat is encouraged to intensify its efforts to inform promptly the United Nations Budget Division of those additional resources that CEPAL believes may be required by General Assembly proposals calling for regional activities in preparation for world conferences or international years of the United Nations additional to those already funded under the United Nations regular programme budget. This should enable the Budget Division to better reflect such requirements in statements of financial implications on proposals before the United Nations General Assembly.

## Annex 3

## CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR CEPAL FOR 1981 AND PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

Title	1981	1982	1983	1984
CEPAL - Sessional committees	<p>Nineteenth session Montevideo, 4-15 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water resources Montevideo, 4-5 May</li> <li>- Human settlements Montevideo, 7-8 May</li> <li>- Co-operation between developing countries and regions Montevideo, 5 May</li> </ul>			<p>Twentieth session Water resources Human settlements Co-operation between developing countries and regions</p>
CEPAL - Committee of the Whole		Fifteenth session a/	Sixteenth session a/	
Intergovernmental regional conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy Mexico City, 16-20 March</li> <li>- Meeting to Approve the Plan of Action for the Environmental Management of the Wider Caribbean Region Jamaica, 6-8 April</li> <li>- Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World Assembly on Aging San José, December</li> </ul>			

a/ Place and date to be decided.

Annex 3 (concl.)

Title	1981	1982	1983	1984
Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America			Third conference <u>a/</u>	
Committee of High- Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	CEGAN - Fifth session Quito, 9-14 March	CEGAN - Sixth session <u>a/</u>	CEGAN - Seventh session <u>a/</u>	CEGAN - Eighth session <u>a/</u>
Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)	Sixth session Grenada, 5-10 November	Seventh session <u>a/</u>	Eighth session <u>a/</u>	Ninth session <u>a/</u>
Central American Economic Co-operation Committee		Twelfth session <u>a/</u>		

a/ Place and date to be decided.