



Twenty-seventh session
Oranjestad, Aruba, 11-16 May 1998

**ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provide for the election of a chairman, two or more vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. As noted in the annotations to the provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh session (LC/G.2004(SES.27/2)), it is suggested that the composition of this group of presiding officers, and of the officers of other committees, be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 11 May 1998. The Presiding Officers will continue in their functions until their successors are elected.

As provided in ECLAC resolution 536(XXV), entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development", and paragraph 98 of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/G.1920; LC/DEM/G.159), the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development has final responsibility for the follow-up and review of issues related to population and development, including the Regional Plan of Action. In addition, during the period between meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Presiding Officers are responsible for coordination, follow-up and review, with the support of the ECLAC secretariat, which acts as secretariat.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will have before them, for their consideration and approval, the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

The provisional agenda was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action and ECLAC resolutions 536(XXV) and 556(XXVI).

3. Report of the Chairman of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development on the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development

Working document

Second follow-up report on the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2005(SES.27/19))

Reference documents

Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development (adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, held at Mexico City from 29 April to 4 May 1993);

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/DEM/G.159);

Follow-up report on the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/G.1905(SES.26/10));

Ageing: four dimensions of a society for all ages (LC/DEM/G.174).

The Chairman of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee will report on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action since its inception and, in particular, since the twenty-sixth session of the Commission (San José, April 1996). He will also provide information on the necessity for and feasibility of carrying out activities at the regional and subregional levels in the coming years.

It is hoped that member countries and international bodies, particularly the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will provide information on activities carried out and programmed in the same spirit which guided the elaboration of the Programme of Action adopted at the Cairo Conference and the Regional Plan of Action.

4. Population, reproductive health and poverty

Working document

Population, reproductive health and poverty (LC/G.2015(SES.27/20))

Reference documents

Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development (adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, held at Mexico City from 29 April to 4 May 1993);

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/DEM/G.159);

Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) (ST/ESA/SER.A/149).

In accordance with the terms of paragraph 78 of the Regional Plan of Action and pursuant to the provisions of ECLAC resolution 536(XXV), the Ad Hoc Committee is responsible for analysing the population situation in the region at its meetings held during sessions of the Commission. In addition, taking into account the fact that the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations deals with a specific substantive issue at each meeting, it was decided in ECLAC resolution 556(XXVI) that, at its next meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee would consider the issue of reproductive health and poverty. The secretariat was instructed to prepare the substantive documentation required.

The secretariat is therefore providing to the Ad Hoc Committee a document exploring the conceptual dimensions of the reproductive behaviour and health of poor population groups. It highlights both the specific characteristics of the reproductive patterns of the most vulnerable segments of society, compared with those of other socio-economic groups, and the consequences of those patterns in perpetuating poverty. In addition, the document provides empirical background on some of the main aspects of reproductive behaviour and health, based on the most up-to-date information available, and looks in depth at issues which are important for some of the countries of the region, including the following: (i) socio-economic inequalities in the area of reproductive behaviour and health; (ii) the specific problems that go with early fertility; (iii) the frequent conflict between high fertility rates and requirements for trained human resources; (iv) the lack of opportunities for the poor, particularly women, to exercise their reproductive rights; and (v) the incorporation of reproductive health in integrated anti-poverty policies.

5. Latin American and Caribbean regional preparation for the worldwide exercise to assess progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994)

Working document

Second follow-up report on the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/G.2005(SES.27/19))

Reference documents

Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development (adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, held at Mexico City from 29 April to 4 May 1993);

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/DEM/G.159);

Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) (ST/ESA/SER.A/149).

The United Nations General Assembly recently decided to convene a special session from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994). Pursuant to resolution 1997/42 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, considerable importance will be attached to regional forums in the review process, known as ICPD+5. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, that forum is the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development during the twenty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to provide support for the preparation of national reports and presentations on the implementation of the Programme of Action, the ECLAC secretariat, in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA and the Chairman of the Presiding Officers, has suggested to the Governments of the countries of the region that they should follow basic guidelines reflecting some of the most important themes of the Programme of Action. That proposal is in no sense intended to be exhaustive, given the broad spectrum of possible population and development activities, but the chosen subject areas provide a common basis for determining the progress made and the obstacles encountered by the countries of the region in their efforts to give effect to the goals and guidelines contained in the Programme of Action.

The following are the three proposed major subject areas:

- A. Integration of population issues in the development process.** One of the key aspects of the Programme of Action adopted at the Cairo Conference and of the Regional Plan of Action is the need for explicit integration of demographic situations and trends into national initiatives to implement a development process which, in addition to promoting sustained economic growth, will contribute effectively to increasing social equity and environmental sustainability.
- B. Gender equity and empowerment of women.** Both the Programme of Action adopted at the Cairo Conference and the Regional Plan of Action emphasize the need for measures to improve the status and position of women in society.
- C. Health, reproductive rights and family well-being.** The two aforementioned documents underline the importance of promoting and protecting the reproductive health and rights of individuals and couples. They also urge that the family, of whatever type, be supported in fulfilling its role of socializing future generations.

When this agenda item is discussed, it is hoped that delegations will report critically on the experiences of their own countries, on the basis of the proposed guidelines. The note by the secretariat includes more specific questions for each of these subject areas.

6. Other matters

This item covers any other issues which delegations may deem it appropriate to discuss.

7. Adoption of the report of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development

The report of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will be adopted under the ECLAC rules of procedure and will contain considerations and recommendations which the Committee deems appropriate for following up and implementing the Regional Plan of Action and guiding the activities of the secretariat in the field of population and development. These considerations and recommendations will be submitted to the Commission for adoption at the plenary meeting.