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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Thirteenth special session  
19 October 1979

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The thirteenth special session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) was held on 19 October 1979 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. It was convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, in response to a request made by the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Dominica and also to the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for international assistance to the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

### I. ISSUES REQUIRING CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2. The discussions at the thirteenth special session of the Committee of the Whole yielded conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly and other interested organizations of the United Nations system and to other international organizations so that each of them could take action within their fields of competence as soon as possible. The Committee of the Whole took into account the fact that, at the beginning of its thirty-fourth session, the United Nations General Assembly, at the request of the Latin American Group, had decided to include in its agenda an item concerning international assistance for the reconstruction of the Dominican Republic and Dominica. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of the Whole at its thirteenth special session are embodied in the resolutions appearing in chapter IV of this report which were unanimously adopted at the closing meeting on 19 October 1979.

### II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### Attendance

3. The thirteenth special session of the Committee of the whole was attended by representatives of the following member States of CEPAL: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. A delegate from the West Indian Associated States, an associate member of CEPAL, was also present. A representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, a Member of the United Nations which is not a member of CEPAL, was also present as an observer.

4. The following organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations were also represented: the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the International Labour

Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IICA).

#### Election of officers

5. In accordance with the practice followed by CEPAL for special sessions of the Committee of the Whole at United Nations Headquarters, it was agreed that the officers for the thirteenth special session would be the same as those for the previous session of the Commission itself which was held at La Paz, Bolivia, in April 1979. Consequently, the officers were as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Sergio Palacios de Vizzio (Bolivia)

First Vice-Chairman: Mr. Jorge Navarrete (Mexico)

Second Vice-Chairman: Mr. Henricus Heidweiller (Suriname)

Rapporteur: Mr. Rodolfo Pizza Escalante (Costa Rica)

#### Agenda

6. At the opening meeting, the Committee of the Whole considered the following provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.1) submitted by the secretariat, which was adopted without change:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. International assistance to the Dominican Republic and Dominica to repair the damage caused by hurricanes "David" and "Frederick"
4. Conclusions and recommendations

#### Documents

7. As a result of missions carried out by the Secretariat, two reports were prepared on the damage caused by the hurricanes in the Dominican Republic and Dominica. These were submitted to the Committee of the Whole as documents E/CEPAL/G.1098/Rev.1, "Dominican Republic: effects of hurricanes 'David' and 'Frederick' on the economy and social conditions" and E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.2 which contains the report on the effect of hurricane "David" on the island of Dominica.

Final report

8. In view of the shortage of time and of services available for the thirteenth special session of the Committee of the Whole and the urgency required in submitting the report of the meeting for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, it was agreed that in the final report the Rapporteur could incorporate brief summaries of the statements made.

Closing meeting

9. At the closing meeting, the delegations of the Dominican Republic and Dominica made statements thanking both CEPAL and the member countries for the assistance provided to meet the emergency. The representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General and of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL then spoke and expressed satisfaction at the results achieved during the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

III. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

10. At the opening meeting, which was attended by the Director of the National Planning Bureau and the Economic Adviser to the President of the Dominican Republic, the first speaker, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was Mr. Diego Cordovez, Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, who declared the meeting open. He said that it had been convened to discuss and mobilize international assistance to help solve the economic and social problems caused in the Dominican Republic and in Dominica by hurricanes "David" and "Frederick", which had compounded the problems those countries had been experiencing for a number of years as a result of current international developments. Their situation was now critical. The session was an important gathering at which the countries of the region were to take joint action in the face of an emergency; to the extent that they succeeded, the United Nations would be proving its effectiveness as an instrument for the promotion of understanding and co-operation among peoples.

11. Next, the Assistant Secretary-General reviewed the response by the organizations and organs of the United Nations system to the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The response had taken the form of timely missions to the two countries affected and the initiation of programmes to meet the urgent humanitarian needs and alleviate the suffering of the population.

12. In his view, the reports on both countries prepared by the CEPAL secretariat had been indispensable for the formulation of new assistance programmes and for determining the most pressing needs, since they furnished the necessary information on the effects of the disaster and offered medium-term projections for the economies affected.

13. Since the mid-1970s, the Dominican Republic had registered a decline in its growth rate and its agriculture had now been so severely damaged that perennial

crops such as coffee would take several years to recover. Dominica, a basically agricultural country, had witnessed the destruction of its main export crops. As a result, both economies would have negative growth rates in 1979.

14. The Assistant Secretary-General concluded by expressing his conviction that the special session, which he wished every success, would provide the international community with an opportunity to give a new example of international solidarity to the world.

15. Mr. Sergio Palacios de Vizzio, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, reiterated that the purpose for convening the thirteenth special session had been to consider and adopt measures deemed necessary to assist the Dominican Republic and Dominica to overcome the serious losses caused by hurricanes "David" and "Frederick". Shortly before, at the twelfth special session of the Committee of the Whole, the Commission had achieved very positive and encouraging results. It had unanimously adopted a model resolution on international assistance for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Nicaragua, which set a clear and valuable precedent for what the organized community of nations could achieve when a genuine spirit of international solidarity governed its decisions. He expressed the hope that that same spirit of brotherhood and international co-operation would prevail also at the thirteenth session, so that it would conclude agreements that represented an effective and speedy response to the pressing needs of the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

16. Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Director of the CEPAL Office in Mexico, representing the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, gave the floor to Mr. Daniel Bitrán, Technical Co-ordinator of the Office in Mexico, and Mr. Hamid Mohammed, Assistant Director of the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain.

17. The first of those speakers, introducing document E/CEPAL/G.1098/Rev.1, explained how it had been drawn up, with the full co-operation of the Government of the Dominican Republic. It might have underestimated the actual damage, since information on some sectors had not been available nor had full consideration been given to certain possible indirect results of the disaster. The recent hurricanes had taken more than 2,000 lives, destroyed the economic and social infrastructure, especially dwellings, schools, factories, commercial installations, roads and electrical power plants, caused sizable agricultural and ecological damage and left a great many inhabitants homeless or unemployed. All those factors had brought about a decline in the levels of production, and would have serious repercussions on the country's development in the coming years.

18. The disaster had occurred at a time when the Dominican economy was recovering somewhat from a declining trend in the growth rate that had begun in the early 1970s, although problems involving the balance of payments and foreign indebtedness were continuing to become more acute, while some imbalances in public financing began to emerge that aggravated the high levels of unemployment which had afflicted the country for some time. Since 1974 the Dominican economy had become more vulnerable to international changes and the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments had grown, owing to a decline in international prices for its principal export products, especially sugar, ferronickel and gold during 1979. Thus, even before the disaster, a greater deficit in the current account than in the previous year had been anticipated.

19. Material losses to the economy had been estimated at approximately \$830 million. To grasp the extraordinary magnitude of the catastrophe, that figure should be considered with reference to some of the principal macroeconomic aggregates: it represented approximately 16 per cent of the current gross domestic product, 6 per cent of the country's capital stock, 80 per cent of the total investment in a normal year, more than 120 per cent of the 1978 exports and more than 140 per cent of the central Government's current income.

20. Those material losses would have grave repercussions on the performance of the country's principal macroeconomic aggregates. The domestic product, which before the hurricanes was expected to rise by 5.6 per cent would actually fall by 2.6 per cent. In per capita figures, the disaster would cause an approximate decline of 6 per cent in the 1979 domestic product.

21. Since hurricane "Frederick" had struck the country before the effects of hurricane "David" had ceased, the Government had been compelled to take a series of emergency measures, which turned out to be timely and effective. They were aimed principally at providing assistance to victims and to refugees in improvised shelters, in both the capital and the principal cities of the country. Its Civil Defence authorities had begun to organize even before the arrival of hurricane "David", since the hurricane watch systems had warned them when the storm would hit the coast of the Dominican Republic. Days before, a communications network covering the entire country had been set up to provide information on the progress and characteristics of the hurricane and on the precautionary measures to be taken to avoid greater physical damage to the population. It had certainly helped to reduce the losses of human lives, which in any event, had been considerable.

22. The natural disasters would undoubtedly have grave repercussions on crucial aspects of the Dominican economy in 1979 and 1980.

23. The international community immediately came to the rescue with shipments from various countries, including several from Latin America, and from countless international organizations specializing in welfare food distribution.

24. The Technical Co-ordinator noted in conclusion that the last section of the document outlined international co-operation requirements, which would include donations in cash and in kind to cope with the emergency phase, financing for reconstruction and for balance-of-payments support and, to a lesser extent, technical assistance for certain specialized tasks.

25. The next speaker, Mr. Mohammed, stated that a mission from the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean had visited Dominica from 25 to 29 September and had prepared the report contained in document E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.2. Dominica, which had been independent for just over a year, occupied an area of 2,495 square miles and had a population of approximately 80,000 persons; its economy was essentially agricultural and the banana crop accounted for about 80 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings. It had shown a deficit during the previous decade, and was highly dependent on budgetary grants from overseas to meet its operational expenditure.



26. As a result of the hurricane which had struck on 29 August, the whole island had suffered severe damage, which was described in the report, not only to housing but also to educational establishments, hospitals, government offices, port installations and transport services, electric power generating systems, drinking water and communications, and to agriculture, fishing installations, livestock, forestry, industry and trade. The report also included a section which spelt out the immediate rehabilitation and medium-term reconstruction requirements and stressed the need for massive and continuing aid from the international community with a view to meeting those requirements.

27. Speaking on behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Ramón Martínez Aponte, Presidential Economic Adviser, expressed the deep appreciation of the Dominican people and Government to all friendly countries and to the international bodies for the timely and effective aid rendered to his nation in the difficult times through which it had passed immediately after the occurrence of the terrible hurricanes "David" and "Frederick". He also expressed appreciation for the work of the CEPAL secretariat, which was reflected in the report.

28. The Dominican Republic, he went on to say, had a population of around 5.4 million inhabitants and presented characteristics similar to those of most countries in the Caribbean region. Its economy was essentially primary exporting, virtually the whole of its foreign exchange earnings being dependent on about seven products: sugar, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, ferronickel, gold and silver. Following a period of rapid growth, the forces that provided the impetus for development began to decline steadily after 1975 to the point where, by 1978, the GNP (gross national product) had increased by only 3.6 per cent - virtually the same rate as that of the population - which had been reflected in a standstill in the standard of living.

29. He pointed out that a whole series of external factors had contributed to that situation and their repercussions had been felt throughout the entire economy. For example, there had been a sharp drop in the international prices of sugar and the international demand for mineral products, coupled with a rise in the prices of the main imported goods, above all, oil.

30. The convergence of those factors with others stemming from distortions in the domestic production structure had been reflected in inflationary pressures, balance-of-payments difficulties, a drop in fiscal earnings and a worsening of the traditional social imbalances in the country.

31. Hurricanes "David" and "Frederick" had struck at a time when, following the change of Government in August 1978, the Dominican Republic was striving to streamline development policy, to stimulate the economy by giving it a more solid, domestically oriented foundation and to minimize the loss of purchasing power in the more backward sectors by means of a general realignment of salaries and wages and closer attention to social services expenditure.

32. The effects of hurricane "David", followed by the heavy rains which accompanied the tropical storm "Frederick", caused what had been regarded as the worst disaster of the present century in the Dominican Republic. Almost the whole of the national territory was affected.

33. The most grievous and most irreparable loss was that of more than 2,000 lives. In the most severely affected areas, communities had disintegrated and whole families had disappeared, swept away by the flooded rivers or trapped under the debris. An even greater number had been injured, about 125,000 families had lost their homes and a vast number of farmers had lost their crops, from which they derived most of their food. According to the latest estimate, the number of victims, in varying degrees, totalled 2 million persons or 37 per cent of the country's population.

34. While hurricane "David" had devastated the south-central region, particularly the provinces of Peravia, Azua, San Cristóbal and the National District where almost 40 per cent of the population were concentrated, the heavy rains resulting from hurricane "Frederick", had affected almost all the rest of the country, causing extensive damage, particularly to crops.

35. The damage could be summed up as follows: of an estimated total of 838 million pesos, 180 million represented losses caused to finished or semi-finished goods; 250 million losses caused by stoppage of production; and 400 million losses caused to productive capacity, particularly in agriculture and industry.

36. Immediately after the occurrence of the disaster, the Government initiated a series of measures to rehabilitate the economy and to meet the most pressing needs. At the same time, it started to evaluate the damage and to formulate and co-ordinate an emergency programme. The action initiated under this programme in the agricultural sector included drainage and preparation of the soil for intensive sowing of short-cycle food crops, as well as the rehabilitation of long-cycle crops, repair of sewers and dams, refinancing of credits for small farmers who had been affected and a system of direct marketing, by the State, of essential goods to ensure their supply to the people most in need. For most crops destined for the domestic market, it was hoped to achieve a degree of normalization in the first months of 1980. For the coffee, cocoa and banana plantations, the emergency programme would continue throughout 1980 and 1981.

37. The Government's action in the sphere of communications was directed at the rehabilitation of damaged roadways and the implementation of projects designed to guarantee a degree of flexibility in the road system. Traffic was restored on the main highways and secondary roads but the final reconstruction and repair work and the rebuilding of bridges would have to continue throughout 1980. In implementing those projects, for which intensive labour would be used, the Government hoped to alleviate the unemployment problem which had been aggravated by the hurricanes.

38. The necessary measures were taken, likewise as a matter of urgency, to restore the electric power generating and delivery system with a view to achieving complete normalization of the productive process and of living conditions generally. Extensive damage to some of the generating plant made it impossible to normalize the service completely. During the remaining months of 1979, efforts were being made to complete the repair of two large hydroelectric dams as well as of the generating plants that had been severely damaged. A hydroelectric plant that had been completely swept away by the flood waters would take at least two years to replace.

39. One of the most serious problems facing the Dominican Republic was the lack of housing; tens of thousands of refugees were still living in public and private buildings, no houses being available. The policy was to adopt different approaches according to specific situations. For houses that had been partially destroyed but could be repaired, the Government provided the owners with materials and labour to rebuild them. For families whose houses had been completely destroyed, the Government had taken steps to provide temporary lodging, while projects were being prepared with a view to building permanent housing of social interest on a large scale.

40. At the time of the hurricane, the Dominican Government had been completing the preparation of a Three-Year Public Investment Plan for the 1980-1982 period, which sought to reactivate the economic process, providing it with new impetus and aiming at a measure of diversification in the national production base. Currently, that plan was being reformulated in order to convert it into a comprehensive Economic Recovery Plan that would not only restore the conditions that had prevailed before the hurricane but would go much further and guarantee the population a more satisfactory standard of living.

41. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's appreciation and gratitude for the considerable contribution made by the international community in granting economic assistance to ensure the country's economic and social recovery, although he was fully aware that those measures were the responsibility of the national authorities. He stressed, moreover, that his Government had been scrupulously honouring its international financial commitments and that it had the full intention to continue doing so.

42. The representative of Dominica supplemented the information provided by the secretariat going into greater detail concerning the damage caused by the hurricanes. He expressed his gratitude for the preliminary assistance received and added that the task of reconstruction confronting his country would require large-scale long-term aid.

43. Mr. Gabriel Valdés, UNDP Regional Director for Latin America, referred to various forms of action undertaken by UNDP to assist the Dominican Republic and Dominica following the natural disasters. After reporting on the visit he had made to the Dominican Republic almost immediately after the disaster, he said that the Administrator of UNDP had made an immediate allocation of \$500,000, which, together with the regular allocation for the 1980-1981 biennium, made a total of \$5,550,000. He also referred to the three main projects to which those resources were being channelled: two in the field of agricultural development and training and one for road reconstruction. He also stressed how rapidly the United Nations system was being mobilized to cope with natural disasters and described the system that had been established in the Caribbean region, in co-operation with UNDP, in order to ensure early detection of such phenomena.

44. Since 75 per cent of the housing in Dominica had been destroyed, UNDP had participated, together with the Caribbean Development Bank and a group of countries, in preparing an emergency programme for that country. A sum of \$1 million, which would be spent chiefly on port reconstruction, had been allocated to it.

45. During the course of the discussion, the representatives of Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela took the floor. They described the scope and type of assistance that each of their countries had provided for the Dominican Republic and Dominica and all expressed full support for the action and resolutions that would result from the work of the Committee of the Whole.

46. The representative of FAO described his organization's response to the disasters. In the case of the Dominican Republic, help was being given under the Technical Assistance Programme. In the case of Dominica, that programme had made it possible to allocate \$110,000 directly for rehabilitation of its forestry and agricultural sectors and to send a forestry expert to that country. Lastly, FAO hoped to draw up a medium-term plan for the country's agricultural development, which would be completed within two months. In view of FAO's practical experience in emergency agricultural rehabilitation and taking into account the scope of the measures that would have to be implemented in the Dominican Republic, he urged possible donors to make the necessary financial resources available in order to provide that country with greater assistance in that sector.

47. The representative of UNIDO said that following the disaster, UNIDO's Executive Director had authorized an emergency mission from Vienna to the Dominican Republic to identify areas in the industrial sector where aid was urgently required. Several emergency projects had consequently been outlined, including two pilot projects for the erection of low-cost, modular housing. It had been agreed with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to carry out an industrial survey. A study on non-conventional forms of energy was also under consideration. UNIDO would contribute some \$100,000 from the Special Industrial Services, and the additional funds which would subsequently be necessary to implement the above-mentioned schemes. UNIDO, together with the Caribbean Development Bank, was evaluating the situation in Dominica. It expected to play an active role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the two stricken countries and hoped that the necessary funds would be forthcoming, either from a special fund established during the conference, or from voluntary contributions to the industrial development fund, which member countries might make specifically to provide aid to the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

48. The representative of UNESCO said that five experts from UNESCO were in the Dominican Republic identifying possible schemes in hydrology, ecology, the building of schools and the repairing of buildings. Their work would be completed within the week, so that implementation of the schemes should be possible shortly. UNESCO had granted \$50,000 to Dominica to provide educational equipment, and had adopted a special resolution to assist both countries during the emergency.

49. The representative of IMF said that IMF would collaborate with Dominica through the Group for Co-operation in the Economic Development of the Caribbean. Under the system of compensatory financing, Dominica would also be able to draw on its full quota of 1.9 million Special Drawing Rights. The Dominican Republic would be able to draw on 42 per cent of its quota of 50 million SDRs.

50. The representative of the World Bank said that a mission sent to the Dominican Republic had outlined a group of projects costing \$50 million, mainly concerned with the construction of 150 km of highway and the importing of raw materials. Assistance to Dominica would be channelled through the Group for Co-operation in the Economic Development of the Caribbean. The World Bank was participating in a joint mission to Dominica with the Caribbean Development Bank.

51. The representative of OAS stated that OAS had adopted two resolutions: one allocating \$1 million to the Dominican Republic and Dominica, the other authorizing the use of technical assistance funds to help in the process of reconstruction. In addition, hospitals, electrical generating equipment, children's food, medical equipment, fishing boats and warehouse installations had been supplied.

52. The representative of the Latin American Institute of Agricultural Sciences said that technical missions to both the countries affected were being organized.

53. The representative of ILO said that experts were being sent to both countries and that the ILO was considering an increase in its aid for 1980.

54. The representatives of WHO and IDB referred to the aid which their institutions were giving in the emergency, and the plans which would be implemented during the process of reconstruction.

55. In the field of technical co-operation, UNCTAD had been assisting the Dominican Republic through two projects, one strengthening the activities of CEDOPEX in export promotion and the second strengthening institutionally the foreign trade sector in all related fields. UNCTAD was ready to consider any additional activities in its area of competence that might be requested by the authorities of the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

56. Messages offering support to the two countries had been received from ILO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Food Programme, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. On 19 October 1979 the Committee of the Whole adopted by consensus the following two resolutions on international aid to the Dominican Republic and Dominica, respectively:

417 (PLEN.13) INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES DAVID AND FREDERICK

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

Considering that the scope of the damage caused by hurricanes David and Frederick in the Dominican Republic entailed the loss of many human lives, the

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destruction of economic and social infrastructure, such as houses, schools, industrial plant and commercial facilities, roads and power-stations, and agricultural and ecological damage, in addition to leaving a great many inhabitants without housing or employment, all of which has reduced production levels and will affect the development of this predominantly agricultural country in years to come,

Bearing in mind that the disaster affected rural areas, where it destroyed not only housing but also large quantities of commodities destined for domestic consumption by the population,

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned circumstances have caused a serious economic crisis in this country which has considerably jeopardized its development process and caused a further deterioration in its balance of payments, which was already in deficit,

Taking note with gratitude of the support that the Latin American countries and other members of the international community and international agencies, particularly the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, have given to the emergency efforts of this people to rehabilitate the affected areas, and of the preliminary aid measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Taking note of the firm intention of the Government of the Dominican Republic to continue to honour its international financial commitments,

Bearing in mind the statements and reports by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, by that country's delegation to the United Nations, and by the secretariat of the Commission 1/ on the scope of the damage and requirements as regards financial and technical assistance for immediate emergency measures and economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Bearing in mind also that, in view of the magnitude of the problems faced by the country affected and notwithstanding the efforts being made by its Government, it needs continuous, urgent and generous assistance from the international community,

1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the people and Government of the Dominican Republic for the loss of human lives and the devastation they have suffered as a result of the recent hurricanes;

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1/ Dominican Republic: effects of hurricanes "David" and "Frederick" on the economy and social conditions (E/CEPAL/G.1098/Rev.1).

2. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Governments of the member countries of ECLA and of the States Members of the United Nations, the bilateral agencies and the international financial bodies that have provided initial assistance to the Dominican Republic and invites them to increase their assistance by all possible means so as to continue the process of economic recovery;

3. Appeals to the Governments of the States members of IBRD and IDB to ensure that the directors who represent them in those bodies give particular attention to raising the level of external financial co-operation so that they may adopt special measures and support the priorities established by the Government both in its Three-Year Public Investment Plan and in the document entitled Emergency action for national recovery and to accelerating the mobilization of long-term external resources on the best possible concessionary conditions and with the maximum degree of flexibility;

4. Invites the governmental agencies which deal with this country on a bilateral basis to support the efforts being made through soft loans to finance emergency, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes;

5. Also requests the Governments of the States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to instruct their representatives on the Executive Board of that Fund to expedite requests for aid submitted by the Government of the Dominican Republic;

6. Appeals to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations whose legislation so permits to grant products of the Dominican Republic access to their markets on preferential and non-reciprocal terms for a reasonable period, thus helping that country to obtain the foreign exchange which it urgently requires in order to maintain existing development programmes;

7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to request all specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to make available the largest possible volume of resources and to expand their programmes in the Dominican Republic as required, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government of that country;

8. Requests that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should accede rapidly and favourably to the requests for special assistance which the Government of the Dominican Republic may address to it in the near future, bearing in mind the additional requirements deriving from the present circumstances and the need to help to promote the development of that country, having recourse if necessary to the Programme Reserve during the second programming cycle;

9. Recommends that, although the Dominican Republic is not officially included among the least-developed countries on the list adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2768 (XXVI), it should receive the same treatment as that granted in the past or that which may be granted in the future to that group of countries, especially under UNDP projects and funds administered by UNDP, until the situation is normalized;

10. Welcomes the proposal by the Government of the Dominican Republic that the United Nations, and more particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, should study ways and means of setting up specific machinery to cope with the natural disasters that periodically occur in the Caribbean basin and should report on the matter to the General Assembly;

11. Requests the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, within its terms of reference, to give special support to the process of economic recovery in the Dominican Republic;

12. Instructs the Executive Secretary of ECLA to give all possible co-operation to the Government of the Dominican Republic in accordance with the requests submitted and to submit to Member States and to the competent international agencies and institutions periodic reports on the results achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

418 (PLEN.13) INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
DOMINICA AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE DAVID

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

Considering that the scope of the damage caused by hurricane David in the Commonwealth of Dominica entailed the loss of many human lives, the destruction of economic and social infrastructure - houses, schools, industrial plant and commercial facilities, roads and power-stations - and agricultural and ecological damage, in addition to leaving a great many inhabitants without housing or employment, all of which has reduced production levels and will affect the development of that predominantly agricultural country in years to come,

Considering also the serious damage inflicted on the cities and towns, in particular the destruction of the city of Roseau, the capital of Dominica,

Bearing in mind that the disaster affected rural areas, where it destroyed not only housing but also large quantities of commodities destined for domestic consumption by the population and of exportable commodities produced by perennial plantations that will require a number of years to recover,

Considering further that the destruction of exportable commodities has affected the capacity of Dominica to obtain foreign exchange vital to its well-being and economic development,

Taking note with gratitude of the support that the Latin American countries and the other members of the international community have given to the emergency efforts of the people of Dominica to rehabilitate the affected areas, and of the preliminary aid measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,



Bearing in mind the statements and reports by the Prime Minister of Dominica and by the secretariat of the Commission 1/ on the scope of the damage and requirements as regards financial and technical assistance for immediate emergency measures and economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Emphasizing that, despite the assistance received by Dominica and the efforts being made by its Government, the magnitude of the devastation caused requires the continuous urgent and generous assistance of the international community in order to make its reconstruction and rehabilitation possible,

1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the people and Government of Dominica for the loss of human lives and the devastation it has suffered as a result of the recent hurricane;

2. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Governments of the member countries of ECLA and of the States Members of the United Nations that have provided initial assistance to Dominica and invites them to increase their assistance by all possible means, both for relief purposes and for reconstruction and rehabilitation;

3. Appeals to the Governments of the States members of IBRD, IDB and the Caribbean Development Bank to ensure that the directors who represent them in those bodies give particular attention to raising the level of external financial co-operation required by Dominica so that they may adopt special measures and support the priorities established by the Government of Dominica contained in its Five-Year Public Sector Plan and the National Reconstruction Plan under preparation, and accelerate the mobilization of long-term external resources on the best possible concessionary conditions and with the maximum degree of flexibility;

4. Appeals to the Governments of the States members of the International Monetary Fund to ensure that their representatives on the Executive Board of the Fund ensure that it uses the mechanisms and possibilities for action at its disposal in a timely and flexible manner to deal with any balance-of-payments disequilibria Dominica may have to face;

5. Invites the governmental agencies which deal with Dominica on a bilateral basis to support the efforts being made by its Government through official grants and soft loans to finance emergency, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes;

6. Also requests the Governments of the States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to instruct their representatives on the Executive Board of that Fund to expedite requests for aid submitted by the Government of Dominica;

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1/ Report on effect of Hurricane David on the island of Dominica  
(E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.2).

7. Appeals to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations whose legislation so permits to grant products of Dominica access to their markets on preferential and non-reciprocal terms for a reasonable period, thus helping that country to obtain the foreign exchange which it urgently requires;
8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to request all specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to make available the largest possible volume of resources and to expand their programmes in Dominica as required, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government of that country;
9. Requests that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should accede rapidly and favourably to the requests for special assistance which the Government of Dominica may address to it in the near future, bearing in mind the additional requirements deriving from the present circumstances and the need to help to promote the development of that country, having recourse if necessary to the Programme Reserve during the second programming cycle;
10. Recommends that, although Dominica is not officially included among the least-developed countries on the list adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2768 (XXVI), it should receive the same treatment as that granted in the past or that which may be granted in the future to that group of countries, until the situation is normalized, especially under UNDP projects and the funds administered by that Programme;
11. Requests the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and the Group for Co-operation in the Economic Development of the Caribbean, within their terms of reference, to give special support to the reconstruction process in Dominica;
12. Instructs the Executive Secretary of ECLA to give all possible co-operation to the Government of Dominica in accordance with the requests submitted and to submit to Member States and to the competent international agencies and institutions periodic reports on the results achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

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