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INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Note by the Secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As is well known, the current financial crisis of the United Nations is one of the most serious in its history. In the period 1985-1986, the shortfall in the contributions of some member States led the General Assembly to establish a Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to study the administrative and financial structure and make recommendations on how to improve the efficiency of the Organization, and it prompted the Secretary-General to propose a series of economy measures. The United Nations is now engaged in a process of restructuring and reorganization in which the recommendations of this Group are being analysed and implemented. Among these recommendations is one of particular interest to ECLAC: the creation of a "Special Commission for the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields". The present note by the Secretariat has been prepared in order to assist ECLAC member governments in making recommendations to the Special Commission regarding the intergovernmental structure of ECLAC. Information is provided on the establishment and terms of reference of the Commission and on its role within the United Nations system, in order to facilitate an analysis of the relative effectiveness of this Regional Commission in the fulfillment of its objectives. Subsequently, the present intergovernmental structure and calendar of conferences of ECLAC is outlined and some proposals are made in an effort to streamline this structure and contribute to the consideration of other issues to be dealt with by the Special Commission.

2. The ongoing review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations was initiated by resolution 40/237 of the General Assembly, adopted on 18 December 1985,*/ which established a Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to carry out the task. The report of this Group **/ was presented to the 41st session of the General Assembly, which, on 19 December 1986, adopted resolution 41/213 */ on the implementation of the

*/ Document LC/L.423(PLEN.19/3) contains the texts of General Assembly resolutions 40/237, Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations; 41/213, Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations; and ECOSOC Decision 1987/112, In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields.

**/ Official Records of the General Assembly, 41st session, Supplement No.49 (A/41/49).

recommendations of the report. From the viewpoint of the Regional Commissions, one of the most important of these is Recommendation 8, which calls for an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, to be undertaken by an intergovernmental body to be designated by the General Assembly, which, in the fulfillment of its responsibilities, should seek the co-operation of the organs whose functions are being analysed. The study should include a comparative analysis of the agenda, calendars and programmes of work of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and related subsidiary bodies. By its resolution 41/213 (paragraph (e)) the General Assembly requested ECOSOC to carry out the study, assisted as and when required by relevant organs and bodies, in particular the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

3. Consequently, on 6 February 1987 the Economic and Social Council adopted Decision 1987/112, entitled "In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields". By this decision, ECOSOC established a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council, open to all member States of the United Nations, to carry out the in-depth study, to report regularly to ECOSOC regarding the progress of its work, and to prepare its final report in time for consideration at the 1988 summer session of the Council.

4. Paragraph (i) of Decision 1987/112 requests "all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Special Commission, within thirty days of the conclusion of their next sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery".

5. As applied to the Regional Commissions, the most important aspects of the study to be undertaken in response to recommendation 8 as approved by Decision 1987/112 are as follows:

a) Identification of "measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and co-ordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to present needs,"

c) Definition "in precise terms (of) areas of responsibility for the various bodies. Particular attention should be given to strengthening the coherence and integrity of the structure, to facilitating the formulation of a comprehensive approach to development issues and to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation,"

e) and (f) Improving the reporting system and strengthening the co-ordination of activities in the economic and social fields under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

II. STRUCTURES FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

a) Origins and Terms of Reference of ECLAC

6. Practically from the earliest days of the United Nations, it was held that many problems relating to economic and social development and co-operation could be tackled more effectively in the geographical regions where they originate than in the central Headquarters of the organization. This gave rise to the establishment of the five Regional Commissions, which were created between 1947 and 1973.

7. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established by resolution 106 (VI) adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on 25 February 1948. The terms of reference of the Commission, including amendments adopted by ECOSOC over the past 39 years, are set out in Annex 1 to this paper.

8. While the activities of ECLAC have increased greatly over the years, the basic objectives set out in the Terms of Reference continue to govern the work of the Commission. These objectives include:

- raising the level of economic activity and strengthening relations among countries of the region and between these and other regions of the world;

- undertaking studies of economic and technological problems and development in the region;

- collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic data;

- assisting in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting development;

- assisting in the technical assistance programme of the United Nations.

9. In the four decades since the establishment of ECLAC a number of resolutions dealing with Regional Commissions have been adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly, many of which are aimed at achieving greater geographical decentralization of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields and at strengthening the Regional Commissions and expanding their functions and responsibilities. The most important of these is resolution 32/197 of the General Assembly, which is discussed in paragraph 11 of this document.

b) Implementation of the work programme of the Commission within the United Nations system

10. The Special Commission designated to carry out the study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields has been asked to define areas of responsibility for the various bodies, giving particular attention to strengthening the coherence and integrity of the structure, to

attention to strengthening the coherence and integrity of the structure, to facilitating the formulation of a comprehensive approach to development issues and to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation. It is therefore now incumbent on the ECLAC Member Governments to re-examine the structure and functions of the Commission with a view to determining whether the efficiency of ECLAC could be further improved, whether there is duplication of effort within the system, and what changes, if any, need to be made.

11. During a previous exercise of a similar nature which culminated in 1977, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197, entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" (see Annex 2), no doubt the most important and far-reaching statement to date by the General Assembly on the role of the Regional Commissions within that system. In this resolution, the General Assembly stated that the Regional Commissions should serve as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system; exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level; strengthen relations between themselves and the organizations of the United Nations system; function as executing agencies for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects; provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the United Nations, and participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy decisions.

12. As a result of this and other similar resolutions, ECLAC now serves as executing agency in respect of intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects. In addition, to avoid duplication of effort, a joint ECLAC/FAO Agriculture Division, a joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industry and Technology Division, a joint unit with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, a joint ECLAC/UNCHS Unit on Human Settlements and a joint ECLAC/UNEP Unit on Environment and Development have been established. In an effort to promote co-ordination and avoid duplication of work in this region, ECLAC has also entered into co-operation agreements with other specialized agencies of the United Nations and with regional intergovernmental organizations active in the economic and social field. It should be noted, however, that the ambitious mandates set by resolution 32/197 for the Regional Commissions have been implemented only to a very limited extent, principally because the delegation of authority and provision of resources foreseen in that resolution have not taken place.

13. ECLAC has also placed great importance on subregional co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean region is now served by the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) whose secretariat forms the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, located at Port of Spain. CDCC, a permanent subsidiary body of the Commission, analyses and approves the ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean before it is submitted to the appropriate superior bodies and supervises the work of the secretariat in that region. The Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE) deals with economic and social issues in the Central American States and Panama, and especially with economic integration in Central America. It is served by the ECLAC Subregional Office in Mexico. The Secretariat also works very closely with regional integration bodies such as ALADI, the Andean Group, SIECA and CARICOM.

14. ECLAC is presently working in 14 different substantive programmes: development issues and policies; energy; environment; food and agriculture; human settlements; industrial development; international trade and development financing; natural resources; population; science and technology; social development and humanitarian affairs; statistics; transnational corporations; and transport. One of the major advantages enjoyed by an organization such as ECLAC is the multi-disciplinary approach which can be brought into play. While other agencies within the United Nations system may have more specialized human and greater material resources and can cover the subjects in greater depth, ECLAC can integrate into its work the diverse factors which contribute to sustained and comprehensive development. The capacity for cross-sectoral analysis and the interdisciplinary approach of ECLAC permit it to act as a catalyst in the preparation and implementation of integrated socioeconomic development programmes by the countries of the region. The regional and subregional approach, emphasizing close contact with governments, has further contributed to the relevance of the work being done.

15. The Commission has organized its work programme around six main activities related to its overall effort to support economic and social development in the region, as well as to promote intra-regional co-operation. Those activities can be characterized as follows:

a) Monitoring events related with the development effort in each country and the region as a whole. This activity includes collecting, ordering and interpreting basic economic data, as well as disseminating the results.

b) Exchange of information and methodologies for its collection and analysis among the countries of the region and between these and the rest of the world. This exchange is not limited to data, but also covers experiences in development economics.

c) Research activities, both of a general as well as country-specific nature, at the request of member governments or at the initiative of ECLAC. This research is designed to help member governments find answers to the critical development issues of the day.

d) Technical co-operation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies and projects, at the national or subregional levels.

e) Providing forums for promoting improved understanding and co-operation at the governmental or technical levels, including the participation of individuals and organizations not associated with the public sector.

f) Providing training, both through formal courses and through experts who co-operate in the development of human resources at the country level.

16. ECLAC has placed a great deal of emphasis on the relevance of its activities. Most research projects or programmes have been designed to lead to concrete results such as a seminar, expert meeting, technical co-operation project or training course, where the work done is made available directly to the member governments. In the same spirit, information collected, research findings, contributions to theory and general diagnoses of economic and social

trends are disseminated as widely as possible through documents and sales publications. Substantial extrabudgetary resources have been obtained from donor agencies and governments in order to expand operational activities.

17. It will be recalled that in its Recommendation 27, the Group of 18 raised a question with regard to the suitability of the work programmes of the Regional Commissions. This observation was not endorsed by the General Assembly, however, and the Fifth Committee was of the opinion that the suitability of the activities of the Regional Commissions is a matter to be determined primarily by the member States concerned and that the Regional Commissions should be consulted on any action to be taken in this regard. In point of fact, the work programme of ECLAC is carefully analysed by governmental representatives prior to approval by the member States during the biennial sessions of the Commission. It then passes to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the General Assembly for final approval. In view of the expanded functions of CPC, provided for in General Assembly resolution 41/213, in evaluating resources which are available and setting priorities, it would appear important to ensure a close and continuing contact between the Regional Commissions and CPC so that the decisions adopted in the regional forums are duly taken into account in the overall budgetary process.

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE OF ECLAC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

a) Present structure

18. The main intergovernmental bodies and periodic meetings of ECLAC are listed in Annex 3 of this document, together with the date of their creation, their legislative authority, membership, periodicity and terms of reference.

19. The biennial session of the Commission, held in April/May of the even numbered years, is the central legislative body of ECLAC, determining the work programme and the calendar of conferences and analysing and evaluating the work of the Secretariat. This is also the principal forum for examining the state of economic development in the region, for promoting regional co-operation and for enabling the member States to set priorities for future efforts. All of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean and seven developed countries from outside the region are members, while four non-self-governing territories are associate members. The presence at these sessions of all the intergovernmental organizations active in the region as well as many non-governmental organizations provides a very useful opportunity for the co-ordination of work being carried out in the economic and social fields. At the 19th and 21st sessions, for example, UNDP took the opportunity to consult with member governments on the general guidelines for its fourth five-year regional programme of technical co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

20. The Committee of the Whole of ECLAC meets in the odd numbered years, usually at United Nations Headquarters, a venue which represents savings not only for the Secretariat (since conference services are generally available at no extra cost) but also for the member States, all of which have permanent

missions in New York. These meetings are generally brief and deal with specific issues which need urgent attention.

21. As can be seen from the table in Annex 3, two of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC are subregional in scope: the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) and the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE). The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) is made up of the developing countries which are members of ECLAC, while another forum, the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, is subject-oriented. Another subsidiary body, the Committee on Trade, was established in 1955, but has not met in recent years. A specialized body is the Regional Council for Planning (formerly known as the ILPES Technical Committee) made up of the high-level planning authorities of all the governments of the region and responsible for the orientation of ILPES activities.

22. The present intergovernmental structure of the Commission results from the in-depth analysis carried out by the member governments at the 14th Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 20 November 1980. On that occasion, the Commission adopted resolution 419(PLEN.14), entitled "Rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the ECLAC system" (see Annex 4).

23. Recognizing the valuable contribution that the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, regional conferences, expert meetings, technical seminars, working groups and other meetings make in achieving the objectives and accomplishing to the full the responsibilities entrusted to the ECLAC system and its secretariat, resolution 419(PLEN.14) decided to maintain the existing institutional structure of the Commission with some adjustments designed to bring it into line with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations. It was agreed that CEGAN should continue to meet prior to the biennial session of the Commission and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole. In the interest of economy, the resolution also recommended that the two subregional bodies, CDCC and CCE, should adjust their meetings to the biennial pattern established for the United Nations by ECOSOC and the General Assembly and stated that, as a general rule, no more than five regional intergovernmental conferences or meetings should be held each year.

24. As called for in paragraph (m) of this resolution, the Commission has reviewed and approved the calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the biennium at its past three sessions. Annex 5 to this document contains the calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 1986-1988 adopted on 25 April 1986 at the 21st session of ECLAC by resolution 479(XXI). As can be seen, the number of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies is quite limited, but it has been judged adequate by member governments in the past, for the following basic reasons:

a) The intergovernmental meetings are complemented by a larger number of seminars, expert groups, and other technical meetings held at the regional and subregional level, where topics within the work programme are discussed by governmental and non-governmental participants active in the subject discussed.

b) The activities of the subregional offices of ECLAC have also promoted close working contact with member governments.

c) Finally, contact with the member governments has been ensured by the programme of visits carried out by the Executive Secretary and his staff, as well as by the technical co-operation missions undertaken in consultation with countries of the region.

25. In recent years the Commission has thus been successful in restricting the number of intergovernmental meetings and streamlining the decision-making process of ECLAC. At the same time, it has also become apparent that there must be a certain basic number of periodic intergovernmental meetings where the important issues can be discussed, priorities established by the Commission as a whole, and guidelines given to the Secretariat. The member governments will no doubt wish to consider whether the present intergovernmental structure of ECLAC constitutes that basic minimum which is required, or whether further modifications are necessary. In the next section of this paper, certain suggestions are made in this regard.

b) Measures proposed to streamline the conference structure of ECLAC

26. Paragraph 3 (a) of Recommendation 8 of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts seeks to "identify measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and co-ordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to present needs". As outlined in section III a) of this paper, there is relatively limited scope for further reductions in the number of intergovernmental meetings convened by ECLAC without negatively affecting the process of international co-operation in the region and the natural contact which is required between the member governments and the Secretariat. Nevertheless, there would appear to be two measures which could be taken by the Commission along the lines of Recommendation 8, with minimal negative effects:

i) Elimination of the Sessional Committees on Water, Human Settlements, and Co-operation among Developing Countries, which presently meet during the biennial session of the Commission

These sessional committees were set up in past years in order to respond to the need which member governments felt to discuss these specific subjects at intergovernmental meetings of the Commission, as an alternative to the creation of additional permanent subsidiary bodies. Due to financial considerations governing the size of their representation, many governments have been unable to include experts in these three topics in their delegations to the biennial sessions of ECLAC, thus limiting the effectiveness of the sessional committees. While these three topics within the work programme of the Commission continue to be important to the governments of the region, it might be possible to adopt a somewhat different modality for their consideration in the future. Specifically, these three topics could normally be treated within the context of Committee II of the session, which deals with the ECLAC work programme in general, leaving open the possibility that ad hoc

meetings, either of experts or at the intergovernmental level, could be convened if and when necessary. Were it to be adopted, this measure would permit the reduction of the length of the biennial session by two working days.

ii) Resolution 419(PLEN.14) adopted by ECLAC in 1980 recommends in operative paragraph (i) that "at their next session, the permanent subregional subordinate bodies of the Commission, that is to say, the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE) and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), 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". Since its creation in 1976, CDCC has generally met on an annual basis, while CCE has met when the circumstances so warranted. As of the date of publication of this document, the 10th Session of CDCC was scheduled to be held in the third quarter of 1987, and the recommendation of resolution 419(PLEN.14) was to be discussed again. It would appear that more recent decisions of the General Assembly, which are discussed in this document, tend to reinforce the validity of the recommendation made in paragraph (i) of resolution 419(PLEN.14) of ECLAC. If a biennial cycle were to be adopted, both CDCC and CCE could schedule their regular sessions on a biennial basis, leaving open the possibility that an expert or technical-level meeting, or in the case of CDCC a meeting of the Monitoring Committee, could be held in the off years.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

27. The member governments of ECLAC may wish to consider the following ideas and suggestions in arriving at the recommendations they will make to the Special Commission for the in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields:

- i) Reaffirm the effectiveness of the regional and subregional, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to development problems which characterizes the work of the Regional Commissions of the United Nations

The Group of 18 urged that particular attention be given to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation. At a time when there is frustration at the lack of progress in global economic negotiations it has been seen that progress is possible at the regional level, particularly with respect to problems which can be alleviated by co-operation among countries with common backgrounds and interests. The multi or cross-sectoral approach of the Regional Commissions has proved particularly effective in helping member governments to design economic and social programmes in the many-faceted economic and social field. The member States may also wish to reaffirm the advantages of a decentralized approach, both at the regional and subregional level when required, in order to make progress on the many development issues which can be dealt with more effectively and efficiently at that level.

- ii) Maintain the present basic intergovernmental structure of ECLAC, with certain modifications

For the reasons stated in paragraphs 23-25 above, there seems to be no compelling reason for ECLAC to modify resolution 419(PLEN.14) adopted in 1980, which decided that the basic intergovernmental structure of the Commission was achieving its objectives and should be retained. At the same time, the member governments may wish to adopt the recommendations outlined in paragraph 26 above.

- iii) Improve co-ordination and avoid duplication of activities in the regional sphere of action by fully implementing the provisions of Annex IV of General Assembly resolution 32/197

Resolution 32/197 is one of the most significant legislative decisions taken by the General Assembly. Its adoption was the result of a very careful and detailed analysis of the work of the Organization in the economic and social fields. Annex IV of this resolution, entitled "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation" makes a series of recommendations which, if fully implemented, would contribute significantly to the effective co-ordination of the various activities being carried out by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the development process and help to eliminate duplication of effort. Particularly important is the role of the Regional Commissions as "team leaders" in their regions.

- iv) Improve the reporting procedure from subsidiary to principal organs

At present ECLAC reports certain matters to ECOSOC through the Secretary-General's report on economic co-operation, while the work programme of the Commission goes to the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). Given the new responsibilities of the CPC, set out in resolution 41/213, it seems important that the resolutions and decisions of the Regional Commissions on such matters as development priorities in their geographical region should be made available to the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination. Appropriate reporting procedures would need to be adopted.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixth session and amended at its ninth, thirteenth, twenty-eighth and forty-seventh sessions and at its second regular session, 1979 and 1984

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the government of that country:

a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems arising out of the war and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world.

b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and development within territories of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Commission deems appropriate.

c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region.

e) Assist the Economic and Social Council and its Technical Assistance Committee in discharging their functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in their appraisal of these activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America and the Caribbean from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the co-operation of the Latin American countries in the common effort to achieve world-wide recovery and economic stability.

3. a) Membership of the Commission shall be open to members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Any territory, or part or group thereof, within the geographic scope of the Commission's work, may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

b) Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as commission or as committee of the whole.

c) Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee or other subordinate body which may be set up by the Commission, and shall be eligible to hold office in such body.

4. The geographical scope of the Commission's work shall include the States of Latin America and the Caribbean Members of the United Nations and those territories in Central America and the Caribbean which participate in the work of the Commission.

5. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the governments of members or associate members concerned, governments admitted in a consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

6. The Commission shall invite any member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

7. a) The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend its meetings and to participate, without vote, in its deliberations with respect to items on its agenda relating to matters within the scope of their activities; and may invite observers from such other inter-governmental organizations as it may consider desirable in accordance with the practices of the Council.

b) The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose.

8. a) The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison shall be maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies, with special attention to the avoidance of the duplication of efforts.

b) The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions, in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

9. The Commission shall co-operate with and take the necessary measures to co-ordinate its activities with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort between those organs and itself; to this end the Commission is empowered to, and shall seek to, make working arrangements with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System regarding the joint or independent study or execution of economic problems within its competence and the fullest exchange of information necessary for the co-ordination of efforts in the economic field. The Commission shall invite the Organization of American States and other regional bodies to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Commission in a consultative capacity.

10. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

11. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

12. The Commission shall submit to the Council once a year a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies. For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the Commission and circulation to governments of Member States for their comments and any necessary modifications.

13. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

14. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

15. The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Santiago, Chile. The first session of the Commission shall be held during the first half of the present year in that city. The Commission shall at each session decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean be chosen in rotation.

16. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex 2

32/197 RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM */The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 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,

Recalling also its resolution 3362(S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3172(XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and 3343(XXIX) of 17 December 1974, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Reaffirming its desire to continue the process of restructuring the United Nations system, of which the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee constitute a valuable initial contribution,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System **/ and expresses its deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the excellent manner in which he conducted its work;

*/ See also sect. X.B.4, decision 32/447, and sect. X.B.7, decisions 32/450 A to C.

**/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 34A (A/32/34/Add.1).

2. Decides that paragraph 64,*/ of the recommendations contained in chapter III of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee should read as follows:

"64. The General Assembly should invite the Secretary-General to appoint, in full consultation with Member States, a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, at a high level which he determines as commensurate with the functions outlined below, who, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would effectively assist him in carrying out his responsibilities as chief administrative officer, under the Charter of the United Nations, in the economic and social fields. Accordingly, the Director-General, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be in charge of:

"(a) Ensuring the provision of effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising over-all co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

"(b) Ensuring, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extrabudgetary resources.**/

"In addition, the Secretary-General could entrust to the Director-General other tasks in areas of responsibility related to the ensemble of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The Director-General should be appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of up to four years. He should be provided with the necessary support and resources.";

3. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, as amended in paragraph 2 above and reproduced in the annex to the present resolution;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to appoint a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as soon as possible, preferably during the first quarter of 1978;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to implement those recommendations which are addressed to him, to assist the organs, organizations and bodies involved in the restructuring process and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, within the scope of its competence, at its sixty-fifth session;

*/ Paragraph 5 of section VIII of the provisional mimeographed text (A/32/34 (Part I)), p. 27.

**/ This applies equally to all services and organs within the United Nations Organization without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates.

6. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session a report giving further details on how he plans to implement the conclusions and recommendations annexed to the present resolution in the light of comments made */ and to seek guidance, as necessary, on issues requiring further clarification;

7. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to implement these recommendations within their respective spheres of competence and to submit progress reports, including plans for further implementation, to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session;

8. Decides to keep under review the implementation of the above-mentioned conclusions and recommendations.

109th plenary meeting

20 December 1977

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System

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*/ Comments made in the Ad Hoc Committee, at the resumed sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council and at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

I. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The effectiveness of the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields should be increased by the following measures:

(a) The Assembly should fully exercise its powers under the Charter to promote, inter alia, solutions as to international economic, social and related problems and to that end, to function as the principal forum for policy-making and for the harmonization of international action in respect of those problems;

(b) The Assembly should concentrate on the establishment of over-all strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole in respect of international co-operation, including operational activities, in the economic, social and related fields. It may assign to other forums within the United Nations system, as necessary, the responsibility for negotiating and submitting recommendations for action in specific areas;

(c) The Assembly should review and evaluate developments in other forums within the United Nations system and establish appropriate guidelines for further action. It may also review and evaluate developments in forums outside the United Nations system and address recommendations to them.

2. The General Assembly should promote support and assistance to the developing countries, in the context of measures agreed upon by those countries, for the purpose of strengthening and enlarging their mutual economic co-operation.

3. The General Assembly should rationalize its methods of work and procedures in the economic and social fields and, as a first step, should adopt the following measures:

(a) The Assembly should organize its agenda and allocate the items thereon in such a way as to achieve a balanced and efficient distribution of items thereon in the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the respective functions of those Committees, the nature of the items concerned, their substantive interrelationships, and the need to consider questions of economic and social development in a co-ordinated manner. The Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees should hold consultations with a view to assisting the General Committee to that end. Steps should also be taken to improve co-ordination between the Second and Third Committees, on the one hand, and the Fifth Committee on the other;

(b) The Second and Third Committees should, within their respective spheres of competence, fully utilize the possibility of grouping substantively-related items under one heading for purposes of consideration;

(c) Discussions in the Second Committee should focus on individual items or groups of items, organized in the manner indicated in subparagraph (b) above. Such discussions may be held concurrently on more than one item or

group of items and should be addressed as far as possible to proposals submitted under these items. The Second Committee should set agreed deadlines for the submission of such proposals. These measures should also be adopted, to the extent applicable, by the Third Committee.

4. Documentation submitted by or on behalf of the Secretary-General to the Second and Third Committees as well as to other United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields concerning items on their agenda, should be concise, action-oriented and in conformity with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

5. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and in fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council, under the authority of the Assembly or in the performance of such functions as may be assigned to it by the Assembly, should concentrate on its responsibilities:

(a) To serve as the central forum for the discussion of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and the formulation of policy recommendations thereon addressed to Member States and to the United Nations system as a whole;

(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of over-all strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, and to ensure the harmonization and coherent practical operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system after their approval by the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(c) To ensure the over-all co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of the priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole;

(d) To carry out comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities throughout the United Nations system, bearing in mind the need for balance, compatibility and conformity with the priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole.

6. In discharging these responsibilities, the Economic and Social Council should bear in mind the importance of assisting in the preparation of the work of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields so that the Assembly may give timely and effective attention to the substantive issues requiring consideration. Such preparation should include the drawing up, for consideration by the Assembly, of suggestions regarding the latter's documentation and organization of work in the economic and social fields, as well as of recommendations for action by the Assembly on substantive issues.

7. The Economic and Social Council should organize its work on a biennial basis and provide for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session. Such sessions of the Council should be scheduled for the purpose, inter alia, of considering action by the United Nations system in particular sectors, reviewing the results of technical work undertaken in specialized bodies and establishing guidelines for such work, reviewing programme budgets and medium-term plans within the United Nations system, and recommending policy guidelines for operational activities. The Council, taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 11 below, should identify subject areas on which such sessions should be held.

8. In formulating its biennial programme of work, the Economic and Social Council should identify the issues which will require priority consideration, decide on the schedule and agenda for its subject-oriented sessions and determine the manner in which substantively-related issues on its agenda should be grouped together under one heading for purposes of consideration. The Council may, in modification of its programme, decide on ad hoc arrangements --including in particular the convening of special sessions-- to deal with emerging problems meriting special or urgent international attention. In formulating its programme, the Council should take into account the possibility of transmitting certain of the reports submitted through it to the General Assembly without debate.

9. At such times as may be decided upon by its members, the Economic and Social Council should also hold periodic meetings at the ministerial or other sufficiently high level, to review major issues in the world economic and social situation. Such meetings should be effectively prepared and should concentrate on important policy areas justifying high-level participation.

10. In the light of the foregoing and in order to ensure that the subject areas referred to in paragraph 7 above are given the most effective and informed consideration possible within the broad context of the tasks indicated in paragraph 5, the Economic and Social Council should assume to the maximum extent possible direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies; these bodies would accordingly be discontinued or their terms of reference redefined and/or regrouped. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 27 below, the regional commissions should continue in being.

11. On the basis of the foregoing, the measures set forth in subparagraphs (a) to (d) below should be adopted by the Economic and Social Council not later than the end of 1978 in respect of its expert and advisory groups, its standing committees and the functional commissions, and the Council should give high priority to this task in formulating its programme of work:

(a) The discontinuance of the expert and advisory bodies of the Council unless the Council takes affirmative action to renew and redefine their mandates and where appropriate to set deadlines for the completion of their activities;

(b) The thorough streamlining, including discontinuance as appropriate, of the standing intergovernmental committees;

(c) The redefinition and regrouping, on the basis of their substantive and methodological interrelationships, of the terms of reference of the functional commissions, or the assumption by the Council in appropriate instances of direct responsibility for their work;

(d) The assumption by the Council of direct responsibility for carrying out the preparatory work for ad hoc conferences convened by the Council itself and, as appropriate, by the General Assembly, without prejudice to arrangements already agreed upon for conferences currently under preparation.

12. The Economic and Social Council should to the maximum extent possible refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies; it should make every effort to meet the need for any new bodies by holding subject-oriented sessions as provided for in paragraph 7 above. For their part subsidiary bodies of the Council should refrain from creating new subordinate sessional or intersessional groups without the prior concurrence of the Council.

13. In the light of paragraphs 10 and 11 above, all States Members of the United Nations wishing to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council should be enabled to do so to the fullest possible extent. In addition consideration should be given to ways and means of making the Council fully representative.*/ Where the Council decides in the context of the measures envisaged in paragraph 11 above to regroup the terms of reference of particular subsidiary bodies, it should also give consideration to the possibility of such regrouping being accompanied by an increase in the membership of the reconstituted body/bodies. The Council should continue to invite non-member States to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to them.

14. The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system should participate more actively in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and should provide full assistance to the Council in accordance with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

15. The Economic and Social Council should examine and improve its consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations, taking fully into account the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The Council should also make recommendations for the rationalization and harmonization of consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations by the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and in the context of ad hoc world conferences.**/

*/ For reservations and interpretative statements regarding this formulation, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34 and Corr.1), annex I.

**/ For interpretative statements regarding this paragraph, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34 and Corr.1), annex I.

III. OTHER UNITED NATIONS FORUMS AND NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND PROGRAMMES, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES,*/ THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND AD HOC WORLD CONFERENCES

16. All United Nations organs, programmes, specialized agencies, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences, should co-operate in whatever measures are necessary for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and should, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within the scope of their respective basic instruments, give full and prompt effect to their specific policy recommendations.

17. In carrying out their respective mandates, all United Nations organs, programmes, agencies and ad hoc world conferences should be similarly guided by the over-all policy framework established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking fully into account the needs and requirements of the developing countries.

18. In the light of General Assembly resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, appropriate measures should accordingly be taken to enable UNCTAD, within available resources, effectively to play the major role envisaged in UNCTAD resolution 90(IV) of 30 May 1976 of the Conference,**/ as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and co-operative relationship with the Assembly and to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

IV. STRUCTURES FOR REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

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 in respect of technical co-operation activities.

*/ It is the understanding of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 1973rd meeting, para. 19).

**/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

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.

21. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and should participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs. They should be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the medium-term plan of the United Nations covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.

22. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned and without prejudice to membership of regional bodies concerned, the organizations of the United Nations system should take early steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.

23. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. Without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, and taking into account the plans and priorities of the Governments concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should take measures to enable them to function expeditiously as executing agencies for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects and in areas which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, other subregional, regional and interregional projects.

24. The regional commissions concerned should assist developing countries at the request of the Governments concerned in identifying projects and preparing programmes for the promotion of co-operation among those countries. Taking fully into account the relevant global policy decisions of the competent United Nations organs, the regional commissions concerned should intensify their efforts, with the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and at the request of the Governments concerned, to strengthen and enlarge economic co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

25. As a means of promoting more effective interregional co-operation, the regional commissions should strengthen and, as appropriate, expand existing arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience. Such arrangements may include the holding of periodic intersecretariat meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

26. In order to enable them effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in the preceding paragraphs, the necessary authority should be delegated to them and, to the same end, adequate budgetary and financial provisions should be made for their activities.

27. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions and bearing in mind the objectives set forth above, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery.

V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

28. Restructuring measures in respect of the operational activities of the United Nations system for development should serve to promote the achievement of the following objectives:

(a) A real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis,

(b) The assistance provided should be in conformity with the national objectives and priorities of the recipient countries,

(c) The orientation of these activities and the allocation of available resources for the activities to fully reflect the over-all strategies, policies and priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

(d) The achievement of optimum efficiency and the reduction of administrative costs with a consequent increase in the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of recipient countries.

29. In carrying out the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, as provided for in paragraph 5 (d) above, the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the objectives outlined in paragraph 28 above.

30. With these objectives in view and as a first step, with future steps to be determined by the General Assembly, integration measures as outlined in the following paragraphs should be gradually undertaken, under the authority of the Secretary-General wherever appropriate, in respect of existing United Nations programmes and Funds for development financed by extrabudgetary resources. The implementation of these measures should be carried out under the guidance of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council particularly bearing in mind, firstly that a major premise underlying such integration is that it will stimulate substantially higher levels of voluntary contributions to operational activities for development and, secondly, that it should accordingly be carried forward with due regard to the current levels of such voluntary contributions. The resources, aims and objectives of each programme, as reflected in existing programmes and Funds, should remain clearly identified.

31. Without prejudice to other arrangements for mobilizing additional funds for particular programmes through other measures or from other sources and subject to provision being made for the earmarking of contributions for specific programmes, there should be held a single annual United Nations Pledging Conference for all United Nations operational activities for development. In preparing for the Pledging Conference the Secretariat should make available to Governments information concerning previous and current contributions for the various programmes from Governments and other sources.

32. Measures should be taken to achieve maximum uniformity of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures, including the establishment of a common procurement system, harmonize budget and programme cycles, a unified personnel system and a common recruitment and training system.

33. At the country level, there should be improved coherence of action and effective integration, in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned, of the various sectoral inputs from the United Nations system. The United Nations Development Programme country-programming process */ should be utilized as a frame of reference for the operational activities carried out and financed by the organizations of the United Nations system from their own resources.

34. On behalf of the United Nations system, over-all responsibility for, and co-ordination of, operational activities for development carried out at the country level, should be entrusted to a single official to be designated taking into account the sectors of particular interest to the countries of assignment, in consultation with and with the consent of the Government concerned, who should exercise team leadership and be responsible for evolving, at the country level, a multidisciplinary dimension in sectoral development assistance programmes. These tasks should be carried out in conformity with the priorities established by the competent national authorities and with the assistance, as necessary, of joint interagency advisory groups. Subject to the requirements of individual countries, steps should be taken to unify the country offices of the various United Nations organizations.

35. In the context of the foregoing, consideration should be given by the General Assembly to the establishment of a single governing body responsible for the management and control, at the intergovernmental level, of United Nations operational activities for development.**/ This body should replace the existing governing bodies. Its composition should be such as to ensure a wide, equitable and balanced representation.

36. Steps should be taken to ensure adequate developing country representation at the executive management and other central decision-making levels of secretarial structures in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

*/ See resolution 2688 (XXV), annex, paras. 1-5.

**/ It is agreed that the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme are to be excluded.

VI. PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION

37. The recommendations in the present section are designed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgetary and evaluation processes within the United Nations system.

38. The competent intergovernmental bodies charged with programming and budgeting should develop thematic approaches with a view to ensuring the implementation, by the Secretariat units concerned, of the over-all priorities established by the General Assembly.

39. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should fully discharge its responsibilities, in accordance with its terms of reference, as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination. In discharging those responsibilities, it should also assist the Council and the Assembly in supervising, reviewing and carrying out, as appropriate, evaluation exercises in respect of the activities of the United Nations, particularly those having system-wide implications. Furthermore, it should consider and make recommendations regarding the establishment and harmonization of medium-term plans and programmes, including the concepts on which they are based.

40. In addition, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should in the light of the perspective indicated above formulate recommendations, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes; in this context subsidiary intergovernmental and expert bodies should accordingly refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan, and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence.

41. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should make such further improvements in its programme and methods of work as would facilitate the full discharge of the above-mentioned responsibilities. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should, in the light of experience, keep under continuous review the terms of reference of the Committee.

42. Measures should be taken to improve the effectiveness of internal evaluation procedures in respect of programme implementation. Appropriate methods should also be developed in order to assist the competent intergovernmental bodies, with the assistance as required of the Joint Inspection Unit, in carrying out their responsibilities for external evaluation.

43. The organizations of the United Nations system should intensify their efforts to develop harmonized budget presentations and a common methodology of programme classification and description of content. They should synchronize their programme budget cycles and provide full and compatible information on extrabudgetary resources in their programme budgets.

44. These organizations should work out without further delay solutions to the timing and technical problems which are impeding the effective application of the existing procedures for prior consultation on work programmes in order that the competent governing bodies may be enabled to take full account of the results thereof before approving such programmes. In the same context, vigorous steps should be taken towards joint programming in related programme areas.

45. These organizations should intensify their work on the elaboration of medium-term plans, including the problems of methodology, procedure and the harmonization of plan cycles. In addition, the procedures for prior consultation should be applied to these plans with a view to establishing an increasing measure of joint planning in areas of mutual concern and eventually to system-wide medium-term planning.

46. Measures should be taken to facilitate representation by States members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of such representation. To this end, and subject to the review envisaged in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the payment by the United Nations of the travel and per diem expenses of one representative of each State member of the Committee should be continued.

47. In exercising its responsibilities as defined by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To ensure more equitable representation, particularly for the interests of the developing countries, the size of the Advisory Committee should be increased to at least 16.

48. There should be close co-operation between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and they should work out appropriate arrangements for maintaining continuous contact. The two Committees should so organize their respective programmes of work as to facilitate the discharge of the foregoing tasks; to the same end the Secretary-General should make the necessary adjustments to the cycle for the preparation of the relevant documentation and generally ensure compliance by the Secretariat with the procedures indicated above.

49. Intergovernmental bodies should enforce existing rules concerning the submission of programme-budget implications of proposals submitted to them. To the extent possible, a statement of programme-budget implications should be available in writing during the consideration of proposals and normally not later than 24 hours before the approval of the proposals concerned. Such statements shall indicate, as appropriate, related programmes already included in the relevant medium-term plan, the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units concerned and the resources which could be released from any programme elements which have become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. If in the course of a session two or more statements of programme-budget implications have been submitted, the Secretary-General shall submit, at the conclusion of the session, a summary of such statements containing aggregate figures.

VII. INTERAGENCY CO-ORDINATION

50. Interagency co-ordination at the intergovernmental level should be governed by the policy guidelines, directives and priorities established by the General Assembly and, under its authority, by the Economic and Social Council in the exercise of their over-all responsibilities as outlined in sections I and II.

51. At the intersecretariat level, interagency co-ordination should aim at effectively assisting in the preparatory work for intergovernmental decisions, in the implementation of such decisions and in their translation into mutually complementary or joint programme activities. To that end, it should integrate into a coherent whole the relevant expertise and inputs of the organizations of the United Nations system. It should also be a built-in element of the substantive support to be provided to the intergovernmental bodies concerned for the discharge of their policy-making functions as well as an integral part of intersecretariat arrangements for policy and programme execution.

52. On the basis of the foregoing, interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should concentrate on the following tasks:

(a) Preparing, in compliance with the relevant general and specific legislative directives, concise and action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the intergovernmental bodies concerned;

(b) Concerting in an effective manner the implementation in accordance with paragraph 16 above, by the United Nations organs, programmes and agencies concerned of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Developing the co-operative and, wherever possible, joint planning and programming, as well as the co-ordinated execution, of programme activities decided upon at the intergovernmental level.

53. Interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should be pursued with full respect for the competence, where relevant, of the regional commissions as outlined in section IV. In the field, such co-ordination should be pursued in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the government concerned and should be supportive of the local co-ordination arrangements established by that Government.

54. The machinery for interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should centre on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Subject to the guidance and supervision of the Economic and Social Council, that machinery should be streamlined and reduced to a minimum; except where the discharge of permanent functions necessitates the retention of continuing machinery, maximum use should be made of flexible, *ad hoc* arrangements designed to meet the specific requirements of the intergovernmental bodies concerned and geared to the policy-making and programming processes of the General Assembly and the Council. In the light of these considerations, steps should be taken to merge the Environment Co-ordination Board, the Inter-Agency Consultative Board and the Advisory

Committee of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which should assume their respective functions.

55. The agenda, functioning and reporting systems of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be adjusted to respond fully and promptly to the priority concerns, specific requirements and programme of work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The reporting schedules of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be reorganized so as to conform to the meetings calendar of the intergovernmental bodies concerned. Under the authority of the Secretary-General, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions should be enabled fully and effectively to participate in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on matters of concern to their respective commissions.

56. Arrangements should be made to improve communication between the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the intergovernmental bodies concerned, including wider access to the results of the relevant Administrative Committee on Co-ordination discussions by these bodies on matters of concern to them. As necessary, mutually convenient procedures should be worked out to enable the Chairman or designated representative of any of these bodies to be associated in an appropriate manner with Administrative Committee on Co-ordination discussions of particular concern to that body.

57. The review by the Economic and Social Council of the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be guided, *inter alia*, by the need to ensure that the agencies give full and prompt effect in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within the scope of their respective basic instruments to the recommendations made by the General Assembly and the Council for the co-ordination of their policies and activities.

58. The powers of the General Assembly under Article 17 paragraph 3 of the Charter should be fully exercised in the interests of system-wide co-ordination, particularly in the context of the establishment of overall priorities and in relation to administrative and budgetary issues of broad applicability. Appropriate arrangements to assist the Assembly in that regard should be made by the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

VIII. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES

59. The recommendations in the present section represent guidelines, the detailed implementation of which the Secretary-General would carry out in exercise of his powers under the Charter of the United Nations.

60. In the economic and social sectors, the United Nations Secretariat should be restructured so as effectively to meet the requirements and the policy directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and in

the context of the purposes stated in Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4, as well as of the provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter, to take fully into account in particular the development requirements of the developing countries.

61. In support of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Secretariat should concentrate on the following functions:

(a) Interdisciplinary research and analysis, drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system. On the basis of the relevant legislative authority, this function includes:

- (i) Preparing, on a regular basis, global economic and social surveys and projections to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of their responsibilities as set out in sections (i) and (ii);
- (ii) Undertaking in-depth intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues, in close collaboration with those elements of the United Nations system engaged in similar work, and taking into account relevant work in the various sectoral components of the United Nations system, and preparing concise and action-oriented recommendations on those issues in accordance with the requirements of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, for consideration by those organs;
- (iii) Identifying and bringing to the attention of Governments emerging economic and social issues of international concern.

This function would accordingly cover, inter alia, the provision of substantive support services for the work of the Committee for Development Planning.

(b) Cross-sectoral analysis of programmes and plans in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system with a view to mobilizing and integrating at the planning and programming stages the inputs and expertise of the organizations of the United Nations system for the following tasks:

- (i) Concerting in an effective manner the implementation of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
- (ii) Developing the co-operative and, wherever possible, joint planning of programme activities decided upon at the intergovernmental level, with a view to system-wide medium-term planning at the earliest possible time.

This function would accordingly cover, inter alia, the provision of substantive support services for the relevant work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

(c) Substantive support for technical co-operation activities in economic and social sectors which are not covered by other United Nations organs,

programmes or specialized agencies. These functions would include, inter alia, the provision of technical expertise in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of country and intercountry programmes and of specific projects; the provision of direct advisory assistance to Governments; the development of training materials and support of training institutions.

(d) Management of technical co-operation activities carried out by the United Nations in respect of:

- (i) Projects under the regular programme for technical assistance;
- (ii) Projects of the United Nations Development Programme for which the United Nations is the executing agency;
- (iii) Projects financed by voluntary contributions from Governments and other external donors including funds in trust.

(e) Provision, on an integrated basis, of technical secretariat services for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, ad hoc conferences and intersecretariat co-ordination machinery; this function includes organizing and co-ordinating the provision by the Secretariat units concerned of substantive support services, particularly documentation, as required by the above-mentioned bodies; ensuring that the substantive units concerned are informed of relevant developments in the work of these bodies, including resolutions and decisions adopted by them; and ensuring that these bodies are kept informed of actions being taken in response to their decisions by the Secretariat units concerned.

(f) Without prejudice to the function defined in subparagraph (a) above, and in response to directives from the relevant intergovernmental bodies, research, including the collection of relevant data, and analysis in those economic and social sectors that do not fall within the purview of other United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies.

62. In view of their particularly close substantive and methodological relationship, the functions defined in paragraphs 61 (a) and 61 (b) above should be clustered together in accordance with a programme of phased implementation. In the same context, the functions defined in paragraphs 61 (c) and 61 (d) above should also be clustered together in a separate organizational entity in accordance with a programme of phased implementation. The function defined in paragraph 61 (e) should be treated as a distinct function in a separate organizational entity. The Secretary-General should deploy the function in paragraph 61 (f) to the clusters of functions defined in paragraphs 61 (a) and (b) or 61 (c) and (d) respectively on the basis of the substantive, practical and methodological relationships involved, and allowing for the possibility of deploying appropriate elements to the regional commissions.

63. The clustering of functions indicated in paragraph 62 above should be accompanied by a thorough rationalization and streamlining of the capabilities of the organizational units concerned, including the redeployment, as necessary, of their staff resources.

64. The General Assembly should invite the Secretary-General to appoint, in full consultation with Member States, a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, at a high level which he determines as commensurate with the functions outlined below, who, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would effectively assist him in carrying out his responsibilities as chief administrative officer, under the Charter of the United Nations, in the economic and social fields. Accordingly, the Director-General, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be in charge of:

(a) Ensuring the provision of effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising over-all co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

(b) Ensuring, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extrabudgetary resources.*

In addition, the Secretary-General could entrust to the Director-General other tasks in areas of responsibility related to the ensemble of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The Director-General should be appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of up to four years. He should be provided with the necessary support and resources.

*/ This applies equally to all services and organs within the United Nations without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates.

Annex 3

MAIN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM

Main inter-governmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Commission, sessions	1948	Economic and Social Council Res. 106(VI)	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every two years	All economic and social issues in accordance with article 1 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 ECLAC member States and associate members	Originally every year in which no Commission session was held, convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC; now when necessary	Since it was set up, the Committee of the Whole has held 30 sessions: 15 regular and 15 extraordinary. At the regular sessions, items similar to those dealt with at the sessions of the Commission are discussed. In accordance with the agreement adopted by the Commission in 1969, ^a / extraordinary sessions are convened by the Executive Secretary when it is necessary to deal with some question which calls for an urgent decision on the part of the Commission, in line with the procedure set forth in rule 1(b) of the rules of procedure.
ECLAC sessional committees	1948	Rule 53 of ECLAC rules of procedure	All ECLAC 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 21st session three sessional committees were set up (on water, human settlements and technical co-operation among developing countries and regions) in conformity with earlier ECLAC decisions.
Regional inter-governmental conferences		Generally resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, ECLAC or its Committee of the Whole	All ECLAC member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues. There are often preparatory meetings of a regional nature prior to world conferences of the United Nations on the issue.
Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean	1977	Resolution adopted in November 1977 by the Committee of the Whole at its 11th extraordinary session	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every three years at most	Regional Programme of Action on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America.
Ad hoc meetings of government-appointed experts		Rule 24 of rules of procedure, ECLAC resolution 401(XVIII) and other decisions	All ECLAC 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.

Annex 3 (concl.)

Main inter-governmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Seminars, forums, round tables and other meetings convened by the Executive Secretary pursuant to mandates from Governments	-	Rule 24 of rules of procedure. Various ECLAC 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 ECLAC	At a suitable date, 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	ECLAC Res. 357(XVI)	Developing countries members of ECLAC	As required	To deal with <u>population, industrialization and science and technology</u> , at specialized meetings, in conformity with the Commission's mandates. ECLAC resolution 357(XVI).
Regional Council for Planning ^{b/}	1974	Res. 340(AC.66) Eighth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole	Countries of the Latin American region	As required	1. To act as the guiding governmental body for ILPES activities in the matters entrusted to it. 2. To serve as a consultative body of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. 3. To review and adopt ILPES work programme.
Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation ^{c/}	1951	ECLAC 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	ECLAC Res. 358 (XVI). CDCC Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure (E/CEPAL/1022)	Countries within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters 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 ECLAC	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 ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances".

^{a/} E/CN.12/841/Rev.1, para. 490.

^{b/} Formerly the "ILPES Technical Committee".

^{c/} Panama has also participated as an observer in some activities of the Committee.

Annex 4

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,^{1/} 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,

^{1/} Document DP/435.

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;^{2/}

(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 conferences 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

^{2/} Document E/CEPAL/AC.71/4.

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 5

CALENDAR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES OF ECLAC FOR THE PERIOD 1986-1988

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of financing
1986	Eleventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	Bogotá 3-6 March	ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX); 425(XIX); 432(XIX) and 449(PLEN.16)	ECLAC regular budget
1986	Tenth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)	a/	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 432(XIX) and 449(PLEN.16)	ECLAC regular budget
1986	Twenty-first session of ECLAC	Mexico City, 17-25 April	ECLAC resolution 471(XX)	ECLAC regular budget
1986	Central American Economic Co-operation Committee	a/	ECLAC resolution 9(IV)	ECLAC regular budget
1987	Special Conference of ECLAC	Mexico City, 19-23 January	ECLAC resolution 487(XXI)	Host government
1987	Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean	b/	The Conference was set up as a permanent subsidiary organ of ECLAC, by decision of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole (E/CEPAL/AC.71/4)	ECLAC regular budget
1987	Tenth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)	b/	ECLAC resolution 358(XV)	ECLAC regular budget
1987	Twelfth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	United Nations Headquarters, New York, 11-12 August	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX)	ECLAC regular budget
1987	Nineteenth session of the ECLAC Committee of the Whole	United Nations Headquarters, New York, 13-14 August	ECLAC resolution 419(PLEN.14)	ECLAC regular budget
1988	Thirteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	b/	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX)	ECLAC regular budget
1988	Eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)	b/	ECLAC resolution 358(XVI)	ECLAC regular budget
1988	Twenty-second session of ECLAC	b/	ECLAC resolution 449(PLEN.16)	ECLAC regular budget

a/ Postponed until 1987.

b/ Place and date to be decided.

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