**629(XXXI) FOLLOW-UP TO THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

<u>The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</u>,

<u>Recalling</u> the principles and objectives set out in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, December 2003), and in the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, November 2005), with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 at the latest and to the promotion of social, economic and cultural development,

<u>Recalling also</u> the principles and objectives contained in the Bávaro Declaration (Dominican Republic, January 2003) and in the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007), adopted at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2005),

<u>Keeping in view</u> the requests submitted to the Commission in the Bávaro Declaration (Dominican Republic, January 2003), in resolution 610(XXX) as adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirtieth session (Puerto Rico, June 2004) and in the document on the temporary regional mechanism for the implementation of eLAC 2007 (Tunis, December 2005),

<u>Recognizing</u> the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva, especially as regards the contribution of Governments and stakeholders in promoting information and communication technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

<u>Recognizing</u> the substantive contribution made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting the countries of the region in both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society and in building the information society in the region since 2000, including the valuable technical support provided at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2005),

<u>Recalling</u> paragraph 101 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which states that the United Nations regional commissions, based on requests of Member States and within approved budgetary resources, may organize regional follow-up activities to the World Summit on the Information Society in collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, with appropriate frequency, as well as assisting Member States with technical and relevant information for the development of regional strategies and the implementation of the outcomes of regional conferences,

<u>Recognizing</u> that the year 2015 is the date set for meeting the global targets of the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and that the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007) will be a step towards their achievement,

Applauding the offer by the Government of El Salvador to host a meeting to evaluate eLAC 2007 in the year 2007,

Taking into account the need to promote a Latin American and Caribbean vision of the information society,

1. Requests the secretariat, within available resources, to:

(i)   Provide support to the countries of the region, especially in the formulation of national strategies, for the fulfilment of the 30 goals of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007), which are derived directly from the commitments undertaken at the World Summit on the Information Society, through technical cooperation, carrying out studies and collaborating in the organization of meetings to the extent of its capabilities and expertise;

(ii)   Promote, in coordination with the regional focal point and in consultation with the States of the region, the necessary measures to launch the working groups approved at the regional meeting for implementation of the Plan of Action during 2006 at the latest and support them by maintaining a virtual forum for collaboration in order to ensure that the tasks of the working groups are carried out by means of an inclusive, participatory, transparent and multilingual process;

(iii)   Maintain and develop, in coordination with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and in accordance with the relevant agreements reached at the World Summit on the Information Society and in regional meetings, indicators for the on-going assessment and dissemination of progress achieved in the region, especially with respect to the goals of eLAC 2007;

(iv)   Provide technical support for the organization of the high-level follow-up meeting on the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2007;

(v)   Provide support to the countries participating in eLAC 2007 in the organization of a regional follow-up meeting to assess the application of the Regional Plan of Action and renew it within the framework of the process aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the targets and goals set out in the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;

(vi)   Collaborate with the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to finalize, with the European Commission and other donor agencies, the agreement to fund the Caribbean activities related to the follow-up of eLAC2007 and the World Summit on the Information Society.