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CEPAL

Economic Commission for Latin America

Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation
for the International Drinking Water Supply and
Sanitation Decade

First Session

Santiago, Chile, 9-13 March 1981

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

81-1-0064

I. Background

1. The CEPAL Committee which considered the implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action at the Commission's eighteenth session requested the CEPAL secretariat to participate in activities undertaken by WHO/PAHO with a view to concerting the efforts of the countries of the region to implement the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade through various measures including "the convening to special meetings of representatives of national and international agencies".
2. Earlier, at the Latin American regional meeting on the Action Plan of the United Nations Water Conference (Santiago, 9-13 October 1978), Governments of the region were requested to "promote the holding of periodic meetings of representatives of their respective national institutions with a view to exchanging experience on progress made in drinking water supply and sanitation plans".
3. The designation of the decade of the 1980s as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade provides a good opportunity for considering strategies to favour water supply and sanitation, particularly from the financial standpoint, but also within the broader sphere of those strategies' contribution to the economic and social development process.
4. In order to review strategies applied earlier, it seemed necessary to begin by sharing experience in order to gain a fuller, more detailed knowledge of the successes and failures, with a view to increasing the general level of mutual understanding of the region's problems. The organization of this seminar as a Latin American forum to study specific economic and social aspects of drinking water and sanitation programmes will provide very useful machinery at a time when a large-scale international effort is being launched in this field, particularly if it is also used as a means for programming mutual assistance among countries of the region.

/II. Objectives

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1. General objectives

To encourage horizontal co-operation among Latin American countries and agencies as a strategy for attaining the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, with special emphasis on social, economic and financial aspects.

2. Specific objectives

(a) To identify the main questions which the countries or agencies will have to tackle in order to implement the objectives and targets relating to the Decade, and which may be approached through systems of horizontal co-operation;

(b) To identify and define the forms and machinery of horizontal co-operation considered most appropriate in the sector, as means for achieving the objectives and targets for the Decade; and

(c) To formulate specific project proposals for developing horizontal co-operation in the field of drinking water and sanitation in connexion with the Decade.

III. Participants

The meetings will be attended by officials and specialists of Governments or public enterprises in the following two categories:

(a) Managers and high-level officials of government bodies responsible for managing, advising or supporting the drinking water and sanitation sector, and

(b) Managers and high-level officials of drinking water and sanitation enterprises responsible for managing their entities, with executive, advisory or support functions.

In the case of each country, participants will be invited to submit, a document of about five pages on the situation in their own country, which will serve as a basis for a presentation in which each speaker should refer to the following aspects:

/(a) Progress

- (a) Progress made in organization, plans and targets established in connexion with the Decade in his country;
- (b) Experience acquired in mutual co-operation among countries or agencies in the drinking water and sanitation sector;
- (c) Questions considered most important from the standpoint of the implementation of the targets for the Decade in the country or entity which could be tackled in the framework of horizontal co-operation; and
- (d) Specific projects proposed in the field of horizontal co-operation, whether offered or requested.

The meetings will also be attended by representatives of international bodies and specially invited participants.

For practical reasons, the Seminar has been organized in two sessions. The first session has been convened for the Latin American countries of South America, and is open to the other countries of the region. Subsequently, the second session will be held at the CEPAL Mexico Office, primarily aimed at the Caribbean countries.

IV. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda and of the programme of work

The Seminar will be governed by the CEPAL rules of procedure. The Officers will consist of a Chairman, a Vice-chairman and a Rapporteur, elected at the first plenary meeting. The agenda of the meeting and the programme of work based on the proposal appearing in the annex will also be adopted at that meeting.

2. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

The purpose of this item is to establish the overall frame of reference of the expected scope of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The secretariat of the Commission will outline the following aspects:

/(a) The

(a) The objectives, philosophy and targets of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, based on the relevant agreements and mandates;

(b) The restrictions and obstacles generally faced by the various countries and entities in implementing the targets for the Decade, particularly in connexion with social, economic and financial problems; and

(c) The various strategies currently employed to overcome the foregoing restrictions. In this connexion, horizontal co-operation will be singled out as one of the strategies and the possible contributions expected from its use will be outlined.

The representatives will in turn present the studies prepared for the Seminar.

3. Social, economic and financial aspects relating to drinking water and sanitation in connexion with the Decade

On the basis of the presentations for item 2, the aim here is to identify the main aspects which countries or agencies must tackle in order to implement the objectives and targets connected with the Decade, and which may be approached through systems of horizontal co-operation.

The secretariat will outline the potential areas for horizontal co-operation on the basis of the experience gained in the different Latin American countries.

The aim is to identify and gain a thorough understanding of the needs and capacities of each country and/or entity in the field of mutual co-operation in connexion with the Decade, in different fields related to socio-economic aspects such as:

- (a) Planning for the Decade. Establishment of objectives and targets, preparation of support programmes and investment projects for plan implementation.

/(b) Institutional

- (b) Institutional and administrative aspects. Institutional structures and frameworks, institutional supportive and advisory back-up services, administrative criteria, etc.
- (c) Technological aspects. Service levels, service standards, suitable technology, technical standards, project design and implementation, services for concentrated and scattered rural population, peripheral urban population, etc.
- (d) Water resources. Water quality, quality standards, protection of water sources, treatment of drinking water and waste water, reutilization of water, suitable technology, water quality monitoring.
- (e) Operational and maintenance aspects of drinking water and drainage systems. Operational and maintenance programmes, forms of service, logistics, greater efficiency in service and use, financing arrangements, reduction of water losses, etc.
- (f) Human resources. Education for health. Training at different levels. Community organization and motivation.
- (g) Information systems. Development of national information systems. Data science. Preparation of manuals and techniques.
- (h) Internal and external financing. Generation of income according to social and economic criteria, extra resources, community participation, financing arrangements, improvement of commercial systems.

Expected result

The analysis of item 3 should provide guidelines for countries and bodies in the potential areas for horizontal co-operation in connexion with the Decade.

4. Horizontal co-operation as a strategy for the implementation of the Decade

The purpose of this item is to identify and specify the forms and operational machinery for horizontal co-operation.

The secretariat will outline the experience and successes obtained through horizontal co-operation in general. It will then review more specifically the experience acquired in the field of drinking water and sanitation.

On the basis of the presentations, experience and knowledge of the participants, the real machinery and forms of horizontal co-operation for the areas of interest previously identified in connexion with item 3 will be defined.

The following are mentioned as examples of possible forms and machinery:

- (a) International and bilateral meetings of delegations of countries or agencies for different co-operation areas.
- (b) Exchanges of technical personnel at all levels in one type of work so that they can be incorporated for specified periods in the work of the entities.
- (c) Mutual training. Visits of technical staff, professionals or experts on training missions. Development and co-ordination of training centres. Organization of courses and seminars on specific topics.
- (d) Exchange of technology and of experience in the application of standards. Collaboration among institutes for the inspection and analysis of materials or quality control in Latin America.
- (e) Exchange of information among specific institutions on the basis of pre-established thematic areas. Special publications on previously agreed topics. Exchange of legal experience.

/Expected results

Expected results

The analysis of item 4 is expected to make it possible to identify viable operational machinery for horizontal co-operation in the drinking water and sanitation field within the possibilities of interested countries and bodies.

5. Specific horizontal co-operation projects

The purpose of this item is to analyse, elaborate and lay the foundations for concrete horizontal co-operation projects relating to the targets for the Decade in accordance with the agreements adopted on items 3 and 4. To this end, the various areas of interest for co-operation (item 3) will be related to the operational machinery for such co-operation (item 4).

Participants will present proposals which they have prepared specifically for or during the Seminar.

Once projects have been identified, the machinery and requirements for implementing them and also the way of institutionalizing the system will be studied. As far as possible, the machinery established should make it possible periodically to incorporate new projects or expand or modify the original ones, as well as facilitate co-ordination among those concerned in order to secure continuity of activities and ensure that the proposed objectives are achieved.

Annex

PROGRAMME

Venue: United Nations Building, Conference Room No 1

Dates: 9-13 March 1981

- Monday 9 - Morning: 9.30 a.m. Registration and delivery of credentials.
- 10.30 a.m. Inauguration attended by authorities of the host country and the Executive Secretary of CEPAL.
- 11 a.m. Coffee break.
- 11.15 a.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda items 1 and 2.
- Afternoon: 3 p.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 2.
- 4.30 p.m. Coffee break.
- 4.45 p.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 2.
- Tuesday 10 - Morning: 9.30 a.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 3.
- 11 a.m. Coffee break.
- 11.15 a.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 4.
- Afternoon: 3 p.m. Working groups and conclusions.
- 4.30 p.m. Coffee break.
- 4.45 p.m. Working groups and conclusions.
- Wednesday 11 - Morning: 9.30 a.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 5.
- 11 a.m. Coffee break
- 11.15 a.m. Plenary meeting - Agenda item 5.
- Afternoon: 3 p.m. Working groups and conclusions.
- 4.30 p.m. Coffee break
- 4.45 p.m. Working group and conclusions
- Thursday 12 - Morning: 9.30 a.m. General plenary meeting.
- 11 a.m. Coffee break.
- 11.15 a.m. General plenary meeting.
- Afternoon: Free (preparation of the report of the seminar).
- Friday 13 - Morning: 9.30 a.m. Adoption of the conclusions for items 3 and 4.
- 11 a.m. Coffee break
- 11.15 a.m. Adoption of the report of the seminar and closure.

/ORGANIZING BODY

ORGANIZING BODY: The seminar is being organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America.

ENQUIRIES: For further information, please write to:
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