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ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA)
FOR THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

(January 1981-July 1983)

Note by the ECLA Secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

The activities carried out by the ECLA system 1/ relating to technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and regions (TCDC and ECDC) should be viewed within the general framework for TCDC established by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30 August to 12 September 1978), and by follow-up revisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that were carried out by the High-Level Meeting for the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which took place in Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980, and more recently, by the second and third meetings of the High-Level Committee on the Review of TCDC held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 1 to 8 June 1981 and from 31 May to 6 June 1983, respectively.

As regards ECDC, the activities undertaken by the ECLA system are based upon the principles laid down by the United Nations General Assembly in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly in 1974. These principles reaffirm the determination of developing countries to promote their economies in accordance with their own problems and needs, and in relation to their national aspirations and experiences.

Within the United Nations system, UNCTAD has given special importance to the subject of economic co-operation, particularly as regards the identification of priority spheres of action to promote ECDC. At its fifth session, held in Manila in 1979, UNCTAD emphasized four major priority areas for ECDC, as follows: i) monetary and financial co-operation; ii) expansion of trade in the framework of the global system of trade preferences among developing countries; iii) establishment of multinational marketing corporations; and iv) establishment of multinational production corporations. On the same occasion UNCTAD suggested other complementary measures for the strengthening of economic co-operation and integration at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. More recently, at its sixth session held in Belgrade in 1983, UNCTAD reaffirmed its continued support of the programme of work approved in Manila and emphasized the need to give new impulse to economic co-operation among developing countries.

For their part, the developing countries belonging to the Group of 77, on various occasions and in several fora of the United Nations, have expressed their full support for the basic principles of ECDC, which is understood as an integral part of the collective action of the Group of 77 for the restructuring of international economic relations and for the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

The High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, convened by the Group of 77 in Caracas, Venezuela, from 13 to 19 May 1981, reaffirmed the principle of collective self-reliance as the basis of ECDC; it also reaffirmed that ECDC is not a substitute for global economic co-operation between developing and developed countries, nor does it exempt the latter from their responsibilities and commitments to the developing countries. Finally, it stressed that ECDC offers the opportunity to take full advantage of the actual and potential complementarities existing among the developing countries themselves. Based upon this fundamental

/framework of

framework of principles, the Conference adopted the Caracas Programme of Action, which underlines several priority fields for implementing economic co-operation among the developing countries within the Group of 77. The major areas of action identified in the Programme are trade, technology, food and agriculture, energy, raw materials, financing and industrialization.

The Caracas Programme of Action also reaffirmed the importance of TCDC as an instrument for the promotion and implementation of ECDC, in the framework of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

ECLA, as a regional commission, is deeply committed to the needs of the developing countries. In that sense it can be said that ECDC and TCDC have always been major components of the programme of work of the ECLA system. In more concrete terms, however, the activities carried out by the ECLA system in promoting and supporting ECDC and TCDC at the regional and interregional levels have been programmed and implemented in response to specific mandates approved by the governments of the region in several sessions of the Commission.^{2/}

In particular, it should be mentioned that at its nineteenth session, held in Montevideo in 1981, the Commission stressed the importance of the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (Caracas, May 1981), and its potential for arriving at appropriate forms, methods, projects and activities for substantially increasing ECDC.^{3/} In that perspective, the ECLA system has strengthened its action to promote ECDC and TCDC in those areas in which its experience appears to be capable of making a valuable contribution to the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action for ECDC and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for TCDC.

A recent example of the way in which ECLA has contributed to concrete actions undertaken by developing countries belonging to the Group of 77 in the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action was the collaboration with the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 in New York for the organization of the Meeting of the Group of Experts of the Group of 77 on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which took place at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile from 5 to 8 July 1983.

A broader picture of the manifold activities which ECLA carries out in promoting and supporting TCDC and ECDC at both the regional and interregional levels is given in the following sections of this document.

II. ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

At the regional level, the ECLA Secretariat has concentrated its efforts to promote and support TCDC on the fields of transport and the facilitation of international trade; natural resources; environment and development; economic and social planning; economic and social information, and export financing. The strengthening of inter-institutional co-operation arrangements and the preparation of a programme to foster co-operation between the Caribbean subregion and the rest of the region were also among the major concerns of ECLA during the period of this report.

To a large extent the activities undertaken in these relevant areas for regional co-operation represent either the continuation of TCDC projects or the strengthening of TCDC components that are included in programmes and subprogrammes throughout the ECLA system. A major supporting element in carrying out all these activities has been provided by the network of UNDP Resident Representatives throughout the region. In practical terms UNDP offices in the countries have been highly effective in providing adequate institutional linkages with TCDC focal points in the governmental settings at the national level. Operational support has also been a major input received from UNDP offices at the national level.

A. Co-operation in the field of transport and the facilitation of international trade

Pursuant to ECLA resolution 390 (XVIII) a meeting of experts in trade facilitation and the institutional strengthening of international transport in South America was held from 16 to 20 March 1981 at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Experts from all the South American countries participated in this meeting, and representatives of various regional and world organizations, of both the private and the public sectors, attended as observers.

With regard to customs co-operation, ECLA completed the final version of the handbook for the application of the TIR system, prepared under the project on co-operation among the customs authorities of the Latin American countries which the Commission is carrying out with a contribution from the Netherlands. The handbook was used in various training activities relating to customs transit, among which mention might be made, for example, of the seminar organized in co-operation with the Government of Spain in Madrid in November 1981 with the participation of customs officials from Latin American countries.

Between 5 and 9 October 1981, a seminar on operational information and management systems used in Latin American railways, organized by the Joint ALAF/World Bank/ECLA project on strengthening rail information systems, was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago under the sponsorship of the Empresa de Ferrocarriles del Estado de Chile. Also within the framework of this project, the Second Meeting of Experts on Systems of Operational and Management Information on Ibero-American Railways was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 22 to 26 November 1982. Participating in this meeting were high-level officials from the railway companies of Spain and the region.

/The meeting

The meeting was attended by 55 high-level officials and representatives of the railways of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru, and by authorities of the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF) and experts from the World Bank and ECLA. Consideration was given to matters of importance with regard to the use of information for taking decisions related to the overall management of the railways, in view of the fact that this topic is now arousing great interest and concern in rail circles in Latin America.

Between 19 and 23 October 1981, the international technical meeting on the interconnection of the Orinoco, Amazon and River Plate basins convened by the Government of Peru was held in Lima for the purpose of determining the interest of Latin American countries whose territories include the basins referred to in carrying out economic and technical feasibility studies of the works necessary to interconnect these three great water systems. This interconnection might make unbroken river navigation from Venezuela to Buenos Aires possible. The holding of this meeting was supported by the member countries of ECLA in resolution 423 (XIX) on the physical integration of Latin America, adopted at the nineteenth session of the Commission (Montevideo, Uruguay, 4 to 15 May 1981).

Within the framework of the project carried out by ECLA, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, on economic co-operation among countries of Latin America for the establishment of companies for repairing and maintaining containers (REMAIN), a series of three technical seminars on the establishment of container maintenance and repair enterprises was organized by ECLA in different parts of the region. The series of meetings was designed for representatives of the public and private sectors and was initiated with a seminar in Rio de Janeiro from 15 to 16 April 1982, which was attended by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The second seminar was held in Bogotá from 19 to 20 April 1982, with the participation of representatives of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. Finally, the third seminar of the series was held from 22 to 23 April 1982 in Santo Domingo with experts from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts-Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The programme for these seminars included presentations by experts on the following topics: a) the use of containers, their importance for the countries of the region and economic aspects of their repair and maintenance; b) establishment and operation of a container repair infrastructure; c) special needs of container lessees; d) rules governing container repairs; e) preparation and outside painting of containers and f) identification marks.

ECLA recently published a Manual for the Application of the TIR Convention (E/CEPAL/R.298/Rev.1), which was prepared under the project on horizontal co-operation in the area of customs transit that is being carried out with a contribution from the Government of the Netherlands. The Manual was presented by ECLA at the First South American Conference on Road Transport, which met at Montevideo from 20 to 22 April 1982, with the collaboration of the International

Road Transport Union (IRU) and the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay, and under the sponsorship of ECLA, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the World Bank.

On 21-25 June 1982, the First Latin American Seminar on Transport Planning was held in Buenos Aires, jointly organized by ECLA and the National Department of Transport Planning of the Argentine Ministry of Public Works and Services. Participating in the meeting were experts from public agencies responsible for transport planning in the Latin American countries and representatives of Latin American consultant firms, universities of the region and international bodies interested in the subject.

B. TCDC and ECDC activities in the field of natural resources

ECLA carried out a project for co-operation among the countries of Latin America in connection with the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The project -which had the support of the Netherlands- was aimed at setting up lines of co-operation in order to programme the financing of projects in this area, and its activities were aimed at promoting a preliminary dialogue between experts on the subject so as to review and discuss possibilities of co-operation in the economic and social aspects involved and to study appropriate machinery for implementing this co-operation among the countries of the region. Within the context of this project, ECLA organized a seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago from 9 to 13 March 1981. Delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in this meeting, which made it possible to identify in each of the countries represented a list of TCDC projects based on the offers received and the specific needs of each country with regard to drinking water and sanitation.

The Second Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 11 to 14 January 1982. This seminar was organized by ECLA with funds provided by the Government of the Netherlands and was attended by the following member countries of ECLA: Barbados, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The Associated State of Montserrat was also represented. At this meeting, the country experts reported on their national experiences and the progress achieved with regard to coverage of drinking water and environmental sanitation services. In the concluding stage of the seminar, the delegates approved several recommendations for putting into practice horizontal co-operation strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels. In addition, the meeting identified several areas which offer immediate possibilities for carrying out specific horizontal co-operation projects.

With the support of the Government of the Netherlands and the collaboration of the Empresa Colombiana de Minas (ECOMINAS), ECLA organized the Meeting on Horizontal Co-operation for the Development of the Mineral Resources of Latin America, which was held in Bogotá, Colombia from 14 to 18 June 1982. It was

/attended by

attended by experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Peru from the governmental sector and public enterprises related to the mining policies and activities of the countries mentioned.

The participants in the meeting agreed on various measures designed to facilitate the establishment of a system for horizontal co-operation in the area of mineral resources. Among these measures is the recommendation to create an advisory committee composed of all the interested public and private mineral-related bodies of Latin America and a co-ordinating secretariat to promote co-operation in the development of mineral resources. As agreed at the meeting, the Empresa Colombiana de Minas (ECOMINAS), was charged with assuming the functions of co-ordinating secretariat until the next meeting on horizontal co-operation in this field. In addition, the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Peru was asked to collaborate with this co-ordinating secretariat in the preparation of a project on the establishment of a system of horizontal co-operation for the development of the mineral resources of Latin America. The meeting also made a country-by-country survey of the needs for and offers of co-operation, both regional and bilateral, in the area of mineral resources.

An important follow-up of the Bogotá meeting was the participation of ECLA in the Workshops on Ibero-American Mining held in Quito, Ecuador, from 25 to 27 January 1983 and organized by the General Office of Geology and Mines of Ecuador, with the collaboration of TECNIBERIA (Spanish Association of Enterprises and Offices of Studies, Projects and Research). ECLA's participation consisted of the organization of a panel on intra-regional mining relations, for the main purpose of examining the possible options for the establishment of a regional body to promote ECDC/TCDC among the mining enterprises of the countries of the region. At this panel, presentations were made by several regional and national institutions such as the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Association of Medium-Scale Producers of Minerals of Mexico, the Colombian Mining Corporation (ECOMINAS) and the General Planning Office of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Peru.

C. Co-operation in the area of environment and development

Under the auspices of ECLA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a series of seminars were organized to promote horizontal co-operation in significant problem areas from the point of view of the relationship between the environment and development.

The first Seminar, on environmental management of large infrastructure works, was held at Concordia, Argentina, from 1 to 3 October 1981, with the collaboration of the Comisión Técnica Mixta de Salto Grande (Argentina/Uruguay). Participants included representatives of most of the large multi-purpose dams of the region, such as Salto Grande (Argentina/Uruguay), Río Guayas (Ecuador), San Francisco Valley (Brazil), Tinajones (Peru), Paraná (Argentina), Colbún (Chile) and Yacretá (Paraguay/Argentina). It was shown by the case studies examined at the meeting

/(Salto Grande,

(Salto Grande, Tinajones and San Francisco) and by the exchange of experience on the environmental impact of large dams that there is a need to establish contact and to set up mechanisms for co-operation among the technicians and administrators of these large infrastructure works in the region.

A second seminar on the expansion of the agricultural frontier in Latin America was held in Brasilia from 10 to 13 November 1981. The meeting drew attention to the need for strengthening co-operation among countries of the region in this connection, since the continent still contains extensive territory which is sparsely populated and is subject to accelerated agricultural expansion.

The problems of metropolitanization and the environment were considered at another seminar in Curitiba, Brazil, from 16 to 19 November 1981. At that meeting, attention was drawn to the importance of horizontal co-operation for the exchange of experience obtained at the local level in the region to meet the environmental challenges of metropolitan growth.

On 14-15 December 1982, at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, a meeting of experts was held to prepare a permanent mechanism of horizontal co-operation among metropolitan officials of Latin America and the Caribbean. This meeting was convened by ECLA in compliance with the agreements made at the regional seminar on metropolitanization and environment held in Curitiba mentioned above. The participants represented various metropolitan planning and management bodies from large urban centres of the region such as Bogotá, Santiago, Chile, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Caracas, Sao Paulo and Lima.

A seminar on agrarian policies and peasant survival was held in Quito from 23 to 26 March 1982 within the framework of the programme of work of the horizontal co-operation project carried out by ECLA and the United Nations Environment Programme on the question of development styles and the environment. The seminar received support from the Government of Ecuador through the Secretariat for Integrated Rural Development of the Presidency of the Republic. The meeting stressed the increasing complexity of rural development patterns in the countries of the Andean region of Latin America and recommended certain follow-up activities, including the establishment of a technical co-operation network among the national institutions concerned with peasant survival in highland ecosystems.

D. Co-operation activities in the area of economic planning

The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) entered into an agreement with the Office of General Co-ordination of Agro-Industrial Development (CODAI) of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico on the establishment of an exchange programme involving technical co-operation and joint participation in specific projects with countries in the Latin American area. In the framework of this agreement a series of meetings was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 19 to 23 April 1982, between representatives of Ecuadorian bodies, staff members of CODAI and ILPES experts, for the purpose of analysing possible horizontal co-operation activities between Mexico and Ecuador in the planning of agro-industrial development.

/ILPES and

ILPES and the Secretariat of Planning of the State of Piauí, Brazil, entered into a technical co-operation agreement aimed at strengthening planning at the State level. This agreement envisages co-operation between State planning agencies of Brazil, as well as co-operation between these agencies and planning bodies of other Latin American countries.

The foundations were laid for the reciprocal provision of technical co-operation between the Corporación de Desarrollo del Guayas (CDG) of Ecuador and the Corporación del Valle del Cauca, Colombia, with ILPES acting as the intermediary. Under this agreement, the Colombian agency would assist the CDG in questions relating to regional development.

The Secretariat of Planning of Haiti asked ILPES to help prepare an agreement on technical co-operation between the aforementioned Secretariat and the National Planning Office of Chile (ODEPLAN). The Government of Haiti is interested in learning about the concepts and achievements of ODEPLAN as regards the national system of projects and the methodology applied in public investment programmes of national, regional (at the country level) and sectoral scope.

During an ILPES technical advisory mission to the Venezuelan Corporation for the Development of Guayana (CVG), in October 1981, the possibility arose of promoting horizontal co-operation between Brazil and Venezuela in order to take advantage of the experience gained by the Radar Amazonia (RADAM BRASIL) Project in connection with the study of the natural resources of the Venezuelan Amazon region. The RADAM BRASIL Project, operated by the Ministry of Mining and Energy, has created and for 10 years has applied an integral methodology for the interpretation and implementation of studies on the potential of the natural resources of the Amazon region. To date, the two countries have exchanged reciprocal information missions and have laid the groundwork for a co-operation agreement on the subject, being supported in this endeavour by ILPES and the ECLA Office in Brasilia.

ILPES is at present carrying out a five-week course on agro-industrial projects evaluation in Asunción, Paragúay, with the co-operation of the Office of General Co-ordination of Agro-industrial Development (CODAI) of the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources under a TCDC arrangement.

E. Co-operation in the field of economic and social information

The United Nations Environment Programme, working through its Regional Office for Latin America and ECLA, organized the second regional meeting of information networks on co-operation and co-ordination in connection with environmental questions, which was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago from 9 to 11 December 1981. This meeting was held, inter alia, to promote co-operation and co-ordination among the information networks with a view to providing users with an integrated system of services in accordance with the environmental priorities laid down by the countries of the region.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of a number of information systems and networks operating in the region and covering specific aspects of the environmental field, such as sanitary engineering (REPIDISCA, Lima, Peru);

/agriculture (IICA,

agriculture (IICA, San José, Costa Rica); population (DOCPAL/CELADE); health (DIREME, São Paulo, Brazil); human settlements (LATINAH, Bogotá, Colombia); economic and social documentation (CLADES/ECLA) and natural resources (INDERENA/INFOTERRA, Bogotá, Colombia).

F. Co-operation in trade and export financing

ECLA organized a round table on the financing of exports of manufactures in Latin America, which was held at the headquarters of the Commission in Santiago, Chile, from 29 June to 1 July 1981. The meeting was one of the activities planned for the export promotion project being carried out jointly by ECLA and the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre and has benefited from a large contribution from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The agenda of this round table included consideration of lines of action to promote regional co-operation aimed at strengthening national, subregional and regional financing and export credit insurance mechanisms.

As part of the same export promotion project, a meeting aimed at laying the foundations for the creation of the Latin American Association of Export Credit Insurance Agencies (ALASECE) was held at ECLA headquarters from 2 to 4 December 1981.

The objectives of the Association will be to promote co-operation, the exchange of information and co-ordination among its members, and it will be designed to strengthen and enlarge the activities of its members and to develop the machinery used in its field of competence. To that end, ALASECE is expected to promote direct links among its members; to collect and disseminate relevant information among them; to develop the exchange of technical assistance and training through the corresponding co-operation programmes; to promote joint operations in the field of insurance and reinsurance; to facilitate the harmonization of norms, procedures and conditions for export credit insurance among its members; and to give support to the co-ordination of common positions of its members in regional or international meetings in the field of export credit insurance. The Secretariats of ECLA and of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) have been designated as advisory bodies to ALASECE.

On 10-12 March 1983, a meeting of officials responsible for the foreign trade of Latin America was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile. This meeting was organized by ECLA for the purpose of examining the current situation of Latin American trade and the fuller use of multilateral instruments for its expansion. The meeting had the participation of government experts of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela, who were able to exchange their experience and information on the various methods of promoting exports, as well as the tariff and non-tariff restrictions affecting intra-regional trade. They also examined forms of consultation among the officials responsible for foreign trade in the region.

/G. Inter-institutional

G. Inter-institutional co-operation

A special effort was devoted to the strengthening of inter-institutional co-operation arrangements on a regional or subregional basis, such as the inter-agency agreement involving ECLA and the subregional bodies responsible for promoting the integration process in Central America; the agreement existing between the Brazilian planning agency (IPEA) and ECLA, through its Office in Brasilia; and the co-operation arrangement between ECLA and the Secretariat of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

In the framework of co-operation involving ECLA and the subregional bodies responsible for promoting the integration process in Central America, the ECLA subregional office in Mexico is conducting a number of activities in conjunction with those bodies, designed to promote TCDC and ECDC in areas which are clearly relevant to the economic and social development of the subregion. In this connection, attention should be drawn to, for example, the activities conducted with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) concerning the interconnection of the electrical systems of the Central American countries, and with the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) on questions such as the establishment of a new common tariff and the development of the transport and energy sectors.

In response to the needs and problems raised by the economic and social development of the subregion, the countries of the Central American Isthmus have recently intensified their efforts to strengthen and reactivate economic co-operation. To that end, through the Economic Co-operation Committee of the Central American Isthmus (CCE), which is an intergovernmental subsidiary body of ECLA, the countries of the subregion have held a series of meetings at the ministerial and expert levels with active collaboration from the ECLA subregional office in Mexico. These meetings have set up a frame for the establishment of a Co-operative Group for the Economic and Social Development of the Central American Isthmus.

The institutional machinery of this Co-operative Group includes an Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee which, inter alia, is responsible for identifying possibilities for the promotion of interregional co-operation within the Group's framework. The governments concerned have called upon ECLA to act as the technical secretariat of this Committee, through its subregional office in Mexico.

The ECLA Office in Montevideo has continued to conduct a number of specific activities in line with the terms of the co-operation agreement between ECLA and the Secretariat of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Thus, for example, this Office is participating in the study of possible ways of achieving, in the short run, both bilateral and multilateral co-operation among the member countries of ALADI. A study is also being carried out on the basis of the negotiations on the establishment of a regional preferential tariff among the member countries of ALADI.

In the framework of the agreement between the Brazilian Planning Office (IPEA) and ECLA, the ECLA Office in Brasilia has included in its programme of work various activities designed to promote economic co-operation between Brazil and other Latin American countries. Firstly, a study has been carried out on the iron and steel

sector of the region, with particular emphasis on the collaboration and integration which might be established between Brazil and the other countries of the region in this sector. At the same time a study is under way on the obstacles to transport between Brazil and Latin American and Caribbean countries. Finally, a study has been prepared on engineering consultancy services in the context of economic co-operation between Brazil and the other countries of the region.

H. Technical and economic co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the other countries of the region

In compliance with the mandate formulated by the member countries of the Commission on the need to strengthen the technical and economic co-operation links of the countries and groups of countries of the Caribbean area with the other countries and groups of countries in the region (resolution 440 (XIX)), ECLA is preparing a study designed to promote specific co-operation projects between interested governments. The ECLA offices in Port of Spain, Mexico and Bogotá, working in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), are participating actively in this preparatory phase. In each of these offices studies are being carried out with a view to examining the present situation and the potential for developing ECDC and TCDC in the field of trade between the Caribbean countries and the other countries of the region.

In this connection, the ECLA Office in Mexico has prepared a study in which the present situation in respect of trade between Caribbean and Central American countries is analysed in detail. A similar study was also prepared by the ECLA Office in Brasilia.

In addition, the ECLA Office in Bogotá has prepared a monograph on co-operation between Caribbean countries and Venezuela and another on co-operation between Caribbean countries and Colombia. The ECLA Office for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, working in co-ordination with the CARICOM secretariat, has done the spade work for a report on co-operation between the Caribbean and the rest of the region from the perspective of the Caribbean countries.

I. TCDC promotion activities in other substantive areas of interest

Specific activities to promote co-operation were also carried out in several other areas of interest within the ECLA Secretariat's programme of work. These can be briefly indicated as follows:

i) TCDC activities with regard to negotiations with transnational corporations. The seminar on Alternatives For Negotiation with Foreign Investors and Transnational Corporations in the Copper and Tin Industries, organized by ECLA with special help from the Government of the Netherlands, was held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago from 9 to 11 December 1981. It was attended by high-level public sector officials, representatives of academic institutions connected with tin mining in Bolivia and Brazil and copper mining in Chile and Peru and representatives of transnational corporations and mining companies.

/With regard

With regard to horizontal co-operation between the mining countries of the region, attention was drawn to the need to promote the systematic exchange of information and to adopt common positions vis-à-vis the consumer countries and foreign investors.

ii) TCDC activities in the area of rural development. The Government of Guatemala requested the collaboration of the FAO/ECLA/ILPES/UNDP project on Training in Planning and Programming Agricultural and Rural Development Projects (PROCADES) in connection with the organization of a study trip for three Guatemalan professionals of the General Secretariat of the National Economic Planning Board, who work in the areas of the planning and programming of agricultural development and integrated rural development projects. These professionals visited the Northeastern region of Brazil from 8 to 19 June 1981 and carried out a programme agreed on between PROCADES and the Brazilian authorities.

iii) TCDC activities in the area of energy. ECLA organized the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which was held in Mexico City from 16 to 18 March 1981. At that meeting, the countries of the region adopted the Regional Plan of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which opens up many avenues for regional co-operation as a vehicle for the implementation of programmes to which the aforementioned Plan gives priority.

For the implementation of those programmes, the Plan envisages co-operative activities for the development of new and renewable sources of energy, such as: technical advisory services; contracts with institutions for the purpose of carrying out studies, research or laboratory tests; permanent exchanges of technical and economic data; organization of joint projects of pure and applied research; the joint implementation of investment projects; facilitating the transfer of technology within the region, and promoting the use of equipment and tools produced in the region.

iv) Co-operation in the development of the capital goods sector. On 26-28 April 1982, a meeting of Latin American business leaders was held at the ECLA headquarters in Santiago within the framework of the project which ECLA is carrying out, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the prospect for the supply and production of capital goods in Latin America. Present at the meeting were outstanding high-level executives of Latin American firms from the capital goods sectors of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. The participants formed a Group for the Promotion of the Capital Goods Industry of Latin America, for the purpose of promoting initiatives leading to concrete joint action between companies at the national and regional levels.

v) TCDC activities in the area of academic co-operation. With UNDP support, ECLA is promoting a programme of research on Latin America's international relations, in collaboration with a group of research centres connected with the Programme of Joint Studies on the International Relations of Latin America (RIAL), the objective being to promote a programme of co-operation among these centres and to strengthen their ties with national and international agencies.

/Within the

Within the framework of this programme, ECLA organized at its Santiago headquarters a meeting on the prospects for academic, scientific and technical co-operation among the Latin American countries, which was held on 22 and 23 January 1981.

III. ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERREGIONAL LEVEL

With respect to co-operation among countries or groups of countries from different regions in the developing world, ECLA has been able to carry out a broad range of actions for the promotion and support of interregional TCDC/ECDC. The basic instrument for such actions has been the increased utilization of co-operation links, co-ordination, consultation and joint programming with other regional commissions. Close collaboration among regional commissions is a key factor for the successful implementation of joint TCDC/ECDC projects like the one existing between ECLA and the Economic Commission for Africa; for the organization of study tours which permit a first-hand interchange of experience and knowledge in specific areas of mutual interest for different regions; and for the organization of expert meetings.

A. Joint presentation of the regional commissions to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas is acquiring growing importance in the framework of the activities for promoting TCDC/ECDC being carried out by the regional commissions. To a great extent, this circumstance is due to the impetus given by the secretariat of the regional commissions to this type of activity at the interregional level. Also the crisis affecting the world economy, which has had a severe impact on the developing countries, has helped to bring out the potential for TCDC and ECDC as instruments for mitigating some of the effects of this crisis. To that end the regional commissions prepared a joint document defining, inter alia, the contribution they might make to promoting interregional economic and technical co-operation programmes, which was submitted for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its regular sessions in June 1983, in compliance with ECOSOC decision 1982/74 adopted at its fifty-first plenary session.

B. ECLA/ECA project on interregional co-operation in trade, science and technology for development and training

In the context of the interregional co-operation project being implemented by ECLA and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the support of UNDP, in the areas of trade, science and technology for development, and the training of human resources, ECLA consultants and experts visited several countries of the region included in the project (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago). As a result of these missions, which took place from May to July 1981, reports were prepared on the three areas with which the project is concerned. These sectoral reports cover the following topics: a) promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America in science and technology; b) co-operation between Latin America and Africa in the field of foreign trade, and c) prospects for technical co-operation between Africa and Latin America for manpower development.

/In February

In February 1982, ECLA and ECA finalized the preparation of a joint document which outlines some suggestions for stimulating horizontal co-operation in the areas of training and utilization of human resources, interregional trade, and science and technology.

From 1 to 4 June 1982, a Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts of Africa and Latin America was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa to examine ways and means to promote technical and economic co-operation among the countries of the two regions in the areas of trade, technology and manpower resources. This meeting was convened by ECLA and ECA in the framework of the project on interregional co-operation which the two regional commissions have been carrying out with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The delegates adopted a set of action proposals designed to develop collectively the capacities and infrastructure which are essential for the development of their countries in the three areas examined at the joint meeting.

As regards trade between the two regions, some of the proposals refer to the following aspects: i) strengthening of existing institutions and organizations specializing in the marketing and standardization of export and import products; ii) organization of periodic meetings among the chambers of commerce and export promotion organizations of Africa and Latin America to exchange information and reduce promotion costs; iii) organization of fairs jointly sponsored by relevant institutions of the two regions; iv) exploration and utilization of economic and commercial co-operation potential, both bilateral and multilateral, on the basis of the principles which inspire the global system of trade preferences among developing countries; v) reduction of existing obstacles in finance, trade and insurance; vi) study of the possibilities of establishing multilateral agreements under the auspices of regional or subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of the Great Lake Countries in Africa, and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Andean Group in Latin America; vii) feasibility studies for the establishment of international maritime enterprises and air transport services, with the participation of countries from both regions; viii) study of the possibilities of establishing mechanisms and instruments for financing trade by means of mutual agreements between regional systems of payment and clearing houses in the two regions.

In science and technology, the action proposals refer, inter alia, to the following aspects: i) identification of areas of co-operation between countries and institutions of the two regions, in order to intensify efforts to achieve the effective application of science and technology to socioeconomic development at the national, subregional and regional levels, with special reference to rural development and the production, processing and marketing of food products; energy; water resources; mineral resources and raw materials; housing; improvement of breeding stock; leather and leather products; arid and semi-arid zones; the basic petrochemicals industry, and communications; ii) organization of technical meetings, study tours, fairs and exhibits designed to exchange information on technological

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progress in the areas mentioned in the previous point; iii) preparation of directories of national, subregional and regional technological institutions in Africa and Latin America; and iv) promotion of programmes to provide scholarships and arrange the exchange of experts, and joint research.

In relation to the development and utilization of manpower resources, the action proposals refer to aspects such as: i) preparation of a directory of national, subregional and regional educational and training institutions and organizations and organizations devoted to the planning of the development of manpower resources; ii) providing more scholarships for training and research in the fields of science, technology, industry, agriculture and planning of human resources; iii) collection of information on Latin American and African experts working in industrialized countries, in order to assist the countries of the two regions in their efforts to recover these skilled manpower resources; iv) promotion of the development and training of women in all fields in order to make maximum use of their capacity; v) initiation of co-operative activities for developing and effectively sharing existing experience in mass literacy and programming basic and informal (non-formal) education; vi) promotion of the joint production of teaching material and pedagogical equipment for training and special education on both continents; vii) adopting initial measures to prepare glossaries and directories of educational degrees in order to improve the use of manpower resources between the two regions; viii) encouraging the exchange of experience in respect of the development of manpower resources at the pre-school, primary, secondary and higher educational levels, in connection with the attempts that have been made to relate education and training to the requirements of the productive sectors.

C. ECLA/ESCAP consultations for possible joint interregional co-operation action

In November 1981, consultations were held with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to consider an interregional project proposal on the promotion of TCDC and ECDC between Latin America and the countries of South-East Asia in the fields of trade, technology and international investments. Consideration was also given to the possibility of initiating some specific activities in the field of interregional trade, such as joint ventures, medium- and long-term trade (supply) contracts, and links between export promotion centres. The possibility of expanding the consultation process to the remaining regional commissions has also been discussed.

D. Co-operation with ESCAP on maritime transport

At the request of ESCAP, ECLA has made contact with shipping organizations in Latin America to collaborate in the preparation of a tour which, with the sponsorship of ESCAP, will be made to the region by a group of executives from national shipping organizations of the Asian region. As part of this tour, visits are being considered to certain regional bodies such as the Latin American Federation of Councils of International Transport Users (FELACUTI), with headquarters in Bogotá, Colombia.

/E. Openings

E. Openings for African students in the CELADE course on population

ECLA's Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), in co-ordination with the Economic Commission for Africa and the offices of the UNDP Resident Representatives in Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking African countries, offered a limited number of openings for students from Africa to participate in the Regional Intensive Course on Population held at CELADE headquarters in San José, Costa Rica, between August and December 1982. Two participants from Sao Tome registered on this regional course.

F. ECLA/ECA joint activities in the field of mining

i) Tour of African specialists in the development of mineral resources. ECLA co-operated with the Economic Commission for Africa in the organization of a tour by African specialists in the development of mineral resources to a number of Latin American countries having experience in this area. The group was made up of high-level executives of governmental bodies and enterprises from the mining sector of the following countries: Angola, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uganda and Upper Volta. The Director of the Eastern and Southern Africa Mineral Resources Development Centre, an intergovernmental subregional body with headquarters in Tanzania, also took part in this mission. The tour took place in October 1982 and covered Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru. During their visits, the African specialists were able to collect information and to initiate official contacts with national institutions in these countries in order to intensify co-operation in this potentially important sector.

ii) Joint ECLA/ECA project for promoting co-operation between African and Latin American countries in the field of mining. As a result of initial contacts made in the organization of the above-mentioned tour, ECLA was invited to participate in the ECA-sponsored workshop on coal mining held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 July 1983. On that occasion experts from the two regional commissions discussed the work plan of a joint project for interregional co-operation in the field of mining. The project document that was agreed upon is now in the process of submission to UNDP for additional funding.

G. Tour by Argentine businessmen to India and Indonesia

ECLA and ESCAP collaborated with the Government of Argentina in organizing a tour of businessmen from that country to India and Indonesia, for the purpose of interesting Argentine firms in the opportunities existing in these Asian markets, examining possibilities for the sale of technology and concluding agreements for co-production, as well as possibly implementing joint efforts in third markets. The mission was composed mainly of representatives of Argentine firms in the metallurgical industry sector, who visited India from 7 to 19 February 1983 and Indonesia from 20 to 28 of the same month.

This important initiative aimed at stimulating technical and economic co-operation among developing countries of different regions was a concrete advance along the path opened by the meeting of experts of India and Latin America,

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organized by the Government of India with the collaboration of ECLA and ESCAP and held in New Delhi in June 1979 to identify opportunities for interregional co-operation in specific and selected sectors.

As a result of the tour, the bases were laid for mutual co-operation between the private sectors of Argentina, on the one hand, and India and Indonesia on the other, in specific areas referring to the railway and steel industries, development of port installations, research in the area of stock-raising, and appropriate technology for tropical regions.

Notes

1/ The ECLA system includes: i) the Secretariat of the Commission, which is an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat and has its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, with subregional offices in Mexico, Port of Spain, Bogotá, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo and an office in Washington D.C.; ii) the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES); and iii) the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

2/ For instance, at the nineteenth session of ECLA, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 4 to 15 May 1981, the following resolutions were adopted: i) resolution 438 (XIX) on TCDC, ii) resolution 439 (XIX) on ECDC and iii) resolution 440 (XIX) on technical and economic co-operation between the countries of the Caribbean area and the other countries of the region.

3/ See ECLA resolution 439 (XIX), particularly operative paragraph 1.