

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CEPAL/CEGAN 5/L.2
4 February 1981

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

CEPAL
Economic Commission for Latin America
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)
Fifth Session
Quito, Ecuador, 9-14 March 1981

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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1. Election of officers

According to rule 16 of the CEPAL rules of procedure, at the commencement of each session the Commission or its subsidiary bodies must elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. In accordance with the practice followed at earlier sessions of the Commission and of CEGAN, the head of the delegation of the host country is normally elected Chairman. Rule 20 of the rules of procedure establishes that the "Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall participate in the meetings ... as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited".

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The delegates may adopt the provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/CEGAN 5/L.1) prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the relative provisions of chapter II of the CEPAL rules of procedure, or make whatever observations they consider necessary within the framework of the rules of procedure. The following paragraphs contain some comments on the remaining points of the agenda and references to the main documents and background information to be taken into account.

3. Latin America and the 1980s

(a) Strategy for the economic and social development of Latin America in the 1980s and regional programme of action for the instrumentation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy.

(b) Machinery and procedures for appraisal of the implementation of the new Strategy and the regional programme of action.

Documents

Latin American development in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1150 - E/CEPAL/CEGAN 5/L.3).

Reference documents

- The regional appraisals of the International Development Strategy: Quito, 1973; Chaguaramas, 1975; Guatemala, 1977; and La Paz, 1979 (Cuadernos de la CEPAL, series No. 30).

- Compilation of resolutions relating to the International Development Strategy and the New International Economic Order, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (E/CEPAL/G.1157).

The general framework within which CEGAN, and subsequently the Commission, should tackle these substantive agenda items is provided by a number of mandates from the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, as well as the Commission, its Committee of the Whole and CEGAN itself.

At present, the principal institutional framework for any economic and social body of the United Nations system, including CEPAL and CEGAN, is that established by the General Assembly in resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. That resolution was based primarily on the studies and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System established by the General Assembly by resolution 3362 (S-VII) for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to adjusting the functioning of the 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. The basic aim was to make the United Nations system in general and particularly its economic and social sectors more responsive to the new and expanded requirements set forth by member governments in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order - resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly - and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

For the regional commissions, including CEPAL, and their subsidiary bodies the fundamental mandates and provisions are at present those contained in section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197 entitled "Structures for

/regional and

regional and interregional co-operation",^{1/} in which the General Assembly establishes, inter alia, that:

"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 (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities.

"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 United Nations medium-term plan covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions."

In annex IV of resolution 32/197 the General Assembly also established that:

"26. In order to enable the regional commissions 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 provision 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."

^{1/} The full text of annex IV resolution 32/197 appears in General Assembly document A/32/45.

Pursuant to these and other relevant General Assembly mandates, the fourteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL was held on 20 November 1980 at United Nations headquarters, New York, primarily for the purpose of deciding on further measures for improving the institutional functioning of the CEPAL system in conformity with the guidelines established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. On that occasion the CEPAL Committee of the Whole, inter alia, adopted by consensus resolution 419 (Plen. 14) entitled "Rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system",^{2/}

The operative part of this resolution provides, among other things, with regard to the institutional changes adopted by the CEPAL member governments, that:

"(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."

Pursuant to the above mandates, under resolution 310 (XIV) CEPAL initially set up the "Committee of High-Level Government Experts, composed of the developing countries members of the Commission to serve as a forum for analysing the different points connected with the achievement and appraisal of the objectives of the International Development Strategy in Latin America". During the 1970s the Latin American and Caribbean governments thus prepared four regional appraisals through CEGAN, initially on the course of the economic and social development process and the implementation of the International Development Strategy and subsequently also covering the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order in conformity with the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.

^{2/} The full text of this resolution is contained in document E/CEPAL/G.1157.

At the fourth session of CEGAN, in March 1979, the member governments put forward a series of recommendations to the CEPAL secretariat 3/ together with indications on future CEGAN activities, particularly in connexion with regional participation in the preparation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy then being elaborated in the context of the United Nations General Assembly. It was stressed that "the central element in an international development strategy should be the implementation of the action programme for the establishment of a New International Economic Order". It was also stressed that measures should be taken "to allow an increase in the part played by the developing countries in the processes for the international adoption of decisions for the administration of the world economy".

In order to contribute to achieving these aims, the CEPAL secretariat was requested to undertake a series of basic studies and press forward in others which were already underway, and also to analyse "the objectives, targets, policies and measures which the new strategy should contain, and in particular the machinery that might be established for analysis and appraisal". In addition to the technical support to be provided to countries of the region during the preparatory process for the new strategy, the secretariat was also asked to consider "the best way of complementing and expanding the international development strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly by means of a regional action programme for the forthcoming decade which will promote the strategy's efficient application and corresponding periodic appraisal".3/

Subsequently, at its eighteenth session in La Paz in April 1979, the Commission proper, drawing largely on the CEGAN recommendations and expanding them in some cases as a result of the joint deliberations of all CEPAL member countries, adopted resolution 386 (XVIII) entitled "Preparations and Contributions by ECLA for the Formulation of the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade".4/ In that resolution, the Commission highlighted fundamental aspects of the basic

3/ See CEPAL, Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (E/CEPAL/1073 - E/CEPAL/CEGAN/2/Rev.1).

4/ The full text of resolution 386 (XVIII) appears in document E/CEPAL/G.1157.

objectives and policies of Latin American development relating to international co-operation, economic, social and human development, and co-operation within the region and with other developing countries. In the operative part of that resolution, inter alia the secretariat was requested to:

"(a) To intensify its studies designed to provide support to Governments in the formulation of the basic development objectives of the Latin American countries for the next decade and the orientation of the strategies and policies which should be considered in order to achieve those objectives at the regional and international levels in the context of a new international economic order;

"(b) To prepare a regional action programme for the implementation of the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to be adopted by the General Assembly, as regards the countries of Latin America."

In addition, the resolution also recommended that "the member governments of the developing countries of the region prepare plans or programmes which include the formulation of economic and social development objectives and goals for the next decade, together with their relevant strategies and policies, suitably linked with the instrumentation and implementation of the strategy as far as the Latin American countries are concerned".

Finally, it recommended that "at the nineteenth session of the Commission, which will be held early in 1981, a regional action programme for the instrumentation and implementation of the New International Development Strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly be considered, and the development decade for the countries of Latin America be proclaimed".

It should be pointed out that subsequently the CEPAL Committee of the Whole, at the same time as deciding in the above-mentioned resolution 419 (Plen. 14) that CEGAN should meet prior to the Commission in order to perform its duties in connexion with the implementation and appraisal of the New International Development Strategy and the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, also decided that at the nineteenth session of the Commission to be held in May 1981 in Montevideo the following text, proposed by the Delegation of Mexico at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole in New York, should be considered:

/"In accordance

"In accordance with the above paragraph, the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), in the preparation of the Regional Plan of Action and the study and appraisal of the implementation of the new international development strategy at the regional level, should help to expand and specify the proposals of a general nature, taking into account the specific conditions and priorities of the region, particularly in connexion with quantitative targets, strategies and national economic and social development strategies, plans for regional and subregional co-operation and co-operation with other developing areas. The Committee could help to establish regional priorities more precisely and identify and promote the implementation and co-ordination of major regional or subregional projects in the fields indicated by the new strategy. For these purposes the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) shall meet as often as necessary."^{5/}

Furthermore, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 1980 under resolution 35/56, in section IV entitled "Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the New International Development Strategy",^{6/} establishes the role to be played by the regional commissions in the review and appraisal process, as well as their role in the preparation of regional action programmes. It states, inter alia, that:

"173. At the regional level, the review and appraisal will be conducted by the respective regional commissions. Development banks, regional and subregional groups and organizations could collaborate with the regional commissions for this purpose. Furthermore, the regional commissions should carry out, as part of their regular activity of preparing economic surveys of the region, periodic reviews of major aspects of development in the evolving development experiences in their regions.

"174. The regional commissions should consider the feasibility of preparing action programmes to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in their

^{5/} See Report of the fourteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole, E/CEPAL/G.1142, paragraphs 11, 12 and 13.

^{6/} The full text of the New International Development Strategy is contained in document A/RES/35/56.

respective areas. Furthermore, the regional commissions, in conjunction with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and multilateral development institutions, might suggest ways of improving United Nations assistance efforts and enhancing their co-ordination in the context of the particular economic and social development needs of each region."

In short, following the nineteenth session of the Commission it will be the responsibility of CEGAN in the first instance to review the regional action programme, including the review and appraisal machinery to be established for the 1980s.

In order to facilitate this task, which is primarily the responsibility of the Governments of the region, the secretariat has prepared, in conformity with the mandate it has received in this connexion, the study entitled "Latin American development in the 1980s" (E/CEPAL/G.1150 - E/CEPAL/CEGAN 5/L.3), which seeks to undertake a succinct appraisal of the central development problems prevailing in Latin America as well as a comprehensive analysis of the strategies and policies which might be promoted to speed the economic and social progress of the countries of the region. The study of Latin American development in the 1980s deals with three key aspects. First, it appraises the economic and social development process, with special emphasis on identifying current problems in that field; this appraisal leads to the conclusion that it is essential to give a new orientation to development strategies and policies. Secondly, it studies the elements of this reorientation in the framework of an integral and organic approach, indicating a number of targets and objectives which Latin America should set itself for the 1980s, particularly in the economic field. Thirdly, it considers in concrete, detailed fashion the general outlines of global and sectoral economic and social policy, as well as the main elements of external economic policy and regional co-operation. In sum, this study is aimed at helping Governments to prepare a regional action programme to be linked with the New International Development Strategy in order to instrument its implementation in the regional sphere. This would make it possible more satisfactorily to integrate national and regional aspects into the international aims of the new strategy.

4. Consideration and adoption of the report

In conformity with the practice followed in the CEPAL system, before closing its session CEGAN should consider and adopt the report of the Committee to the Economic Commission for Latin America.

