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**SUMMARIES OF RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BY ECLAC WHICH MAY
BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC**

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**SUMMARIES OF RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
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Introduction

In this document, the secretariat brings to the attention of member countries a summary of selected resolutions which were adopted at the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the United Nations General Assembly¹ and selected resolutions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The resolutions included are those which may be of particular interest to member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) or may be of particular relevance to the work programme or mandate of the Committee.

The full texts of the resolutions which are summarized in this document may be obtained from the secretariat.

¹Please note that the resolutions pertaining to the fifty-second session were obtained from the General Assembly Home Page on the World Wide Web, which did not fully contain all of the resolutions passed at that session. Therefore there may be resolutions pertaining to CDCC member countries that have not yet been posted to the General Assembly home page.

**SUMMARIES OF SELECTED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST AND FIFTY-SECOND SESSIONS**

**Fifty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly
(17 September - 18 December 1996)**

1. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (General Assembly resolution 51/16)

In this resolution, the General Assembly affirmed the need to strengthen the existing cooperation between the entities of the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the areas of economic and social development, as well as political and humanitarian affairs.

The General Assembly noted the areas of cooperation approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the final communiqué of the twenty-second meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs, namely, follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the development of poverty reduction programmes; peace-keeping; diplomatic training; governance and development in the Caribbean; and the strengthening of the Regional Secretariat Information Base.

The General Assembly also urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives, and in this connection, welcomed the special relationship between the Caribbean Community and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. Implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 51/146)

In this resolution, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and reaffirmed all its resolutions 1514(XV)) and all other resolutions on decolonization in which it declared the decade that began in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon the Administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Territories concerned to exercise fully, as soon as possible, their right to self-determination, including independence.

It also once again affirmed, that the continuation of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples.

3. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (**General Assembly resolution 51/196**)

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the goal of the international community remained the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of social and economic development in Haiti and paid tribute to the Haitian people in their own ongoing quest for strong and lasting democracy, justice and prosperity.

It also welcomed the continuing improvement in the situation of human rights in Haiti, and noted the policy statements by Haitian authorities that the Government of Haiti remained committed to upholding human rights and improving accountability.

The General Assembly reaffirmed once again the commitment of the international community to continue its technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts and to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development. It also requested the Secretary General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in providing humanitarian aid and contributing to the development of Haiti.

**Fifty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly
(September - December 1997)**

4. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (**General Assembly resolution 52/10**)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed concern about the continued promulgation and application by member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the "Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

The General Assembly was also concerned that since the adoption of its resolutions, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied. Concern was expressed about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries. It urged States that have applied and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regimes.

5. Implementation of the World Social Summit for Social Development (General Assembly resolution 52/25)

In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitments adopted by heads of State and governments at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all.

The General Assembly stressed that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit were primarily the responsibility of governments and that international cooperation and assistance were essential for their full implementation. It noted with satisfaction the initiatives and actions taken by governments towards the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit and reiterated its call to governments to define and implement time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration, within each national context.

The General Assembly reaffirmed the need for effective partnership and cooperation between governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level.

The General Assembly urged the continued involvement and support by the regional commissions in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development at the regional and subregional levels, and reiterated its invitation to the commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt appropriate measures.

In this context, it welcomed the convening by the ECLAC of the first regional meeting to evaluate the World Summit for Social Development, held at Sao Paulo from 6 to 9 April 1997, with the participation of high-level representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and noted with appreciation the final document of the meeting, known as the Sao Paulo Consensus.

6. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (General Assembly resolution 52/100)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized that the implementation of the Platform for Action rested primarily at the national level, that governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also had an important role to play, and bearing in mind the fact that the promotion of international cooperation was essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should continue to oversee system-wide coordination on the basis of an integrated approach in the implementation of the Platform for Action, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, and should ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly urged governments that had not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes; and noted with appreciation that many governments had developed national strategies and action plans, some of them in consultation with non-governmental organizations, and urged those governments that had not yet done so to prepare national action plans as strategic planning instruments, and to do so in consultation with non-governmental organizations, in full implementation of the Platform for Action, and to participate in the discussion by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1998 of a synthesis of national action plans as a first step in the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action.

It also stressed that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action would require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men.

The General Assembly also decided to convene, in the year 2000, a high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action, five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives.

7. Population and Development (General Assembly resolution 52/188)

In this resolution, the General Assembly stressed the need to pursue further the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and for governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to achieving their goals and objectives. In this context, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session for a duration of three days from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The General Assembly encouraged governments to undertake reviews of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels, particularly at the national level and at the level of international cooperation. This was with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session. The General Assembly invited governments of developed and developing countries to provide information in order to establish a useful factual basis for the review of the mobilization of resources made available - bilateral, multilateral and domestic - for population and development activities with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action. It also stressed the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session.

8. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (General Assembly resolution 52/193)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed concern that the number of people living in absolute poverty was still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that the majority of them were women. It reiterated that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world. This would be achieved through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication.

The General Assembly renewed its recommendation that all governments formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication strategies and policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes in a participatory manner. The purpose would be to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels. It stressed that those plans or programmes should establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty.

**Summaries of selected resolutions adopted at the twenty-sixth
session of ECLAC (15-20 April 1996)**

The following summaries of three of the resolutions which were adopted at the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC (April 1996) follow:

1. Reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC (Resolution 553(XXVI))

ECLAC is convinced that it is essential for the United Nations, in carrying out activities in the economic and social fields, to take account of the regional dimension and the decentralization of tasks in accordance with the comparative advantages of Headquarters and the subsidiary organs located in the developing regions. ECLAC affirmed that in Latin America and the Caribbean, it was especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by ECOSOC in its resolution 106 (VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations.

In this context, ECLAC declared that it should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination. It declared further that in order to play a relevant role with greater effectiveness and efficiency, it would need to adapt to the evolving development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations.

It was recommended further that ECLAC should pursue its efforts to improve its performance, productivity, impact, efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account, where appropriate, ongoing processes pertaining to the United Nations as a whole.

2. Technical cooperation among developing countries and regions (Resolution 560 (XXVI))

ECLAC reaffirmed the importance of technical cooperation among the countries of the region in achieving the objectives of economic and social development. It highlighted the importance of the exchange of countries' experiences in the design and implementation of specific policies to strengthen development by linking the micro- and macroeconomic levels and to meet the requirements of changing production patterns with social equity.

ECLAC emphasized the importance of the support which the Commission provided for the activities of the governments of the region aimed at increasing the use of the mechanisms and modalities of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

It requested the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the relevant mandates, to:

- intensify activities to support and promote technical cooperation among developing countries while implementing the programme of the Commission, and especially while executing technical cooperation projects in priority areas for the countries of the region;
- continue to provide assistance to activities in support of existing cooperation networks and systems in the region, and to create and strengthen systems for data collection and analysis, especially in those economic and social sectors which governments consider to be of priority for their development objectives;
- intensify joint activities within the framework of mechanisms for consultation with the secretariats of the other regional commissions to promote technical and economic cooperation among countries in the various developing regions in coordination with the competent organizations of the United Nations system.

3. Admission of Anguilla as an associate member of ECLAC (Resolution 561(XXVI))

ECLAC recalled ECOSOC resolution 1995/58 (28 July 1995) in which, inter alia, regional organizations are requested, within the framework of their respective mandates, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and their Administering Powers. The Administering Powers are requested to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations. In this manner the Territories may benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations System.

ECLAC took into account the fact that the Government of the United Kingdom had communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Anguilla's request to be admitted as an associate member of the Commission, and welcomed the application by the Government of the United Kingdom for Anguilla to become an associate member of ECLAC.

The Commission decided to admit Anguilla as an associate member of ECLAC and welcomed its participation in the work of the Commission.