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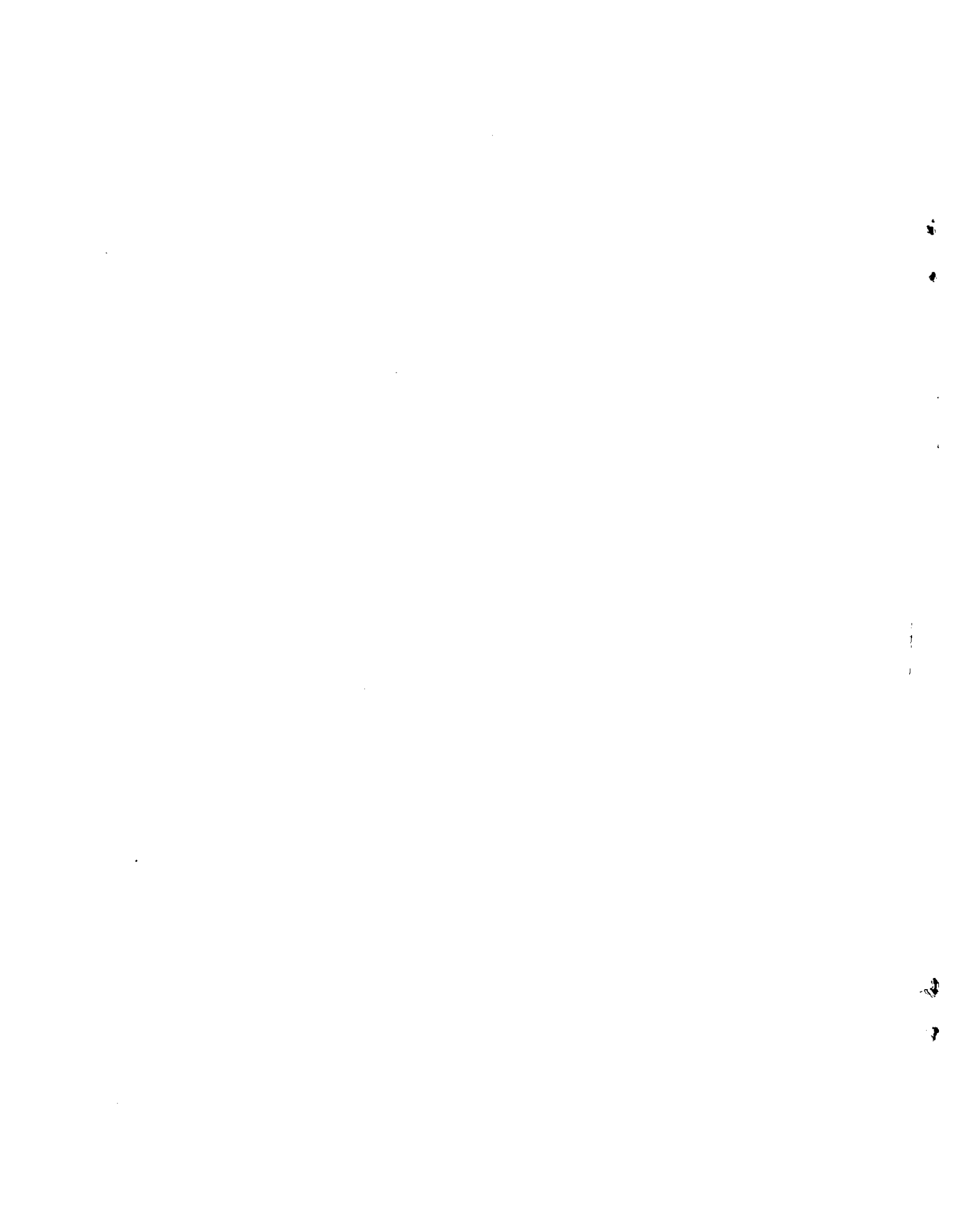
E C L A  
Economic Commission for Latin America

Third Regional Conference on the  
Integration of Women into the  
Economic and Social Development  
of Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, Mexico, 8-10 August 1983

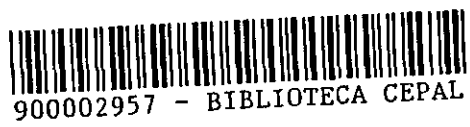


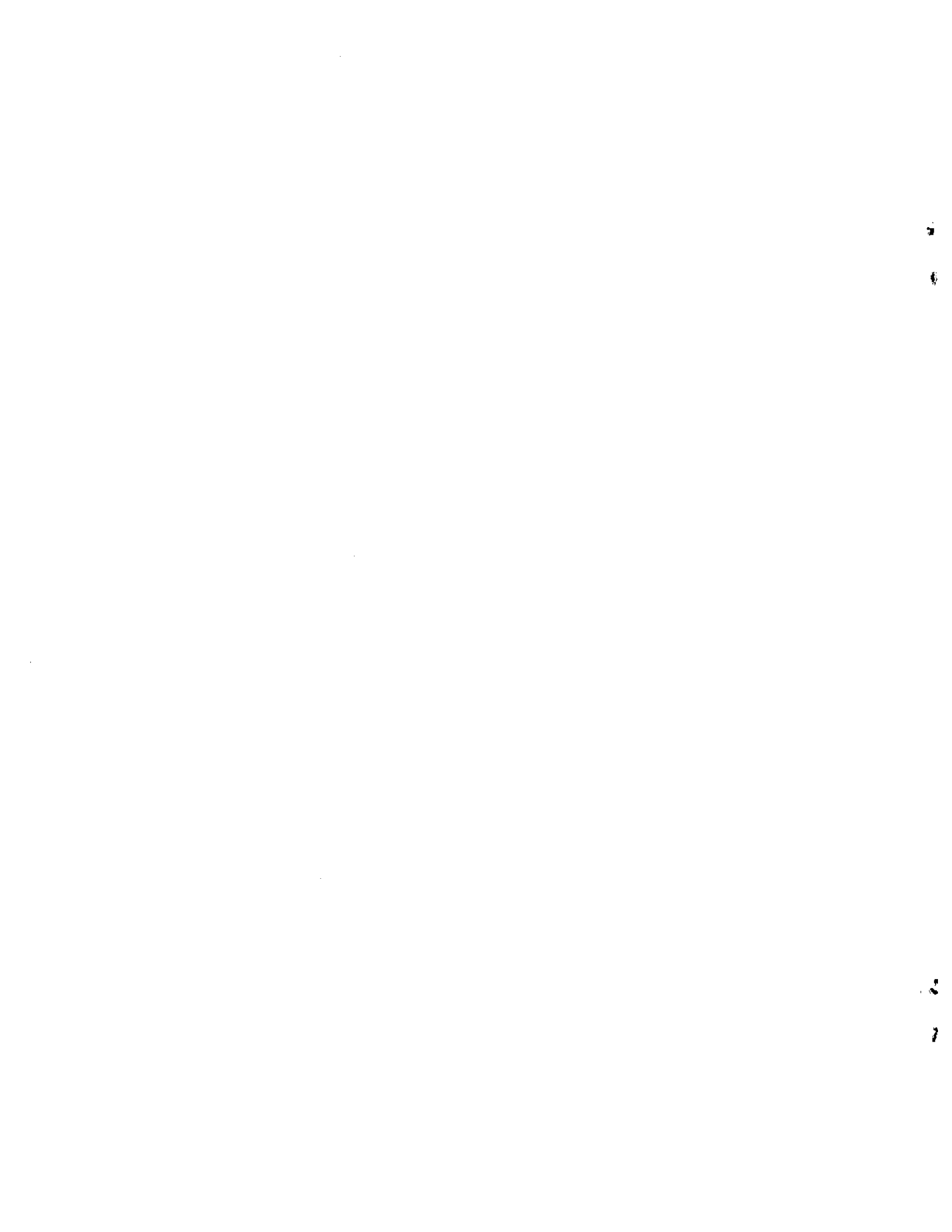
REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS  
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION  
OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN



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## I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Place and date

1. Pursuant to paragraph 88 (2) of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, adopted at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), it is incumbent upon the Presiding Officers of the regional conference on women to serve as a liaison between the member governments and the ECLA secretariat in the integration of women into development.
2. In compliance with their functions, the Presiding Officers elected at the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean held the Fifth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of that Conference at the ECLA Office in Mexico City on 5 August 1983.

### Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Conference: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. Presiding over the meeting, and representing Venezuela, was Mrs. Mercedes Pulido de Briceño, Secretary of State for the Participation of Women in Development, and President of the Second Regional Conference. In the absence of Costa Rica, which was to act as Rapporteur, Colombia was appointed as Rapporteur. (See the list of participants in the annex.)

### Agenda

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda for their fifth meeting:
  1. Adoption of the agenda
  2. Activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLA Secretariat
  3. Consideration of the provisional agenda and documentation for the Third Regional Conference
  4. Organizational aspects of the Third Regional Conference (including criteria for the election of the Presiding Officers)
  5. Activities in preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

## II. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS AND OF THE ECLA SECRETARIAT

5. The President of the Presiding Officers and the Executive Secretary of ECLA began the work. After their addresses, the ECLA Secretariat reported on the activities carried out in relation to the integration of women into the economic and social development of the region. The secretariat's objective had been to integrate the women's programme with the social development programmes which had been charged to it by the governments, and this relationship had been established particularly with the subject of youth participation, bearing in mind the significance of young women in social change, and with the analysis of the changes in the social structure, whose acceleration had created new aspirations and demands which must be taken into account in the current Latin American economic crisis, in the perspective of the construction of new development alternatives.

6. The presentation of the secretariat's activities in relation to the integration of women into development included the period from 1 August 1979 to 30 June 1983. The secretariat's programme had been built around four priority working areas: a) integration of women into development planning; b) orientation of policies and programmes of technical and financial assistance; c) conducting of research, diagnoses and appraisals on the various situations and conditions of women in the region; and d) strengthening of national and regional capacities in this field (establishment of national co-ordination and information machinery). While carrying out work in these areas, the secretariat had developed a strategy whose principal components were the following: advisory and technical assistance missions to the countries; organization and holding of training workshops; preparation of studies and reports; appraisal of specific projects and programmes on women, and carrying out of other support activities.

/7. After the

7. After the statement on the activities of the secretariat, the President of the Presiding Officers spoke about the progress made since the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in 1979. She pointed out the achievement of communication among the subregions, saying that it had helped shape a regional identity on the subject of women. She also stressed the importance of the advances made in trying to overcome the existing separation between the subject of women and that of planning, as well as in integrating the subject into social policies, taking women into account as a hidden variable of change. She referred as well to the greater presence of the Caribbean in activities relating to women, which was especially reflected in the programmes and research being carried out. She emphasized the greater operativeness of the ECLA machinery and thanked the secretariat for its work. She stressed the need for complementation between the work of United Nations agencies and other bodies working on the subject, such as the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) of the OAS, IICA, SELA and UNIDO. Finally, she pointed out the importance of the subject of women in relation to the search for alternative development models.

8. After the recommendations of the Presiding Officers of the Third Regional Conference had been approved as they appear in part III of this report, the delegation of Uruguay, expressing the feelings of the participants, thanked the President and the outgoing Presiding Officers for their work.

9. The President then expressed her thanks to the Executive Secretary of ECLA and to the participating countries, and she requested support for the incoming Presiding Officers. Lastly, she stressed the importance of the incoming Officers' taking full advantage of the experience of the outgoing Presiding Officers and of the research capacity of the academic institutions of the region.

### III. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

10. The Fifth Meeting of the Presiding Officers noted with satisfaction the provisional agenda and the documentation prepared by the ECLA secretariat for the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. In this respect, it asked the ECLA secretariat to prepare a brief guideline for the countries in relation to this documentation, on the understanding that this guideline could then help the countries to structure their presentations on the respective national situations.

11. Based on the experience of the Presiding Officers, it was recommended that the following fundamental criteria should be taken into account for the election of the Presiding Officers of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean:

a) To put into practice the principle of rotation of duties of the Presiding Officers among the member countries of ECLA;

b) In order to provide greater facility and effectiveness to their functioning, to reduce the number of members of the Presiding Officers to the offices of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur;

c) To seek adequate geographical distribution, including as Presiding Officers representatives of Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Group and the Southern Cone.

12. In regard to preparatory activities for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, the following recommendations were made:

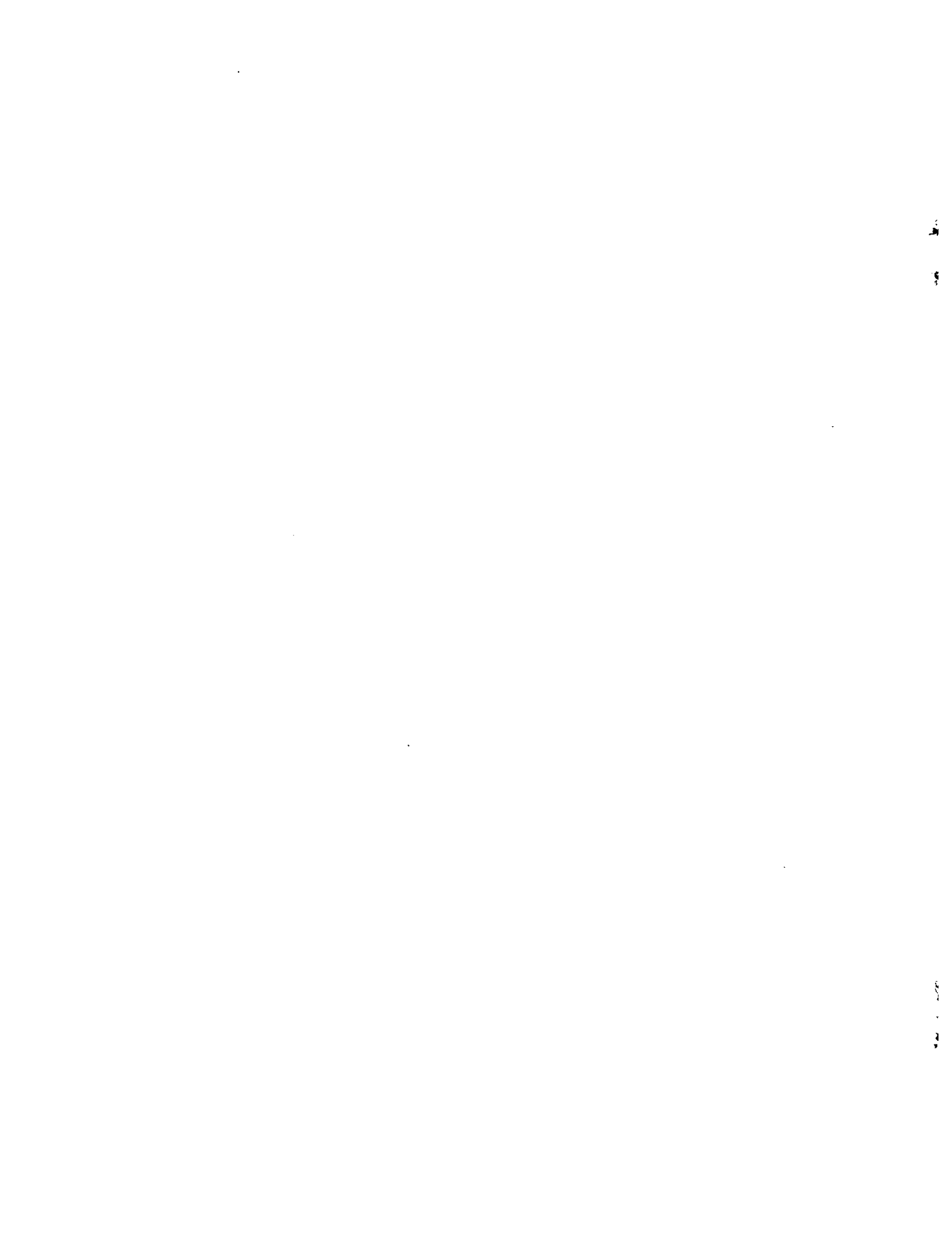
a) Not to hold another regional conference in preparation for the World Conference;

b) To charge the Presiding Officers of the Third Regional Conference with the preparations for the World Conference, including, when

/necessary



necessary, activities leading to a better formulation of a regional appraisal, such as meetings of groups of experts, and, when requested by the countries, advisory assistance in gathering the necessary information for completing the questionnaire prepared by the secretariat of the World Conference.



Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BRAZIL

Representative: Marina Vasconcelos

Member of the Delegation: Julio Zerner

COLOMBIA

Representative: Cristina Uribe

CUBA

Representative: Dora Carcaño

Members of the Delegation: Irina Trapote  
Leonor Rodríguez

JAMAICA

Representative: Hon. Princess Lawes

MEXICO

Representative: Gerónimo Martínez

Members of the Delegation: Claude Heller  
Martha Ortiz de Rosas

URUGUAY

Representative: Alvaro Garay

VENEZUELA

Representative: Mercedes Pulido de Briceño

Member of the Delegation: Migdalia Cáceres

