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REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLAUNING OF LATIN AMERICA

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and Date

1. The First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, sponsored and organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America/Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (CEPAL/ILPES) and the Central Bureau for Co-ordination and Planning of the Presidency of the Republic of Venezuela (CORDIPLAN), was held in Caracas from 13 to 16 April 1977 at the Head Office of the Central Bank of Venezuela.

Attendance

2. Representatives of the following Latin American countries attended the meeting: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (for complete list of participants see Annex 1).

3. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Centre for Development Planning, Programming and

Opening Meeting

Policies (CDPPP) were represented at the Conference.

4. The opening ceremony was held on the morning of 13 April in the Auditorium of the Central Bank of Venezuela, and was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, President of the Republic of Venezuela, who delivered the opening address. In his speech, the President emphasized the importance of the Conference, expressed strong support for IIPES, and indicated the

Ministers. He also referred in a detailed and comprehensive manner to several problems affecting the planning processes of many Latin American countries. He made special reference, inter alia, to the concepts of planning and democracy; planning and economic integration; the New International Economic Order and the relations between the Third World and the industrialized countries; the problem of capital accumulation for development and income distribution; and social development problems, especially those related to nutrition, health and education.

5. Statements were also made at the opening ceremony by Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, who described the background of the meeting and referred to the problems of planning in Latin America, and Mr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of the Republic of Panama,

Election of Officers

who spoke on behalf of the participating delegations (for complete

6. At the meeting of Heads of Delegations held on 13 April, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Lorenzo Azpúrua Marturet (Venezuela)

First Vice-Chairman: Jorge Chavez Quelopana (Peru)

Second Vice-Chairman: Roberto Chico Duarte (El Salvador)

Rapporteur: Fabio Herrera-Roa (Dominican Republic)

Agenda

- 7. At the same meeting, the following agenda was adopted:
 - 1. Opening addresses.
 - 2. Election of Officers.
 - 3. Adoption of the agenda.

text of opening adresses see Annex 2).

4. Organization of work.

- 5. First plenary meeting: "Growth, control of inflation and policies in response to the world crisis" presented by Brazil.
- 6. Second plenary meeting: "Short-and medium-term policies for the utilization of exceptional balance-of-payments resources" presented by Ecuador.
- 7. Third plenary meeting: "Experiences in social development"presented by Chile, Colombia and Peru.
- 8. Fourth plenary meeting: "Experiences in regional and urban development" presented by Venezuela.
- 9. Fifth plenary meeting: "Intitutionalization of the Conference and Work Programme of ILPES".
- 10. Conclusions, recommendations and adoption of the Final Report.

Documentation ::

8. The participants had before them as the basis for their discussions an abundant series of documents presented by participating delegations (see list of documents in Annex 3).

Adoption of the Report

9. At the final meeting, the participants adopted the agreements and recommendations of the Conference and the Report of the Rapporteur. With regard to the place of the next Conference, the participating delegations accepted with satisfaction the offer made by the representative of Peru that the meeting, scheduled for May or June 1978, should be held in Lima.

Closing Meeting

10. At the closing meeting, statements were made by
Mr. Lorenzo Azpúrua Marturet, Head of CORDIPLAN and Chairman
of the Conference; by Mr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Minister of
Planning and Economic Policy of Panama and Chairman of the
Technical Committee of ILPES, and by Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias,
Executive Secretary of CEPAL. All the speakers agreed that the
Conference had been extremely valuable in strengthening
Latin American co-operation.

Technical Sub-Committee of ILPES

11. The heads of delegations decided that the Technical Sub-Committee of ILPES should meet simultaneously with the Conference, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of Panama, to expedite the work on the institutionalization of the Conference and the Programme of Work of ILPES.

Part II

SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES

12. The debates took place in plenary meetings and had as their basis the papers presented by the various delegations on subjects related with the agenda of the Conference and circulated prior to the meeting. Various countries also presented documents dealing with the manner in which their planning systems were organized.

1. Growth, Control of Inflation and Policies in Response to the World Crisis

- 13. At the first meeting the delegation of Brazil presented a paper titled "Growth, Control of Inflation and Policies in Response to the World Crisis". This stressed the gradualist nature and the neo-capitalist basis of the Brazilian strategy carried out since 1964; the objectives of the strategy; the results achieved, and the prospects for the coming years. Within this context, special attention was given to the energy crisis and the particular manner in which it affected the Brazilian economy, the industrial strategy, the expansion of the infra-structure, and regional rural and social development.
- 14. In the course of the discussions one delegation stressed the importance of co-ordinating general development strategy with short-term economic policies. This intervention gave rise to an exchange of experiences concerning the measures and actions employed in various countries of the region.
- 15. Brazil's anti-inflationary policy was the subject of special interest on the part of several delegations. The review of the planning process; integrated development with special emphasis on social development; the co-ordination of planning and financing programmes; agrarian development; project financing and other matters were also discussed by various delegations, and this gave rise to additional comments by the Brazilian delegation on these subjects.

2. Medium and Short-term Policies for the Utilization of Extraordinary Balance-of-payments Resources

- 16. At the second plenary meeting the delegation of Ecuador presented his country's experience in the utilization of extraordinary balance-of-payments resources. After explaining the tasks performed in the field of economic and social planning, he indicated the policies adopted to achieve the transformation of the financial resources derived from the bigger oil revenues into real resources for development. He said that one of the main obstacles impeding achievement of this objective was the lack of suitable projects. A pre-investment fund (FONAPRE) had therefore been created followed by a national development fund (FONADE). He also indicated that the policy applied must take into account the special situation of the country, above all the complex social situation resulting from centuries of backwardness and stagnation. For these reasons, agrarian reform and integrated rural development were strategic elements within the strategy for the utilization of financial surpluses.
- 17. Various delegations requested further explanation of some of the points made by the delegation of Ecuador, such as the operational aspects of the management of extraordinary resources, the social and regional problems and the inflationary effects resulting from the bigger financial surpluses, and the operation of the special funds.
- 18. A full discussion took place on the subject of possible conflicts between the objectives of economic growth, income distribution and employment. There was consensus that the utilization of petroleum resources was less complex, since these were channelled through the State, whereas when the surpluses came from the private sector, as in the case of coffee and other agricultural products, it was necessary to apply more sophisticated policies in order to achieve optimum utilization of the additional financial resources. These points gave rise to explanatory comments by the delegation of Ecuador.

3. Experiences in Social Development

- 19. At the third plenary meeting, analyses of experiences in social development were presented by Chile, Colombia and Peru.
- 20. In his statement, the representative of Chile discussed the objectives of his country's social development strategy, which emphasizes matters related to human resources and the problems of education, training and efficient utilization of such resources; health and nutrition; housing, and social development in rural areas. He indicated that the strategy took as its starting point the recognition of the previous inefficient utilization of resources in the social field and put forward new instruments designed to achieve better utilization of those resources, especially in rural areas, since most of the persons living in conditions of extreme poverty in Chile were in those areas.
- 21. The members of the Colombian delegation commented on the documents presented to the meeting on the Colombian National Food and Nutrition Plan, emphasizing matters related to the production of food and its promotion, the reorganization of the marketing system, the national programme of nutritional education, the programme of food subsidies and the distribution of food coupons. Finally, he analysed the instruments for the evaluation and control of the Plan.
- 22. The representative of Peru explained the basic objectives of the Government's plan for the social sector, the need to minimize social inequalities and create a participating and responsible society. He analysed the principal instruments utilized in Peru for the achievement of these objectives, among them the Educational Reform Programme, the System of Co-operative Ownership and the Programme of Agrarian Reform.
- 23. In the debate that followed these presentations, several delegates pointed out the difficulties which existed in trying to make the objectives of social development consistent with economic growth and to design instruments that can transfer the benefits

of social policies to the more desadvantaged groups. Several actual examples were mentioned to illustrate the problem. The three delegations which presented the papers replied at length to the questions raised by the participants.

4. Experiences in Regional and Urban Development

- 24. The representative of Venezuela, who was responsible for speaking on this subject, began by analysing the serious regional inequalities existing, and particularly the effects of economic concentration. He examined the process of regional planning in his country, explaining how the new regional system modifies the pre-existing regional boundaries, and stressed particularly the problems of urban and local development and the development of frontier areas. He concluded his presentation with a reference to the present problems, emphasizing that the spatial structure of Venezuelan development must be oriented more in the future towards the interior of the country.
- 25. This subject was discussed during a visit, at the invitation of the Government of Venezuela, to the Guayana region where delegates saw at first hand the process of regional development in operation. Various delegations added their comments, citing the experiences of their respective countries, and this gave rise to a fruitful exchange of opinions, which continued at the venue of the Conference in Caracas. Several delegations referred to their own experience in the field of regional and urban development, and the delegations of Chile, Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay made more detailed statements in this respect.
- 26. In the course of the plenary meetings scheduled in the agenda, several delegations commented on the documents presented at the Conference and their experience in the development of planning in their own countries, the present form of organization of such planning, and the results obtained. These statements, in turn, gave rise to comments by other delegations on their own experience.

5. Institutionalization of the Conference and Programme of Work of ILPES

- 27. The Conference dealt with this question at its final meeting, on the basis of the results obtained from the work of the ILPES

 Technical Sub-Committee and the information supplied by the Technical Secretariat. Mr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Chairman of the Technical Committee, was responsible for introducing the item, and submitted for consideration by the participants a draft recommendation presented by the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic. Mr. Ardito Barletta's introduction and the draft recommendation gave rise to a fruitful exchange of ideas and suggestions which were incorporated in the text of the recommendation.
- 28. The delegations adopted the agreements and recommendations included in Part III of this report.
- 29. At the request of some delegations, Mr. Gabriel Valdes, Deputy Administrator of UNDP and Regional Director for Latin America, furnished information on the nature of the co-operation given to ILPES and repeated that it was UNDP's intention to continue to co-operate with the Institute together with the governments of the countries of Latin America, stressing the importance for UNDP of support from the countries for its projects.

Part III

AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, at its first meeting, held in Caracas from 13 to 16 April 1977, after studying the various aspects of the creation of a System of Co-operation and Co-ordination among Planning Bodies of the Latin American Region, adopted the following agreements and recommendations:

1. Creation of the System

The Conference stressed once again the importance of the role played by planning in the development efforts of the Latin American Region and the need for it to go beyond the national sphere, and link up with other countries with a view to promoting regional co-operation to achieve a more dynamic and integrated economic and social development. The Conference therefore agreed to set up machinery to be known as the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America.

2. Objectives and functions of the System

The main objectives of the System shall be to serve as a forum for the planning bodies of the countries of Latin America, to bring about better knowledge and closer links among them, to promote and carry out exchanges of national experience in economic and social planning and to establish ways of implementing joint action to promote, through planning, suitable machinery in order to strengthen co-operation among the countries of the region. In order properly to fulfil this objective, the System shall have the following functions, inter alia:

(a) To promote the exchange of development experience, plans, programmes and projects, legislation and organization

/for planning

for planning and, in general, disseminate the work produced by the planning bodies of interest to the System;

- (b) To carry out a continuous analysis of progress in planning and the obstacles to it;
- (c) To promote joint programming efforts at the regional, sub-regional and country-group levels so as to strengthen the Latin American integration process;
- (d) To identify joint action which may be incorporated in national development plans and programmes to the benefit of the region as a whole, or groups of countries, with a view to strengthening regional integration and co-operation;
- (e) To promote the exchange of technical experts among planning bodies, and the implementation of joint projects among countries;
- (f) To promote the exchange of information and joint action with other bodies of the region connected with planning and development, as well as outside the region.

3. Bodies of the System

The System shall have three main bodies: the Conference, the Executive Committee and the Technical Secretariat. The System will also include the subregional groups and subsystems which group Planning Ministries and Offices for the purposes of co-operation and consultation, such as the Committee of Planning Officials set up by the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Central America and Panama, and the Consultative Meeting of Ministers of Planning of the Andean Group.

(a) The Conference

The Conference, composed of the Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, which shall meet once a year and whenever necessary, shall be the decision-making body of the System. The Conference shall decide on its agenda, deal wilt the definition of joint action for regional co-operation, and the exchange of national technical experts, determine the tasks to be performed by the Technical Secretariat and evaluate the activities carried out by the latter.

At every annual meeting the Conference shall devote one meeting to appraising, orienting and adopting the ILPES work programme. Likewise, at that same session the Conference of Ministers shall adopt the ILPES budget. World and regional bodies may be invited as observers to future conferences.

(b) The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Conference and shall replace the present ILPES Technical Sub-Committee in its duties as of the next Conference of Ministers. In this capacity it shall supervise the implementation of the Conference's agreements, study the ILPES work programmes and submit a report on these questions to the Conference; it may invite to its meetings the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, the Director of ILPES and the Deputy Administrator of UNDP and Regional Director for Latin America.

(c) The Technical Secretariat

The Conference agrees to recommend to CEPAL that a mandate should be given to ILPES to become the Technical Secretariat of the Conference, without prejudice to its activities in the field of training, research and advisory services. As Technical Secretariat the Institute will assist governments in carrying out the

/activities mentioned

activities mentioned in point 2, besides fulfilling the specific mandates emanating from the Conference.

4. Strengthening of ILPES and programme of work

- (a) The Conference reiterates that the work carried out by ILPES has furnished effective support to the governments of many countries of Latin America in their efforts to organize machinery for planning, the preparation of development plans and strategies, research and the training of personnel;
- (b) The Conference has considered the programme of work submitted by ILPES for 1977 and recommends: (i) that in the field of training greater priority should be given to national courses, by supporting and promoting the efforts of each country in this field, and that the Basic Course in Planning and Economic Policy should be given alternately in the different countries of the region; (ii) in the case of advisory services, more intensive use should be made of horizontal co-operation than in the past, and especially the exchange of professionals among the planning ministries and offices; (iii) in research, greater priority should be given to the studies of groups of countries, particularly the relatively less developed countries and regions;
- (c) The above-mentioned training, research, and advisory activities which should be closely interrelated. In the provision of advisory services, a strict criterion of selectivity shall be followed;
- (d) The Conference recommends that a definite effort should be made to co-ordinate ILPES programming with the similar programmes of UNDP and CEPAL, so as to avoid an unnecessary and wasteful duplication of effort.

5. Financing of ILPES

- (a) In order that ILPES may fulfil its duties as Technical Secretariat, as well as its primary functions, it must be given a certain minimum staff and the necessary resources for its operations. The Conference recommends that the Director of the Institute should submit to the governments, before the end of the year, a budget for programmes in the order of US\$2 200 000 for the year 1978;
- (b) The Conference agrees to request that UNDP should continue to furnish the greatest possible financial support to ILPES;
- (c) The Conference agrees to ask the Executive Secretary of CEPAL to request, at its Guatemala Session, that the temporary budgetary assistance adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session should become permanent and be increased from January 1978;
- (d) The Conference recommends that a suitable proportion of the United Nations funds intended for planning should be channelled through ILPES;
- (e) In order to make up the sum mentioned in paragraph (a) above, the countries have recognized the need to make a collective effort to contribute a minimum of 600 000 dollars annually. This contribution may be made by each country in the following ways: (i) direct budgetary contributions; (ii) contribution of a percentage of the indicative figure of the UNDP national programme; (iii) funds for general expenses of the execution of technical assistance agreements; (iv) contributions of man/months financed by each country;
- (f) In order that ILPES may carry out its programme of activities for 1977, the Conference agrees to request

/that countries

- that countries should hasten their decisions in connexion with the above paragraph (e);
- (g) It also requests the Technical Sub-Committee of ILPES to meet at a suitable time to analyse and support the formulas for the solution of the financial problems for the second-half of 1977. It also agrees to ask UNDP to provide the greatest possible co-operation in this transition period for the Institute.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, MR. CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ,
AT THE INAUGARATION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND
HEADS OF PLANNING OF LATIN ALERICA

It is your generosity that has permitted Venezuela to have the honour to act as host to this historic Latin American Conference. The initiative taken by the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning of CEPAL, in Bogota last year, of convening this First Conference, is of transcendental importance the full extent of which perhaps even we ourselves are unable to grasp.

Latin America is committed at this moment in its history to an irreversible process, of longer or shorter duration, towards its integration. Latin America is acquiring an awareness and understanding of the fact that integration is not just an alternative course; it is the only course for obtaining the genuine economic independence of our peoples, that is, the real and effective sovereignty of our nations, of this great Latin American country. Hence, to bring together the planning bodies of Latin America and to endeavour to convert this Conference of Latin American planners into a permanent forum is an inestimable contribution to the process of Latin American integration.

For many years we have witnessed the fortuitous setbacks and failures of our integrationist attempts. We saw LAFTA paralyzed; we observed the constant crises of the Andean Agreement; and we launched the Latin American Economic System (SELA), trying out new, more pragmatic methods of integration, and fearing too that this new attempt would get no further than words, or mere good intentions. Those of us who looked beyond the present circumstances of our existence, who tried to understand, to analyse the world in which we

are living, and followed the course of history, have no doubt that within the context of these apparent failures Latin America is advancing towards integration. The present Conference is irrefutable evidence of this promising fact, upon which I invite you who bear such important responsibilities in your own countries to reflect.

In none of our countries is planning a practical fact. It is an aim, an indispensable and irreplaceable goal which we have set ourselves. We know, however, that it is not easy to achieve; that even more advanced countries, which have developed methods and experiences and have established sound structures in the course of their development, cannot pride themselves on having perfect planning systems, and still less on being able to look with certainty towards developments in the future. On the contrary, the world depression is palpable proof of the shortcomings of planning systems.

We should not therefore feel disappointed because our first steps along the path of planning have not yielded the benefits or the results we had hoped. This will also be a gradual process which we will pursue slowly, but the more effort we put into the exchange of experiences and the maintenance of permanent communication among our planning bodies, the more progress we will make.

This effort is necessary in order to establish the development process of each of our countries and of the whole Latin American region upon a sound footing. In Venezuela, we are engaged in a planning effort. We are demonstrating that it is indeed possible to reconcile a system of freedoms, and at the same time to organize and co-ordinate the planning of the economy at government level, in line with what has been termed concerted planning.

The Government assumes the responsability of establishing the broad guiding principles of development. In accordance with the National Constitution, the President of Venezuela must present every year, at the opening of Congress, the basic principles of the National Development Plan. This Plan is not binding for the private sectors of the economy; for them it is an indicative Plan. Moreover, it is already the subject of prior consensus, because our democracy is a participative political structure. The private sectors of the economy take part in discussing the options, but this does not mean that the Government renounces its essential and non-delegable decision-making responsability.

In my Administration we have successfully tried new methods for paving the way for participative democracy. In all branches of the Public Administration and in the fundamental activities of national life, there are committees or councils composed of representatives of the Government, capital, and the labour sectors. Every month the President of Venezuela convenes the high-level tripartite committees which cover the two broad areas of national activity. One such committee is made up of the President of the Republic, the Ministers participating in the agenda of the monthly meeting concerned, representatives of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Producers' Associations (FEDECAMARAS), and representatives of the Venezuelan Confederation of Workers (CTV). Another tripartite committee is composed of the President of the Republic, the directors of public offices concerned with agricultural development, representatives of agricultural entrepreneurial organizations, and representatives of the Venezuelan Federation of Rural Workers.

In this way, without any startling developments and on the basis of as much consensus as possible, Venezuela is successfully consolidating the exercise of representative and participative democracy which we hope will help in the future to light the broad avenues to democracy, in which all of us in Latin America and in our own countries believe. Thus, a positive political process in which we have the same faith and confidence as in economic integration will gradually open sure and stable paths towards understanding, a fuller knowledge, and constructive co-existence in the great nation composed of all the countries of Latin America, rejuvenated now with the new nations that have sprung up in the Caribbean, as the noble result of the eradication of that offence to the dignity of mankind that was colonialism.

It is impossible to keep planning within the limits of our frontiers. This is one of the gravest errors that we have been committing and which is jeopardizing the future. Perhaps this is where the great omission in the Latin American integration process is to be found. We all talk about this process and believe in it, because we feel that there is no other alternative for our peoples in the world that is taking shape today. When we look at the United States, the European Common Market or the Soviet Union, we realize that there is no room in the world of the future, in the world of science and technology, for the small territorial units that are the Latin American nations, unless they develop all the possibilities of complementarity that exist within the region, economic integration, and the links of the community to which we belong.

It is because of this omission that we encounter obstacles. Because as we talk about integration we have pretensions to self-sufficiency; and in the development of any integrated system, we want to measure with a micrometrical screw the advantages accorded to other countries, instead of the advantages our own country has been given in terms of complementarity with the rest.

We are seeing this every day in the Andean Agreement. Vested interests, the egoisms of misunderstood nationalism, have placed Latin America's integration process in a strait jacket. It will be for the planners, who will look beyond their own countries' possibilities, and the end of their noses and will measure the immense possibilities and opportunities for complementarity between our countries, to open up the paths to integration. I believe this ought to be one of the objectives or goals established for these meetings of planning bodies in Latin America. They would thus be fulfilling an essential historical role, that of making Latin American integration a feasible undertaking.

Action committees have been set up in SELA to work towards the establishment of multinational enterprises. There is one in which I am particularly interested: the Action Committee for establishing a large-scale Latin American multinational enterprise or enterprises for the production of nutritional supplements which are needed by the children of Latin America.

If we are sincere and look at the human geography of Latin America, we are bound to recognize that Latin America's primary problem is nutrition, which decisively - and I would say inexorably - affects the future of our countries. Not only must we consider the children who die at birth or in their earliest years; we must realize something which is even more serious: the children who are born and grow up with incurable deficiencies and handicaps, which are due to the devastating effects of undernutrition in the childbearing mother, and in the child during the first six years of his life. If planning does not take the human resource into account, it will be a great fallacy, our future will be betrayed, and it will simply be false planning. Without a human base our nations cannot progress. This is an obvious incontestable fact.

Linked with undernutrition is the question of health. Only with nutrition and health can we talk about education. In an undernourished or unhealthy people, education is a hoax, a waste and a loss of resources; because it is impossible to educate a person who is in poor health or undernourished.

These are aspects to which, as a Latin American, I would vehemently and passionately call the attention of planners in all our countries; for there lies the future of Latin America.

Another circumstance that is discussed at the level of political theory but which is an incontrovertible fact is the pretended antithesis between capital formation or accumulation and the redistribution of wealth. The thesis has been insistently upheld that the first step is to accumulate capital, and only then can there be redistribution.

It is the same thesis applied by the large industrialized nations to the developing countries: first they have to grow - they do not tell us how much - and then they can redistribute among other nations. So this is the argument - unanimously rejected by the developing countries - which those paying tribute to orthodox capitalism wish to apply to our countries; a capitalism which cannot survive, is already obsolete and endangers the very existence of the free enterprise system as it is understood in our time. It is imperative to seek formulas for accumulation or capital formation, but at the same time for redistribution; only thus can nutrition and health be basic premises for education and development in our countries.

Nor can we at this moment in history ignore the fact that national policies and our countries' progress are linked with that unit which has been called the third world. We know that we are countries which are situated in different continents, with different levels of culture and at different stages of development; that we do not share the same ideas; that there is an ideological plurality, but this is precisely the recognition

and awareness of a world-wide problem that affects us all, and that has to be solved so that our national problems can be solved. It is this conviction that has created the new decision-making power, that is, the power of the third world.

International policy today is an indispensable and necessary instrument for the development of our nations. It should be considered and thought about in the formulation of plans. Because if we were to consider this static world, with its unfair and unequal terms of trade and the present international division of labour, we would renounce our planning projects, since there would be no chance of development for our countries, neither for the large or rich, nor the small or poor countries of the region. It is essential to maintain this solid unity of the third world so that we can achieve that objective, which cannot be envisaged either for within a year's time. The establishment of the new international economic order will be a long and difficult struggle.

The first item which this meeting will discuss, because it affects all our countries, is inflation; but it is not by a mere coincidence or whim that it is called "Inflation and the world depression". The inflationary process cannot be considered on its own, but must be linked with the ties of our economies, the manipulation of world economic power which is in the hands of the industrialized countries. Therefore, we will not be able to solve our problems unless, solidly united, we insist on those new terms of trade, on that new international economic order, which is a basic, necessary and decisive premise for development and progress in Latin America and the third world.

Venezuela is apparently - and I use the word deliberately - a country with vast possibilities. It is a rich country. It is the major oil-exporter of South America. Nevertheless, our problems are similar to those of

other countries in the region. We will not be able to find a real solution to them until we create those new international relations. We do not handle petroleum egoistically, nor do we regard OPEC as a monopolistic cartel, but as an instrument for dialogue between industrialized and developing countries. It is fortunate that this decision-making power has come into our hands.

Petroleum brings us huge resources, which, as you well know, contribute to inflation. Moreover, these resources which we obtain from petroleum are collected from us again by the industrialized countries through the high prices we pay for manufactures, in fact for the capital goods required for our development, which is thus further delayed.

Basically, we are only experiencing an illusion. We would be fools if we did not regard petroleum as a negotiating instrument, and thought of it instead as an instrument of national egoism, with the idea of exchanging it for gold and well-being. We are conscious of this indispensable solidarity; that is why Venezuela has shown that it does not harbour any secondary intentions, that it is ready to provide international co-operation, and that it understands that its presence in OPEC represent a commitment with the third world and not merely with its own particular interests.

We have taken other steps, such as the nationalization of petroleum and of iron. We have abolished the system of mining claims. We have placed all the resources of the Venezuelan sub-soil under the management and direct ownership of the State. We regard these measures as indispensable for the gradual establishment of solid bases for our genuine independence, for the consolidation of our full sovereignty, but with the ever-present thought in our minds that Venezuela will find its path and its future only in Latin American integration. It is on this path, which we are following persistently and perseveringly, that we find ourselves at this Meeting.

Venezuela is in process of implementing its Fifth National Plan, which is the result of many years of effort under the past three democratic administrations. This has given it permanent continuity and has inspired confidence in that continuity, in which the whole nation undoubtedly shares.

This time we have been bold. We have dared to aim at a radical transformation of our economy. We are making great and relatively successful efforts towards the decentralization of industry and the administration, and towards the regionalization of development. We have been fortunate in achieving some fairly important objectives; but they are not so satisfactory that they can yet represent new parameters for the development of the national economy and the population's well-being.

. We believe that we also need another freedom: the freedom of our intellect, the freedom of our intelligence. Freedom from that imperial colonialism which was subjecting us to a dangerous situation, the inferiority complex which kept us inside a vicious circle: that of failing to embark on great plans for want of human resources; and lacking the human resources because there are no great plans in which to employ them. We have mortgaged the future of our country. We have undertaken decisive national development projects, believing that the great nations developed in the same way. They did not first create the human resource, or science, or technology. Science and technology were the result of great effort, daring and audacity, and gradually passed through different stages of progress and development. That is what we are doing now in our country. We are aware of the risks it involves or will involve in the future; but because we have faith in Latin American integration and in the unity of the third world, we know that our effort, our destiny and our future lie in integration and in the new international economic order. You, who are the representatives of the countries of our Latin American region, are in the vanguard of progress and we have confidence in you.

ONWARD, FELLOW LATIN AMERICANS, LET US PUT OUR SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL!

STATEMENT BY DR. NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA, MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS

As Chairman of the ILPES Committee it is a great honour and a pleasure for me to present the greetings and respects of the visiting Ministers to the President of this sister Republic and, through him, to the esteemed people of Venezuela, who show the way in the continuing struggle to achieve high standards of liberty, independence, and prosperity within the context of their realities and circumstances: aspirations shared by all the peoples of Latin America.

We wish to thank you once more for your generous hospitality, and this visit will serve to give us a better understanding and appreciation of your achievements and your view of the future.

The primary purpose of this conference, as stated by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, is to bring us together here to get to know each other, to share our experiences, and to strengthen our awareness of the many links that bind us, through personal, fraternal, and informal contacts. We have come here primarily to exchange views on our planning experiences in each of our countries. We have not come to discuss theoretical schemes, nor ideologies, nor abstract models. We have come to speak of the reality we experience every day as members of Governments which are waging a daily struggle to try to resolve the enormous development problems of our peoples. We have come, therefore, with sentiment and sensitivity, with open minds, and with a practical attitude of wishing to share our experiences, to get to know each other, and to enrich our knowledge and understanding on the basis of such wide and diverse experience as that of the Latin American continent.

And that is important, because although there are so many things in common among our peoples, our culture, and our resources we also have interesting divergences and differences from which profit can be drawn owing to the identity which is being acquired by each one of our peoples in terms of their own reality and their own history. Sharing, therefore, in this manner enables us to enhance the capacity to take action to promote our own development and, what is more important, the integration we all desire in all areas in the future.

I believe that the agenda of this meeting, which deals with such important matters as economic growth and policies to deal with the world economic crisis; short-term aspects regarding the use of exceptional resources for development; the social and human development of our peoples and the techniques and methodologies for carrying that development to our peoples; and subjects relating to regional, rural, and urban development, is a concrete example of how much we can learn on issues which are of vital current importance in each of our countries.

Planning in Latin America, as an explicit function of governments, and institutionalized through bodies such as the ministries, departments, and offices represented here, has had an interesting evolution. We went through a theoretical phase, a phase of writing volumes and documents, a phase of abstract essays, but today planning is essentially concrete in all the countries: it is very real and there is very little that separates it from short-term decisions as from the capacity and possibility for co-ordinating economic and social policy instruments for achieving the objectives which presidents and governments set themselves at a specific time in order to carry out the mandate received from their peoples.

Planning in Latin America, in this sense, has reached its destination. But it continues to be an important task, for although we have made

noteworthy progress in many fields of economic and social development, it is also still true that in our countries we find enormous inequalities of every kind: not only enormous social inequalities, in the sense that large sections of our peoples still do not have opportunities of self-fulfilment and full participation in their destiny and in the development of their countries, but also regional differences, differences in the ways in which our natural resources are used, differences between different sectors, differences as regards the manner of achieving economic growth and effective forms of distribution for obtaining the social goals desired by our people, differences as regards the functions of the public and private sectors in this social confluence for development: in short, differences as regards the political and social coherence of each of our peoples for achieving their objectives in the years and decades immediately ahead.

All these things continue to be a reality in Latin America, despite the enormous progress made, so that planning does not only look at the future as such, but is also the advocate of the future and must operate in the present in close contact with the entire government machinery, where-ever it participates, and on terms of great sensitivity to the needs of the people. It therefore has an important role to play and we are all trying to further this role in our respective countries.

The prospective analysis of the future for taking day-to-day decisions is today of greater validity than ever in the plans, policies, and administration of the projects and programmes of our governments. We are therefore trying to learn more and to find the technical, administrative and political know-how to enable offices such as ours to serve our governments in the most pertinent manner possible.

I must highlight here, moreover, that we can not only carry out that function in each one of our countries but also as I said above, have

a tremendous role to play as regards the implementation of specific integration programmes and projects in Latin America, for the programmes and aims of integration continue to be of primordial importance in both the future and the present, and while the planning offices have important roles to play in each of the countries, by looking towards the future we can also improve the co-ordination of our tasks so as to give a pragmatic and realistic demonstration of the approaches, projects, and avenues by means of which we can continue to bring about the integration which our peoples have taken as their goal and which we have been trying to achieve for many years in the face of immense difficulties.

Another important matter before us at this meeting is to examine closely what the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning is. Above all it is a technical Institute which has played an important role in the tasks which we carried out in each one of our countries over the last 15 years, and we now wish to associate it more closely with the realities, problems and needs of each of our countries.

It gives us pleasure, therefore, to note the interest of the United Nations authorities here present in listening to our desires and identifying themselves more closely with the express wish I voice here, on behalf of all the Ministers, that ILPES be more closely associated with our work in the best manner possible.

Finally, we wish to express our deepest thanks to Mr. Azpūrua of Venezuela and to the Office of CORDIPLAN, which, as acknowledged here, has been carrying out such important and pioneer work in planning in Latin America for many years, thanks to the efforts of eminent Venezuelans such as Dr. Héctor Hurtado, who is present among us today. It is therefore a source of great satisfaction to be here in this office sharing our experiences with CORDIPLAN and with the Minister who kindly gave us such a warm and generous welcome.

Lastly, I wish to repeat, on behalf of all the delegates of the Latin American countries, our cordial greetings to the President of the Republic and the people of Venezuela and our satisfaction at being here for a purpose which we consider to be of the highest importance in the performance of our functions. Many thanks.

ADDRESS BY MR. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CEPAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLANNING OF LATIN AMERICA

Once again the Government of Venezuela has generously welcomed us to this beautiful country for this first Meeting of Ministers of Planning of Latin America. And once again the President of the Republic, so often at the service of the great initiatives of Latin America, is lending his support to an event which, in its own way, meets the Bolivarian ideal of working together for a common destiny.

I wish to thank the Ministers for the special interest they have shown in this meeting and for the support they have lent it, not only through their presence but also in the preparations for it. In particular, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Barletta, Minister of Planning of Panama and Chairman of the ILPES Committee, for his dedication and contribution to the preparation of this Meeting and for all that his company and support have meant at all times both to CEPAL and ILPES.

This is a very special meeting in that it was conceived and prepared by the governments themselves, which is not very common in international affairs, and its objectives are those fixed by the Planning Ministers themselves. Its primary aim is to establish links of personal acquaintance among the persons responsible for planning in Latin America; this should give these meetings an informal character which may perhaps be their greatest strenght. A second aim is to promote among planning officials a dialogue on the true meaning of planning in Latin America today. Finally, something which this meeting will have to begin is the sought for exchange of experience at a very special point in time, when the strengthening of dialogue is perhaps one of Latin America's most valuable assets.

I hope that this initiative you have launched may become institutionalized, and that you may decide to transform this meeting which is beginning today into a regular channel for communication and co-operation among the planning bodies of Latin America.

It is particularly gratifying for us in CEPAL and ILPES to be able to observe the work of this meeting. It is certainly auspicious that we can speak here today in a gathering of practically all the planning bodies of Latin America. Some years ago it was not easy to speak of these subjects, or even of the word 'planning'. There was much apprehension and distrust, but events imposed the pressing need for this instrument of action of modern States. The course of events have created an irreversible situation today: all the governments of Latin America now have bodies responsible for planning, which in the last analysis means foreseeing and anticipating events, and informing government bodies and public opinions about them in a co-ordinated way.

I am very much awave that we have passed through various stages of this process, and along the way we have been learning lessons from the very fruitful experience of more than 20 years. CORDIPLAN is one of the pioneering bodies in Latin America, the first to have begun this kind of work, and its presence here as the main sponsor of the meeting gives a symbolic meaning to the presence of all of you here.

We have passed through various stages and have already left behind the purely literary stage of planning, which, without overlooking its importance for the understanding of Latin American reality, was clearly failing to reach its goals, for it was obvious that planning had to be inserted far more in the decision-making process of Latin America. We have likewise left behind the stage in which planning could be considered a purely technocratic task, isolated from its political and social content and directly linked with the major objectives of a society at a given time.

We have

We have also learnt that planning cannot be left out of the important task of allocating resources, and particularly out of investment processes.

And we have learnt that there is no kind of long-term planning which cannot coexist and be closely linked with the major short-term problems.

Very valuable experience has been gained in all this. Sometimes there have been disappointments, sometimes there has been too much enthusiasm. But I believe that at all events the existence of these bodies is now a fact, and it would be very dangerous to judge the product of planning merely by comparing the figures proposed in the plans with their results. In my opinion, other aspects of planning are far more important: the educational work of the planning bodies in learning about national problems, the training of the personnel passing through the planning centres and acquiring an overall view of the problems of a country, and still more important, the innovative work of those bodies in introducing new topics and approaching new problems faced by Latin America.

This is precisely the topic on which I wish to say a few words: the meaning of planning in Latin America today in relation to the new challenges facing the region at the world, regional and national levels. At the international level we are living through a period of extraordinary turbulence such as the world has not seen for the last 40 years. It is a period which completely changes the rules of the game within which planning might have been approached in the 1950s. Then, we still had the illusion of a fixed international setting in which the rules of the game were unchangeable, and in which the necessary conditions seemed to exist for unlimited, continuous progress; today all this seems to be called into question, both in the central countries themselves and outside them. It is the industrial centres which are today undergoing major crises and having serious doubts about their future and particularly about the future

lines of their policies, and it has fallen to the lot of the developing world to face the major task of uniting in order to draw attention to international problems and the injustice of international development.

All this marks a new era in the history of mankind. The fixed ten year periods for economic planning have come to an end, and the present period of turbulence and instability appears to be with us for many years to come. This means that the efforts to plan, to anticipate, become singularly important in Latin America today, precisely in order to prepare for this period which we will certainly have to live with for a number of years.

We have also learnt about the regional challenge. In the region we have lived through times of illusion and times of frustration, particularly in the field of integration. But we are continuing with our efforts, and I think that we already have valuable instruments, such as the integration secretariats, as well as new instruments such as those which Latin America has just initiated with the creation of SELA. This is another challenge to the imagination and courage of the planning bodies, to create initiatives with a specific content and implement them at the level of regional co-operation. It is a real, important challenge, which concerns the new form in which the region sees its problems and is prepared to co-operate on them. And, of course, there is the national challenge: despite the great efforts made by the region in recent years, despite the high income levels attained by some countries and despite the rate at which resources have blossomed in our region, serious problems persist, particularly in the social field where the benefits of economic development have still not reached the vast, underprivileged majorities of Latin America.

All this means that the planning bodies have a very important and ever-renewed task which they must fulfil in keeping with the new world, regional and national settings.

As a final word on what we may consider the main planning issues today, I would say that there are five major areas on which planning in Latin America should focus, without prejudice to its normal tasks of resource allocation and participation in the daily work of our countries.

In the first place, I think there is a new sense of anticipation which should give planning a much more urgent and imperative character than before. The countries of Latin America cannot afford the luxury of only tackling day-to-day problems: they must anticipate the future, because that is what the future demands. We cannot sail these tempestuous seas without a modicum of foresight and anticipation about the major problems.

Secondly, I think that planning must play the fundamental role of serving as a critical conscience for countries about national problems. Planning has the capacity to take an overall view of the national situation, to indicate the major critical problems and to lay special stress on the need to review the existing models of development in order to deal with the pressing social problems which still exist.

Planning also has a responsibility as regards the future projects of countries. We are passing through a time of change in political, social and economic matters. There must be an integrated approach to our great national projects, and we have been very gratified to see that many countries are aware of this problem, and that planning is increasingly linked with the conception of the future model of society which Latin America wishes to have, in which each country has its say and must find its own authentic national solution.

We think that planning has a responsibility for innovation. A number of issues are beginning to affect our countries in a novel form, such as the environment, urbanization, and natural resources. These are all new problems, with which we must live and to which we must pay attention. Planning must sound the alarm, and act as an extremely important catalyst.

Finally, I would also say that the last great challenge in this work for the future is the construction of the modern State. Perhaps the great challenge in Latin America towards the end of the century is that of creating a new type of Latin American State, a State which is in keeping with our vision of the future and which is equipped to tackle the multiple tasks involved in national and regional life.

In all these efforts, the United Nations, represented here by ILPES, the United Nations Development Programme, the Centre for Development Planning and CEPAL, is of course at your service. ILPES has its own specific role to play and certainly hopes to receive the corresponding mandates from this meeting, so as to be able to improve its approach to daily problems and serve as a practical instrument for regional co-operation.

Having said this, I wish you every success and hope to be able to fulfil the mandates you may wish to give us for the future.

Thank you

Annex 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATIONS

- Planning, development and economic and social policy in Brazil.
 Prepared by the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Brazil.
- 2. Experiences in the utilization of extraordinary balance of payments resources.
 - The Ecuadorian experience in recent years. Prepared by the National Planning Board of Ecuador.
- An experiment in social development. Prepared by the National Planning Office of Chile.
- 4. National Food and Nutrition Plan. Prepared by the National Planning Department of Colombia.
- 5. Experiences in urban and regional development. Presented by CORDIPLAN (Venezuela).
- 6. Planning in Haiti (National Development and Planning Council).
- 7. The planning system in Honduras.
- 8. Experiences in territorial planning in Chile.
- 9. Cuban economic development, (Statistical summary).
- 10. Notes on the planning and economic management systems in Cuba.
- Evolution and analysis of the system and procedures of planning in the Dominican Republic.
- 12. Basic information on the organization and functioning of the national planning system of Peru.
- 13. Social development and planning in Peru.
- 14. Planning in Paraguay.
- 15. The Organic Law of General Public Administration (Mexico).

- 16. The National Food and Nutrition Plan, Vol. II (Colombia).
- 17. The National Development Plan 1975-1978 (Peru).
- 18. Evolution and experience of planning in El Salvador.
- 19. The development of planning in Colombia.
- 20. Development planning in Surinam.
- 21. Preinvestment and development (Ecuador).
- 22. Report on the system, processes and instruments of planning (Bolivia).
- 23. Experiences of regional urban development in Venezuela.
- 24. Growth and stability of prices in the new conditions of the world economy: the Uruguayan model.
- 25. The system, process and instruments of planning in Uruguay.
- 26. Organization of the Ministry of Planning (Sub-secretariat of development, Argentina).
- 27. Official Decree No 1454 of Venezuela, V Plan of the Nation.
- 28. Planning of economic and social development in Guatemala.
- 29. National Board of Economic Planning and Coordination. Summary of its organization and operation. (Ecuador).
- 30. Possibilities of economic and social development in the Dominican Republic.
- 31. Experience of regional planning in Chile.
- 32. Planning Review No 7 (Ecuador).
- 33. Regional planning in Bolivia. Experience in this field.
- 34. Diagnosis and strategy of agricultural development, 1976-1986 (Dominican Republic).
- 35. Speech made by the Deputy secretary of the Planning Ministry of Argentina, Mr. Aldo Luis Duder (Thursday, 14 April 1977).