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REPORT

Volume II

Note: The Summary of Debates adopted by the delegations at the last plenary meeting of the eighteenth session did not include an account of the statements made at it; this appears in paragraphs 548 to 563 of this report, and could not therefore be made available to the representatives. In keeping with established practice, any observations it is desired to make on the subject should be submitted within 30 days of the date of this report.

79-6-1451

396 (XVIII). STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS 30/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling that Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations calls for collaboration with non-governmental organizations by stating that "the Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned",

Recalling also that several plans of action adopted by the General Assembly emphasize the need to secure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of these plans, and contain special provisions in this respect,

Taking note that in its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, the Economic and Social Council established the procedures for non-governmental organizations to obtain consultative status with the Council and its subsidiary bodies, so that the latter can secure expert information or advice from organizations having special competence in the subjects for which consultative arrangements are made, as well as to enable organizations which represent important sectors of public opinion in a large number of countries to express their members' views,

Bearing in mind paragraph 7 (b) of the terms of reference and rules 50 and 51 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Recognizing that the Commission has benefited from its relations with non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing further the desirability of expanding and strengthening links with non-governmental organizations within the areas of competence of the Commission,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue promoting and expanding collaboration with non-governmental organizations to the fullest practical extent, particularly with regard to areas of work which have been given high priority by the Commission;

(b) To seek to make the best possible use of the expertise that non-governmental organizations can offer in the technical areas of the Commission's work programme;

(c) To make appropriate use of the channels of information and communication of non-governmental organizations for the dissemination of information concerning the activities, work and reports of the Commission;

2. Invites interested non-governmental organizations with consultative status to attend meetings convened by the Commission as observers, in accordance with rules 50 and 51 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, and requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the prior approval of the member States, to invite when he deems it necessary those regional or subregional non-governmental organizations which, even if they do not at present have consultative status, have special competence in areas of interest to the Commission's work programme.