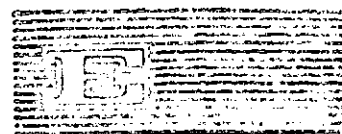


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Economic Commission for Latin America.

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REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(New York, 20 November 1980)

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Introduction

1. The fourteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) was held on 20 November 1980 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Its main purpose was to decide on additional measures to improve the institutional functioning of the CEPAL system in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly, particularly in section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197, entitled "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation".

I. ISSUES REQUIRING CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2. The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America, at its fourteenth extraordinary session, adopted, by consensus, three resolutions concerning, respectively, (a) measures to rationalize the structure and, particularly, the biennial pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system; (b) the report of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee on its fifth session, which it welcomed with appreciation, endorsing the resolutions contained therein, and (c) the financing of the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). The Chairman referred to the concern expressed by delegations in their statements at the growing disparity apparent between the responsibilities and tasks entrusted to the CEPAL system, on the one hand, and, on the other, the limited resources placed at its disposal, and stressed in conclusion the pressing need to seek new funding sources, for which purpose the Executive Secretary of CEPAL would hold consultations with the member governments.^{1/}

^{1/} The information contained in this paragraph appeared in the Journal of the United Nations of Friday 21 November 1980, and thus was distributed in the General Assembly.

- (c) Disparity between the increasing responsibilities and tasks entrusted to the CEPAL system by member governments and higher United Nations Bodies, and the limited resources placed at its disposal.

4. Conclusions and recommendations.

Documents

7. The secretariat prepared and submitted to the Committee of the Whole the following documents concerning the items on its agenda: Rationalization of the institutional structure and pattern of meetings of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1137); Report of the fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (E/CEPAL/G.1133); The problem of additional responsibility and limited resources (E/CEPAL/G.1138) and Institutional structure, activities and budgetary evolution of the Latin American Demographic Centre (E/CEPAL/CELADE/G.1).

III. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

8. At the opening of the meeting, the Chairman stressed the work carried out by CEPAL on behalf of the development and social advancement of the countries of the region. He emphasized the particular importance of its activities in the current difficult circumstances of Latin America. On the eve of a new United Nations Development Decade and of the Global Negotiations, the tensions of the international setting were heightened by the lack of political will to narrow the gap between the rich and poor countries, by the resurgence of protectionism and other unfair unilateral measures, by the prevailing injustice in trade, by the financial and monetary difficulties and by other factors.

9. The Executive Secretary of CEPAL, in his address to the Committee, outlined the situation detailed in the documents submitted by the secretariat and the objectives of the meeting.

10. A delegation pointed out that the documents distributed prior to the meeting had not been made available in the French version. The secretariat explained the budgetary restrictions currently hampering its translation services into that language, and took note of the observation.

/Measures to

Measures to rationalize the structure and particularly the biennial pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system (agenda item 3 (a))

11. In connexion with this item, a delegation proposed the addition of a number of preambular paragraphs and one operative paragraph to the draft resolution on the rationalization of the institutional structure and pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system contained in document E/CEPAL/G.1137; it also proposed a change in paragraph 12 of that draft resolution. With the exception of the new operative paragraph, these amendments, as well as proposals by other delegations, were included in the text of the resolution adopted, which appears in part IV of this report.

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

13. It was agreed to postpone consideration of this text until the nineteenth session of CEPAL, to be held in Montevideo in May 1981.

14. The same agreement was also reached concerning paragraph 15 of the draft resolution which reads: "The rationalization of the pattern of conferences and meetings of the CEPAL system, and in particular of the subregional meetings held in the CEPAL Mexico Office, which includes the activities and meetings of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, and in Port of Spain Office, which serves the same function with respect to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, requires

/that these

at the world level, recalling that the Fund was financed by voluntary contributions from governments which had shrunk during the last year and would further dwindle in 1981. He also pointed out that the Fund's Governing Council established guidelines for reducing the proportion of its financing devoted to regional programmes, and said that through CELADE the Latin American region received a very high proportion of all funds, in comparison with other regions. For all these reasons, the Fund not only could not increase its contributions to CELADE but would have to reduce them. In these circumstances, he suggested that a concerted effort should be made to obtain funds from other sources, an effort in which UNFPA was ready to co-operate. He also suggested that some ongoing regional projects could be undertaken at the national level.

28. A delegation called on member countries with greater resources to provide more financial support for CELADE activities.

29. The delegation of Mexico, supported by many other delegations, submitted a draft resolution on the funding of CELADE activities. This draft resolution was adopted by consensus and appears in part IV of this report. The delegations of the United States and of the United Kingdom expressed the reservation that their participation in the consensus in no way engaged their position on the matters contained in the third operative paragraph of the resolution when these were discussed in the General Assembly or other United Nations bodies.

30. At the conclusion of the meeting, summing up the statements by countries and the consensus reached on the subjects covered by the agenda item, the Chairman made the following statement:

"With regard to agenda item (c), I think that broadly speaking we can sum up what has been said in the Committee by participating delegations as follows:

"Firstly, delegations have noted with great concern the statement by the Executive Secretary concerning the increasing difficulties faced by the CEPAL system and its secretariat in obtaining additional resources from the regular budget of the United Nations so as to be able to undertake really adequately the activities which the member governments themselves have established as being undeferable and of high priority.

/"There is

419 (PLEN. 14) RATIONALIZATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND
THE PATTERN OF MEETINGS OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Also recalling resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, basically so as to bring it into line with the new and expanded requirements emanating from the above-mentioned resolutions, and resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the General Assembly adopted a group of measures and provisions of an institutional nature recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee which since then constitute the most recent basic mandate for all the organs and machinery of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions, to which Section IV of the annex to that resolution, entitled "Structures for Regional and Interregional Co-operation", particularly applies, and resolutions 33/207 of 29 January 1979 (particularly Section IV) and 34/206 of 19 December 1979, requesting the decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions.

Taking into account the resolutions on technical co-operation among developing countries adopted by the General Assembly, such as 32/182 and 32/183 of 19 December 1977 and 33/134 of 19 December 1978, and resolutions 3177 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, 3241 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3442 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 31/119 of 16 December 1976, 32/180 of 19 December 1977, and 33/195 of 29 January 1979 on economic co-operation among developing countries,

/Also taking

Recognizing that the present structure of the CEPAL system generally corresponds to the basic requirements stemming from the original terms of reference and subsequent mandates given to the Commission,

Also recognizing that the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and the regional conferences, expert meetings, technical seminars, working groups and other meetings constitute valuable contributions to achieving the objectives and accomplishing to the full the responsibilities entrusted to the CEPAL system and its secretariat,

Conscious, however, that the increasing scope and variety of tasks entrusted to the CEPAL system make it necessary to rationalize still further its institutional machinery and procedures, including its pattern of meetings, taking particular account of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission itself and of its subsidiary bodies,

Decides to maintain the existing fundamental institutional structure of the CEPAL system, while further rationalizing its machinery, procedures and meetings and introducing the following adjustments:

- (a) The biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of the Committee of the Whole in the years when the Commission does not meet should constitute the focal points around which the other meetings of the CEPAL system in the forthcoming bienniums should be organized, in conformity with the decisions and priorities adopted by member governments and with the mandates of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council;
- (b) The CEPAL system, beginning with the Commission itself, should bring its pattern of conferences and meetings into line with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly. To that end, at its nineteenth session the Commission should decide on the new calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system with a view to implementing it, duly synchronized with the General Assembly's budget programming cycle, as from 1982 and taking into account the objectives and priorities established in the various work programmes and regional action programmes approved by member governments;
- (c) The regular sessions of the Commission should continue normally to be preceded by a meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts

/(CEGAN), in

(CEGAN), in conformity with resolution 310 (XIV) and other pertinent resolutions of the Commission, in particular those relating to the implementation and appraisal of the International Development Strategy and to the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

(d) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) should also meet when necessary prior to the ordinary session of the Committee of the Whole in the years in which the Commission does not hold a session, in order to carry out the additional responsibilities entrusted to it under CEPAL resolution 357 (XVI) with respect to population, industrialization and science and technology;

(e) The statutory rationalization of the meetings of the Commission, the Committee of the Whole and the Committee of High-Level Government Experts as described above shall be without prejudice to any extraordinary sessions which it may be decided to convene in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure in order to deal with emergencies such as those caused by natural disasters and other problems considered urgent by member governments;

(f) With respect to the statutory meetings of the CEPAL system, it is necessary to indicate as clearly and early as possible the priority issues which member governments wish to consider in some depth, correlating them with the issues to which the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly attach priority, thus facilitating co-ordinated and convergent action with the other relevant international bodies both within and outside the United Nations system;

(g) The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, which was established as a permanent subsidiary organ of the Commission in 1977, will continue to be convened periodically at intervals of not more than three years in conformity with the resolution adopted on the subject at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL;^{2/}

(h) Without prejudice to the specialized conferences or technical meetings which it may be decided to hold from time to time at the regional level, at each of the Commission's biennial sessions the subjects of (i) co-operation

^{2/} Document E/CEPAL/AC.71/4.

between developing countries and regions, (ii) human settlements, and (iii) water must be discussed in sessional committees, in accordance with CEPAL resolutions 387 (XVIII), 407 (XVIII) and 411 (XVIII). In order to ensure that these committees function efficiently during the Commission's regular sessions, government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered;

(i) It is recommended that, at their next session, the permanent subregional subordinate bodies of the Commission, that is to say, the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, should consider the best means of adapting their general institutional functioning - including the adjustment of their annual subregional meetings - to the biennial pattern established for the United Nations by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(j) The Technical Committee of ILPES will continue to serve as the governmental organization guiding the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of the CEPAL system, and will meet for this purpose when necessary in the manner provided for in resolution 340 (AC.66) of the Committee of the Whole and resolutions 371 (XVII) and 397 (XVIII) of the Commission;

(k) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) will continue to review and approve the reports of activities and programmes of work of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), which is also part of the CEPAL system, and will meet at least every two years in order to establish guidelines for the Latin American Regional Population Programme and to deal with other matters relating to this field, in conformity with the provisions of CEPAL resolutions 357 (XVI) and 400 (XVIII);

(l) As a general rule, no more than five substantive regional conferences or meetings should be held each year, including the above-mentioned statutory sessions of the Commission, the statutory meetings of the Committee of the Whole and of CEGAN, and extraordinary preparatory meetings for world conferences or international years, the costs of which, like the costs of the statutory sessions of the Central American Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, must be provided for in CEPAL's regular budget and approved by the General Assembly;

/(m) At

(m) At each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system planned up to the next ordinary session must be considered, stipulating, where possible, the date, duration, and location of each meeting;

(n) The regional meetings which must be organized within the geographical area of the CEPAL system in preparation for world conferences or international years of the United Nations to be carried out under mandates of the General Assembly must be provided with the necessary financing duly authorized by the General Assembly itself. The CEPAL secretariat is encouraged to intensify its efforts to inform promptly the United Nations Budget Division of those additional resources that CEPAL believes may be required by General Assembly proposals calling for regional activities in preparation for world conferences or international years of the United Nations additional to those already funded under the United Nations regular programme budget. This should enable the Budget Division to better reflect such requirements in statements of financial implications on proposals before the United Nations General Assembly.

420 (PLEN. 14) ACTIVITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling resolution 399 (XVIII) of the Commission, in which the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean is requested, in its functions as the CDCC secretariat, among other things, to give particular attention to the priorities identified by that Committee,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/56, in which the Secretary-General is requested to make appropriate provision for the implementation of priority projects within the framework of the work programme adopted by CDCC and for the strengthening of the secretariat of that Committee,

Bearing in mind the report of the fifth session of CDCC (E/CEPAL/G.1133, of 30 September 1980), particularly as regards the implementation of the work programme of the Committee since its fourth session and the review of the role and functioning of CDCC,

/Taking note

Taking note with satisfaction of the statement by the Executive Secretary concerning the measures adopted to delegate to the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean, in its functions as focal point for the CDCC secretariat, additional authority in matters relating to operational and administrative questions,

Acknowledging that, despite the serious limitations of the resources available to it, the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean has provided valuable co-operation in connexion with the implementation of some of the activities in the work programme adopted by CDCC,

Expressing its profound concern that the resources of the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean nevertheless do not allow it to carry out opportunely other priority activities in the work programme,

1. Endorses the report of the fifth session of CDCC (E/CEPAL/G.1133), held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 4 to 10 June 1980, and the resolutions contained therein;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts made by the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean to carry out activities included in the CDCC work programme in its functions as focal point for the secretariat of the Committee;

3. Expresses its satisfaction at the steps taken by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to delegate additional authority to the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean with regard to functions of an operational and administrative nature;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to intensify his efforts and his representations vis-à-vis the appropriate United Nations authorities with a view to ensuring that the latter, in turn, seek to arrange the budgetary appropriations necessary to enable the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean to carry out those activities in the work programme that have been assigned priority and cannot be postponed;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of making formal and informal arrangements with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the implementation of specific activities in the CDCC work programme.

421 (PLEN. 14) FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATIN
AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 571 (XIX), General Assembly resolutions 1838 (XVII), 2211 (XXI) and 2626 (XXV), and resolution 346 (AC.68) of the CEPAL Committee of the Whole, which express the permanent concern of the United Nations regarding population matters and their connexion with economic and social development,

Bearing in mind also the conclusions and recommendations of the World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974) and the Second Latin American Meeting on Population (Mexico, 1975), as well as resolutions 357 (XVI) and 400 (XVIII) of the Commission,

Emphasizing those of the above conclusions and resolutions that recognize the need to incorporate population variables in development planning processes and instruments and the importance of formulating policies with demographic effects that are integrated in development strategies and plans, which constitute mandates for CELADE as regards technical co-operation, research and training,

Considering that it is the task of the Commission and of its technical bodies to help to promote the development of Latin America and that consequently it is necessary for those bodies to have the resources required for the efficient and timely performance of that task,

Recalling the acknowledgement by the international community of the consequences of population dynamics for socio-economic development, as well as the effects of the modalities and rate of that development on those dynamics,

Considering that the work done by CELADE in the sphere of population in the region has won the recognition of governments because of its value and significance with regard to the efforts to promote economic and social development and because of the timeliness and efficiency with which it is carried out,

Bearing in mind that the purpose of the CEPAL Regional Population Programme is, among other things, to provide technical co-operation and

/to carry

to carry out the studies required to create and expand the knowledge, skills and inputs which contribute to the incorporation of population variables in economic and social planning and the formulation of policies with demographic effects that are integrated in development plans at the national and regional levels,

Bearing in mind also that CELADE, in its functions as a body of the CEPAL system responsible for the implementation of that Programme, should pursue, and as far as possible intensify, the technical co-operation and research activities aimed at improving the population data of the various countries and the techniques for their processing and analysis, increasing knowledge about the interrelationships between population and development, improving the techniques and instruments that make it possible to incorporate population variables in planning, promoting and facilitating the training of national personnel and disseminating information, while co-operating in the institutionalization of such activities in the various countries,

Considering moreover that the new and different concerns of the countries of the region regarding the connexions between population and development and the more complex approaches to the analysis of those connexions and the formulation of measures that will affect them, as well as the creation of increasingly advanced techniques for planning, the collection of information, and data processing and analysis, entail a substantial increase in requests for technical co-operation, not only at the national level but also at the subnational and local levels,

Bearing in mind the growing discrepancy between the resources required for the efficient implementation of the recommendations and mandates relating to population activities on the one hand, and the available financing, on the other,

Acknowledging the continuous and valuable support that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has been providing for the activities carried out by CELADE in the region under the CEPAL Regional Population Programme,

Acknowledging also the efforts made by the CEPAL secretariat and the CELADE administration to maintain the level of efficiency of the Centre while adapting to the continuing reduction in available financial resources,

/which on

which on several occasions has entailed drastic personnel reductions at both seats of the Centre,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat concerning the institutionality of CELADE, its work programmes and its financial situation,

1. Endorses the validity of the objectives of the CEPAL Regional Population Programme, as well as the outlines and priority areas of the CELADE work programme, adopted at the eighteenth session of the Commission;

2. Reiterates its acknowledgement of the importance of the work done by CELADE pursuant to those mandates;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in order to ensure that the activities of the Commission in the field of population are pursued on a permanent basis, to make the necessary representations with a view to increasing the number of professional and local posts in CELADE that are included in the regular budget of the Commission, from 1982 onwards;

4. Recommends the governments of member countries to study the possibility of establishing bilateral agreements with CEPAL/CELADE not only for the implementation of activities in priority areas of development within the framework of the Regional Population Programme, but also with a view to ensuring and intensifying the participation of CELADE in the implementation of their national projects financed by UNFPA or other organizations of the United Nations system;

5. Also recommends the governments of member countries to study the possibility of making special contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, so that the latter may intensify its support for the activities carried out by CELADE in the region, and to that end requests the Executive Director of the Fund and the Executive Secretary of CEPAL to make the necessary representations;

6. Urges national and international financing institutions and co-operation agencies, especially the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, to intensify their efforts to provide the financial support necessary for the efficient implementation of the Regional Population Programme in general and the CELADE work programme in particular.