

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

**BIENNIAL REPORT
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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT:
PRIORITY LINES OF ACTION FOR 2000-2002

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted in Cairo in September 1994 and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994,

Recognizing the importance of activities undertaken in the region following the twenty-seventh session of the Commission in connection with the five-year review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the contribution of the Latin American and Caribbean region to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the definition of priority lines of action and key measures for the further implementation of the aforementioned Programme of Action and Regional Plan of Action,

Recalling the resolution adopted at the open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, held on 14 and 15 December 1998, regarding priorities for the application of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Bearing in mind that the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development held its third meeting on 3 and 4 April 2000 in Mexico City, at which it considered, *inter alia*, the topics of youth, population and development, and systems of indicators for monitoring and following up on the fulfillment of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the activities they have carried out in support of the countries in the past biennium, for the support provided to the meeting of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and, in particular, for the preparation of the substantive documents on youth, population and development on a system of indicators for following up on and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

2. Thanks the Chair and the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee for directing the activities of the Committee since its second meeting, held in Aruba, and for having prepared and presented the document entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development” at the Hague Forum on population and development and at the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development;

3. Thanks the United Nations Population Fund for the support provided to the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and to the countries of the region in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in its review and appraisal;

4. Decides that at its next regular meeting in 2002, the Ad Hoc Committee should examine the question of "Social vulnerability: population, households and communities", and that the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee should be instructed to prepare the relevant substantive documentation in consultation with the Commission's Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean on the subject of the social vulnerability of small island developing States of the Caribbean, Belize, Guyana and Suriname;
5. Reiterates the importance of identifying and promoting a national mechanism in each country to be responsible for follow up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and for identifying and maintaining a liaison agency to coordinate activities relating to the Regional Plan of Action and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;
6. Instructs the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in consultation and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, to give priority to assisting the countries to develop information systems which will include indicators that will allow for adequate follow up and appraisal of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and the Regional Plan of Action;
7. Instructs the Ad Hoc Committee to follow up on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Plan of Action on an ongoing and systematic basis, taking as a point of reference the initial proposal for a regional system of indicators prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC, which, taking into account the characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean, refers to the commitments assumed at the world summits held during the 1990s, especially the International Conference on Population and Development;
8. Instructs the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC, with support from the United Nations Population Fund, to incorporate the suggestions and observations made by the Ad Hoc Committee into the document on youth, population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean and to study the subject in greater depth, taking into account the Caribbean experience, making a distinction, where possible, between adolescents and youth, and stressing policy proposals for these subgroups with a view to presenting a more complete and systematized version of the document at the forthcoming tenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in November 2000 in Panama, at which the subject of adolescents will be discussed;
9. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to convene, in late 2000, a meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee that will be open to those countries that wish to participate in a review of the progress achieved in this regard;
10. Agrees that the Ad Hoc Committee constitutes an appropriate regional intergovernmental forum for addressing important issues in the field of population and development at the regional and subregional levels, both at its regular meetings and during inter-sessional periods;
11. Welcomes the initiative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and of the International Organization for Migration in organizing the Symposium on International Migration in the Americas, to be held in September 2000,

which will also have the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Population Fund;

12. Thanks the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank for the initiatives they have taken over the past two years in support of the census round for the year 2000 in fulfillment of the agreements reached at the Meeting of Directors of Statistics held in Santiago, Chile, in March 1999, and requests these and other relevant international agencies to continue providing support to the countries of the region in connection with preparations for their censuses and, in particular, to promote and facilitate the use and dissemination of census information, which is so necessary for the proper implementation of the recommendations of the international summit meetings held during the past decade;

13. Calls upon the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant national and international organizations, to also place priority on human resources training in the field of population and development in order to enhance the countries capacity to generate the sociodemographic information and knowledge that is necessary to enable the corresponding institutions to incorporate these data into the design and implementation of social policies and programmes;

14. Requests that academic continuity and financial support be provided for human resources training in the field of population and development through a post-graduate training programme on population and sustainable development to be conducted at the University of Chile, with the cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC and the sponsorship of the United Nations Population Fund, for the purpose of enhancing the countries' capacity not only to generate sociodemographic information but also, fundamentally, to conduct integrated analyses of variables relating to population and sustainable development and to propose public policies that are consistent with international, regional, subregional and national goals;

15. Recommends that the countries of the region should make every possible effort to allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the incorporation of population and development programmes in public policies that include poverty reduction among their objectives, and also recommends that population and reproductive health issues should be more closely linked to social, environmental and cultural policies, viewed from a gender and age-based perspective, and that the inclusion of population and reproductive health issues in reforms carried out in the education and health care sectors should be promoted;

16. Expresses its concern regarding the continued reduction of the international financial resources made available to Latin America and the Caribbean for activities in the field of population and development and, in consequence, urges the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the Ad Hoc Committee to take the necessary steps at the relevant levels to reverse this trend;

17. Also urges the international community to increase its technical and financial assistance for this process, in fulfillment of the commitments made in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.