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Economic Commission for Latin America

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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

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation, adopted in Paris in November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states, inter alia, that "cultural co-operation is a right and duty for all peoples and all nations", and that "international co-operation, while promoting the enrichment of all cultures through its beneficent action, shall respect the distinctive character of each",

Considering that in January 1978, Latin American and Caribbean Ministers of Culture spoke in favour of "the need to develop cultural bonds among the countries of the area, as well as the urgency to revive our countries' native cultural manifestations",

Considering also that the Constituent Declaration of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee recorded the importance of incorporating the cultural experience of the Caribbean peoples into programmes and activities designed to strengthen co-operation and relations among the countries of the area,

Noting that at its fourth session, held in Suriname in 1979, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee adopted a resolution expressing the strongest support for the holding of the regional cultural event CARIFESTA in 1979,

Convinced that the development process can be made more fruitful by the continuous acquisition of knowledge from all sources and the awakening of sensibilities,

Recognizing that the traditions of thought and ways of life, as well as the values of peoples in their everyday life, must be strengthened and made articulate for the common tasks facing the Latin American region in the coming decade,

Persuaded that the collective experience accumulated by the different social groups and communities in Latin America, which give the region its distinctive features, should be enhanced and communicated through the accepted regional and international channels so that this experience can serve to inspire self-confidence in the peoples of Latin America today and better equip them to fulfil their common destiny and prepare for the future,

Mindful that only the deepest personal and collective involvement can bring about conditions which enable individuals and communities to understand their own problems and cope with them,

Conscious that only by being faithful to fundamental values which give meaning and a sense of belonging to our own environment can we affirm the cultural pluralism of Latin America and provide a concrete basis for the culture and intellectual co-operation which is necessary for the establishment of the new international economic order,

Emphasizing that such co-operation should be founded on respect for others and a concern for our mutual enrichment,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to seek the views of the Governments of the region as to the merits of proclaiming an International Year of Autochthonous Traditions and prepare a study on the basis of these views to be submitted at the nineteenth session of the Commission;

2. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and other United Nations agencies concerned with the promotion of culture to support the efforts of the Executive Secretary to realize the objectives of the present resolution.