

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

**BIENNIAL REPORT
(16 May 1998 – 7 April 2000)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2000
SUPPLEMENT No. 20**



**UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile, 2000**

583(XXVIII)
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND REGIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires in September 1978 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,

Taking into account the decisions adopted at the ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which met from 30 May to 2 June 1995 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and, in particular, decision 9/2 on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking into account also the decisions adopted at the eleventh session of the High-level Committee, held from 1 to 4 June 1999 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and in particular decision 11/1, in section B of which the Committee examined the progress made in implementing the strategy of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 573(XXVII) on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions,

1. Takes note of the report on the activities of the ECLAC system in support of such cooperation contained in the note by the secretariat entitled "Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support technical cooperation among developing countries and regions during the biennium 1998-1999" (LC/G.2081 (SES.28/13)), which has been considered by the Commission at its current session;
2. Reaffirms the importance of technical cooperation among the countries of the region for the achievement of their economic and social development objectives, especially through the exchange of experiences in the design and implementation of policies relating to the principal areas of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, including the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, environmental sustainability, production and employment, scientific and technological development, tourism, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, gender, trade, investment and macroeconomic management;
3. Stresses the need to move towards fuller technical cooperation among developing countries and regions in promoting sustained economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, in that regard, underscores the importance of closely linking technical cooperation with economic cooperation among developing countries and regions;
4. Emphasizes the need to strengthen support for the activities of the Governments of the region aimed at enhancing and increasing the use of the mechanisms and modalities of technical cooperation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels in priority areas of public economic and social development policy;

5. Stresses the need to obtain more resources for development cooperation from developed countries and multilateral agencies;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the relevant mandates, to:

- (a) Intensify activities aimed at incorporating modalities of technical cooperation among developing countries into the various areas of the secretariat's programme of work, especially as it relates to the formulation and execution of technical cooperation projects financed with extrabudgetary funds provided by bilateral or multilateral donors;
- (b) Hold such consultations as may be appropriate in order to identify priority areas for technical cooperation among developing countries in all member countries;
- (c) Underscore the need for a new concept of cooperation that emphasizes the transfer of resources and the exchange of knowledge and experiences among Governments, public bodies and the private sector, including civil society;
- (d) Promote the selection of criteria so that per capita income is not the sole indicator to determine eligibility for obtaining international cooperation resources, and stress the need to include, in consultation with member States, new measurement criteria that take into account the great and increasing degree of inequity in the region;
- (e) Broaden the dissemination of information on technical cooperation projects and activities to national focal points for development cooperation, with special emphasis on the use of global information networks;
- (f) Strengthen the exchange of experiences and best practices of countries in the region and at the subregional level in technical cooperation projects, especially in the areas of social policies for increasing equity; improvement of urban management in the context of sustainable development; identification of successful strategies for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises within the framework of economic cooperation schemes in the region; trade, scientific and technological development, tourism, investment and macroeconomic management policies; and disaster prevention and mitigation;
- (g) Continue to strengthen the links between the ECLAC system and national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and regions in order to expand the use of information on successful practices identified in technical cooperation activities forming part of projects executed by the Commission at the regional and subregional levels, with special emphasis on training initiatives designed to help such focal points to take advantage of the opportunities offered by connection to global information networks;
- (h) Continue to provide assistance for activities in support of existing cooperation networks and systems in the region at the regional and subregional levels, especially through the reinforcement of instruments and systems for data collection and analysis, including the desegregation of data by sex, in those economic and social sectors which Governments consider to be of priority importance for their economic and social development objectives;
- (i) Continue to collaborate with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme in its efforts to

strengthen technical cooperation among countries in the region within the framework of the new directions adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and of the strategy for moving in those directions;

- (j) Express his regret to the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the decision taken to suspend its support for the meetings of directors of international technical cooperation;
- (k) Request the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme to arrange for the developed countries to provide more resources for horizontal cooperation activities, in accordance with the commitment assumed in the Buenos Aires Action Plan of 1978 and present this request, in consultation with the member States of the region, at the forthcoming round of negotiations on the programming of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (l) Continue to provide support to the mechanisms for coordination among agencies and organizations in the region engaged in conducting projects involving technical cooperation among developing countries with a view to facilitating inter-agency coordination in the execution of such projects;
- (m) Continue to collaborate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System in organizing joint activities designed to provide support to national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries, in accordance with their respective mandates, especially in connection with the annual meetings of national directors of international technical cooperation;
- (n) Collaborate with the Latin American Economic System in the implementation of a mechanism for the management, follow-up and assessment of projects relating to technical cooperation among developing countries;
- (o) Promote, within the framework of mechanisms for consultation with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, joint activities aimed at supporting technical and economic cooperation among countries in the various developing regions in coordination with the competent organizations of the United Nations system working in the fields in which such activities may have an impact;
- (p) Support the countries in the implementation of training programmes designed to enable the countries of the region to make greater and better use of global cooperation funds and programmes;
- (q) Promote efforts aimed at the establishment of a regional instrument for coordination as a permanent and sustainable modality for coordinating the development and implementation of activities geared toward: the sustainable development of the Caribbean countries within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other relevant international decisions.