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REPORT

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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,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, particularly section IV of the annex thereto, and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Also bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development,

Recalling that resolution 32/197, annex, section IV, asserts that the regional commissions should:

(a) Play their role as the main economic and social development centres for their respective regions,

(b) Exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level,

(c) Provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs,

(d) Be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the medium-term plan of the United Nations covering fields of interest to them,

(e) Participate actively in United Nations operational activities and function expeditiously as executing agencies for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects,

(f) Intensify their efforts to promote subregional, regional and interregional co-operation and expand existing arrangements for the exchange of information and experience as a means of promoting more effective interregional co-operation, and

(g) Rationalize their structures,

Considering that decentralization is a process in which due account should be taken of the operational activities, research and analysis which the secretariat of the Commission can carry out more efficiently on behalf of the States members of the Commission,

Recognizing that although the global bodies of the United Nations have the important role of providing general and over-all guidance and furnishing the required framework at this level, ECLA is perfectly equipped in matters of its competence to operate independently in adapting these global principles and policies and applying them to specific situations in the region,

1. Notes the progress made in transferring the management functions relating to subregional and regional projects from United Nations Headquarters to the secretariat of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to transfer the resources corresponding to those functions;
2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to take steps to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in matters relating to ECLA, in order to confer on the Commission full rights to act as executing agency for the categories of projects described in General Assembly resolution 32/197, annex, paragraph 23;
3. Also requests the Secretary-General to adopt suitable measures as soon as possible, particularly with reference to ECLA, to decentralize the appropriate research and analysis activities by transferring them from United Nations Headquarters to the secretariat of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, and to make available to the Commission adequate budgetary and financial resources, especially through redeployment, in order to strengthen the capability of the Commission;
4. Affirms that the secretariat of the Commission, being in constant and permanent contact with the Governments of the region at the working or other levels, is clearly in the best position to carry out effectively operational activities, research and analysis of a subregional and regional nature;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLA:
 - (a) To intensify his efforts to promote subregional, regional and interregional co-operation, with special attention to the activities to which the member Governments of the Commission have assigned priority, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74;
 - (b) To identify the activities which should be carried out by the Commission as a result of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197, annex, section IV;
 - (c) To consider ways of rationalizing the structure of the Commission to enable it to carry out effectively the duties indicated in General Assembly resolution 32/197, annex, section IV, and in Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74;
 - (d) To convene, in consultation with Governments, a special session of the Committee of the Whole with the aim of considering, in the light of the results of the decentralization of the operational, research and analytical activities, an appropriate structure for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and analysing alternative methods of strengthening the Commission financially.