

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

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

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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**UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile, 2000**

580(XXVIII)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEANThe Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

Bearing in mind the decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York City from 5 to 9 May 1997, particularly decision 10/1B on the review of the progress made in the implementation of the strategy of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Considering that insofar as technical cooperation in the field of statistics is concerned, ECLAC has been cooperating systematically to facilitate inter-agency coordination among developed countries, international organizations and national statistical offices in member countries that carry out technical cooperation projects,

Also bearing in mind that since 1994 the Organization of American States (OAS) has collaborated with ECLAC in the organization of the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters, on the one hand, and that, on the other, in its resolution No. 34 of 8 October 1998, the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) of the Organization of American States decided to put an end to the existence, within the Organization of American States, of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, whose Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CIE) was the counterpart to ECLAC in the Agreement on Cooperation in Statistical Matters concluded between the Organization of American States and ECLAC, and, moreover, that the Organization of American States has asked its member countries to bring the coordination of statistical matters into a single entity within the framework of ECLAC,

Taking into account that ECLAC has been including the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters in its programme of work and that, therefore, the technical, operational and financial implications of establishing a Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission can be dealt with by reallocating existing regular budgetary resources,

Considering also that by its resolution No. 34, CEPCIDI entrusted the representatives of the statistical offices of Canada, Mexico and Peru and the ECLAC secretariat with the task of preparing a proposal on the organization and operation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the content of which was improved and approved by consensus at the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas, held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 24 to 26 March 1999,

Recalling resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the intergovernmental structure and functions of ECLAC, in which it was recommended that the existing institutional structure of ECLAC should be maintained; resolution 553 (XXVI) on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC, in which it was

recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the ECLAC system should be continued; and resolution 573 (XXVII) on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions,

Having examined the proposal for the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which appears in the annex to this resolution,

Considering, finally, the nature and the objectives of the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,¹

1. Approves the proposal for the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, as set forth in the annex to this resolution, along with the observations and suggestions included in the report of the twenty-eighth session;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfillment of this resolution at the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC.

¹ Report of the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas (LC/L.1199 (Sem.88/10)).

Annex

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN****A. STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**1. Nature

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of ECLAC that will contribute to the progress of statistical policies and activities in the countries of the region.

2. Objectives

To promote the development and improvement of national statistics and their international comparability, bearing in mind the recommendations made by the United Nations Statistical Commission, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations.

To further international, regional, and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies.

To prepare a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities designed to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

3. Membership

The States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will participate in the Conference.

4. Meetings of the Conference

The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every other year. The Conference may accept an invitation from the Government of a member State to hold its regular meeting in that country.

5. Steering Committee

The Conference shall elect a Steering Committee in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference. The Steering Committee will be empowered to convene a special meeting in the interval between regular meetings.

6. Secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Conference. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents and facilities as have been approved by ECLAC.

B. STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Nature

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall establish a Steering Committee to provide support to the Conference, as set forth in paragraph 4 below.

2. Composition

The Steering Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and six members. Its members shall be elected from among the member countries of ECLAC. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are represented on the Committee.

3. Election of the Steering Committee and duration of mandates

At the beginning of each meeting of the Conference, the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, in consultation with the members of the Steering Committee and of the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Committee.

The newly elected Steering Committee shall take up its duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which it was elected and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

The members of the Steering Committee, including its Chairperson, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

The members of the Committee may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Chairperson may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term but may be elected as a member of the Committee. Any member that has served on the Committee for three successive terms may be elected again once two years have elapsed since the end of that member's last mandate.

4. Duties

The Steering Committee shall have the following duties:

- (a) To carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference;
- (b) To prepare, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities concerning statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting;

- (c) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements reached and the tasks assigned by the Conference, particularly with respect to the biennial programme of activities;
- (d) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings. As a general rule, no substantive discussion shall be initiated unless a suitable document has been made available. The secretariat shall be responsible for facilitating compliance with this rule.

5. Meetings

The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice during the interval between regular sessions of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the next session of the Conference, it shall approve a biennial programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted to it at its regular meeting.

The Committee may invite to its meetings any countries or experts that can make a contribution to the fulfillment of its duties.