

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

REPORT

(16 May 1981 - 6 April 1984)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1984

SUPPLEMENT No. 12



UNITED NATIONS

Santiago, Chile, 1984

462(XX) ECLA ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the importance which population settlement processes and the quality of the constructed environment have for the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and for the improvement of their inhabitants' quality of life,

Bearing in mind the efforts being made in the countries of the region to define human settlement policies and programmes which are integrated in national development plans and strategies,

Recognizing the need for still greater intensification of regional co-operation in order to provide support for the efforts being carried out by the countries in areas related to human settlements, with special emphasis on action at the local level and popular participation,

Recalling the resolutions adopted at various international meetings held within the framework of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, 1976), the Latin American Conference on Human Settlements (Mexico City, 1979), and the sessions of the Commission held at Guatemala City in 1977, at La Paz in 1979 and at Montevideo in 1981,

Taking note with satisfaction of the activities conducted by the ECLA Secretariat in the field of human settlements, as well as the measures taken to allocate more resources to the programme on that subject and to strengthen the links with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and with other co-operation bodies operating in the region,

Noting with concern the far-reaching effects of the international economic crisis on Latin America and the Caribbean and the limitations of all types to which the countries of the region are subjected, including the adjustment processes which many of them have been obliged to carry out in order to face up to the critical state of their economies,

Reaffirming in line with the Regional Programme of Action adopted at the nineteenth session of ECLA, the need to carry out thorough-going conceptual, institutional and structural changes in this field, if the human habitat is to reach the minimum levels required by the countries of the region in order to improve the quality of life of their population,

Taking note of the programme of work proposed by the ECLA system for execution in the period 1986-1987,

1. Recommends that matters related to human settlements should continue to be given high priority in the activities of ECLA;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary of ECLA to continue to make the necessary efforts to ensure that adequate attention is paid to the needs of the region with respect to human settlements, as well as to develop further the co-operation links with other intergovernmental bodies operating in the region, especially the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other appropriate international bodies;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to establish, within the framework of the ECLA programme of activities on human settlements, a regional programme of instruction and training in this field, seeking the co-operation of other co-operation bodies and of national training centres for this purpose;

4. Also requests the Executive Secretary to promote the necessary activities and to establish the appropriate inter-institutional contacts in order to promote national documentation systems as part of a unified regional documentation and classification system on human settlements, on the basis of the experience of the region;

5. Recommends that the Secretariat take the necessary measures to collect and exchange documentation on national human settlement policies, legislation on urban land, and existing finance systems, in order to co-operate with the physical and planning processes of the countries of the region;

6. Reiterates the importance of continuing to give high priority to Secretariat activities concerning human settlement technologies which are appropriate to the economic, social and environmental conditions of the countries of the region, while also promoting the exchange of experience and co-operation among the countries in this field;

7. Recommends that the ECLA Secretariat promote and attempt to sponsor, within existing budgetary resources, the holding in 1985 of a regional meeting of experts on human settlement policies, with special regard to the topics dealt with in paragraphs 5 and 6 above and to the subject of popular participation;

8. Reasserts ECLA's competence in the field of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean and the need, in this context, to expedite the full implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 32/162, concerning the decentralization of the resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to the regional economic commissions.

223rd meeting
6 April 1984