



Twenty-fourth session
Santiago, Chile, 8-15 April 1992

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The twenty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Santiago, Chile, from 8 to 15 April 1992. The member States, in a resolution adopted by acclamation at the twenty-third session (Caracas, Venezuela, May 1990), accepted the offer of the Government of Chile to host the twenty-fourth session of the Commission; the Economic and Social Council then approved this resolution in its decision 1990/278. The session is being held in accordance with the calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 1990-1992.*

This meeting is the most important of the biennium for the Commission. It takes on even more significance, both politically and economically when viewed against the background of the momentous changes that have recently taken place in the international environment, which represent great challenges to the region in terms of its interaction with the international economy.

For the first time in many years the economies of the region are beginning to show a better —if still fragile and uneven— performance. Thus it is hoped that the Governments of the member States will wish to exchange experiences and views in an effort to strengthen their own courses of action to promote development.

At the international level, the surprising recent changes have many implications for external economic relations, cooperation and the way in which each country of the region interacts with its international environment. These aspects will serve as the background for the debate.

The session also enables the Governments of the member States to learn about the work accomplished by ECLAC in the past two years and to define its future mandates.

The purpose of the present note is to make some suggestions to facilitate the consideration of the various items on the provisional agenda and to organize the distribution of time. If the Governments of the member States decide to accept them, they will form the basis for the deliberations. As is customary at ECLAC meetings, these suggestions on the organization of work, together with the provisional agenda, will be considered at a meeting of heads of delegations, which has been scheduled for 8 April, i.e., at the beginning of the twenty-fourth session. The secretariat will provide working and reference documents on the agenda items.**

* ECLAC resolution 509(XXIII).

** See "Documents presented at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission" (LC/G.1704 (SES.24/8)).

As on previous occasions, the meeting will be divided into two consecutive stages. During the first of these, which as a general rule is basically of a technical nature, work will be conducted in committees, which will meet from 8 to 11 April.

The second stage, which will take place in plenary sessions from 13 to 15 April, will consider the reports adopted by the committees that met during the technical stage. It should be noted that ministers of State or heads of delegation of equivalent rank usually participate in the second stage. Moreover, this stage begins with a solemn opening ceremony organized by the host country, and is usually presided over by the President of the Republic.

Committee I, to be established during the technical stage, will consider "Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean" (agenda item 3) and "Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (agenda item 4).

Committee II, also to be established during the technical stage, will consider the following items: "Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations" (agenda item 6); "Other activities of the secretariat of the ECLAC system since the twenty-third session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1994-1995" (agenda item 7); "Calendar of conferences for the period 1992-1994" (agenda item 8); and "Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the Commission (agenda item 9).

Agenda item 5, "Cooperation among developing countries and regions", will be considered in a sessional committee.

It should be noted that, pursuant to ECLAC resolution 489(PLEN.19), on intergovernmental structure and functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the sessional committees on water and on human settlements were abolished, and it was decided that these topics would henceforth be dealt with in the same way as other aspects of the Commission's work programme at each session.

The decisions and conclusions of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions will first be submitted to Committee II and subsequently to the plenary meetings, together with the reports of this Committee and of Committee II.

The annotations to the provisional agenda presented below contain additional background information on the various items, and suggestions for their discussion during the meeting. It might be useful to recall ECLAC resolution 419(PLEN.14), which states that, in order for the meeting to be a complete success, "government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered".

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - a) Conditioning factors in changing production patterns with social equity
 - i) Changes in the international environment since the last session
 - ii) Other conditioning factors
 - b) Complementarities between changing production patterns and social equity: an integrated approach
 - c) Technical progress and international competitiveness
 - d) Human resources, changing production patterns and social equity
4. Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
5. Cooperation among developing countries and regions
6. Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations
7. Other activities of the secretariat of the ECLAC system since the twenty-third session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1994-1995:
 - a) ECLAC
 - b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
 - c) Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
8. Calendar of conferences for the period 1992-1994
9. Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the Commission
10. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: the role and functions of ECLAC
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the Commission, at the commencement of each session, elects a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who hold office until their successors are elected. In conformity with the practice established at previous sessions of ECLAC, the Chairman is to be the head of the delegation of the host country. It should also be noted that rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited".

Generally speaking, the officers elected to preside over the debates during the technical stage continue in their functions during the ministerial stage, except that this latter stage is attended by the heads of delegation.

Should the committees proposed by the secretariat be established, they will be presided over by their own officers, i.e., a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

The composition of these groups of officers will be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 8 April 1992.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The representatives will have before them, for their consideration and approval, the provisional agenda (LC/G.1699(SES.24/1)), which has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the provisions of chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, and bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate within the framework of the aforementioned rules of procedure.

The agenda of the session, the organization of work and the establishment of committees will be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation of the Governments of member States.

3. Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean

Working documents

- Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach (LC/G.1701(SES.24/3))
- Education and Knowledge: Basic Pillars of Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity (LC/G.1702(SES.24/4))
- Report of the eighteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1705(CEG.18/3))

Reference documents

- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1989 (LC/G.1635-P)
- Estudio económico de América Latina y el Caribe, 1990 (LC/G.1676 and Add.1-P)
- Sustainable Development: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and the Environment (LC/G.1648/Rev.2-P)
- Economic Panorama of Latin America, 1991 (LC/G.1680 and LC/G.1680/Corr.1)
- Panorama social de América Latina. Edición 1991 (LC/G.1688)
- Nota sobre el desarrollo social en América Latina (LC/G.1665/Rev.1)
- La situación económica de América Latina: desempeño actual y perspectivas (LC/G.1692)
- La equidad en el panorama social de América Latina durante los años ochenta (LC/G.1686)

About two years ago, the ECLAC secretariat presented a proposal for the development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the 1990s under the title Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity.^{***} This proposal was submitted to the twenty-third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and was fully discussed.^{****} Precisely because it was part of an ongoing process of updating ideas, it was in no way considered a final product. Rather, it became the main frame of reference for the Commission's activities, including the secretariat's preparations for the twenty-fourth session. Thus, during the 1990-1991 biennium, the secretariat focused its attention on suggesting additional guidelines, some of which have become the basis for the discussion included in this agenda.

The linkages between technological progress, international competitiveness and social equity have now been explored more fully. Thus, in its 1990 proposal, the secretariat postulated that growth required a reasonable degree of social equity in order to be sustainable through time, while social equity could not be achieved without an economic expansion based on rising levels of productivity. Both objectives—growth and equity—entail the changing of production patterns through a systemic effort to apply technological progress to the production process, complemented by concrete actions to promote a more equitable distribution of the benefits of growing productivity than has been the traditional pattern in the region.

^{***} ECLAC, Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity. The Prime Task of Latin American and Caribbean Development in the 1990s (LC/G.1601-P), Santiago, Chile, 1990. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.II.G.6.

^{****} ECLAC, Biennial Report. Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 14 (LC/G.1630-P; E/1990/43), Santiago, Chile, May 1990, in particular resolution 507(XXIII) concerning changing production patterns, social equity and the International Development Strategy.

Although the literature on the subject lays great stress on the existing opposition between growth and equity, one of the key points of the proposal submitted by the secretariat to the twenty-fourth session, entitled Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach, is that complementarities are also involved in the design of policies for achieving both objectives. In fact, of the three major sets of policies explored in this document —higher employment based on growing levels of productivity, greater investment in human resources and increased transfers— the first two clearly meet both objectives. This is another way of trying to demonstrate that sustainable —and environmentally sustainable— development **can** be achieved with greater social equity and in a democratic context. Another salient aspect of the proposal is to assign functions to both economic and social policy in support of both growth and social equity. From this stems the integrated nature of the approach.

The secretariat has suggested that the debate on this central agenda item should be organized around four obviously interrelated modules.

a) Conditioning factors in changing production patterns with social equity

i) Changes in the international environment since the last session

The profound changes in the international situation, and their impacts on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, will be conditioning factors in changing production patterns with social equity. The surprising geopolitical changes and the growing globalization of the economy together introduce an element of uncertainty about the external environment, which will require the countries of the region to keep increasing their capacity to adapt. In any case, these changes have enormous implications that require responses —both individual and collective— from the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and new arrangements in the field of international cooperation.

The subjects explored encompass the new world trade system evolving from the Uruguay Round, the meaning of the trend towards the consolidation of regional and subregional spaces, new prospects for regional integration and various aspects related to external financing, including management of the external debt.

ii) Other conditioning factors

Two topics are considered in addition to externalities, together with the way in which they may be approached so as to mitigate their adverse effects. First, the document discusses stabilization policies, as a prerequisite to the task of beginning to change production patterns with social equity, on the basis of the innumerable lessons learned from the experiences of the 1980s. Second, the document explores the strengthening of public sector management capacity, especially in the area of public finances, since many of the proposals contained therein are related directly or indirectly with public-sector income and expenditure.

b) Complementarities between changing production patterns and social equity: an integrated approach

As noted above, one of the secretariat's main lines of reasoning is that it may be possible to reconcile growth with social equity and, moreover, that significant areas exist where policies designed

to meet the objective of equity and those aimed at growth might be mutually reinforcing. These complementarities are thus further explored, together with the economic and social policies needed to take advantage of them, in the quest for simultaneous progress in the achievement of both objectives in the context of an integrated approach.

Among the aspects considered, besides the employment dimension, are a number of economic and social policies which support the simultaneous fulfilment of the objectives of growth and social equity. These include policies to increase saving, investment and factor productivity; policies to enhance the efficiency and social impact of social security programmes and transfer policies; and policies to promote the participation of underprivileged groups in the processes involved in political consensus-building.

c) Technical progress and international competitiveness

In the basic document under discussion, a number of findings which further refine the proposal contained in Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity are presented in three areas: possible cause-and-effect relationships between technical progress and international competitiveness, the strengthening of the Latin American entrepreneurial base and the importance of information technologies in the production process. Recent trends in technical change and their strategic implications in the quest for a better position in the international economy will therefore be discussed. Also to be considered are the recent advances and future requirements in terms of strengthening the entrepreneurial base—as exemplified by the internationalization of leading firms and the contribution of small and medium-sized businesses—and technological infrastructure, including policies to stimulate the supply of and demand for technologies, and their reciprocity. Finally, production linkages will be analysed in a discussion of competitiveness and marketing chains, modernization of port services, information technology and telecommunications and policies to promote the international integration of agriculture.

d) Human resources, changing production patterns and social equity

The key role of human resources training will be further examined as the clearest illustration of the complementarities between growth-oriented policies based on diffusion and absorption of technical progress into the production process, on the one hand, and greater social equity on the other. To that end, a supplementary document has been prepared, entitled Education and Knowledge: Basic Pillars of Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity, which underlines the need to adapt education, training, research and technological development to the proposal for changing production patterns with social equity.

4. Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Working documents

- Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Note by the Secretariat (LC/G.1713(SES.24/14))

- Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development (LC/G.1712)

Reference document

- Sustainable Development: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and the Environment (LC/G.1648/Rev.2-P)

In compliance with the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228 and ECLAC resolution 516(XXIII), the Commission convened the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was hosted by the Government of Mexico. In connection with this meeting, the Meeting of Government Experts of Developing Countries Members of ECLAC was held from 1 to 6 March 1991. The discussion focused on changing production patterns, social equity and environmental sustainability in the region. In that context, ECLAC submitted the document entitled Sustainable Development: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and the Environment, which was welcomed with satisfaction by the participating delegations.

From 4 to 7 March, in conjunction with the above-mentioned meeting, the ministers and representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries members of ECLAC participating in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development adopted the document entitled "Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development", which sets forth the common position taken by these countries with regard to the main topics to be dealt with at the United Nations Conference.

The following activities carried out by ECLAC in preparation for the United Nations Conference should also be noted:

a) Active participation in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee. ECLAC, together with the other economic commissions, has underlined the need to strengthen regional responsibilities in tasks relating to the environment and development.

b) Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental regional organizations in preparing documents on the environment and development, such as the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean and Our Own Agenda.

c) Advisory assistance to the member countries, where requested, in the preparation of country reports on the environment and development.

5. Cooperation among developing countries and regions

Working documents

- Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support technical cooperation among developing countries and regions. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.1711(SES.24/13))

- Document on proposals for cooperation between the Caribbean countries and the rest of the region, prepared by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain

The secretariat has prepared a document for consideration by delegations attending the twenty-fourth session of the Commission containing a detailed report on the various activities of the ECLAC system (including ILPES and CELADE) during the 1990-1991 biennium to promote and support technical cooperation among developing countries and regions (TCDC). The document will be considered in the sessional committee entrusted with addressing this topic by mandate from the member countries. The Note reviews the achievements of ECLAC in the field of TCDC, in terms of activities and projects forming part of its work programme, and of coordination with other bodies in support of TCDC at the regional level.

The activities report contained in the Note is primarily organized on the basis of the TCDC elements being directly incorporated into the various specific technical cooperation projects being carried out by ECLAC with extrabudgetary funds. The information is presented in accordance with the format used by the United Nations system, the guidelines adopted by the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. A distinction is drawn between activities designed to identify TCDC opportunities and those intended to support the exchange of experiences among governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions in the countries of the region, including the strengthening of institutional TCDC capacities and the systematization of information on technical cooperation. In addition, information is provided on the progress of TCDC regional coordination activities, and joint interregional cooperation initiatives with other regional commissions.

The sessional committee will also consider aspects relating to the strengthening of economic cooperation between the Caribbean countries and the other countries of the region, pursuant to ECLAC resolution 506(XXIII), adopted at the twenty-third session. The secretariat will report on activities intended to reinforce coordination and cooperation among the various subregional headquarters, and between the latter and ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in the promotion of technical cooperation. A report will also be given on relevant activities carried out in support of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and coordination efforts with relevant regional bodies and organizations.

6. Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations

Working documents

- Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1617(CEG.17/4))
- Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1705(CEG.18/3))
- Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) (LC/G.1703)

- Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.565(MDM.10/8))
- Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.605(MDM.11/9))
- Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.620(MDM.12/4))
- Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.670(MDM.13/2))
- Report of the Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1684(CRM.5/6))
- Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Planning Council of ILPES
- Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Planning Council of ILPES

Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)

The seventeenth session of CEGAN took place in La Paz, Bolivia, from 5 to 7 March 1990.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the changing of production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean, as the prime task of the region in the 1990s and the most important agenda item at the twenty-third session of the Commission, held in Caracas from 3 to 11 May 1990. Another important item was the formulation of some considerations on the structure of the new International Development Strategy (IDS).

The secretariat submitted two documents to the Committee, entitled "Changing production patterns with social equity: The prime task of Latin American and Caribbean development in the 1990s" (LC/L.548) and "The International Development Strategy: Some considerations from the standpoint of Latin America and the Caribbean" (LC/L.535(CEG.17/3)).

The participating delegations felt that the two documents represented a valuable contribution to the debate on the topics in question, and that the twenty-third session was an appropriate forum in which to carry out a thorough analysis of these topics.

Upon completion of the debate on the agenda items, the delegations prepared a summary of the two principal items —changing production patterns with social equity and the International Development

Strategy— to provide a frame of reference for the delegations of the developing countries members of ECLAC planning to attend the twenty-third session of the Commission.

The secretariat received valuable suggestions from the debate which would contribute to the organization of the debates at the Caracas session.

The conclusions of the meeting are contained in its report (LC/G.1617(CEG.17/4)).

At the writing of this annotated agenda, preparations were being made to hold the eighteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) in San José, Costa Rica, from 3 to 6 March 1992.

This will be a preparatory meeting for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and will offer the countries of the region an opportunity to share their views and positions on the main aspects of economic and social development. In view of the preparatory nature of the session, the principal item of debate coincides with that of the Commission's twenty-fourth session, "Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

The thirteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 22 to 25 July 1991.

The technical stage was held from 22 to 23 July 1991 and the ministerial stage from 24 to 25 July 1991.

The agenda included the admission of Puerto Rico as an associate member of CDCC; 1990-1991 work programme review; update on developments relating to island developing countries; action taken on CDCC resolutions and review of resolutions of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies which may have implications for CDCC; possible implications for CDCC of global and regional economic developments; and report of the meeting of representatives of United Nations organizations to discuss collaboration among United Nations organizations operating in the Caribbean.

The main conclusions of CDCC are reflected in its resolutions on support for continuation of the ECLAC/CELADE Demography Unit (32(XIII)) and the activities of the Working Group on Access of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to the United Nations System (33(XIII)). Resolutions were also adopted on multilateral trade negotiations (34(XIII)), Caribbean/Latin American cooperation (35(XIII)) and participation in the work of the Monitoring Committee (36(XIII)).

The Committee also adopted resolution 31(XIII)), by which it approved the admission of Puerto Rico as an associate member of CDCC.

CDCC also decided to reduce the size of the quorum for its meetings from two thirds to a simple majority of its members.

All these resolutions are contained in part IV of the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/G.1703).

CDCC also adopted a list of decisions and recommendations for incorporation into the proposed CDCC work programme.

Tenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Tenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 28 and 29 May 1990 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. All members (Argentina, Cuba, Guatemala, Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela) participated, and representatives of Chile and the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW/OAS) attended as observers. Delegations from other ECLAC divisions and bodies and representatives of United Nations agencies having offices in Santiago were also present.

The substantive and operational activities carried out during this period were discussed. Delegations underlined the need, on the one hand, to link the ECLAC agenda on women with the proposal for changing existing production patterns with social equity and, on the other, to continue studying topics relating to education, culture, gender relations, information and statistics, and the situation of women in specific groups, such as young women, migrant women and women working in the informal sector. It was also deemed necessary to organize comprehensive regional projects to generate fresh resources for improving the living conditions of the women of the region in a context of collaboration between countries and the ECLAC secretariat.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on 19 and 20 November in Cuba. The representatives thanked the Netherlands Antilles for offering to serve as host country for the Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean in September 1991 in Curaçao.

Eleventh Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Presiding Officers elected at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean held their eleventh meeting on 19 and 20 November 1990 in Varadero, Cuba. All the Presiding Officers attended.

The purposes of the meeting were to consider the activities carried out in the region from 1 May to 31 October 1990; to determine the agenda of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean and to evaluate preparations for that session; to examine the prospects for regional projects; and to discuss the overall future work programme.

The Presiding Officers were in agreement that the basic framework for the Regional Conference was contained in the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, and that the gender dimension should be incorporated into that proposal. They also recommended that the position paper should focus primarily on that issue.

Twelfth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Twelfth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 7 and 8 May 1991. During this working meeting, the Officers considered the draft position paper being prepared by the secretariat for the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean; they discussed the preparations for the session, decided on its provisional agenda and made recommendations for the session, including some suggestions on the functions of the Presiding Officers and the elaboration of a new regional action plan for the integration of women.

Thirteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, on 14 September 1991. The Presiding Officers reviewed the activities carried out from 1 May to 31 July 1991 by both the secretariat and the Presiding Officers and considered the agenda, documentation and operational aspects of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Curaçao from 16 to 19 September 1991, having been convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in accordance with ECLAC resolution 495(XXII).

Representatives of the following States members of the Commission were present: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, United States of America and Venezuela. Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles and Puerto Rico, associate members of ECLAC, also participated.

The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

Chairman:	Netherlands Antilles
Vice-Chairmen:	Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Venezuela
Rapporteur:	Argentina

The Conference evaluated the region's progress with regard to the integration of women, considered the new ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity and made

preparations for the sixth session of the Regional Conference. Argentina's offer to host that session, in 1994 was accepted.

The Conference concluded that it was urgent to continue strengthening the study of women's affairs in the region and to support country activities aimed at improving their situation. These objectives should also take into account the specific features of the subregions, especially the Caribbean subregion.

In order to promote the implementation of these conclusions, the Conference adopted five resolutions on the following topics: a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean; women and human resources; women and politics; women and violence; and cooperation, collaboration and networking.

It was decided that the fourteenth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference would be held in May 1992 in Curaçao, at the request of the Chairman.

Thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES

Two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning, the intergovernmental governing body of ILPES, were held during the period. At the Thirteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers (Santiago, Chile, 5 and 6 November 1990) the activities report for 1990 was unanimously adopted and new work guidelines were developed, incorporating suggestions and approaches related to integration programmes and projects, government reforms, project banks, macroeconomic programming and advance economic indicators, and strengthening of regional cooperation, including relations with non-governmental organizations.

At the Fourteenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers (Montevideo, Uruguay, June 1991), the activities report for 1991 and work programme for 1992 were unanimously adopted.

It is worthy of note that the member Governments expressed support at both meetings for the strengthening of the Institute's financial bases.

7. Other activities of the ECLAC system since the twenty-third session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1993-1995

Working documents

- Report of activities of the Commission since May 1990 (LC/G.1706(SES.24/5))
- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1994-1995 (LC/G.1707(SES.24/6))
- Report on the implementation of ECLAC programmes for the biennium 1990-1991. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.1708(SES.24/11))

Reference document

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1992-1993 (LC/G.1600(SES.23/8))

The secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work (LC/G.1707(SES.24/6)) to enable the Governments of member States to consider the work to be carried out by the ECLAC system during the biennium 1994-1995. This work programme may be modified on the basis of any new priorities that may be established during the present session.

8. Calendar of conferences for the period 1992-1994Working document

- Proposed calendar of conferences for the period 1992-1994. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.1709(SES.24/7))

As stated in the operative part of resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC at its fourteenth session in November 1980, the focal points around which the meetings of the Commission are organized are the biennial sessions and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, which are held in years when the Commission does not meet. In the resolution in question, it was also decided that the sessions should be held in even-numbered years so as to coincide with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the United Nations General Assembly. It was also agreed that at each of the Commission's sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next ordinary session should be considered, stipulating where possible the date, duration and location of each meeting.

In fulfilment of this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table (annex 5 of document LC/G.1709(SES.24/7)) which lists the meetings programmed for the period 1992-1994, in accordance with the mandates adopted by the governments concerning meetings of ECLAC and of its auxiliary bodies.

9. Some recent resolutions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the CommissionWorking document

- Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the Commission (LC/G.1710(SES.24/12))

The forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which met from 17 September to 20 December 1991, adopted various resolutions and decisions which are of particular interest to the Commission. The secretariat has therefore considered it appropriate to bring them to the attention of member States at this twenty-fourth session of ECLAC.

10. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: the role and functions of ECLAC

Working document

- Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: the role and functions of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.1716(SES.24/18))

The secretariat has prepared this Note to inform the representatives concerning the background and resolutions relating to the current reform exercise, whose objective is to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations in order to improve the efficiency of the Organization.

In particular, the Note describes the programme-related activities and structures of ECLAC and how they fit into the framework of the United Nations system, and presents a number of conclusions and recommendations relating to the strengthening of the role and functions of ECLAC in the context of this restructuring.

11. Other business

This agenda item covers any other topics which the Governments may deem it appropriate to discuss.

12. Adoption of the report

