

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

BIENNIAL REPORT
(16 April 1992 – 27 April 1994)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile, 1994

548(XXV) HEALTH, SOCIAL EQUITY AND CHANGING PRODUCTION PATTERNS

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking into account resolution 507(XXIII), adopted by the Commission at its twenty-third session, in which the Executive Secretary of the Commission is requested to enrich and further develop the premises contained in the proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, as well as resolution 521(XXIV), which emphasizes the importance of human resources in the context of that proposal,

Considering that social investment in health is becoming increasingly important, as are investments in education, vocational training and child nutrition, as demonstrated by current reforms of health care systems and by the efforts being made to target resources and to evaluate the impact of actions in this field,

Recognizing the usefulness of exploring the links between health and development in the region's current circumstances and in view of the challenges it faces, and especially the ways in which investment in health can help to strengthen international competitiveness,

1. Welcomes the document prepared jointly by the ECLAC secretariat and the Pan American Health Organization, entitled "Health, social equity and changing production patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean",¹ which constitutes a valuable input for health promotion policies by demonstrating that progress towards the achievement of social equity can be made within a short time;

2. Expresses its satisfaction that the Pan American Health Organization and the ECLAC secretariat have pooled their efforts to produce a joint, interdisciplinary study;

3. Instructs the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in view of the relevance and timeliness of this proposal to Governments, to ensure that the document containing it is submitted to an ad hoc meeting of Ministers of Economic Affairs and Ministers of Health organized jointly by the secretariat and the Pan American Health Organization, which could take place on the occasion of the twenty-fourth Pan American Sanitary Conference, to be held at Washington, D.C., in September 1994;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Director of the Pan American Health Organization to ensure that the final version of the document in question is widely disseminated and to promote its discussion in various forums and bodies, both within and outside the region, in order to continue to enrich it and further develop its premises in the future.

¹ LC/G.1813(SES.25/18).