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**ACTIVITIES OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION DURING THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the Committee on South-South Cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the occasion of the thirty-third session of ECLAC (Brasilia, June 2010). Its aim, as in every session since 1979, is to inform the Committee of the activities conducted by the ECLAC secretariat to promote and support South-South cooperation in the previous biennium.

Throughout 2008 and 2009 there was a lively global debate on South-South cooperation, which culminated in the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Nairobi, December 2009).¹ The Conference resulted in an outcome document, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2009, paragraph 18 of which contains a jointly agreed definition of what South-South cooperation is, and what it is not.²

“We reaffirm that South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity, and guided by, inter alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionalities. South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance. It is a partnership among equals based on solidarity. In that regard, we acknowledge the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities. We also recognize that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner.”³

The outcome document also discusses the role of United Nations regional commissions. Paragraph 10 explicitly includes regional commissions when it reaffirms the key role of the United Nations system in supporting and promoting cooperation among developing countries. Paragraph 21, section (d), calls upon United Nations regional commissions to “play a catalytic role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and in strengthening their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions”. Paragraph 21, section (e), defines a more active role for regional commissions by requesting them to help strengthen centres of excellence for South-South cooperation.

¹ Resolution 642(XXXII) of the thirty-second session of ECLAC (Santo Domingo, June 2008) requested the secretariat, in collaboration with other regional institutions, to support preparatory activities for the High-level Conference on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in particular the envisaged regional preparatory consultation. In the end, it was not possible to arrange the regional meeting owing to lack of time, as the General Assembly of the international conference to be held on 2 December 2009 convened the meeting on 6 October 2009, less than two months ahead of the conference.

² General Assembly resolution 64/222.

³ Report of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/Conf.215/2).

The report of the Secretary-General prepared for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation⁴ analyses in more detail the distinction between the different roles that regional commissions could play in promoting South-South cooperation, including catalytic and policy-setting roles. The report states that the United Nations must fulfil three core functions in support of South-South cooperation, acting as catalyst, broker and facilitator. The report of the Secretary-General groups activities into three categories: catalytic role, policy efforts and programming efforts. It further subdivides the latter two categories into different types of activity. In this report, the same classification is used to present ECLAC activities in support of South-South cooperation.

The report of the Secretary-General concludes that the work of the United Nations should focus primarily on national capacity development in priority areas by facilitating knowledge-sharing both among and within developing regions. It also recommends that the United Nations system should support South-South and triangular cooperation primarily from the regional perspective by promoting subregional and regional integration processes. The ultimate aim is to enable the United Nations system to support national capacity development schemes for building subregional and regional neighbourhoods in the South.

The eighteenth session of ECLAC (La Paz, April 1979) adopted resolution 387(XVIII) relating to cooperation among developing countries and regions in different geographical areas. The resolution states that “the question of cooperation among developing countries and regions should be examined at each session of the Commission by a sessional committee, following consultation with Governments, in order to examine the intraregional and interregional cooperation activities carried out by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to formulating appropriate support measures to promote such cooperation”.

Since that time the Committee has met at every session, focusing its efforts on reviewing the activities of the ECLAC system in support of South-South cooperation. On every occasion it has stressed the importance of this cooperation, has urged member States to adopt measures to strengthen it, and has requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations agencies, as well as with regional and subregional institutions, to mainstream South-South cooperation into its activities.

The thirtieth session of ECLAC (San Juan, June 2004) adopted resolution 611(XXX), changing the name of the ‘Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions’ to that of ‘Committee on South-South Cooperation’, in accordance with the new criteria adopted by the General Assembly, with no change in the Committee’s mandate or in the scope of its activities.

This report presents the contribution of ECLAC to South-South cooperation, in its capacity as an intergovernmental body and secretariat. It also documents the way in which South-South cooperation has contributed to achieving ECLAC objectives. The report presents it as an interactive relationship: ECLAC contributes to South-South and triangular cooperation while using cooperation as a means or method for supporting the countries of the region.

As is customary, this report begins by presenting information on the implementation of the ECLAC programme of technical cooperation, with particular reference to cooperation financed from trust funds received by ECLAC for cooperation projects. Section two presents a few examples and achievements of the projects most akin to South-South cooperation. As mentioned earlier, this report

⁴ Promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective. Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/504), 27 October 2009.

presents ECLAC contributions to South-South cooperation based on the classification in the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

II. ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN 2008-2009: IMPLEMENTATION AND SOURCES OF FINANCING

This report maintains that ECLAC promotes and supports South-South and triangular cooperation in much of its work. This applies to both the ECLAC regular programme of work, financed with resources allocated by the General Assembly, and its technical cooperation programme, which includes projects funded with additional resources that the secretariat receives and administers as trust funds for specific and predetermined purposes. As stated in the previous report,⁵ ECLAC technical cooperation complements and reinforces the analytical and policy-setting work of its regular programme of work. It would be somewhat artificial or arbitrary to attempt to distinguish activities in support of South-South cooperation from other activities, as virtually all ECLAC work financed from regular and non-recurring resources supports and promotes South-South and triangular cooperation to some degree.

In the 2008-2009 biennium, total expenditure on the technical cooperation programme amounted to US\$ 34.5 million, representing a nominal increase of 18% over the previous biennium. The funding came from a variety of sources. One-fifth (21%) was allocated by the General Assembly, through the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account; a further one-fifth was provided by various United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP). A total of 12% was received from multilateral agencies external to the United Nations system. As a whole, multilateral sources contributed a little more than half the total. The other half came from bilateral sources: almost 30% from cooperation agencies in developed countries and 15% from Latin American and Caribbean Governments. Private sources, that is to say, non-governmental and academic organizations, contributed 5%. Table 1 shows an overview of sources of financing for the ECLAC technical cooperation programme in the 2008-2009 biennium.

Table 1
**SOURCES OF FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROGRAMME IN THE 2006-2007 AND 2008-2009 BIENNIUMS**

Source of financing	Millions of United States dollars		Percentages	
	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009
United Nations	11.0	13.3	38	39
Other multilateral agencies	5.9	4.3	20	12
Bilateral donors	12.5	16.9	43	49
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	4.7	5.2	16	15
Governments of other countries	5.5	10.0	19	29
Non-governmental organizations	2.3	1.7	8	5
Total expenditure	29.3	34.5	100	100

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

⁵ Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the 2006-2007 biennium (LC/G.2371(SES. 32/7)).

A. MULTILATERAL SOURCES

Multilateral sources pertain chiefly to various funding sources within the United Nations system, from the ECLAC secretariat and from other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

In the 2008-2009 biennium, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) funded cooperation activities to the tune of US\$ 2.0 million (5.8% of the total). ECLAC also has at its disposal resources generated by course tuition fees and software user fees. Out of these funds, US\$ 0.5 million (1.4% of the total) was used to finance cooperation activities (see 'various contributions' in table 2).

Table 2
**EXPENDITURE ON COOPERATION FINANCED BY MULTILATERAL SOURCES,
 2006-2007 AND 2008-2009**

Source of financing	Millions of United States dollars		Percentages	
	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009
ECLAC system	2.9	2.5	10.0	7.2
Voluntary contributions to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)	2.5	2.0	9.0	5.8
Various contributions	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.4
Other sources within the United Nations system	8.2	10.8	28.0	31.3
Regular programme of technical cooperation	5.0	5.6	17.0	16.2
Regular programme on population and development	1.1	1.7	4.0	4.9
Development Account	1.3	2.5	4.0	7.2
Agreements with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes	0.8	1.0	3.0	2.9
Other multilateral sources	5.8	4.3	20.0	12.5
European Commission	4.0	3.0	14.0	8.7
Inter-American Development Bank	0.8	0.1	3.0	0.3
Ibero-American Secretariat	0.6	0.5	2.0	1.4
Other multilateral agencies	0.4	0.7	1.0	2.0
Total from multilateral sources	16.9	17.6	58.0	51.0
Total expenditure on cooperation	29.3	34.5	100.0	100.0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In the 2008-2009 biennium, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributed US\$ 5.6 million. In addition, ECLAC obtained US\$ 2.5 million from the Development Account, a budget apportioned by the General Assembly to finance technical cooperation projects and administered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), often in cooperation with other regional commissions. These projects provide the best examples of interregional South-South cooperation within the ECLAC technical cooperation programme. The Development Account share of total financing for ECLAC technical cooperation activities has increased significantly. In 2008-2009, the Development Account financed more than 7% of total cooperation expenditure.

ECLAC maintains very close cooperation ties with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and has undertaken to carry out parts of the regular programme on population and development

amounting to US\$ 1.7 million in 2008-2009. In the 2008-2009 biennium, specific cooperation agreements with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), accounted for US\$ 1 million in expenditure. As a whole, nearly 40% of cooperation for development activities carried out by ECLAC was financed from different sources within the United Nations system.

Activities financed from multilateral sources external to the United Nations system amounted to US\$ 4.3 million (12.5% of the total). Of particular note is the support provided by the European Commission (see table 2), for example, for the Alliance for the Information Society (@LIS), and supplementary funding for studies of the economic impact of climate change, as part of the preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15) in Copenhagen.

During the 2008-2009 biennium, there was continued close collaboration with the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), providing support in the preparation of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. In both the San Salvador Summit (2008) and the Estoril Summit (2009), SEGIB and its member countries relied on ECLAC for the preparation of technical documentation. The Ibero-American organization has also boosted collaboration among its members, all of which also belong to ECLAC and most of which are countries of the South.

B. BILATERAL SOURCES

Table 3 shows that expenditure financed with bilateral contributions from countries in the region amounted to US\$ 5.2 million (15.1% of the total) in the 2008-2009 biennium. ECLAC provides a varied technical cooperation programme to Argentina, mainly through its office in Buenos Aires, financed by no fewer than nine government entities and four non-governmental organizations in Argentina. The ECLAC office in Brasilia follows a similar pattern and, with funding from the Brazilian Government, it lends special support to the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA). The same is true of the ECLAC offices in Bogotá and Montevideo, and those in Chile and Mexico, where cooperation is provided to different government agencies and academic institutions with funding from the respective Governments. Other countries, such as the Dominican Republic, have requested ECLAC to conduct major technical cooperation projects and provide funding for implementing them. All the activities financed on a bilateral basis with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with other activities that receive funding from non-governmental sources in countries of the region, benefit the donor countries themselves.

If bilateral funding is added to the ILPES contribution to cooperation, the total contribution of Latin American and Caribbean Governments is approximately US\$ 7 million (21% of the total).

Table 3
**EXPENDITURE ON COOPERATION FINANCED BY BILATERAL SOURCES,
 2006-2007 AND 2008-2009**

Source of financing	Millions of United States dollars		Percentages	
	2006-2007	2008-2009	2006-2007	2008-2009
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	4.7	5.2	16.0	15.1
Governments of other countries	5.5	10.0	18.9	29.1
Germany	2.6	2.3	8.9	6.7
Canada	1.2	1.7	4.1	4.9
Denmark	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.4
Spain	0.3	1.9	1.0	5.5
United States	0.04	0.1	0.1	0.3
France	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3
Italy	0.6	0.6	2.0	1.7
Japan	0.05	0.03	0.2	0.1
United Kingdom	0.04	1.3	0.1	3.8
Republic of Korea	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.9
Sweden	0.4	1.2	1.4	3.5
Non-governmental organizations	2.3	1.7	8.2	4.9
Kellogg Foundation	1.6	1.2	5.5	3.5
Fundación Telefónica		0.1	0.0	0.3
Other	0.8	0.4	2.7	1.2
Total from bilateral sources	12.5	16.9	43.1	49.1
Total expenditure on cooperation	29.3	34.5	100	100

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Financing for technical cooperation in the form of trust funds received bilaterally by ECLAC from Governments of other countries amounted to US\$ 9.9 million (29.7% of the total) in the 2008-2009 biennium. It is this source that has increased the most in absolute terms over the previous biennium. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) maintains a multi-year, multisectoral programme with ECLAC that covers a broad range of priority issues for the region, in which German cooperation has comparative advantages. The same applies to the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID). The Canadian Government's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) supports several major projects relating to the information society and other important issues.

In many cases, the contribution of donor countries from outside the region resembles triangular cooperation, in the sense that projects funded by third countries employ experts from Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out cooperation activities in countries of the same region. This applies to IDRC projects and most of the components of programmes financed by GTZ of Germany, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and AECID of Spain. In specific cases, such as the collaboration referred to above with France, Japan and the Republic of Korea, projects are based more on traditional cooperation ties, using the specialist knowledge of donor countries for the benefit of countries of the South.

The private sector (foundations, universities, private associations) financed US\$ 1.7 million (4.9%) of total expenditure for the biennium, as table 3 shows. The principal donor was the Kellogg Foundation, which contributed US\$ 1.1 million (3.3% of the total), mainly through the contest 'Experiences in social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean' organized by ECLAC since 2004. The aim of the contest is to identify, analyse, recognize and disseminate innovative experiences in areas such as community health, primary education, youth programmes, income generation, rural/agricultural development, food security and nutrition, social responsibility and volunteerism. Fundación Telefónica (Telefónica Foundation) maintains cooperation ties with ECLAC in the sphere of the information society. Certain associations and sectoral groupings have shown keen interest in receiving ECLAC technical assistance on specific issues, as exemplified by the agreements with the Argentine Beef Promotion Board (IPCVA) or with the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute, for analysing medium- and long-term consumption projections. Traditional ECLAC collaboration with universities and research institutes from both within and outside the region accounted for 1.2% of total expenditure in 2008-2009.

III. MAJOR RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

This section lists the main results and achievements of ECLAC in support of South-South cooperation. As mentioned earlier, it is based on the classification in the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

A. CATALYTIC ROLE

The catalytic role of the United Nations refers to creating or improving conditions to enable countries to intensify cooperation among themselves. ECLAC has contributed to cooperation among countries of the region since its inception, generating information, analysis and new knowledge that have helped to design and implement a development strategy specifically for the region. One of the most important projects to be promoted by ECLAC in the early 1970s was the Latin American Common Market, which, though unsuccessful, led to the creation of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

In a global and regional context starkly different from that of the mid-twentieth century, with far more intensive trading among countries of the South supported by greater interconnection in every sphere, in these early years of the twenty-first century ECLAC is still a catalyst for cooperation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as between them and other developing countries in the world.

Apart from organizing the sessions and meetings of intergovernmental bodies in the ECLAC system (see table 4), the secretariat supported several high-level meetings in the region and used its databases and analytical capability to prepare documentation and analyses that contributed to the success of these meetings. Information is provided below on some of the most important meetings held in the region in the biennium, reflecting the contribution and catalytic role of ECLAC in Latin America and the Caribbean and in relation with other developing regions.

Table 4
MEETINGS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN THE ECLAC SYSTEM, 2008-2009

	Number of countries represented	Number of participants
Thirty-second session of ECLAC, Santo Domingo, June 2008 ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, Santo Domingo, June 2008 Committee on South-South Cooperation, Santo Domingo, June 2008	37	325
Twenty-second session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Port of Spain, April 2008	12	57
Fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Bogotá, August 2009	21	96
Eighth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Santo Domingo, October 2008	21	62
Forty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogotá, April 2008	21	101
Forty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, December 2008	15	64
Forty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Port of Spain, July 2009	22	90
Twenty-fifth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, New York, February 2009	43	82
Fourteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Port of Spain, September 2009	9	33

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

1. Collaboration with the Rio Group

ECLAC has worked intensively with the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group) on a number of decisive meetings. This is described in the report of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁶ in its capacity as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group. The Rio Group and ECLAC organized a meeting in New York in May 2009 to discuss the stance of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. The meeting stressed the need for the Rio Group and all developing countries to adopt a unified approach to the core elements of the future global development architecture.

In its declaration on the global financial crisis, in which it also addressed the region's joint position on financing for development, the Rio Group reiterated its "appreciation for the substantive contributions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and requested to continue providing its capabilities and experience in support to the agenda of finance for development and the concomitant configuration of a new international financial architecture".⁷

⁶ See [online] <http://www.sre.gob.mx/grio-sptmexico/>.

⁷ See [online] http://portal2.sre.gob.mx/gruporio/images/STORIES/Pronunciamientos/Crisis_Doha_ing.pdf.

2. Support for the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development

The foreign ministers of the Rio Group, meeting in Montego Bay in November 2009 alongside the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC), proposed new mechanisms for boosting integration between the two regions. They based their proposal on documents drafted by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and ECLAC.⁸

For the first time in history, in December 2008 the Latin American and Caribbean countries held their own meeting as a group in Costa do Sauípe (Brazil), entitled ‘Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC)’, attended by the Heads of State and Government of all 33 countries of the region.⁹ In their ‘Salvador Declaration’ they emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and decided to collaborate closely, at finance-minister level, to seek collective positions and solutions to the global financial crisis. In compliance with this mandate, in June 2009 ECLAC and Chile’s Ministry of Finance held the first follow-up meeting of finance ministry experts to the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development.



The reactions of the Governments of the Americas to the international crisis:
an overview of policy measures
up to 31 March 2009

Fifth Summit of the Americas
Port of Spain, 17 to 19 April 2009



Furthermore, the ECLAC document *The reactions of the Governments of the Americas to the international crisis: an overview of the policy measures up to 31 March 2009* was updated half a dozen times to provide finance ministers and other authorities attending various meetings throughout 2009 with the very latest information in a form that allowed for comparison among all countries in the region.

⁸ See [online] http://www.mre.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2781:cumbre-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-trabaja-agenda-presidencial-&catid=119:11-2009-xxviii-reunion-de-cancilleres-del-g-rio&Itemid=253.

⁹ See [online] http://www.mre.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2239&Itemid=1316.

3. Support for the China-Latin America Business Summit

The catalytic role of ECLAC in the sphere of South-South cooperation does not stop at supporting government meetings: ECLAC has also provided statistical and analytical information to business meetings. For instance, on behalf of the Government of China, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), together with the Heilongjiang province authorities and Harbin city council, sponsored the second China-Latin America Business Summit held in October 2008. ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank promoted Latin America's participation. One thousand entrepreneurs and officials from 24 countries participated in the event and concluded 414 letters of intent on cooperation, including business, investment and other plans.¹⁰ At the request of CCPIT, ECLAC drafted the document *Economic and Trade Relations between Latin America and Asia-Pacific. The Link with China* (October 2008). The first China-Latin America Business Summit was held in Santiago, Chile, in 2007 and the third in November 2009 in Bogotá, attended by more than 700 entrepreneurs, with the now-customary support of ECLAC.

B. POLICY EFFORTS

The policy-setting role of the United Nations refers to promoting a shared idea of 'how the world ought to be' and how this can be achieved: by raising awareness and providing advice and guidance on what does, and what does not, contribute to achieving this ideal. ECLAC performs this policy-setting role in connection with the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC has helped to build the vision of the region's future in the collective imagination with the aid of its development model, which, as mentioned earlier in reference to the catalytic role, has been instrumental in strengthening cooperation ties among the countries of the region.

The report of the Secretary-General prepared for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation subdivides the general policy-setting role of the United Nations in South-South cooperation into a number of different responsibilities. This section reviews ECLAC results and achievements in relation to each of these responsibilities.

1. Convening role

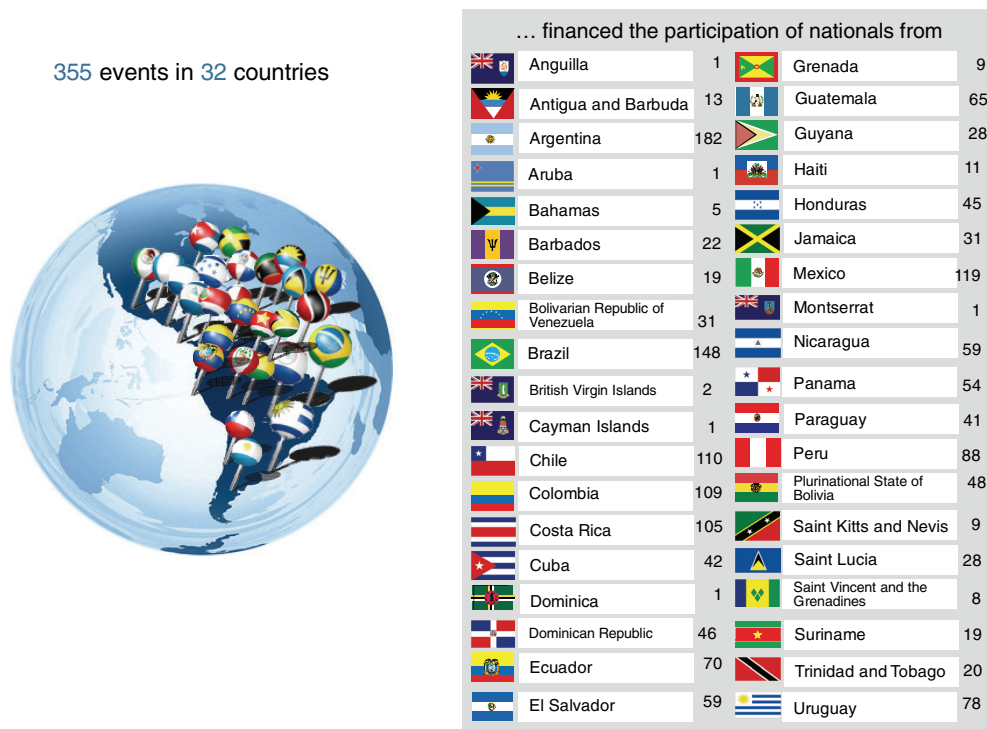
Table 4 contains basic information on official meetings of intergovernmental bodies in the ECLAC system. In many cases, the priorities of the Commission's subsidiary bodies include support for South-South cooperation, within their particular geographic area or scope of activities. In particular, the primary objective of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is to "promote and strengthen economic and social cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and to promote cooperation between them and the countries and integration processes of Latin America and the Caribbean".¹¹ One of the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA/ECLAC) is to "promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies". Both bodies have held their ordinary meetings for the 2008-2009 biennium and promoted the activities described below.

¹⁰ See [online] <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/6523245.html>.

¹¹ ECLAC, Revised Text, Constituent Declaration and Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) (LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1, 2005).

ECLAC also convenes ad hoc high-level meetings of government experts and of experts in general, as well as workshops and conferences. As map 1 shows, in the 2008-2009 biennium ECLAC organized or co-organized 355 events in 32 countries both internal and external to the region. Nearly 2,000 people of 65 different nationalities attended the events with ECLAC financial support, while many other participants paid their own expenses or were sponsored by third parties. A large number of these events were convened jointly by ECLAC and either a Government from the region, an international organization or an academic institution. As the pulling power of ECLAC is widely acknowledged in the region, it is frequently used to promote cooperation among countries.

Map 1
EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ECLAC, 2008-2009



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

2. Advocacy

ECLAC has continued to publish information and analysis on South-South cooperation in the sphere of sustainable development. In fact the Commission dedicated the 2008-2009 edition of one of its leading publications, *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy*, to the issue of *Crisis and opportunities for regional cooperation*.

Chapter I of the briefing paper analyses current international economic conditions and examines in particular the changes causing the crisis and the growing significance of emerging economies. As is customary, Chapter II reviews trade and investment trends in the region. Chapter III discussed opportunities for regional cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The new international

conditions call for greater cooperation among the countries of the region, not only to contain the fallout from this crisis, but also to improve the region's position in the global economy. With this in mind, seven areas of cooperation are proposed: infrastructure, trade facilitation, innovation, reduction of asymmetries, social cohesion, climate change and closer ties with Asia-Pacific. The publication has been cited in the media throughout the region, as well as in other developing continents.¹²

Other ECLAC publications also raise awareness of the importance and characteristics of South-South cooperation. Of special note is the work of the ECLAC office in Brasilia, which has produced a number of important documents on South-South cooperation in collaboration with IPEA and with funding from the Government of Brazil. One such document analyses the experience of Asia and Latin America with respect to financial and monetary cooperation¹³ while another examines trade among the largest emerging economies.¹⁴

As all ECLAC publications address issues pertaining to the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean, they help to raise awareness of the region's development and promote cooperation among countries. As map 2 shows, ECLAC published more than 700 documents in the 2008-2009 biennium, many of which were used as documentation for intergovernmental and expert meetings.

Map 2
PUBLICATIONS, 2008-2009



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

¹² See “El desafío es la cooperación regional”, *Inter Press Service (IPS)* [online] <http://ipsnoticias.net/nota.asp?idnews=93127>; or “Latin ECLAC group calls for increase trade relations with China” [online] www.namnewsnetwork.org/v2/read.php?id=93180.

¹³ *Cooperação monetária e financeira: o que é bom para a Ásia também é para a América Latina?* (LC/BRS/R.193), June 2009.

¹⁴ *El comercio entre los países “BRICS”*, August 2009.

3. Expert guidance and advice

In the 2008-2009 biennium, a good example of the role and achievements of ECLAC in discharging its responsibility to advise and guide member States on South-South cooperation was the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, November 2008). The Commission held the regional preparatory consultation at the thirty-second session of ECLAC (Santo Domingo, June 2008). As a result, the Minister of Economy of Guatemala, who chaired the regional consultation, presented the President of the General Assembly with the document *Trends and Challenges in International Cooperation and the Mobilization of Resources for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The document also enabled ECLAC to make contributions on this subject at other meetings and conferences. ECLAC, in collaboration with the Rio Group, organized the international seminar ‘The Rio Group and the International Conference on Financing for Development, Doha 2008’ (Santiago, August 2008). ECLAC also participated in the ‘Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and Foreign Debt ahead of the United Nations High-Level Meeting to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Doha 2008’ (June 2008), organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System. ECLAC prepared a number of events in parallel with the Doha Conference, including one organized jointly with the Government of Chile, which analysed the issue of financial stability as a global public good from a Latin American perspective. Another event, in conjunction with the other United Nations regional commissions, addressed the issue of regional cooperation and Millennium Development Goal 8 (Develop a Global Partnership for Development). In collaboration with the Government of Norway and other regional commissions, ECLAC also organized an event on financing for development and the economics of gender.

The contribution of ECLAC to the debate helped the Rio Group to formulate a regional perspective that was included in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. The Declaration also referred to South-South cooperation and its contribution to the effectiveness of development cooperation, as well as to building capacity for negotiating bilateral investment agreements.¹⁵

It was also important to advise and guide countries in preparing their participation in the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15) (Copenhagen, December 2009). Several preparatory meetings were organized in different countries of the region, including meetings of the United Nations High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing in Barbados and in Trinidad and Tobago. ECLAC held three meetings in parallel with the Copenhagen Conference and supported the countries throughout with information, analysis and advice.

Map 3 presents data on advisory and technical assistance missions by ECLAC officials and hired consultants. A total of 1,833 technical cooperation missions were made to 39 countries in the region, including associate members in the Caribbean.

¹⁵ “La perspectiva del Grupo de Río sobre la financiación al desarrollo en las actuales condiciones de crisis económica global”, presentation at the Regional Meeting to analyse the Results of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Financing for Development, Caracas, 23 March 2009.

Map 3
ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

4. Mainstreaming South-South cooperation

The overall strategy of ECLAC for achieving the objectives in its programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium includes fostering cooperation, networking and sharing of experiences at the regional, interregional (including South-South cooperation) and international levels. The areas and specific means for promoting South-South cooperation have been mainstreamed into at least 7 of the 12 subprogrammes, where they are referred to as 'horizontal cooperation'. For example, subprogramme one, 'Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation', contains a special section on regional cooperation. The work of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC is geared to promoting the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. ECLAC subregional headquarters have intergovernmental bodies and conduct activities specifically designed to promote subregional cooperation. The Division for Gender Affairs, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning also provide services to intergovernmental bodies dedicated to promoting South-South cooperation within their specific remit. South-South cooperation has been mainstreamed into the ECLAC technical cooperation strategy as a priority aim. The next section discusses some of the results of these activities. Maps 4 to 6 show ECLAC technical assistance missions to the countries of the region by major thematic area.

C. PROGRAMMING EFFORTS

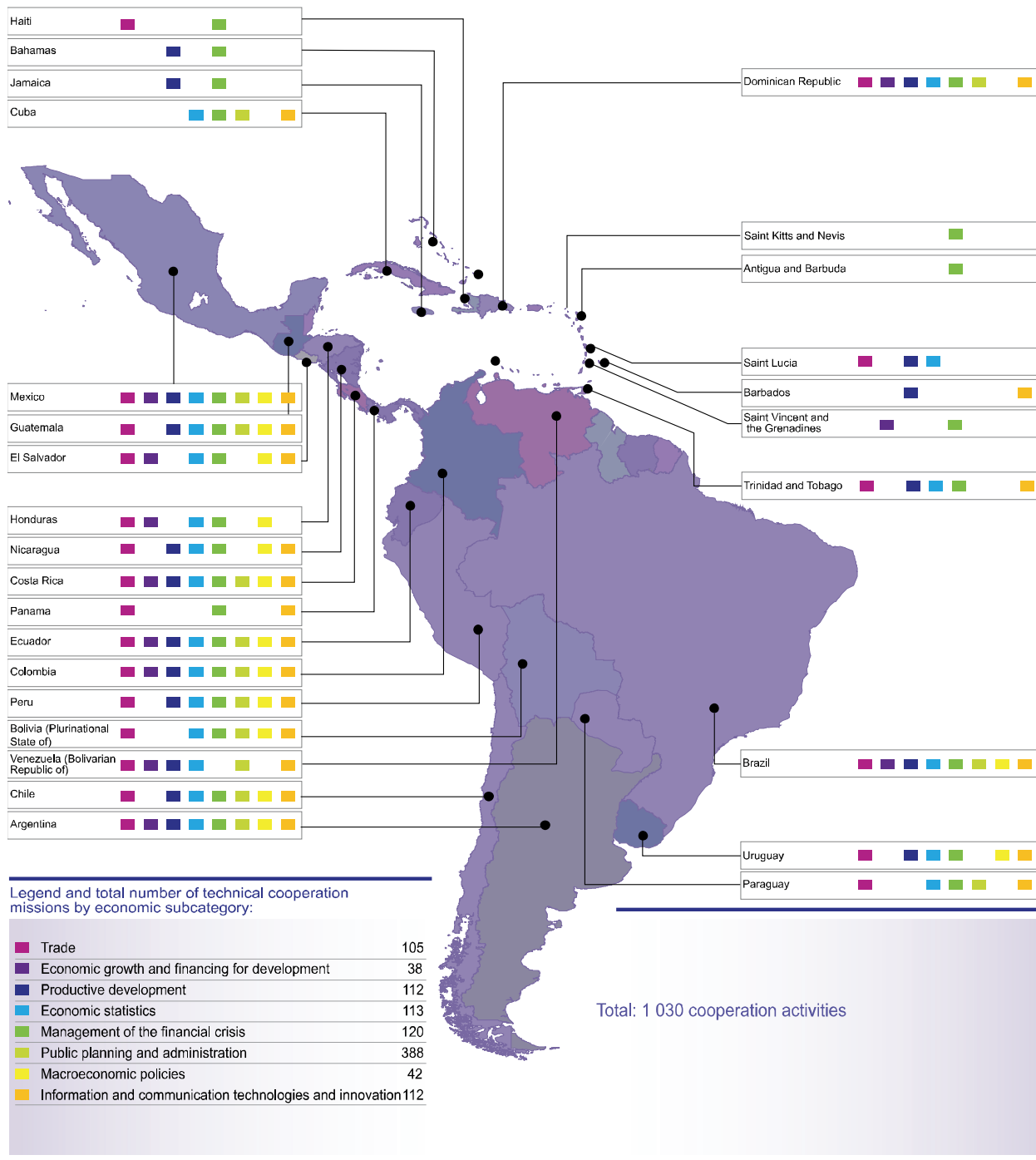
While the catalytic role refers to facilitating interactions among third parties and the policy-setting role refers to promoting general acceptance of 'how the world ought to be', the programming role refers to the organization's direct intervention. In this programming capacity, ECLAC is active in the areas of research and training, technical advice, documentation of best practices, networking and technology transfers.

1. Research and training

ECLAC conducts its research in accordance with the thematic priorities and procedures adopted at the sessions, taking a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach building on the existing capacity of centres of excellence in countries of the region.

Map 4

ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

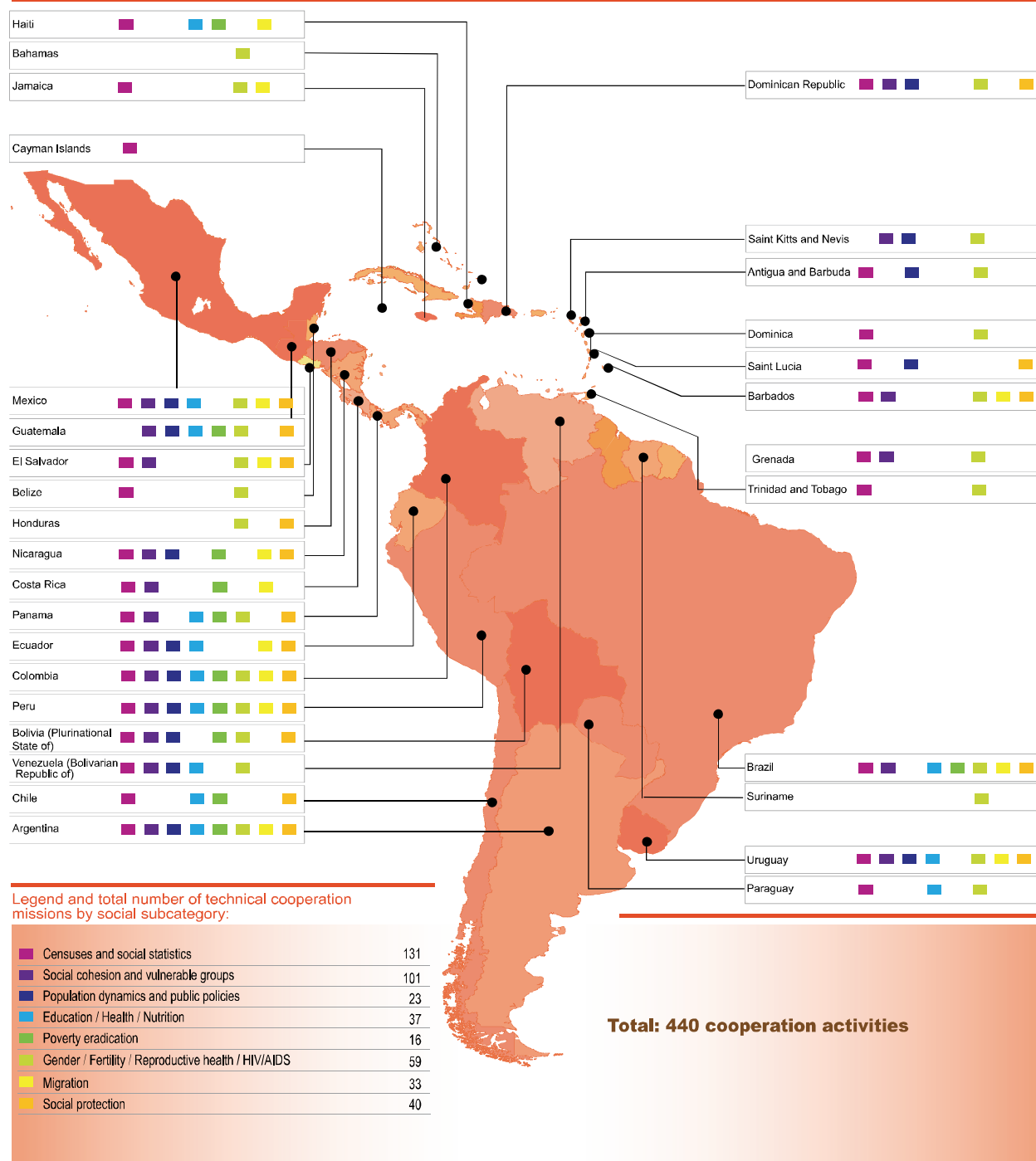


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map 5

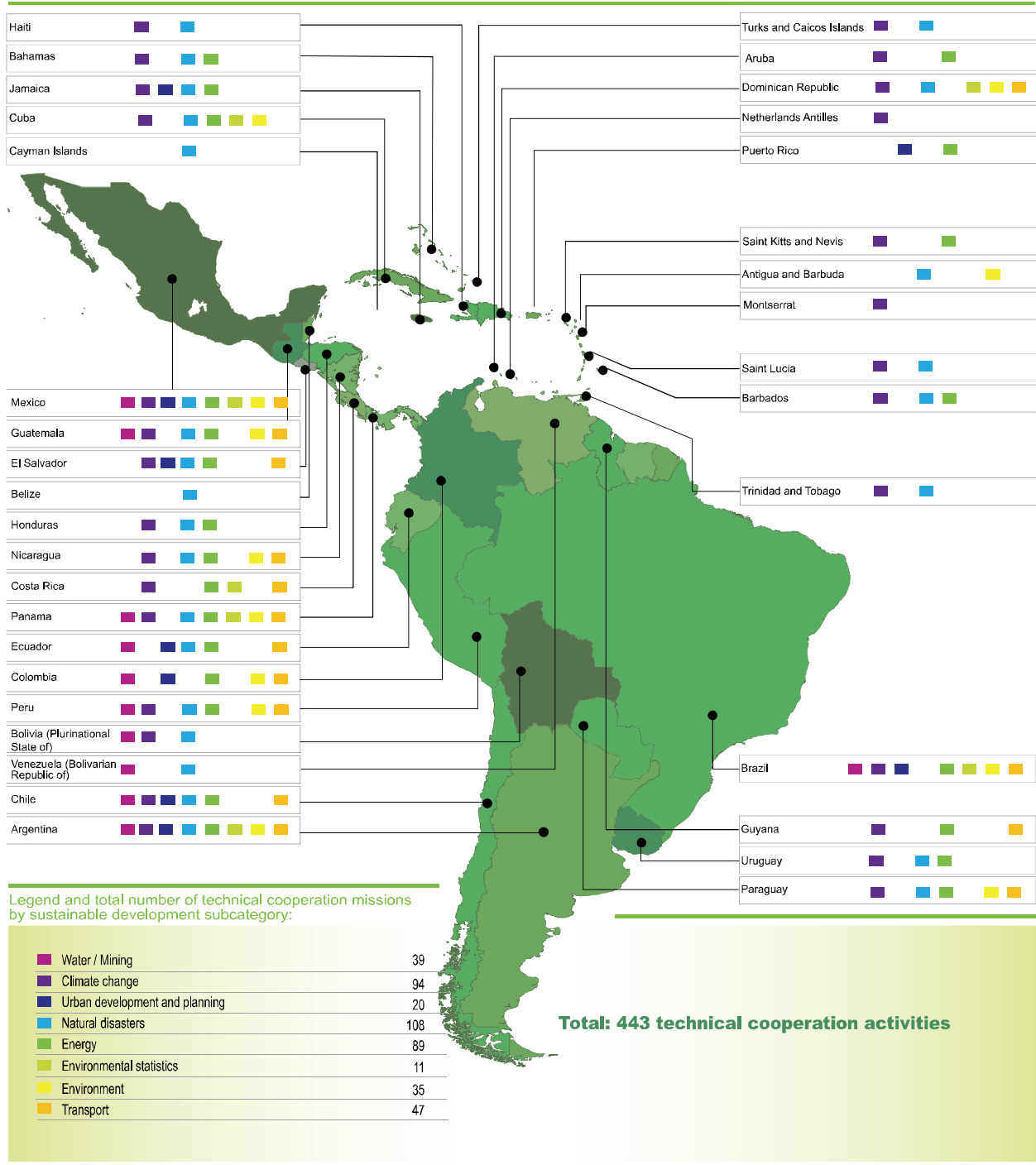
ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES, 2008-2009 BIENNIUM



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map 6
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES,
 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

For instance, the economic and social impact study *Economics of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which helped the countries of the region to prepare for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Copenhagen, December 2009) and its preparatory meetings, was produced in collaboration with a number of institutions and bodies both internal and external to the region. Large-scale funding was received from the European Commission and the Governments of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany and Spain. ECLAC also obtained financing from the Development Account and collaborated closely with the Inter-American Development Bank. Naturally all the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean contributed, as did subregional agencies through their relevant bodies. A notable instance of the use of the region's specialist knowledge is ECLAC collaboration with Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and Argentina's Bariloche Foundation. INPE has developed a new set of scenarios for South America, based on its Eta Model for climate prediction in Brazil. The results of these new calculations were presented to experts from 19 Ibero-American countries who were taking part in a training workshop organized by ECLAC jointly with Brazil's Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices. ECLAC has relied on collaboration with the foremost centres of excellence for science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also collaborates with the Institute of Hydraulics of the University of Cantabria.

ECLAC supported the countries of the region in analysing the economic impact of climate change modelled on the well-known Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (2006). Only the Governments of Mexico and Brazil conducted their own research. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) asked to collaborate with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), through ECLAC, in order to conduct an ad hoc study in the Central American region. CCAD comprises the national environment authorities (environment ministries) of the countries of the Central American Isthmus, which include Belize and Panama, as well as the Dominican Republic.¹⁶ A first study was presented at the Central America/Caribbean Summit on Climate Change and Environment (San Pedro Sula, 2008), establishing the guidelines and basis for a regional strategy which, one year later, enabled the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to adopt a common position on climate change at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Copenhagen, December 2009).

The successful collaboration of ECLAC and DFID with Central American countries prompted ECLAC to analyse the impact of climate change throughout the region. DFID sponsored a number of national studies in South American countries and a regional study in the Caribbean. The Inter-American Development Bank financed further national studies in South American countries. ECLAC received additional funding from the Development Account, the European Commission and the Danish Government to complete the national and thematic studies on the impact of climate change on the region. ECLAC hired the team that had drawn up the study for the Government of Mexico to develop the methodology and supervise the studies, which promoted the application of knowledge developed in one country of the South (Mexico) in other countries of the South.

ECLAC collaborated closely with the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the Caribbean regional study and concluded a cooperation agreement with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

¹⁶ See [online] <http://www.ccad.ws/>.

In the South American countries, ECLAC contributions were instrumental in defining the countries' positions. It changed the way in which the region's Governments perceived climate change by securing the active involve finance ministries, with the result that they ceased to view climate change purely as an environmental matter, as was the case a few years ago.

In conclusion, ECLAC support to countries of the region in preparing for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Copenhagen, December 2009) demonstrated the most important aspects of South-South and triangular cooperation.

ECLAC research is conducted by its own officials and, in some instances, by hired consultants under the supervision of Commission officials. Table 5 shows the number of consultants that were hired and their countries of origin.

In the 2008-2009 biennium, 1,578 contracts were concluded with 950 consultants from 50 different countries, 91% of whom were nationals of a Latin American or Caribbean country. The contracts were for a total of 3,426 working months.

Table 5
CONSULTANTS HIRED BY ECLAC, 2008-2009

1,578 contracts with 950 consultants from 50 different countries

862 consultants from Latin America and the Caribbean		
	Argentina	
	Antigua and Barbuda	
	Barbados	
	Belize	
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	
	Brazil	
	Chile	
	Colombia	
	Costa Rica	
	Cuba	
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

ECLAC in-house research forms the basis for training, as the example on climate change shows. In ECLAC, training is concentrated in ILPES. During the 2008-2009 biennium, ILPES staged 28 international courses attended by a total of 699 representatives from 23 countries, both internal and external to the region. A total of 169 national training courses, workshops and seminars were held in connection with cooperation agreements concluded with countries in the region, involving 3,878 participants. In addition, ILPES staged five distance learning courses on the logical-framework methodology and local and regional development, attended by 169 participants from 22 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In short, during the biennium, ILPES conducted 202 international, national and distance learning courses, training a total of 4,746 professionals employed by a variety of public, private and academic organizations from 23 countries of the region. More than 6,000 teaching hours were spent on training.

2. Technical advice

(a) Measuring the use of information and communication technologies

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in recent decades has not been accompanied by suitable measurement systems. For example, until very recently the countries of the region had no comparable statistics on issues as important as Internet use.

To meet this need, ECLAC, with IDRC support and jointly with national statistical offices in the countries of the region and other producers of official statistical information, has designed and applied harmonized methods for measuring ICTs, via the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC).

At present, 20 countries of the region compile information on Internet activities undertaken by individuals or on locations of individual Internet use as part of their household surveys. This is a great stride forward considering that, in 2001, only two countries had such statistics, which are the chief point of reference for monitoring the creation and development of the information society.

Until 2004, only 15 Latin American countries had indicators on Internet access and three on Internet use, whereas nowadays 18 countries have data on Internet access and 15 on individual use. In the Caribbean there is less information available. Up to 2004, two Caribbean countries had indicators on Internet access and two on Internet use, whereas nowadays six countries have data on access and five on individual use, as part of their household surveys. However, most Caribbean population censuses inquire about computer and Internet access under the household goods and services heading. In addition, 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries have included questions on ICTs in business surveys.

One of the major outcomes has been the implementation of the online ICT Statistical Information System, which brings together existing databases on household surveys in countries in the region, making it possible to calculate and analyse ICT indicators over time so that comparisons can be drawn not only between and within countries in the region, but also with other countries and regions of the world. Using these data, econometric analyses have been conducted on household ICT access and use in countries of the region.

The ICT Statistical Information System currently has information on 17 Latin American countries, excluding Argentina and Cuba, which encompasses 80 databases of household surveys conducted in countries of the region to date, compiled and harmonized by OSILAC. The system is available online at: www.cepal.cl/tic/flash.

National statistical institutes in the region have judged this collaboration to be positive. According to an assessment by 19 Latin American countries, 63.5% consider the project to have been important in consolidating harmonized ICT measurement. The results show that, in more than half the countries, ICT statistics are already part of the regular survey programme of national statistical institutes, most of which already produce information on ICT use. The results also show that ICT indicators were included in the surveys mainly at the request of OSILAC.

(b) Sustainable urban infrastructure

ECLAC is implementing a project on environmentally sustainable urban infrastructure, in conjunction with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The most important impact of this project on the region has been to provide clear guidelines for incorporating the three principles of eco-efficiency into the design and implementation of urban infrastructure: reducing the use of energy and resources; reducing emissions; and social inclusiveness. Five cities are already complying fully with the three principles: Barranquilla, Cartagena and Santa Marta in Colombia, and La Serena and Coquimbo in Chile.

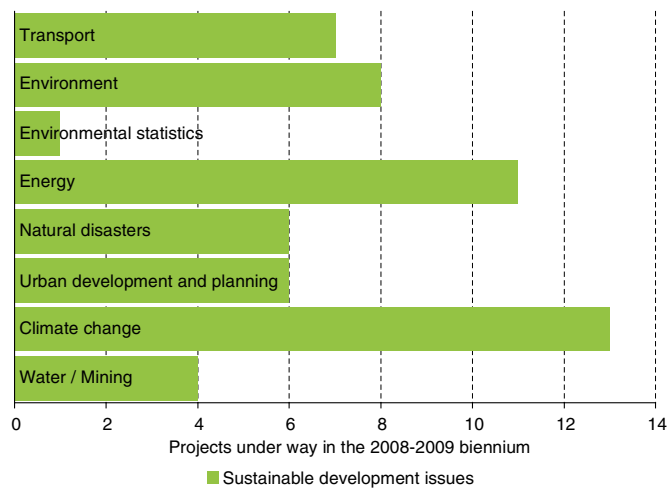
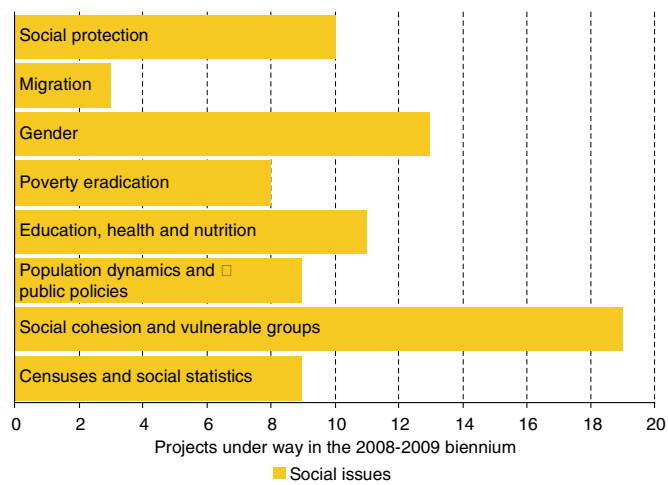
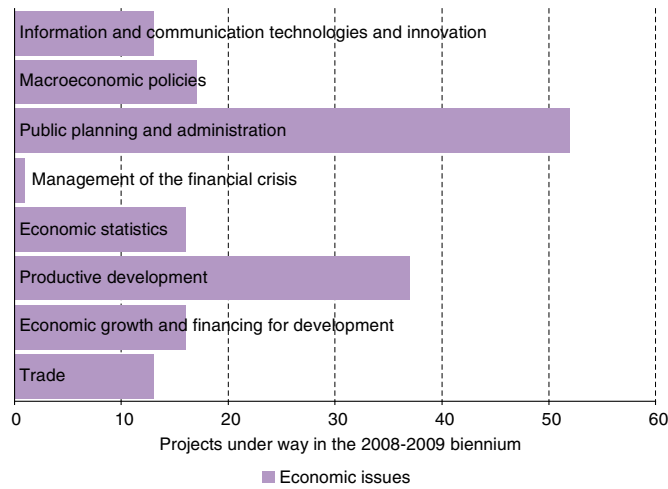
(c) Social statistics in the Caribbean

As a result of implementing the Development Account-funded project ‘Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices in the Caribbean small island developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals’, the Government of Belize received support to facilitate a revision of its national poverty line. In addition, officials from other national statistical offices in the subregion and other government institutions involved in Millennium Development Goal monitoring and reporting participated in capacity-building exercises to assess Millennium Development Goal data collection and reporting mechanisms in the Caribbean. They also had the opportunity to share best practices in the region and to identify their needs for technical assistance at the national and regional levels.

These are just three examples of ECLAC technical cooperation projects for the benefit of Latin American and Caribbean countries. In the 2008-2009 biennium, ECLAC had 300 active technical cooperation projects,¹⁷ some very specific and others very broad, all of which were funded with specific resources, as detailed in section one of this document. Many of these projects are akin to South-South and triangular cooperation. Figure 1 includes information on the number of projects by thematic area.

¹⁷ Active projects are those which reported expenditure in the 2008–2009 biennium.

Figure 1
NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY THEMATIC AREA



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

3. Documentation of best practices

(a) Crisis responses

As mentioned earlier, one of the key concerns of the biennium has been the global financial and economic crisis and how to respond to it. ECLAC has supported the countries of the region in their policy, macroeconomic and sectoral responses to the financial crisis. More specifically, with the support of German cooperation and the Government of Uruguay, it organized an international forum in Montevideo entitled 'Forum European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean - Fiscal policies in times of crisis: volatility, social cohesion and the political economics of the reforms', on the fiscal policy responses of Governments in the region to the crisis. The event, which took place on 19 and 20 May 2009, enabled Latin American and Caribbean representatives to compare their fiscal policy responses and share best practices. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of implementing countercyclical public spending policies to stabilize markets in a changing economic situation.

As a follow-up to this event, and in response to the interest shown by Governments, two subregional forums were held in El Salvador (for Central America and the Caribbean) and Santiago, Chile (for South America) to discuss national responses to the crisis. The forums, organized with European Commission support, provided an opportunity to analyse the impact of the global crisis on public policy decision-making and financing, and to examine the characteristics of macroeconomic policies that could be used to secure sustained growth and lessen the vulnerability of the region's economies to external or internal turbulence.

(b) Social projects

In collaboration with the Kellogg Foundation, ECLAC has organized four annual contests to reward the region's most innovative social projects. This has allowed the experience of more than 3,000 governmental and non-governmental initiatives at national and local levels to be systematically compiled.

The 'Experiences in Social Innovation' contest has helped to publicize the various applicant projects throughout the region, enabling their knowledge, methodologies, development and outcomes to be used as a basis and example for devising new ideas, many of which have been turned into public policies.



4. Networking

(a) Working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC has working groups responsible for different thematic areas, one of which is the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN).

The KTN comprises statistical education and training centres and other bodies in ECLAC member States that support the aims of the network. The KTN is administered by its own board, made up of the incoming Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA/ECLAC), the outgoing Chair, and three countries appointed by the Conference. One of the board members acts as KTN secretariat. During the 2007-2009 period, the board will comprise Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico, with Spain as its coordinator. The KTN board will design the biennial training programme and submit it to the Conference for adoption. In addition, the board will create and maintain a pool of official statistics experts, maintain relations with donors and allocate financial resources. The chief duties of the secretariat are to: gather information on supply and demand for training in ECLAC member States; report on education and training supply; monitor implementation of the adopted programme of work; and collate reports issued by centres on activities conducted in the purview of the KTN.

In 2008, a total of 11 cooperation activities, coordinated by several countries, were carried out under the aegis of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the benefit of 270 people in 25 countries of the region.

SCA/ECLAC also has a Working Group on Gender Statistics. One outcome of gender projects has been the promotion of time-use surveys. This led to the transfer of specialist knowledge from Ecuador, which already had time-use surveys, to the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as the two countries share a similar situation. Interactions via the Working Group on Gender Statistics also allowed the experience of Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and its participation in the SCA group and in the Aguascalientes network to be leveraged to propose a system for the classification of activities relating to unpaid work, which will be published shortly.

Mexico's experience with time-use surveys is also being exploited to formulate a proposal for measuring physical and sexual violence, as recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This year there has been a large-scale exchange of experiences among countries on the subject of gender statistics, which has been incorporated into the work of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

(b) Working groups of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007)

There are 13 working groups under the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2010), which bring together regional experts from a variety of sectors to research and develop joint initiatives related to specific goals of eLAC 2010. Each working group is led by one country, which appoints the group's coordinator. Eight of these groups were created under the previous Plan of Action (eLAC 2007) and five are new groups, adopted at the eLAC 2010 Second Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in San Salvador, and in a meeting of the Presiding Officers held during the 2008 Panel of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

These are two examples of the way in which ECLAC promotes networking between Latin American and Caribbean authorities and experts. The ECLAC system organizes and participates in many thematic, sectoral and regional networks. Table 7 contains information on the formal agreements that ECLAC maintains with various institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean and outside the region.

Table 7
SIGNED AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

Multilateral agreements	70
United Nations	34
Other multilateral government agencies	25
Non-governmental multilateral organizations	11
Bilateral agreements	148
Government agencies	85
Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	73
Other countries	12
Non-governmental bodies	15
Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	6
Other countries	9
Academic institutions	48
Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	29
Other countries	19
Total	218

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

A total of more than 200 cooperation agreements are currently in force, which do not involve financial transfers between the institutions. The emphasis is on bilateral cooperation agreements with government institutions in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (73). Another notable characteristic is the large number of cooperation agreements with academic institutions, both internal and external to the region (48). There is also coordination and collaboration with entities in the United Nations system (34) and other multilateral agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

5. Technology transfers

(a) **Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM): sociodemographic information to support decision-making**

One of the recommendations of Colombia's Intersectoral Commission for the Advancement of the Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal People was that a bill should be tabled on equal opportunities for the Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal People.¹⁸

In Nairobi, in September 2009, UNDP published a call for consultants to set up a central repository for all Somalian development data handled by the United Nations system.¹⁹

¹⁸ Recommendations of the Intersectoral Commission for the Advancement of the Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal People (Comisión Intersectorial para el Avance de la Población Afrocolombiana, Palenquera y Raizal), Ministry of Interior and Justice, Colombia, Bogotá, May 2009.

¹⁹ See [online] <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/res.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-7VQGM9>.

The common link between the two initiatives is REDATAM, a software programme developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC. In pursuit of its objective to assess the living conditions of the Afro-Colombian, Palenquera and Raizal People and to submit recommendations to the Colombian Government for overcoming economic and social barriers to the advancement of this people, especially women and children, as well as for the protection and enforcement of their civil rights, Colombia's Intersectoral Commission based its analysis on Colombia's 2005 population census, which can be accessed using the REDATAM system.

The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination of the United Nations system in Somalia is endeavouring to counteract the critical shortage of data for planning development support interventions in Somalia that has resulted from the disintegration of the institution responsible for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical data. The Working Group saw the REDATAM software as the ideal tool for hosting the various sociodemographic databases of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and making them accessible for analysis.

CELADE began to develop this software programme, which it named 'REDATAM', in the mid-1980s, to promote the exhaustive and creative analysis of geographically disaggregated sociodemographic data in support of public policy decision-making.

Throughout its 24 years of development, REDATAM has received contributions not only from all the national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean but also from other regions of the world. The support of UNFPA, the Inter-American Development Bank, IDRC and other organizations has been crucial to the continuity and progress of REDATAM.

In the 1990s, CELADE received a number of requests for technical assistance from countries outside the Latin America and the Caribbean region, where there was a growing need for tools to manage, analyse and disseminate information from population and housing censuses, during both the 1990 and 2000 census round and the ensuing 2010 round.

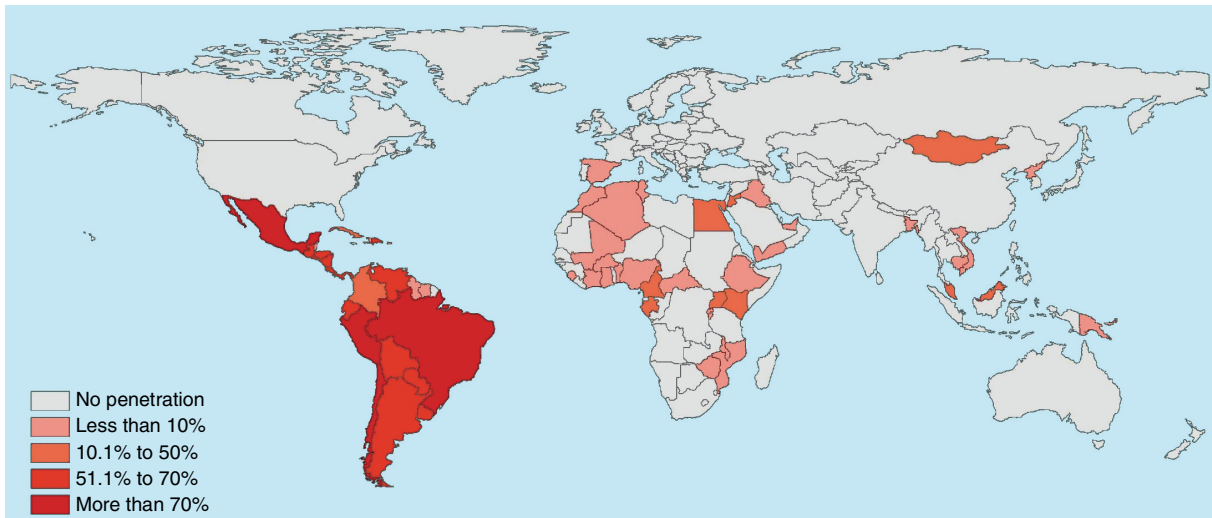
The first CELADE technical assistance mission outside the region was to Vietnam in 1992, and the first remote contact was with Cambodia, in August 2000, in order to create the database of the 1998 population census in REDATAM format. In 1992, IDRC included REDATAM in its book *101 Technologies. From the South for the South*. Later, numerous requests for REDATAM technical assistance and training workshops started to arrive from around the world, and demand has continued to grow to this day, as the following map shows.

CELADE has not been alone in promoting the use of REDATAM. UNFPA Africa Division has also provided government agencies with technical assistance and training in the use of REDATAM. In the past 10 years, the use of REDATAM has grown under its own momentum both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and Africa.

The incorporation of the module for online database processing (using the REDATAM Web Server) has enabled national statistical offices to make their censuses and other statistics accessible via the Internet. For example, the Dominican Republic's National Statistical Office uses REDATAM as a platform for its microdata bank of censuses, surveys and administrative records (BADECER), which can be accessed from its website.²⁰ REDATAM has consolidated itself as an ideal tool for accessing large sociodemographic databases, and has promoted cooperation among experts from different continents who have created a practical community that uses Facebook and Twitter to improve their collaboration.

²⁰ See [online] <http://www.one.gob.do/index.php?module=articles&func=view&catid=152>.

Map 7
OVERVIEW: PENETRATION OF REDATAM, BY COUNTRY, 2009



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

(b) Natural disaster risk reduction

As a result of the recommendations emanating from technical cooperation interventions in disaster risk reduction under the regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC), Belize and the Cayman Islands adopted expanded planning regulations for the construction of schools. Those recommendations included the refurbishment of community centres and the implementation of ‘set back’ and ‘step-up’ approaches to infrastructure development. In the Cayman Islands, the additional recommended mitigation measure of ‘strapping-down’ the roofs of schools was also adopted. Altogether, the execution of technical support missions to conduct damage and loss assessment (DALA) has positioned ECLAC as a niche partner in the Caribbean, as impact assessment reports continue to serve as critical inputs in the conduct of negotiations with donor and funding agencies for recovery interventions. An example of the importance attached to DALA reports in the recovery process after a disaster is the role the DALA methodology played in facilitating grant funding by the World Bank Group to the Government of Jamaica following damage caused by Hurricane Gustav.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

South-South cooperation has intensified significantly in recent decades. This has enabled the countries of the South to lessen their dependence on developed countries and to forge more equitable North-South cooperation ties. For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC both symbolizes and drives this trend, as the examples and data presented in this report are intended to demonstrate.