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Economic Commission for Latin America

Twentieth Session

Lima, Peru, 29 March-6 April 1984

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

- I. Organization of the session
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Notes on the provisional agenda

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

This twentieth session of ECLA has been convened in Lima, Peru, in pursuance of resolution 432 (XIX), Programme of Work and Calendar of Conferences of the Commission, and in the light of the decision adopted at the nineteenth session of ECLA to move the sessions from odd to even years in order to bring the pattern of these conferences in line with the programming cycle of the United Nations.

As noted in the communication convening the session which was sent at the appropriate time to the member countries of the Commission, this session is of particular significance because it is being held at a time of generalized recession in which the countries of the region are seeking domestic and external policies to solve the prolonged economic crisis. It gives member countries an opportunity to make a close examination of the causes of the crisis, its effects on the region, and the policies which could be applied to tackle it.

At the same time, participants will have the opportunity to carry out a constructive review of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Development Strategy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and to appraise the economic prospects of the region for the remainder of the 1980s.

In this context, member countries must decide on the development strategy which they wish to follow, establishing targets and priorities for the action to be carried out by the Commission and its Secretariat in the years to come, in due co-ordination with the other international bodies both within the United Nations system and outside it.

In order to fulfil these objectives and facilitate the work of the twentieth session, the Secretariat has considered it appropriate to put forward in this note some suggestions on the way the different items in the provisional agenda could be dealt with and the organization of the time available for the proceedings. If approved by member governments, these suggestions could help to smooth the way for the work of the session.

In accordance with established practice at ECLA meetings, these proposals on the organization of work will be submitted, together with the provisional agenda, at a meeting of heads of delegations to be held on the morning of 29 March 1984, at the beginning of the twentieth session.

In order to facilitate the work of delegations, the Secretariat will be placing at their disposal working documents and reference documentation on the various items of the agenda.*/

*/ See "Documents presented at the twentieth session of the Commission" (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.27).

The Secretariat believes that for the proper consideration of the agenda, the twentieth session should be divided, as on earlier occasions, into two consecutive stages. In the first, primarily technical stage, the work would be carried out mainly through committees, which would meet from 29 March to 3 April.

The second stage, to begin on Wednesday 4 April 1984, would consist of plenary meetings and would have before it for consideration the reports approved by the committees set up in the technical stage. It should be noted that the plenary meetings of the second stage are normally attended by Ministers of State or heads of delegations of equivalent rank, and this stage begins with a solemn ceremony organized by the host country and attended by the President of the Republic.

In the technical stage, it is proposed to set up a Committee I which would be responsible for considering the following items: "Implementation of the International Development Strategy and the prospects of Latin America and the Caribbean for the rest of the decade in the light of the current economic crisis" (agenda item 3); and "Internal adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt" (agenda item 4).

A Committee II would also be set up in this stage and would consider item 9 of the agenda: "Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLA in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations" and item 10: "Other activities of the ECLA system since the nineteenth session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1986-1987".

It is proposed that the items "Co-operation among developing countries and regions" (agenda item 5); "Water" (agenda item 6); "Human settlements" (agenda item 7); and "Preparations for the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, August 1984)" (agenda item 8) should be dealt with in the respective sessional committees. The conclusions and deliberations of the first three sessional committees would first be submitted for the consideration of Committee II before being passed on to the plenary stage, together with the reports of that Committee and of Committee I.

Finally, it is proposed that the items "Admission of the British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands as associate members of ECLA" (agenda item 11); "Place and date of the twenty-first session of ECLA" (agenda item 12), and "Consideration and approval of the final report" (agenda item 13) should be considered directly in the plenary meetings of the session.

In the notes on the provisional agenda, given in Part III of this document, additional background is provided on the various items, together with suggestions on the way they could be dealt with. It may be recalled that in accordance with resolution 419 (PLEN. 14), "Government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered" in order to ensure the fullest success of the session.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the twentieth session
3. Implementation of the International Development Strategy and the prospects of Latin America and the Caribbean for the rest of the decade in the light of the current economic crisis
4. Internal adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt
5. Co-operation among developing countries and regions
6. Water
7. Human settlements
8. Preparations for the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, August 1984)
9. Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLA in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations
 - a) Sixth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: appraisal of the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action and the International Development Strategy (New York, 6 December 1982)
 - b) Seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (Port of Spain, 19-25 January 1983)
 - c) Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 8-10 August 1983)
 - d) Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year (San José, 3-7 October 1983)
 - e) Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (Havana, 16-19 November 1983)
 - f) Eighth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: appraisal of the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action and the International Development Strategy (Montevideo, 18-20 January 1984)
 - g) Ninth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: Science and Technology for Development (Montevideo, 23-24 January 1984)
10. Other activities of the ECLA system since the nineteenth session, and draft programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1986-1987:
 - a) ECLA
 - i) Activities of the Secretariat since May 1981
 - ii) Draft programme of work of the ECLA system for the biennium 1986-1987
 - iii) Calendar of conferences for the period 1984-1986

/b) Latin

- b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).
 - i) Activities of CELADE since May 1981
 - ii) Future activities of CELADE
 - c) Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
 - i) Activities of ILPES since May 1981
 - ii) Future activities of ILPES
11. Admission of the British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands as associate members of ECLA
 12. Place and date of the twenty-first session of ECLA
 13. Consideration and approval of the report of the twentieth session of ECLA.

III. NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers

In conformity with rule 16 of the ECLA Rules of Procedure, at the commencement of each session of the Commission or of its subsidiary bodies a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur must be elected. According to the practice established at earlier ECLA sessions, the head of the delegation of the host country is normally elected Chairman. Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure further establishes that "the Chairman and 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". The Officers elected to preside over the proceedings of the technical stage normally continue in their functions in the ministerial stage, the only difference being that they are replaced by the corresponding heads of delegations at that level.

If committees are set up as proposed by the Secretariat, it will also be necessary to elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for each of them.

It is proposed that the composition of these groups of Officers should be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegations to be held on the morning of Thursday 29 March 1984.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the twentieth session

Delegates will have before them for their consideration and approval the provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.1) prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter II of the ECLA Rules of Procedure, taking into account the mandates given to the Commission. Member countries will be able to put forward whatever observations or modifications concerning the agenda which they consider necessary, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

The agenda of the session, the organization of work, the establishment of committees and the election of Officers for the latter and for the plenary stage will be considered at the meeting of heads of delegations of member governments on the morning of 29 March.

3. Implementation of the International Development Strategy and the prospects of Latin America and the Caribbean for the rest of the decade in the light of the current economic crisis

Working documents

- Report of the eighth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account the current international economic crisis (Montevideo, 18-23 January 1984) (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.26)
- The crisis in Latin America: present situation and future outlook (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.25).

Reference documents

- Regional Programme of Action for Latin America in the 1980s (E/CEPAL/G.1189)
- List of main resolutions adopted with regard to the International Development Strategy and the Regional Programme of Action by the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.8)
- International economic relations and regional co-operation in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.18).

At the fourteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA, held on 20 November 1980 in New York, resolution 419 (PLEN.14) on rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the ECLA system was adopted by consensus.

Operative paragraph c) of that resolution lays down with respect to the institutional arrangements adopted by the member governments of ECLA that:

"c) The regular sessions of the Commission should continue normally to be preceded by a meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), in conformity with resolution 310 (XIV) and other pertinent resolutions of the Commission, in particular those relating to the implementation and appraisal of the International Development Strategy and to the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order".

/For its

For its part, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 1980 in resolution 35/56, lays down in its section IV, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the new International Development Strategy", the role to be played in this review and appraisal by the regional commissions and that which will correspond to them in the preparation of regional programmes of action. This strategy lays down specifically, inter alia, that:

"173. At the regional level, the review and appraisal will be conducted by the respective regional commissions. Development banks, regional and subregional groups and organizations could collaborate with the regional commissions for this purpose. Furthermore, the regional commissions should carry out, as part of their regular activity of preparing economic surveys of the region, periodic reviews of major aspects of development in the evolving development experiences in their regions.

"174. The regional commissions should consider the feasibility of preparing action programmes to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the International Development Strategy in their respective areas. Furthermore, the regional commissions, in conjunction with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and multilateral development institutions, might suggest ways of improving United Nations assistance efforts and enhancing their co-ordination in the context of the particular economic and social development needs of each region".

Subsequently, on 20 December 1982, the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/202, "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade", which states:

"Conscious that the adverse effects of the continuing international economic crisis, especially on the economies of the developing countries, make particularly necessary the task of carrying out such a review and appraisal with a view to considering the adjustment, intensification or reformulation of the policy measures required in the light of evolving needs and developments, in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy".

"1. Reaffirms the decision to carry out in 1984, at the global level, the first over-all review and appraisal of the state of implementation of the policy measures, as well as the realization of the goals and objectives, of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

"2. Stresses that the process of review and appraisal at the global level shall take into account the results achieved at the sectoral, regional and national levels;

/"3. Emphasizes

"3. Emphasizes that the review and appraisal shall, at all levels, take into account the results of various United Nations conferences as well as the results of relevant regional and interregional meetings, and that the agreed results will be incorporated in the International Development Strategy by the General Assembly when and as appropriate, with a view to contributing to its effective implementation;"

"5. Decides to establish a committee of universal membership to carry out the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy in 1984, and further decides that the Committee, which will meet in a brief organizational session during the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, will report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984;"

"7. Requests the regional commissions to carry out in 1984, as part of their regular activity of preparing economic surveys of the regions, a review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy in their respective regions."

In pursuance of the above-mentioned resolutions, the Secretariat has prepared a document analyzing the evolution of the Latin American economy in that part of the 1980s which has elapsed so far.

This appraisal fits into a context of a structural nature which follows the central lines taken into account by governments in formulating the Regional Programme of Action. Thus, the evolution of the main internal and external problems facing the region at the beginning of the 1980s is examined in order to determine to what extent the economic and social conditions have got worse.

In addition, taking into account the present state of the world economy, projections of its probable evolution and the nature of domestic problems, a prospective appraisal has been prepared which is aimed at providing the governments with elements of judgement for carrying out their tasks of reviewing and appraising the Regional Programme of Action.

4. Internal adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt

Working document

- Adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.17).

Reference document

- Economic Survey of Latin America, 1983: Advance summary (E/CEPAL/G.1292)
- Trends in the Caribbean economies in 1982 (E/CEPAL/G.1238).

The severe economic crisis which has been affecting Latin America since 1981 has made it necessary in many countries to apply adjustment policies aimed at restoring balance in the external sector.

/Unfortunately, the

Unfortunately, the adverse effects of this adjustment have been exaggerated because it was carried out at a time of stagnation or recession in world trade, it was accompanied by procyclical behaviour as regards the inflow of capital, and it was centered on measures which reduce demand rather than taking advantage of national productive capacity. Consequently, this adjustment has led to sharp declines not only in domestic spending, but also in production, with consequent high social costs.

The limitations of the adjustment policies currently being applied justify consideration of alternative approaches which, without denying the need for the changes which it is indispensable to make, minimize their costs in terms of declines in production, employment and wages. As explained in the document, this calls for the adoption of a much more disaggregated approach to adjustment policies than the conventional one, the main short-term objectives being: a) to reduce domestic expenditure, but not production; b) to reassign resources towards the production of tradeable goods, and c) to protect the income and employment of the poorest sectors of the population as much as possible. It is also essential that the adjustment policies should form part of long-term development strategies and be compatible with them.

In order to fulfil these objectives it is necessary to make integrated and coherent use of a variety of economic policy instruments whose relative importance may vary considerably depending on the particular characteristics of the different national situations. It is also necessary that a reasonable length of time should be available, in order to make possible a gradual transfer of resources to the tradeable goods sector. Consequently, as analysed in the document, the alternative adjustment policies proposed must be accompanied by renegotiation of the external debt on terms very different from the present ones.

5. Co-operation among developing countries and regions

Working documents

- Co-operation among developing countries and regions within the ECLA system. Note by the Secretariat (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.10)

Reference document

- Africa and Latin America. Prospects for interregional co-operation (E/CEPAL/G.1193)
- Caribbean/Latin American co-operation (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.29).

In accordance with operative paragraph 9 of resolution 387 (XVIII) and the provisions of paragraph h) of the operative part of resolution 419 (PLEN.14) adopted on 20 November 1980 by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA, this agenda item must be dealt with in a sessional committee set up for the purpose.

/The promotion

The promotion of technical and economic co-operation both among the countries of Latin America and on the interregional level continues to be a priority activity for ECLA, in pursuance of resolutions 438 (XIX), 439 (XIX) and 440 (XIX) adopted by the Commission at its nineteenth session. For Latin America, this form of co-operation also has a special significance, in view of the serious repercussions which the present situation of the world economy has had on the countries of the region.

Resolution 438 (XIX) on technical co-operation among developing countries expresses the will to strengthen and expand the links both between the countries of the region and between them and other regions of the developing world. To this end, the Secretariat was given various mandates to intensify its efforts to promote these forms of co-operation. Resolution 439 (XIX) on economic co-operation among developing countries, for its part, emphasizes the importance of the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries convened by the Group of 77 and held in Caracas in May 1981 and requests the Executive Secretary to consider what advisory services ECLA could provide and what studies it could prepare in the light of the results of that conference. It is important to note that this meeting of the developing countries adopted the Caracas Programme of Action which currently forms the global operational framework for the activities of the Group of 77 in this field, including its links with the United Nations system.

The Secretariat document (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.10) presented on the present occasion emphasizes the conceptual and normative framework governing the activities of the ECLA system in particular as regards the promotion and support of TCDC and ECDC at all levels and in all the sectors where such action takes place. It also describes the activities carried out by the ECLA system in the area of horizontal co-operation, in accordance with the broad lines of the programme of work of the Secretariat, with particular emphasis on the achievements registered in the strengthening of links with other developing regions. Finally, the document sets forth some elements and criteria for appraising the achievements recorded and the difficulties encountered in the promotion and support of co-operation among developing countries and proposes certain prospective future action to consolidate the former and effectively overcome the latter.

Resolution 440 (XIX) on technical and economic co-operation between the countries of the Caribbean area and the other countries of the region requests the Executive Secretary to promote such co-operation and asks him in particular to prepare a short, medium and long-term programme of work to promote specific projects with this aim.

Document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.29 makes a broad analysis of the matters on which a wide-ranging programme of co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the rest of the countries of the region should be based, emphasizing in particular the advantages and possibilities of complementation between the two groups of countries. It also analyses the co-operation activities of one kind or another which currently exist between the two groups of countries, both at the multilateral or bilateral levels and with the participation of government, non-governmental and private sector agencies.

Document E/CEPAL/G.1198 deals with co-operation between Africa and Latin America and is distributed for the information of delegates. This document sets forth the results of the co-operation activities carried out by ECLA and the Economic Commission for Africa under resolution 387 (XVIII).

6. Water

Working documents

- Progress in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level. Note by the Secretariat (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.3)
- Progress towards achievement of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1980-1983 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.4).

Reference documents

- Report of the Second Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (E/CEPAL/G.1199)
- Report of the Regional Seminar on Environmental Management and Large Water Resource Projects (E/CEPAL/L.262)
- The water resources of Latin America and their utilization (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.6)
- The Mar del Plata Action Plan. United Nations Water Conference (DESI/DPI, October 1983).

At the second session of the Committee on Water, held during the nineteenth session of the Commission, the Committee considered and approved the programme of work to be carried out by the Secretariat in continuation of its ongoing support activities for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in Latin America.

On the basis of these recommendations, the Secretariat has concentrated its work since May 1981 on the following areas:

- i) consideration of the progress made in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.3);
- ii) support for the activities of PAHO/WHO and of governments in connection with the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
- iii) consideration and co-ordination of relevant aspects of the activities of international agencies in the region;
- iv) identification of suitable areas for horizontal co-operation and promotion of such co-operation;

/v) support

- v) support for activities by governments aimed at improving the management of water resources, including the incorporation of the environmental dimension.

As well as reviewing the achievements made in the last three years, delegations will be able to set forth their governments' reactions as regards the progress made in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level and to make their views known, concentrating as far as possible on the following aspects:

- the reports submitted by the Secretariat (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.3 and E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.4);
- aspects connected with the organization and co-ordination of the work which should be done in the future by governments (through the Committee on Water, experts or group of experts, etc.), the ECLA Secretariat, and other international bodies; and
- proposals for the future programme of work of ECLA and its Secretariat.

7. Human settlements

Working documents

- ECLA activities in the field of human settlements in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.5)
- Training in the field of human settlements: analysis of the present situation and proposals for a regional programme of action (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.11)
- Urbanization, urban growth and settlement concentration in Latin America. A general overview (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.9).

Reference documents

- The outlook for municipal planning in Latin America (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.12)
- Dynamics and structure of the human settlement process in Latin America and the Caribbean. The main critical areas (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.13).

In accordance with the terms of operative paragraph 9 of resolution 387 (XVIII) and operative paragraph h) of resolution 419 (PLEN.14) adopted on 20 November 1980 by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA, this agenda item must be dealt with in a sessional committee set up for the purpose.

Likewise, in accordance with the terms of ECLA resolution 407 (XVIII), this sessional committee on human settlements is responsible for analysing the activities carried out by ECLA and its Secretariat in this field. It is also responsible for taking note of the draft biennial programme of work to be carried out in the period 1986-1987 and putting forward such recommendations and resolutions as it considers to be appropriate in this respect.

/In order

In order to carry out these tasks, delegates will have before them the document entitled "ECLA activities in the field of human settlements in Latin America" (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.5); the biennial programme of work for 1986 and 1987; the document "Training in the field of human settlements: Analysis of the present situation and proposals for a regional programme of action" (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.11), and the document on "Urbanization, urban growth and settlement concentration in Latin America. A general overview" (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.9).

Delegates will also have at their disposal other reference documents describing some of the principal features of the human settlement process in Latin America and analysing some of the most important changes in the systems of settlements of the countries of the region.

8. Preparations for the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, August 1984)

Working document

- Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (Havana, 16-19 November 1983) (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19).

It was decided in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/87 of 25 November 1981 that an international conference on population should be held in Mexico City in August 1984. In accordance with this resolution, the conference is to be devoted to the discussion of selected issues of the highest priority, giving full recognition to the relationships between population and social and economic development, with the aim of contributing to the process of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and to its further implementation.

At the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (New York, 2-3 December 1982), the member countries decided that the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population should be held within the framework of CEGAN, an auxiliary body of ECLA. This meeting was held in Havana from 16 to 19 November 1983, and its conclusions and recommendations are contained in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19.

Since the preparations for world conferences have traditionally been considered within the framework of meetings of ECLA itself, and bearing in mind United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/42, which provides that the question of the preparations for the International Conference on Population should be dealt with at the regular sessions of the United Nations regional commissions, this issue has been included as an item on the provisional agenda and it is suggested that it should be dealt with in a sessional committee set up for this purpose.

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

Working documents

- List of reports of meetings sponsored by ECLA since May 1981 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.21)
- Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (Havana, 16-19 November 1983) (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19)
- Draft Report of the eighth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account the current international economic crisis (Montevideo, 18-23 January 1984) (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.26)
- Report of the ninth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: Science and Technology for Development (Montevideo, 23-24 January 1984) (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.20).

Reference documents

- Report of the sixth session of CEGAN (New York, 6 December 1982) (E/CEPAL/G.1260)
- Report of the seventh session of the CDCC (Port of Spain, 19-25 January 1983) (E/CEPAL/G.1237)
- Report of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 8-10 August 1983) (E/CEPAL/G.1265)
- Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year (San José, 3-7 October 1983) (E/CEPAL/G.1285).

It is the responsibility of ECLA to take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of auxiliary bodies of the Commission and special meetings held since December 1982. Since the member countries of ECLA had the opportunity to analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of auxiliary bodies and regional conferences of ECLA covering the period between May 1981 and December 1982 at the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (New York, 2-3 December 1982), it is not proposed to consider them again on this occasion. At all events, delegates will find a complete list of the intergovernmental meetings and of the seminars, working groups, symposiums, expert meetings and other meetings sponsored by ECLA in the report on the activities of the Commission (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.14) which is to be considered by Committee II.

/The recommendations

The recommendations of the intergovernmental meetings held since December 1982 in respect of which a decision is required on the part of the Commission are also placed before the twentieth session for consideration. These are listed in the following paragraphs:

a) Sixth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts
(New York, 6 December 1982)

The conclusions of the sixth session of CEGAN are given in document E/CEPAL/G.1260. It is suggested that note should be taken of them.

b) Seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee
(Port of Spain, 19-25 January 1983)

The conclusions and recommendations of the seventh session of the CDCC are given in section I, paragraphs 1-20 of the relevant report (E/CEPAL/G.1237).

In paragraph 15 of that report, it was decided to raise at the next session of the Commission the question of the CDCC's recommendation that the name of the Economic Commission for Latin America should be changed to "Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean". In the view of the CDCC, such a change of name would fully reflect the reality of the region served by the Commission.

c) Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic
and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City,
8-10 August 1983)

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean is an auxiliary body of a permanent and regular nature set up by ECLA to deal with matters concerning the integration of women into development. It must be convened at least once every three years, and at its third session it adopted 12 resolutions which are given in section III of document E/CEPAL/G.1265. Particular mention should be made of resolution 6, entitled "Continuation of activities to promote the integration of women into development beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women", which, in its operative part, requests the United Nations General Assembly through ECLA at its twentieth session, to support the continuation beyond the end of the Decade for Women of ECLA's activities and to allocate sufficient funds to permit the continuation and expansion of ECLA's programmes in this area.

It is suggested that the twentieth session should take note of this and the other resolutions and bear them in mind when analysing the programme of work of the Commission.

/In addition,

In addition, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, who provide liaison between the member governments and the ECLA Secretariat in this field, held their fifth meeting at the ECLA Mexico Office on 5 August 1983 in order to make preparations for the Third Regional Conference. The report of the meeting of the Presiding Officers is given in document E/CEPAL/MDM.5/L.2.

d) Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year (San José, 3-7 October 1983)

In the course of this meeting, the "Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year" (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.22) was approved.

In accordance with item 12 of paragraph 96 of this Plan, it has been transmitted to ECLA at its twentieth session for consideration and approval by the member countries of the Commission.

e) Latin America Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (Havana, 16-19 November 1983)

As noted earlier with regard to agenda item 8, it is proposed that the aspects of this meeting connected with the preparations for the International Conference on Population should be dealt with by a sessional committee set up for this purpose. The work of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) is covered by agenda item 10 (b).

As regards the conclusions and decisions of the meeting, delegates are requested to consult the report of the meeting (document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19). The attention of participants is drawn in particular to operative paragraph 6 of resolution 2 in this report, which recommends to the member countries of ECLA that, at its twentieth session, they should study the advisability of adopting forms of co-operation through the establishment of a regional fund, to be administered by ECLA with direct contributions in the respective national currencies, and to be devoted principally to the financing of technical assistance missions and training programmes to be carried out in the countries themselves.

f) Eighth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: appraisal of the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action and the International Development Strategy (Montevideo, 18-20 January 1984)

In accordance with the calendar of conferences approved by resolution 449 (PLEN.16) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (New York, 2-3 December 1982), the eighth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 18 to 20 January 1984.

/In accordance

In accordance with ECLA resolution 304 (XIV) and other relevant agreements of ECLA and ECOSOC, this meeting of the developing member countries of the Commission was responsible for examining the situation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of the present economic crisis. It was also proposed to carry out an appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy and to analyse the prospects for the remainder of the 1980s. It is suggested that, as was done on other occasions, the conclusions and recommendations adopted at this meeting should be considered by Committee I of the twentieth session.

g) Ninth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts: Science and Technology for Development (Montevideo, 23-24 January 1984)

At this meeting, which was held on 23 and 24 January, immediately after the eighth session of CEGAN, the issue examined was science and technology for development and, in particular, the implementation in both the national and regional contexts of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, as laid down in its operational plan (paragraph 61: Regional Appraisals). It is suggested that the twentieth session should take note of the final report of this meeting.

10. Other activities of the ECLA system since May 1981 and draft programme of work of the ECLA system for the biennium 1986-1987

Agenda item 10 is divided up into three parts corresponding to the different institutions making up the ECLA system:

- a) Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
- b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
- c) Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

a) Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

Working documents

- Report on the work of the Commission since May 1981 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.14 and Add.1)
- Draft programme of work of the ECLA system, 1986-1987 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.7)
- Proposed calendar of intergovernmental conferences of ECLA for the period 1984-1986; Note by the Secretariat (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.15).

Reference documents

- Draft programme of work of the ECLA system, 1984-1985 (E/CEPAL/G.1252/Rev.1)
- Access to information sources on Latin American foreign trade statistics (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.28).

i) Activities of the ECLA system since May 1981

The Commission already had the opportunity to consider the report of activities from May 1981 to December 1982 at the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (New York, 2-3 December 1982).

ii) Draft programme of work of the ECLA system for the biennium 1986-1987

It may be recalled that the draft programme of work of the ECLA system for the biennium 1984-1985 was also considered and approved by the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA and by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, with regard to the draft programme of work for the biennium 1986-1987, this is the second occasion on which the programme of work of ECLA is being submitted for the consideration of member governments prior to the presentation of the corresponding budget. Thus, in considering the requirements for 1986-1987, it will be possible to take account of the priorities put forward by member governments in the course of the twentieth session.

As it was not possible to hold the eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) before the twentieth session, as planned, the member governments of the Committee have not yet had an opportunity to consider the programme of work of the CDCC for the period 1986-1987. The attention of member governments is drawn to this point so that they may take such action as they deem appropriate.

iii) Proposed calendar of intergovernmental conferences of ECLA for the period 1984-1986

According to the operative part of resolution 419 (PLEN.14) adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA in November 1980, the biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of the Committee of the Whole in the years when the Commission does not meet should constitute the focal points around which the other meetings should be organized. It was decided that the sessions of ECLA should be changed to even years in order to bring them into line with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly. It was agreed that, as a general rule, no more than five substantive regional conferences or meetings should be held each year, and finally that at each of the Commission's regular sessions the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next ordinary session must be considered, stipulating, where possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting.

In order to comply with this resolution, the Secretariat has prepared a table of the meetings planned for the biennium 1984-1986, including not only the meetings of a statutory nature held at fixed intervals, but also regional preparatory meetings for world conferences and those

/connected with

connected with international years. The suggestions and recommendations of the Secretariat on adjustments in the calendar of conferences of the ECLA system are contained in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.15.

As stated in that documents, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140, the meetings of United Nations bodies, as a general rule, should be held at their respective headquarters. With regard to regional preparatory meetings for world conferences and other meetings, the host government must assume responsibility for any additional expenditure involved in the change of venue. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ECLA provide, however, that the sessions must be held with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation. In this case, and in the case of other meetings of auxiliary bodies of ECLA, the host government is not under the obligation to pay the entire additional costs incurred because the meeting is held away from ECLA headquarters.

iv) Access to information sources on Latin American foreign trade statistics

In pursuance of the request made in ECLA resolution 437 (XIX) on access to sources of information on Latin America's foreign trade, the Secretariat has prepared a study on the possibilities of expanding the supply of updated economic and trade information to the countries of the region. This study is contained in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.28.

b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

Working documents

- Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19)
- Report on the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), 1981-1983 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.24)
- Draft programme of work of the ECLA system (Programme 18, Population, contained in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.7).

Reference documents

- The demographic situation of Latin America as evaluated in 1983: estimates for 1960-1980 and projections for 1980-2025 (E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.2)
- Some population estimates and projections for the English-speaking Caribbean (E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.2/Add.1).
- Population and development in Latin America (E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.3)

/- Population

- Population policies in Latin America. Ten years' experience (E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.4).

i) Activities of CELADE since May 1981

The main purpose of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, held within the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) in Havana, Cuba, from 16 to 19 November 1983, was to guide the work and lay down the priorities of CELADE in the field of population for the period 1984-1987. At this meeting, the countries endorsed the importance of CELADE's activities in the region, approved its programme of work, and at the same time recommended that measures should be taken to ensure its financial stability and establish new forms of co-operation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In this respect, operative paragraph 6 of resolution 2 recommends to the member countries of ECLA that at the twentieth session they should study the advisability of adopting forms of co-operation through the establishment of a regional fund administered by ECLA with direct contributions in the respective national currencies, to be devoted principally to financing technical assistance missions and training programmes to be carried out in the countries themselves (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.19).

The work carried out by CELADE during the period 1981-1983, described in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.24, and the tasks laid down for the bienniums 1984-1985 and 1986-1987 come within the regional population programme of ECLA. Through technical co-operation, training, studies on selected issues, information on population and the transfer of technology, this programme is designed to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to understand their demographic situation and formulate and appraise development plans and programmes in the field of population by creating or making available the capacities, knowledge and inputs needed for this objective.

ii) Future activities of CELADE

The draft programme of work of CELADE for the biennium 1986-1987 (Programme 18, Population, contained in document E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.7) incorporates the suggestions and guidelines of governments in the field of population.

For their part, documents E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.2, E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.3 and E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.4 refer to matters of priority interest for the countries, such as the demographic trends in the region, population and the development process, and the experience of recent years as regards population policies in Latin America.

/c) Latin

c) Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

Working documents

- Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES): future prospects and summary of activities, 1981-1984 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.23)
- Draft programme of work of the ECLA system, 1986-1987 (subprogramme 6 of Programme 10 - Development issues and policies, contained in document E/ECEPAL/SES.20/G.7).

Reference documents

- Report submitted by the rapporteur of the Fourth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/ILPES/Conf.4/L.7)
- Report submitted by the rapporteur of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of ILPES (E/CEPAL/ILPES/L.11).

The documents submitted by the Secretariat will enable delegates to analyse the work done by the Institute since the last session and to give guidelines for its activities in the years to come.

ILPES, a permanent institution of the United Nations which belongs to the ECLA system, was conceived as an autonomous institute set up to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in planning their economic and social development policy. It has been carrying out its activities in accordance with the lines laid down by its main guiding bodies, the Technical Committee and the Technical Subcommittee, which are made up of the Ministers and Heads of Planning of the region.

During its 21 years of existence, the Institute has specialized in providing advisory assistance, training and research services to its 35 member countries in its three functional areas: a) economic policy and planning; b) public sector planning, and c) social and regional planning and policy, and preinvestment and projects. During 1983 and 1984, four main core issues guided the activities of ILPES: the articulation of the short, medium and long-term decision-making processes; following up the external setting of the economies of the region in order to support the work of national-level planning; the spatial (within the countries) and social impact of global and sectoral economic policies; and the role of central governments and semi-autonomous administrations in these years of economic crisis in the region.

At the twentieth session, ILPES will present a report on its activities and will submit its programmes of future activities for the consideration of delegates. It will also submit the reports and recommendations of the Fourth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee, and the Sixth Meeting of the Technical Subcommittee.

/The recommendations

The recommendations emerging from these governmental meetings provide solid backing for ILPES and call for the establishment of a new system of financing designed to assure it of the minimum regular budget which is essential for its institutional continuity.

11. Admission of the British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands as associate members of ECLA

Working document

Admission of the British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands as associate members of ECLA - Note prepared by the United Nations Secretariat at the request of the Executive Secretary of ECLA (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.16).

As stated in the note by the Secretariat, a letter dated 3 October 1983 was received from the United States Government in which application is made for the admission of the United States Virgin Islands as an associate member of ECLA.

Furthermore, in a letter dated 9 December 1983, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made application for the admission of the British Virgin Islands as an associate member of the Commission. These applications have been transmitted by the ECLA Secretariat to the member governments of the Commission, who have also been sent copies of a note prepared by the Department of Political Affairs Trusteeship and Decolonization of the United Nations Secretariat at the request of the Executive Secretary of ECLA, containing a summary of the relevant decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, together with other background information which could be of use to governments in considering this item.

At the present time, there are two non-independent territories which are associate members of the Commission: Montserrat, whose application for admission was presented by the United Kingdom on 29 February 1965, and the Netherlands Antilles, whose application for admission was presented by the Netherlands at the nineteenth session of ECLA (May 1981). Both were admitted as associate members of ECLA by decision of the Commission.

12. Place and date of the twenty-first session of ECLA

According to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of ECLA "the Commission shall at each session decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation".

At the nineteenth session, the representative of Suriname informed the Executive Secretary of ECLA in writing of his country's interest in hosting the twentieth session. Subsequently, in a cable dated 23 February 1983, the Government of Suriname informed the Executive Secretary that unforeseen events had arisen which obliged that country to withdraw its offer to host the twentieth session, but that it wished to propose itself as the host country for the twenty-first session, scheduled for 1986.

13. Consideration and approval of the report of the twentieth session of ECLA

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