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ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL

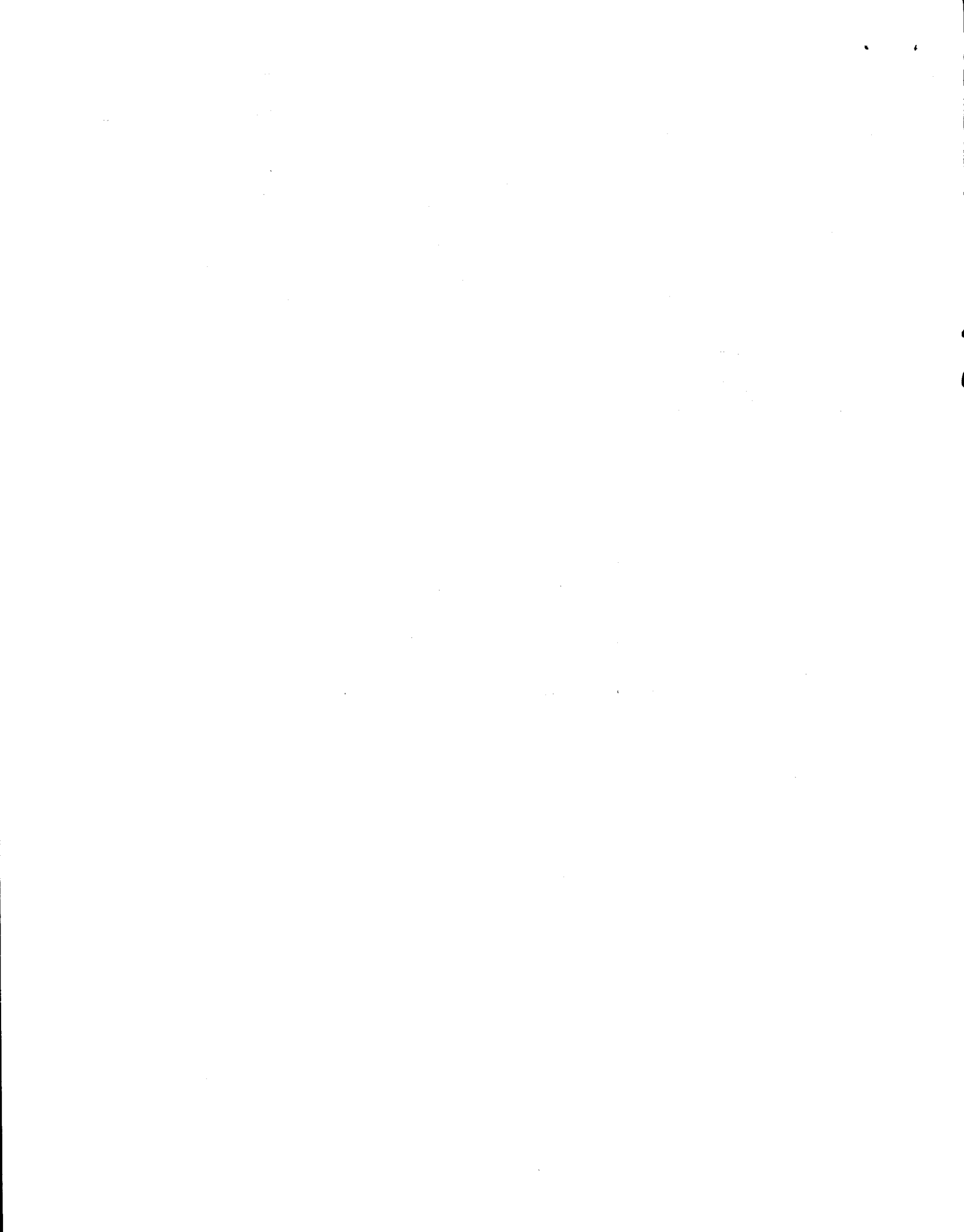


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CEPAL
Economic Commission for Latin America
Eighteenth session
La Paz, Bolivia, 18-26 April 1979

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF
THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

- I. Organization of the meeting
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Annotations on the provisional agenda



I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The attached provisional agenda requires, as a first stage, the formation of two technical committees which will operate between 18 and 22 April, following a meeting of heads of delegations to be held on 18 April to consider these and other proposals by the secretariat regarding the organization of work.

If these proposals are approved, Committee I will deal with the agenda items concerning the appraisal of the economic and social development and the external economic relations of Latin America (agenda item 3) and co-operation among developing countries and regions (agenda item 4).

Committee II will deal with the activities of the CEPAL system since the seventeenth session and the programme of work for the period 1979-1981 (agenda item 5). This item includes the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

The second stage will be at the plenary level and is due to begin on 23 April, using as a basis the reports already approved by the above-mentioned Committees I and II. The plenary meetings to be held in this stage are usually attended by Ministers or heads of delegations, and they will be inaugurated with a special ceremony in keeping with the status of the participating government representatives.

Since 1979 has been declared International Year of the Child by resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, this fact will also be ceremonially recorded.

The Ministers and heads of delegations will consider the conclusions reached at the technical level and the recommendations made by the Committees, and will adopt such resolutions as they may deem appropriate in this respect. They will also be called upon to decide the place and date of the nineteenth session of CEPAL and, finally, to consider and adopt the final report of the eighteenth session prepared by the Rapporteur with the assistance of the secretariat.

/II. PROVISIONAL

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the eighteenth session
3. The economic and social development and external economic relations of Latin America
 - (a) Appraisal of the economic and social development of Latin America
 - (b) External economic relations of Latin America
 - (c) Latin America in the 1980s: CEPAL's action in the preparation of the International Development Strategy
4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions
 - (a) Co-operation within the region
 - (b) Interregional co-operation
5. Activities of the CEPAL system since the seventeenth session, and programme of work for the period 1979-1981
 - (a) CEPAL
 - (i) Subsidiary bodies
 - (ii) Regional meetings
 - (iii) Other activities during the period 1977-1979
 - (iv) Programme of work of the CEPAL system for the period 1979-1981
 - (b) Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
 - (i) Activities of ILPES in the period 1977-1979
 - (ii) Future activities of ILPES
 - (c) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
 - (i) Activities of CELADE in the period 1977-1979
 - (ii) Future activities of CELADE
6. Place and date of the nineteenth session of CEPAL
7. Consideration and adoption of the report on the eighteenth session of the Commission.

/III. ANNOTATED

III. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers

In accordance with rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of CEPAL, the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and a Rapporteur. The established practice at previous sessions of CEPAL has been to elect the head of the delegation of the host country as Chairman. Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that "The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman when acting as Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member country by whom he was accredited".

If one or more committees are set up, as has generally proved necessary at previous sessions, it will be necessary to elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for each committee.

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

Representatives may either adopt the provisional agenda (E/CEPAL/1062) prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of CEPAL or make such observations as they may deem appropriate regarding it within the context of the Rules of Procedure. The following paragraphs contain some comments on the various agenda items, together with references to the main documents and items of background information which should be borne in mind.

As regards the organization of work of the eighteenth session, the relevant suggestions of the secretariat are to be found in part I of the present document. The organization of work and matters connected with the agenda and the election of Officers are usually dealt with at an informal meeting of heads of delegations of member States held before the official opening of each session.

3. The economic and social development and external economic relations of Latin America

- (a) Appraisal of the economic and social development of Latin America
- (b) The external economic relations of Latin America
- (c) Latin America in the 1980s: CEPAL's action in the preparation of the International Development Strategy.

/Documents:

Documents:

- The economic and social development and external economic relations of Latin America, volumes I and II (E/CEPAL/1061 and Add.1)
- Report of the fourth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts, Quito, Ecuador, 12-16 March 1979 (E/CEPAL/1073)

Reference documents

- Regional appraisals of the International Development Strategy: Quito, 1973; Chaguaramas, 1975; Guatemala City, 1977; (CEPAL Cuadernos Series, Nos. 2 and 17)
- Resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and CEPAL (E/CEPAL/1069)
- Advance version of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1978 (E/CEPAL/1075)
- Long-term trends and prospects of the development of Latin America (E/CEPAL/1076)

In accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, CEPAL has so far made three appraisals of the International Development Strategy in the Latin American context, namely the "Quito Appraisal" in 1973, the "Chaguaramas Appraisal" in 1975, and the "Guatemala Appraisal" in 1977. The Commission will therefore have to make a fourth appraisal at its eighteenth session in La Paz. In order to appraise the fulfilment of the IDS and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order from the point of view of the Governments of the region, the Commission will have before it the report of the fourth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), on which the developing member countries of the Commission are represented. These countries will meet for this purpose, in accordance with CEPAL resolution 310 (XIV), from 12 to 16 March 1979 in Quito, Ecuador.

In order to facilitate this task of government appraisal, the secretariat, in compliance with the mandates received, has prepared a document entitled "The economic and social development and external economic relations of Latin America", volumes I and II (E/CEPAL/1061 and Add.1), which

/was duly

was duly distributed to the member governments before the Meeting of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) in Quito, and which will also form part of the documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission in La Paz.

Part One of the document reviews the main features of the economic and social process on the basis of its long-term evolution, in order to make it possible to illustrate and understand the profound changes which have taken place in the Latin American economy and society. It analyses the transformation and diversification of the productive system, the nature and scope of structural changes in the Latin American society, and the developments in connexion with income distribution and poverty situations. The document thus reviews the achievements and contradictions that are manifest in the changes that have taken place in Latin America and represents the secretariat's contribution of background information and appraisals to the deliberations of CEGAN and the eighteenth session of the Commission. Consideration of these topics and the positions that may be adopted will permit the countries of the region to intensify their participation in the United Nations activities aimed at defining guidelines for the formulation of a new International Development Strategy for the next decade.

The economic evolution of the 1970s is analysed within the context of long-term economic development in order to evaluate the achievements in terms of sectoral productive transformation, the region's accumulation and savings capacity, and Latin America's place in the new international economic scenario. The rise and fall of the economic growth rate are examined in comparison with the quantitative goals of the International Development Strategy. Agricultural and manufacturing development trends are analysed separately and a review of energy is presented by types of sources, forms of consumption and availability of resources for the Latin American countries.

The study of social development highlights the expansion of the urban social groups, changes in rural society and the increasing social heterogeneity and differentiation. Population dynamics is the frame of reference for analysing employment problems, changes in the labour force, growth in education and social demands. The study also presents the preliminary results of the research carried out on income distribution and poverty situations.

Part Two of the document analyses the external economic relations of Latin America. First, an evaluation is made of the achievements and contrasts shown by the development of the countries of the region in the international context, and the priorities and concerns which should be considered in the formulation of external policies. This is followed by a critical appraisal of the resurgence of protectionism in industrialized countries and its possible effects on exports and on the rate of development of the countries of the region. Another important subject is the Integrated Programme for Commodities, in connexion with which the study indicates the scanty progress made in achieving the goals adopted at UNCTAD IV in this field, and the prospects of agreement on the establishment of a common fund for the financing of buffer stocks as part of this Programme. In the area of external financing and monetary problems, an analysis is made of the new problems for the countries of the region deriving from their heavy dependence on private financing and the difficulties some of them have in gaining access to the capital markets. There follows a detailed study of regional co-operation which shows that specific bilateral or sectoral co-operation mechanisms have enabled some progress to be made in the integration process in spite of the problems or crises that have sometimes faced the formal integration mechanisms. Relations with the main trading areas are reviewed in order to point up specific problems in connexion with each, and the study concludes with a brief analysis of transnational corporations in the present stage of Latin American development, especially as regards the new forms of linkage between transnational corporations and the economies of the region.

4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions

(a) Co-operation within the region

(b) Interregional co-operation

Document

- The Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the role of the CEPAL system in co-operation among developing countries and regions

(Note by the secretariat) (E/CEPAL/1063).

In its resolution 363 (XVII), the Commission decided "to include an item on co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas in the agenda of all the biennial sessions of the Commission as a permanent question to be examined by the Member Governments".

/This question

This question has come to have even greater importance since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978).

The note by the secretariat (E/CEPAL/1063) on this agenda item comprises an introduction on the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action which refer explicitly to the role which the regional commissions should play in TCDC activities at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. Chapters II and III briefly describe CEPAL's position as a regional "think tank" creating action-oriented ideas, and present a summary review of the present and future intellectual work of the secretariat and of the CEPAL system itself within the framework of the work programme adopted by the Commission, with the purpose of identifying studies and research containing the necessary elements to generate projects in support of TCDC activities. Chapter IV refers to the existing contacts with ECA and ESCAP with a view to programmes of co-operation between Africa and Latin America and between Latin America and India. Chapter V presents the secretariat's views on: (a) the internal structure for TCDC; (b) machinery for action at the regional and interregional levels; and (c) the way in which CEPAL envisages co-operation with UNDP for TCDC.

In this respect, the Commission may wish to recommend some guidelines for, inter alia, (a) formulating and executing the secretariat's projects and programmes in support of TCDC activities at the subregional, regional and interregional levels; (b) establishing closer co-operation between countries and groups of countries and institutions of the region on the one hand, and the secretariat on the other, in order to carry out operational and research activities that would offer opportunities for TCDC; (c) defining the collaboration which the secretariat could furnish in strengthening the capacities of the countries and groups of countries and institutions of the region for providing mutual co-operation; (d) indicating the priority sectors which should be taken especially into account in promoting TCDC in the period 1979-1981; and (e) establishing the appropriate machinery at the regional level for analysing the secretariat's TCDC activities under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, orienting its work, providing policy criteria and formulating specific proposals for action-oriented TCDC strategies and programmes.

5. Activities of the CEPAL system since the seventeenth session, and programme of work for the period 1979-1981

(a) CEPAL

- (i) Subsidiary bodies
- (ii) Regional meetings
- (iii) Other activities during the period 1977-1979
- (iv) Programme of work of the CEPAL system for the period 1979-1981

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

- (i) Activities of ILPES in the period 1977-1979
- (ii) Future activities of ILPES

(c) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

- (i) Activities of CELADE in the period 1977-1979
- (ii) Future activities of CELADE

Documents:

- Draft annual report. Work of the Commission since 8 May 1978 (E/CEPAL/1067)
- Draft programme of work of the CEPAL system, 1979-1981 (E/CEPAL/1068)
- CEPAL's role in trade and transport facilitation (E/CEPAL/1064)
- Implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action at the regional level (E/CEPAL/1077)

Reference documents:

- Annual Report of the Commission from 7 May 1977 to 6 May 1978 (E/1978/51 - E/CEPAL/1051)

Wide-ranging, numerous and increasing activities have been carried out by CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE since the seventeenth session of the Commission and are envisaged within the system for the period 1979-1981. With the purpose of facilitating the review of both the work done by the system and the work it proposes to do, the secretariat suggests that the review should start with the activities of CEPAL itself, followed by those of ILPES, and finally those of CELADE, although all these activities should be more and more closely interlinked.

/It is

It is further suggested that the review should deal first with the action taken or planned by the member governments themselves, either in the subsidiary bodies of the CEPAL system or at regional, subregional or sectoral government meetings which have been held since the last session or are organized and scheduled to take place in the near future. In this respect, it is suggested that the following order be observed:

(a) CEPAL

(i) Subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole of CEPAL held its eleventh extraordinary session on 21 November 1977 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The member Governments adopted the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1), which had been recommended by the Regional Conference convened on the subject by CEPAL in Havana, Cuba, 13-17 June 1977, as agreed by the Commission at its seventeenth session (Guatemala City, April 1977). When adopting the Plan, the member Governments decided to convene within the framework of CEPAL, on a permanent and regular basis and at intervals of no more than three years, a United Nations Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Latin American Development, whose functions are described in paragraph 88 of the Plan of Action. It was further decided that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference should remain in office until new officers were appointed, and act as the link for liaison between governments and the CEPAL secretariat in the field of the integration of women into development. It was decided that the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, in consultation with the Presiding Officers of the Conference, would convene the second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America in 1979, as a regional preparatory activity for the World Conference to be held on this question by the United Nations in 1980. It was also decided that CEPAL should convene a group of government experts prior to the Conference to evaluate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Development and submit

/their appraisal

their appraisal to the Presiding Officers prior to the convening of the Regional Conference for their information, study and opinions.

Pursuant to these mandates, the Presiding Officers of the Conference have held two meetings, the first in Kingston, Jamaica, 14-15 February 1978, and the second in Mexico City, 28-29 September 1978, and the secretariat duly distributed the reports of those meetings to all member governments. In addition, the Group of Government Experts to appraise the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was convened on 8 and 9 March 1979 in Quito, Ecuador, and the third meeting of the Presiding Officers directly afterwards, on 11 and 12 March 1979, likewise in Quito. The reports of these two meetings will be available to delegates in La Paz, although the consideration and detailed discussion of them should properly be undertaken at the second Regional Conference, the place and dates of which should be fixed at the eighteenth session of the Commission.

Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation

During the period since CEPAL met in Guatemala, the Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation - the first subsidiary body set up by CEPAL - continued to carry into practice various decisions it had taken in order to reactivate the Central American integration movement. Progress was also made in the preparation of a meeting of ministers to evaluate economic relations between Mexico and Central America. These and other activities are described in the annual reports on the activities of the CEPAL system indicated below.

Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, set up in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of CEPAL, held its third session in Belize City from 12 to 18 April 1978, and its fourth session was convened for 21 to 27 March 1979 in Paramaribo, Suriname. It is the Commission's duty to consider the reports of these CDCC meetings (E/CEPAL/CDCC/44/Rev.3 and E/CEPAL/1074), since the CDCC is an integral part of the CEPAL system.

/Committee of

Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)

In the notes on agenda item 3, emphasis was placed on the important work entrusted by the Commission under CEPAL resolution 310 (XIV), to the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) in connexion with the regional appraisal of the IDS and the establishment of a New International Economic Order. In addition, by resolution 357 (XVI) adopted at its sixteenth session (Port of Spain, 1975) CEPAL also gave CEGAN other tasks and responsibilities, including those of examining and helping to orient the activities undertaken by the CEPAL system, in the sphere of population, whose focal point is the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). Pursuant to this mandate, the first CEGAN Meeting on Population was convened in Quito, Ecuador on 12 and 13 March 1979, the report of which will be before the Commission at its eighteenth session. The secretariat suggests that this report (E/CEPAL/1072) should be discussed under agenda item 5 (c), together with CELADE activities.

(ii) Regional meetings

In addition to the activities or proposals of its subsidiary bodies, the Commission also has to review the results of the meetings of government representatives and experts held under the auspices of CEPAL or with its advisory services. All these meetings are described in the relevant parts of the annual reports on the activities of the CEPAL system prepared by the secretariat. Some of these meetings were held as preparatory stages of a regional nature prior to world conferences convened by the United Nations. This is the case of the two regional meetings organized by CEPAL, in Panama from 16 to 20 August 1978 and then in Montevideo from 29 November to 1 December 1978, to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in Vienna from 20 to 31 August 1979. The recommendations of these regional meetings will be available at the La Paz session, as well as those of the Working Group on Financing for the Acceleration of Economic and Technological Progress (Lima, Peru, 26 and 27 March 1978).

In compliance with its resolution 373 (XVII), CEPAL is completing the preparations for the Latin American Conference on Industrialization to be held in the second half of 1979 with a view to the adoption of

/common positions

common positions by the region prior to the Third General Conference of UNIDO (New Delhi, 1980). A report will be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Commission on the state of the documentation for the Latin American Conference, as well as on the place and date of the Conference.

The Latin American Regional Meeting on the Plan of Action of the United Nations Water Conference was held on 9 to 13 October 1978 at CEPAL headquarters in Santiago, Chile. On that occasion, as may be seen from the Report of the Meeting (E/CEPAL/1056), the government representatives recommended inter alia that in order to promote the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level CEPAL should directly assume concrete and permanent responsibilities for that purpose at its regular sessions, preferably through a sessional committee. They also recommended that in order to achieve this purpose more rapidly, as a first step the agenda for the forthcoming session to be held in the first half of 1979 in La Paz should include an item on the implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action, and a sessional committee should be set up to discuss it, to which it was further recommended that the governments should send qualified experts so that these procedures could become normal practice at every session. The Regional Meeting also recommended that the secretariat should prepare a report for the eighteenth session to facilitate the decisions of Governments on the CEPAL work programme in this field, and the secretariat accordingly prepared the document "Implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action at the regional level" (E/CEPAL/1077). If the Commission approves these recommendations in La Paz and includes water as an agenda item for the eighteenth session, the secretariat ventures to suggest that the item should be discussed on 20 and 21 April by the sessional committee which is set up specifically for that purpose.

An intergovernmental preparatory meeting for a draft Latin American Convention on the civil liability of carriers in international land transport was held from 4 to 8 September 1978 in Santiago, Chile. The meeting examined the text prepared by the Group of Experts convened to draft a Latin American Convention on the civil liability of carriers in

/international land

international land transport (Santiago, Chile, 29 November-2 December 1977), into which they introduced changes and in some cases suggested possible texts for consideration at a second preparatory meeting.

In its report (E/CEPAL/1054), the intergovernmental preparatory meeting requested the secretariat to report at the eighteenth session of the Commission on the progress made in the preparation of the draft convention. The secretariat also wishes to consult the member countries at the eighteenth session on the place and date of the next intergovernmental preparatory meeting.

(iii) Other activities during the period 1977-1979

In conformity with rule 24 of the CEPAL Rules of Procedure, the Executive Secretary at every session of the Commission "shall present a report on the work programme of the secretariat during the period of the previous and current sessions". According to the same rule, "in the period between sessions, the Executive Secretary shall see that, in so far as possible, the member Governments are informed of the results of the work in progress and of the opinions expressed by the member Governments regarding such results".

Pursuant to these mandates, the secretariat prepared and duly distributed to member Governments the annual report of the Commission covering the activities undertaken between 7 May 1977 and 6 May 1978 (E/1978/51 - E/CEPAL/1051), which will also be available in La Paz as a reference document. In addition - and again in compliance with mandates adopted by the member Governments of CEPAL and confirmed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and General Assembly with a view to securing greater integration of the activities within the Commission's competence - a review should be made at La Paz of all the activities, both substantive and operational, of the entire CEPAL system, i.e., CEPAL proper, ILPES and CELADE. To this end, the delegates will have before them the draft annual report prepared by the secretariat covering the activities of the CEPAL system from 8 May 1978 until the eighteenth session (E/CEPAL/1067).

(iv) Programme of Work of the CEPAL system for the period 1979-1981

For the consideration of this item, the delegates will have before them the corresponding document prepared by the secretariat on the basis of mandates issued by member Governments at previous CEPAL meetings and mandates given by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and General Assembly (E/CEPAL/1068). Although both the activities and work programmes of CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE are presented together in the above-mentioned documents, the directors of ILPES and CELADE will enlarge on the presentation made by the Executive Secretary or his representatives, if circumstances so require.

6. Place and date of the nineteenth session of the Commission

According to the provisions of chapter I of the CEPAL Rules of Procedure, the Commission shall at each session consider the place and date for its next session, which in the present case should normally be held in 1981. When dealing with this item in La Paz, the Commission will examine the invitations which may have been received in writing or verbally from member Governments in connexion with the venue of the nineteenth session, and adopt a resolution recommending the place and date of that session. Under rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure, "the Commission's recommendation regarding the place of meeting for its session shall be taken with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation".

CEPAL has so far held its sessions in the following cities:

1. Santiago, Chile, 7-25 June 1948
2. Havana, 29 May-14 June 1949
3. Montevideo, 5-21 June 1950
4. Mexico City, 26 May-16 June 1951
5. Quitandinha, 9-25 April 1953
6. Bogotá, 29 August-16 September 1955
7. La Paz, 15-29 May 1957
8. Panama, 11-23 May 1959
9. Santiago, Chile, 4-15 May 1961
10. Mar del Plata, 6-18 May 1963
11. Mexico City, 6-18 May 1965

/12. Caracas,

12. Caracas, 2-13 May 1967
 13. Lima, 14-23 April 1969
 14. Santiago, Chile, 27 April-8 May 1971
 15. Quito, 23-30 March 1973
 16. Port of Spain, 6-14 May 1975
 17. Guatemala City, 25 April-5 May 1977
7. Consideration and adoption of the report of the eighteenth session of the Commission

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