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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE  
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

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



## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

The twenty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 27 April 1988, the year in which the Commission celebrates its fortieth anniversary. The session is being held in accordance with the following resolutions: the decision of the member States, adopted by acclamation at the Special Conference of ECLAC held in Mexico City in January 1987, to accept the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the twenty-second session of the Commission; decision 1987/166 of the Economic and Social Council approving the above-mentioned decision; and resolution 479(XXI) on the calendar of conferences of ECLAC.

This meeting is the most important of the biennium for the Commission and is taking place at a time when most of the countries of the region have still not succeeded in overcoming the economic crisis of the 1980s, despite all their strenuous efforts to do so. It is therefore hoped that the exchange of views made possible by this forum will give rise to guidelines for action both by governments and by ECLAC itself.

The session will also permit the governments of member States to obtain first-hand information on the work undertaken by ECLAC over the last two years and to give their views on the order of priority of the Commission's future activities.

The Secretariat has sought in this Note to put forward a number of suggestions to facilitate consideration of the various items on the provisional agenda and to organize the allocation of time in such a way that, should its suggestions be acceptable to the governments of member States, the conduct of the deliberations will be facilitated. As is customary at ECLAC meetings, these suggestions on the organization of work will be considered together with the provisional agenda at a meeting of heads of delegations which has been scheduled for the morning of Wednesday 20 April, that is to say, at the commencement of the twenty-second session.

In order to facilitate the task of the delegations, the Secretariat will make available working and reference documents on the items included in the agenda.\*/

As on previous occasions, it is proposed to divide the meeting into two consecutive phases. During the first of these, which will be basically of a

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\*/ See "Documents presented at the twenty-second session of the Commission" (LC/G.1512(SES.22/7)).

technical nature, work will be conducted in committees, which will meet from 20 to 23 April.

The second phase will take place in plenary session from 25 April onwards, and during that stage the reports adopted by the committees which met during the technical stage will be presented. It should be noted that Ministers of State or heads of delegation of equivalent rank usually participate in the second stage. Moreover, this stage is initiated with a solemn inaugural ceremony organized by the host country and presided over by the President of the Republic.

During the technical stage it is proposed to establish a Committee I which will examine the topic "Restrictions on sustained development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the requisites for overcoming them" (agenda item 3).

A Committee II will also be established to consider the following items: "Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations" (agenda item 5); "Other activities of the ECLAC system since the twenty-first session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1990-1991" (agenda item 6) and "Calendar of conferences for the period 1988-1990" (agenda item 7).

It is proposed to consider the item "Co-operation among developing countries and regions" (agenda item 4) in a sessional committee. It should be noted that resolution 489(PLN.19) "Intergovernmental structure and functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" abolished the sessional committees on water and on human settlements, and provided that those items should be subsequently considered together with other subjects that form part of the Commission's programme of work.

The decisions and conclusions of the Committee on Co-operation among Developing Countries and Regions will first be submitted for the consideration of Committee II and subsequently to the plenary sessions, together with the reports of this Committee and of Committee II.

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

## II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the twenty-second
3. Restrictions on sustained development in Latin America and the Caribbean and requisites for overcoming them
4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions
5. Meetings of auxiliary bodies, and regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC in preparation for United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations
6. Other activities of the ECLAC system since the twenty-first session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1990-1991
  - a) ECLAC
  - b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
  - c) Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
7. Calendar of conferences for the period 1988-1990
8. Other business:
  - a) Admission of Aruba as an associate member of ECLAC
  - b) Some recent resolutions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the Commission
9. Adoption of the report.

## III. ANNOTATIONS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### 1. Election of Officers

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

Generally speaking, the Officers elected to preside over the debates during the technical stage continue in their functions during the ministerial

stage, except that this latter stage is attended by the respective heads of delegation.

Should the committees proposed by the Secretariat be established, they too will be presided over by their respective Officers, comprising a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

It is proposed to discuss the composition of these groups of Officers at the meeting of heads of delegations to be held on the morning of Wednesday 20 April 1988.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Delegates will have before them, for their consideration and approval, the provisional agenda (LC/G.1502(SES.22/1)), which has been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of ECLAC and bearing in mind the various mandates which have been entrusted to the Commission. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate within the framework of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

The agenda of the session, the organization of work and the establishment of committees will be considered at the meeting of heads of delegations of the governments of member States which, as already mentioned, will take place on the morning of 20 April.

## 3. Restrictions on sustained development in Latin America and the Caribbean and requisites for overcoming them

### Working document

- Restrictions on sustained development in Latin America and the Caribbean and requisites for overcoming them (LC/G.1488(SES.22/3)/Rev.1).

### Reference documents

- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1986. Advance summary (LC/G.1511).
- The evolution of the external debt problem in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1487).
- Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy, 1987 (LC/G.1485).
- Agriculture, external trade and international co-operation (LC/G.1492).
- World technological change and its consequences for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1493).

In considering this agenda item, delegates will have the opportunity to analyse the main restrictions hindering the sustained development of the countries of the region. The phenomenon of the transfer of financial resources and its impact on the capacity to grow, accumulate, improve income

distribution and reduce inflation has been selected as the focal point for this analysis. In this context, the economic prospects for the coming five years will also be examined through an analysis of alternative scenarios prepared by the Secretariat.

Options for managing the external debt will be a key topic in this analysis. In addition, within the framework of the proposals, not only will policy guidelines for subordinating the servicing of the debt to development objectives be analysed, but a discussion will also be held on the measures which the governments and societies of the region should take in order to transform their productive structures, satisfy the most urgent needs of the mass of their populations, yet achieve these objectives in a context of reasonable financial stability. Furthermore, an examination will be undertaken of the role of economic integration and intra-regional co-operation in vanquishing the restrictions on development.

#### 4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions

##### Working document

- Actividades del sistema de la CEPAL para promover y apoyar la cooperación entre países y regiones en desarrollo. Nota de la Secretaría (LC/G.1505(SES.22/10)).

##### Reference documents

- Resúmenes de documentos sobre cooperación entre países en desarrollo. Segunda parte. Serie INFOPLAN: Temas especiales del desarrollo, N° 6.
- Guide to facilitate technical co-operation among developing countries: Supply of TCDC and directory of institutions (LC/G.1513).

In conformity with the provisions of the ECLAC resolutions 387(XVIII) and 419(PLEN.14), this agenda item is to be dealt with in a sessional committee established for this purpose.

Support for and promotion of co-operation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels has continued to be a priority activity of ECLAC, within the framework of the relevant recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134) and of the resolutions adopted subsequently by the member countries of the Commission, particularly resolution 486(XXI) adopted by ECLAC at its twenty-first session.

The document prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration of delegations on this occasion outlines the various operational activities undertaken by the ECLAC system during the 1986-1987 biennium to promote and support initiatives and mechanisms for co-operation among developing countries. It examines the fulfilment of the mandates which the member countries of ECLAC have entrusted to the Secretariat so that ECLAC may play its proper role as a catalyst in these areas. The Note by the Secretariat outlines, firstly, those activities aimed at identifying opportunities for

intensifying technical co-operation among developing countries and regions in selected areas of the work programme of ECLAC. Secondly, it outlines the activities aimed at supporting the exchange of experience among governmental and non-governmental agents of co-operation. It then reviews the activities designed to facilitate the role of the national co-ordinating centres for TCDC, focussing in particular on the results achieved in the project undertaken by ECLAC to strengthen links among the above-mentioned centres. Finally, the document takes note of the progress made in the area of co-ordination with other regional bodies and entities with a view to taking optimum advantage of the efforts being made by them in the area of TCDC in the region.

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

Reference documents

- Report of the twelfth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1447(CEG.12/3));
- Report of the thirteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1480(CEG.13/2));
- Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (LC/G.1510(CEG.14/3));
- Report of the tenth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) (LC/G.1495; LC/CAR/G.243)

Twelfth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-3 December 1986)

The report of this session (LC/G.1447(CEG.12/3)), which was convened to serve as a preparatory forum for the Special Conference of ECLAC that was subsequently held in Mexico City, contains a draft declaration by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean defining their policy commitments and expressing various views on the crisis.

Thirteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (United Nations Headquarters, New York, 11-13 August 1987)

The main item on the agenda of this session was the handling of the economic crisis. An extensive debate took place on this question, in the course of which an analysis was made of such issues as the insertion of Latin America and the Caribbean in the international economy, national economic policies, international trade, the external debt, and economic integration. In addition, the meeting adopted a resolution on ECLAC support for the Central American countries.

Fourteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1-4 March 1988)

The main purpose of this meeting is to prepare the position of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on item 3 of the agenda of the twenty-second session of ECLAC.



Tenth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27-29 October 1987)

The deliberations of this meeting resulted in a set of decisions and recommendations on the various items of the agenda. The Committee also adopted resolution 21(X) on the programme of support for small island countries.

Regional meetings in preparation for world conferences

During the period in question ECLAC did not sponsor any regional meetings in preparation for United Nations world conferences.

6. Other activities of the ECLAC system since the twenty-first session, and programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1990-1991

This agenda comprises three sub-items, each of which concerns one of the institutions which together make up the ECLAC system, namely:

- a) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- b) Latin American Demographic Centre
- c) Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning.

a) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Working documents

- Report on the activities of the Commission since April 1986 (LC/G.1508(SES.22/5));
- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1990-1991 (LC/G.1506(SES.22/6));
- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 1988-1990. Note by the Secretariat (LC/G.1499(SES.22/4)).

Reference document

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1988-1989. (LC/G.1393(SES.21/6)).

In order to help member governments to decide on the work to be done by ECLAC during the 1990-1991 biennium, the Secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work (LC/G.1506(SES.22/6)), which may be modified in the light of the priorities that may be established during the current session.

b) Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

Working documents

- Report on the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), 1986-1987 (LC/G.1494(SES.22/8); LC/DEM/G.60).
- Report on the activities of the Commission since April 1986 (LC/G.1508(SES.22/5)).
- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1990-1991 (LC/G.1506(SES.22/6)).

The work done by CELADE during the 1986-1987 biennium, as well as its activities scheduled for future bienniums, fall within the ambit of the regional population programme of ECLAC, whose purpose is to contribute to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean in the population disciplines by providing assistance to the countries of the region in enhancing their self-sufficiency and promoting horizontal co-operation, while at the same time providing regional services which the countries may not wish to develop on an individual basis. CELADE carries out its activities from its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, with the support of a subregional office in San José, Costa Rica; a joint ECLAC/CELADE Demographic Unit in Port of Spain; and a demographer attached to ECLAC Buenos Aires Office.

The first of the documents mentioned above (LC/G.1494(SES.22/8)) contains a report on the activities undertaken by CELADE in the countries of the region during the 1986-1987 biennium in the areas of technical co-operation, training, selected studies, information services and the transfer of technology, and it briefly examines future prospects for action in the area of population. A summary of these same activities appears in the Report on the activities of the Commission since April 1986 (LC/G.1508(SES.22/5)) while the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1990-1991 (LC/G.1506(SES.22/6)) also briefly summarizes the tasks which CELADE plans to undertake during this biennium (see in both cases the chapter "Programme 18: Population").

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

#### Working documents

- ILPES: New work bases and summary of activities 1986-1987 (LC/G.1509(SES.22/9); LC/IP/G.44).
- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 1990-1991 (LC/G.1506(SES.22/6)).

The activities of ILPES are carried out in accordance with the bases laid down by the Institute's principal guiding organs: the Regional Council for Planning, made up of the 37 member governments, and the Governing Council, comprising representatives of seven governments. The seventh meeting of the first of these bodies reiterated its support for the institutional project of ILPES, which has strengthened the participation of member governments in the management and financing of the Institute through a system of regular contributions.

During the period under review, governments approved a new form of institutional organization which covers the areas of operations, technical co-operation and specific projects, as well as administrative units. Meanwhile, ILPES continues to perform its functions as Technical Secretariat of the System of Co-operation and Co-ordination Among Planning Bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean (SCOOPALC). It is currently actively promoting the decentralization of its activities through the work of units for the Caribbean (based in Port of Spain) and for Central America (based in San José, Costa Rica).

UNDP, which has supported ILPES since the latter's establishment, is participating with member governments in a new project entitled: "Development and dissemination of new techniques in the planning and programming of public policies" (RLA/86/029) for the period 1987-1990.

In keeping with the guidelines laid down by the governments, ILPES continues to focus its attention primarily on the following areas: planning and economic policy; planning and public sector projects, social policies, and planning and regional policies.

At the twenty-second session, ILPES will present a report on its activities and will submit for the consideration of delegates the programmes of its future activities. It will also present the results of the Sixth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the recommendations emerging from the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Council for Planning and the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council. In these recommendations, the governments reiterate their fullest support for the activities of ILPES and for the regular system of financing in order to ensure that the regular budget will attain the minimum level necessary for the organization's institutional continuity.

#### 7. Calendar of conferences for the period 1988-1990

##### Working document

- Proposed Calendar of Conferences of ECLAC for the period 1988-1990. Note by the Secretariat (LC/G.1499(SES.22/4)).

According to the provisions of the operative part of resolution 419(PLEN.14) adopted by the ECLAC Committee of the Whole at its fourteenth session held in November 1980, the focal points around which other meetings of the Commission are organized are the sessions of ECLAC, which are held every two years, and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, which are held in those years during which the Commission does not meet. The above-mentioned resolution also provided that ECLAC sessions should be held in even-numbered years, so as to bring them into line with the biennial budget programming cycle established by the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was also provided that "at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire ECLAC system planned up to the next ordinary session must be considered, stipulating, where possible, the date, duration, and location of each meeting".

In fulfilment of this resolution, the Secretariat has prepared a table (annex 3 of document LC/G.1499(SES.22/4)) which lists the meetings programmed for the period 1988-1990, in accordance with the mandates adopted by governments concerning meetings of ECLAC and of its auxiliary bodies.

## 8. Other business

### a) Admission of Aruba as an associate member of ECLAC.

In a letter dated 18 February 1988, the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Chile informed the Executive Secretary of ECLAC that, in accordance with article 3.a) of the Terms of Reference of the Commission, his Government was applying for the admission of Aruba as an associate member of the Commission. The letter mentions that on 1 January 1986 the island of Aruba, which had until then formed part of the Netherlands Antilles, obtained internal self-government as a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the same status as the other two parts of the Kingdom. Aruba therefore now has the same legal status as the Netherlands Antilles, which is one of the present associate members of ECLAC.

b) Some recent resolutions adopted by United Nations organs which require to be brought to the attention of the Commission.

It has been considered appropriate to inform the member countries of the Commission regarding the following resolutions having a relation with the work of ECLAC:

i) The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives (General Assembly resolution 42/1) and Special economic assistance to Central America (General Assembly resolution 42/204).

In the operative part of its resolution 42/1, the General Assembly expresses its support for the peace efforts being made in Central America and urges the international community to increase technical, economic and financial assistance to the Central American countries. In its resolution 42/204, it requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, ECLAC and other bodies, to send a technical mission to the Central American countries for the purpose of determining their economic and social priorities and to formulate a special plan of co-operation for Central America. It also appeals to the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate in implementing that special plan.

ii) Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (General Assembly resolution 42/11).

In this resolution the General Assembly invites the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for promoting and expanding co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the Organization of American States, in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations for the attainment of their common objectives, and urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify and expand their co-operation with the organizations and programmes of the Organization of American States.

iii) Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (General Assembly resolution 42/12).

In its resolution 42/12, the General Assembly acknowledges with satisfaction the efforts made by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and decides to strengthen and broaden co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA to allow for ongoing consultation on matters of common interest and exchange of information between secretariats so as to improve the capacity of the two organizations for the attainment of their goals and objectives. It also urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to intensify their co-operation in the activities of SELA.

iv) Preparation of the new international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (General Assembly resolution 42/193).

In this resolution, the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with all the organs and organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to provide information which would be appropriate for the preparation and elaboration of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000), including that which would be relevant for the assessment of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. In a cable dispatched on 1 February 1988, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to bring this resolution to the attention of the twenty-second session of ECLAC.

v) Raúl Prebisch Foundation (General Assembly resolution 42/194).

In its resolution 42/194, the General Assembly recognizes the important and valuable contribution of the former Executive Secretary of ECLAC to development and international economic co-operation and invites all States and relevant agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to support the activities undertaken by the Raúl Prebisch Foundation set up in Argentina in the cause of development.

c) Policy guidelines for the harmonization of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in science and technology for development (resolution 4(IX) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development)

In its resolution 4(IX), adopted at its ninth session (New York, 27 July-7 August 1987), the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the above-mentioned topic (document A/CN.11/84 of 12 June 1987) and invites other intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system to consider that report at their forthcoming sessions and to offer their comments. In a letter dated 22 September 1987, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation of the United Nations requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to bring this resolution to the attention of the Commission at its twenty-second session in order to enable the members of ECLAC to make such observations as they deem appropriate.

## 9. Adoption of the report





