



Economic and Social Council

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CEPAL  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Committee of the Whole  
Sixteenth session  
New York, 2-3 December 1982

DRAFT REPORT

In accordance with established practice, this report is being distributed to member Governments in provisional form for their consideration. They should transmit their comments and observations to the Secretariat of the Commission by 31 January 1983.

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date

1. The sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) was held on 2 and 3 December 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Its main purposes were to analyse the programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1984-1985 and to inform member States about the implementation of specific assignments given to the Secretariat at the Commission's nineteenth session.

Attendance

2. Representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America participated in the session: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. A representative of the Netherlands Antilles, Associate State of the Commission, also attended.

4. From the United Nations Secretariat, representatives of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Department of Administration and Management, the Regional Commissions Liaison Office and the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea also attended.

5. The following United Nations bodies were also present: the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. A representative of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) was also present at the session.

Election of officers

7. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Juan Carlos Blanco (Uruguay)
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A. C. Saunders (Jamaica)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Luis M. Martínez (Panama)
Third Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Francisco Monforte (Spain)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Gustavo Garcia Moreno (Colombia)

Agenda\*

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Election of officers
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Report by the Secretariat on progress in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the nineteenth session of the Commission
    - (a) Resolution 431 (XIX), Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations
    - (b) Resolution 433 (XIX), Establishment of priorities in the CEPAL Programme of Work
    - (c) Resolution 437 (XIX), Access to sources of information
    - (d) Resolution 438 (XIX), Technical co-operation among developing countries
  4. Programme of work of CEPAL for the two-year period 1984-1985:
    - (a) Report by the Executive Secretary
    - (b) Analysis of the individual programmes in order to adapt them to the needs and priorities of member Governments
    - (c) Calendar of conferences for the period 1982-1984
  5. Date and place of the twentieth session of CEPAL
  6. Other business

Organization of work

9. The work of the Committee of the Whole was carried out at two plenary meetings and two meetings of the open-ended working group established to discuss agenda item 4.

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\* See the list of documents in the annex to this report.

B. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations  
(agenda item 3 (a))

10. The Secretariat submitted a note on the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations\* containing a progress report on the implementation of resolution 431 (XIX) of 15 May 1981, adopted at the nineteenth session of the Commission, and of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979.

11. Several delegations made statements on this report and emphasized the need to continue promoting more speedily the implementation of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions. One delegation pointed out that it was necessary to devote more attention to intraregional co-operation and, for that purpose, to strengthen still further CEPAL's regional structures in the context of General Assembly resolution 32/197, particularly with regard to the Office for the Caribbean, so as to enable it to proceed more energetically in implementing the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee's mandates.

12. The Committee took note of the Secretariat document.

13. The delegation of Costa Rica, supported by many other delegations, introduced a draft resolution on the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations which was adopted by consensus. The text appears in part C of this report. With regard to this consensus, the delegation of France made a clarification to the effect that it is its understanding that paragraph 3 of the resolution refers to the decentralization of existing resources from United Nations Headquarters to the regional economic commissions.

Establishment of priorities in the CEPAL programme of work (agenda item 3 (b))

14. The Secretariat introduced the document entitled "The planning process in the United Nations. The case of the Economic Commission for Latin America",\*\* prepared pursuant to operative paragraph (a) of Commission resolution 433 (XIX). The Secretariat considered it advisable to point out that the planning process of CEPAL's activities was governed by the system of guidelines followed by the United Nations and therefore common to all its component bodies.

15. In order to describe that planning system, the three main participants in the process were identified, namely, Governments, the Executive Secretary and the substantive units and subregional offices of the Secretariat. Each of them acted in such a way that their decisions influenced those of the others. Thus, the Governments provided the basis for the decisions of the Executive Secretary by

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\* E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.6.

\*\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.5.

means of resolutions and assignments. The Executive Secretary, in his turn, determined the basic guidelines to be followed by the substantive units and subregional offices in preparing an initial draft plan or programme of work. For this purpose, the units and subregional offices also took into account the progress of ongoing activities and the needs of the region as ascertained in their contacts with public and private national institutions by means of meetings, technical co-operation activities, etc. The Executive Secretary established the order of priority for those proposals as a whole and co-ordinated them with a view to the definitive formulation of the work plans or programmes to be submitted for the consideration of Governments.

16. The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the planning process described in the above-mentioned document showed the progress achieved to date and that the Executive Secretary was determined to continue improving it and introducing new stages such as those of follow-up and evaluation in line with the recommendations of the Governments themselves.

17. The delegations expressed their agreement with the content of the document and took note of it.

Access to sources of information (agenda item 3 (c))

18. The Secretariat introduced the document entitled "Dissemination of information on international economic relations",\* prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 437 (XIX).

19. The Secretariat pointed out that the document contained a list of the most important information it had provided on the subject. It also stated that computer systems were being installed which would not only facilitate the internal work of the Secretariat but also ensure a timely and continuous flow of information to countries.

20. It was further pointed out that CEPAL and UNCTAD, with the support of UNDP, were preparing a joint project which, if adopted, would help to process information on, and enable immediate access to be had to the process of the region's raw materials.

21. Lastly, the Secretariat explained that the document was a preliminary text and that it would submit a comprehensive report on the progress achieved in the matter and the future prospects at the twentieth session of the Commission, scheduled for 1984.

22. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the document submitted.

Technical co-operation among developing countries (agenda item 3 (d))

23. The Secretariat reported to the Committee of the Whole on the joint meeting of governmental experts from Africa and Latin America on economic and technical

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\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.7.

co-operation, held from 1 to 4 June 1982 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, and distributed the report of that meeting.\*

24. The Committee took note of the report and expressed satisfaction at the activities being carried out at CEPAL and ECA to promote and mobilize economic and technical co-operation among the countries of Africa and Latin America.

Report of the Executive Secretary (agenda item 4 (a))

25. The Executive Secretary presented a report on the work of the Commission since May 1981\*\* and submitted for the consideration of member countries the future programme of work of the Commission. He began his presentation with an analysis of the functions of the regional commissions, especially CEPAL, in the light of the major changes that had taken place in the world over the past 34 years. He drew attention to the approaches by which CEPAL had made its presence felt in the region and observed that the most important one had been and continued to be that of analysing and providing information on the regional economy as a means of helping countries to understand their own development processes. As the countries' economic independence had taken firmer shape, so too had CEPAL's advisory role and the establishment of ILPES and CELADE had furnished important tools for that purpose. He emphasized the importance that had later come to be attached to the question of regional co-operation and to the bodies created to promote it - LAFTA, (now ALADI), CACM, CARICOM, etc. - as well as to the establishment of the various subregional offices, the Central American Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC). He drew attention to CEPAL's links with UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO and other international forums in which it had made its presence felt.

26. On the subject of bilateral co-operation, he referred to the importance and indeed necessity of government support in the form of both financial and human resources and added that links with the private sector had recently been intensified, permitting broad programmes of co-operation. He also mentioned the vital link with academic circles as a means of increasing and enhancing the Commission's capacity to serve Governments.

27. Turning to the programme of work, he drew attention to three major factors which determined the direction of the Commission's work. Firstly, the transformation of the regional economy; secondly, the transformation of the United Nations system itself; and, finally, the current world economic and social crisis.

28. With regard to the transformation of the regional economy, he mentioned the importance of changes in the industrial sector and the vigorous expansion of non-traditional exports. The region comprised countries with different levels of development, and great flexibility was needed in the programme of work in order to

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\* See E/CEPAL/G.1212.

\*\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.3.

take account of the new élites: the high-level technical experts who had come to the fore in those countries.

29. With regard to the transformation of the United Nations system, he mentioned the emergence of new world organizations and the establishment of such inter-American regional bodies as SELA, OLADE, etc., which dealt with specific fields. All those changes had led CEPAL to share responsibilities under its programme of work and seek active co-operation in order to avoid duplication of effort.

30. The third transformation, having to do with the current international recession which was having such a drastic impact on the region, would have both negative and positive repercussions on the future of Latin America, all of which carried with it new challenges. Thought must be given to certain priorities and it must be borne in mind that 1982 would be the worst year in the economic history of Latin America over the past 50 years. The Commission was deeply concerned at the problem of the recession and was co-operating with Governments in their adjustment policies. It kept in close touch with Governments and co-operated with them on a large scale, especially in the exchange of information which was one way in which the regional commissions could respond to current realities as part of their programme of work. At present, the most important task for the region was to face up to the problem of the world recession.

31. The Executive Secretary then observed that member countries could not ignore the far-reaching changes that were taking place and would take place in the region as a result of the transformation in industry, especially the technological revolution, for that transformation could offer the region relative advantages. Countries must keep abreast of those changes for they offered tremendous new challenges. Like the rest of the world, Latin America was entering a period of new styles of development which would lead to better utilization of resources and more prudent assignment of priorities. He believed that, in the face of those changes, Latin America must take action at three levels: the domestic market, the regional market and the international market. CEPAL, for its part, was trying to find its place in that scheme of things in order to draw up a flexible plan of work which reflected those concerns and sought ways of dealing with them in close liaison with Governments.

32. He emphasized that a selective approach was needed since resources were scarce. Co-operation in analysing problems and reviewing comparative experiences was, for CEPAL, a very important responsibility.

33. CEPAL's advisory work continued to be very important and was being centred in particular on the newly independent countries of the Caribbean and Central America, which had their own, very specific problems.

34. Another avenue of approach that the Commission had been exploring was that of the new economic vistas for the region and co-operation with Governments in opening up those vistas. In recent years, the Commission had participated enthusiastically in the work connected with the South-South dialogue, co-operation with Africa and relations with such industrialized countries as Canada, Japan, Spain and the United

States. Pioneering work had also been done in the area of Latin America's relations with countries with centrally-planned economies, for it was believed that such work could, through dialogue and exchanges of information, open up new economic vistas.

35. He then referred to the new areas being opened up by technology and to the Commission's active co-operation with the Centre for Science and Technology for Development at United Nations Headquarters.

36. Finally, he mentioned the Commission's interest in seeking a dialogue with new participants, given the increasing complexity of Latin America's civilian society.

37. He recalled, however, that in order to comply with those priorities and achieve those goals, CEPAL must remain within its budget. That could mean redeploying CEPAL's resources and making maximum use of the opportunities for bilateral co-operation.

38. In conclusion, he emphasized the active role played by the regional commissions. He reaffirmed his faith in regionalism, universalism and the ability of the regional commissions to mobilize to meet new challenges and to respond to those challenges in an initial effort to interpret the ideas of Governments in their various mandates and assignments in order to adapt a more flexible and more pragmatic approach so that the Commission could continue to perform the role entrusted to it by member Governments in the best way possible and putting its efforts to the best possible use.

39. In connection with the same item, the report on the sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) was submitted to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. The Committee welcomed the report and adopted by consensus the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago on activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. The text of the resolution is reproduced in part C of this report.

Analysis of the individual programmes in order to adapt them to the needs and priorities of member Governments (agenda item 4 (b))

40. The Secretariat presented the document entitled "Draft programme of work of the CEPAL system, 1984-1985"\* and drew attention to the main features. In the course of the presentation, it was mentioned that the draft programme of work consisted of 45 subprogrammes and over 140 programme elements, which gives some idea of the detailed nature of the information provided. It was also pointed out that the number of subprogrammes and programme elements had increased in the preceding biennium and would increase still further in the 1984-1985 biennium as a result of the various tasks assigned to the Secretariat. It was pointed out, however, that the total amount of resources allocated to the programmes as a whole

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\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.2.



had remained virtually constant. In that connection, it was mentioned that the new topics introduced in recent years included, *inter alia*, human settlements, environment, integration of women into the development process, and participation of youth into the development process. In its presentation, the Secretariat recalled that the long-term activities were designed to provide the CEPAL system with the basic statistical information and conceptual and analytical frameworks which it needed in order to act on the real situation in the region and meet the region's needs. Attention was also drawn to the pragmatism of the draft programme of work in expressing its results or outputs in terms of specific achievements. It was pointed out that many of the programme elements mentioned in the draft programme included activities relating to the promotion of co-operation among developing countries and regions.

41. Finally, the Secretariat made a number of comments on the resources available and the need for CEPAL, in the face of the increase in its activities but no change in the volume of its resources, to co-ordinate its activities with other regional and international bodies both within and outside the United Nations system or to join with them or with research centres in the region so that it might make more effective use of its resources in implementing its programme of work.

#### General debate on the draft programme of work, 1984-1985

42. The Committee proceeded to a general debate on document E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.2, in the course of which a number of delegations expressed special interest in some programmes and suggested changes in others.

43. Some delegations welcomed the increasing linkage between certain activities under CEPAL's programme of work and the private sector in the countries of the region and expressed a desire that such linkage should be increased as much as possible.

44. A number of delegations from the Caribbean subregion noted that the Commission's previous programme of work had included a special programme for the Caribbean, whereas in the draft programme of work for the biennium 1984-1985 activities for that subregion were grouped together in a subprogramme.

45. One delegation noted that the fact that in some cases the document used the term "Latin America and the Caribbean" and in others simply "Latin America", which was meant to include the Caribbean, was apt to cause confusion. The Secretariat stated that, when the programme of work was revised, a single term would be used to refer to the region as a whole. Some delegations said that they were concerned because, in their view, the activities proposed for the subregion would not meet the urgent needs of the Caribbean. Lastly, they expressed interest in having the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee express its views on the CEPAL programme of work, in so far as it related to that geographical area, before it was submitted to the relevant budgetary organs. This subject was discussed further in connection with programme 16: International trade and development financing.

46. Some delegations expressed interest in the activities relating to the law of the sea and development proposed in the draft programme of work, 1984-1985, while others considered it inappropriate to include them in that draft programme.

47. One delegation emphasized the desirability of facilitating the reallocation of resources intended for low-priority activities to those having higher priority, and also the need to try to obtain more extrabudgetary resources. Lastly, it felt that the programme of work seemed to give too much attention to the centrally-planned economies of the region.

48. One delegation expressed concern at the fact that reference had been made to the future document A/37/6 (Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989), which had not yet been approved by the General Assembly, as the legislative authority for many programme elements. In that connection, it was agreed that the revised programme of work document should contain a general explanatory note indicating that the legislative authority for the activities described in the programme elements would in each case be the same as for the corresponding paragraphs of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989.

49. One delegation emphasized the desirability of the Secretariat's consulting the countries concerned before embarking on the preparation of studies and reports relating to those countries. Moreover, the preparation of such documents, and also the convening of intergovernmental meetings, should rest on resolutions or decisions adopted within the United Nations system.

#### Discussion of specific programmes in the draft programme of work, 1984-1985

50. The Committee then proceeded to a detailed discussion of each of the programmes contained in the draft programme of work, 1984-1985.

#### Programme 10: Development issues and policies

51. One delegation stated that the Secretariat should take advantage of the intergovernmental infrastructure which existed in the region in order to maximize resources and avoid duplication of effort.

52. Another delegation referred to the need for the programme of work to be focused on priority issues, as determined by the member Governments.

#### Programme 11: Energy

53. One delegation expressed support for that draft programme and indicated its interest in receiving the technical co-operation to be offered by CEPAL under programme element 11.1.7.

54. Another delegation requested clarification concerning the relationship of that programme to programme element 12.7.3, "Energy and the environment in alternative development strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean". The Secretariat stated that programme 11 involved the studies and conceptualizations of energy problems and those studies would serve as a basis for programme 12 on environment and development.

55. One delegation expressed interest in having issues relating to economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) and technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) included in the programme.

Programme 12: Environment

56. One delegation noted that the number of seminars and meetings of expert groups mentioned in the programme of work seemed to be excessive, and further stated that the environment should not be considered to mean the physical protection of resources but should be defined as the proper use of resources as a factor of development.

57. The Secretariat stated that the meetings provided for in the programme would be convened in order to promote technical co-operation among the countries of the region and permit exchanges of successful experience among the participating countries.

58. One delegation recalled that the Ibero-American Centre for Training in Environmental Sciences (CIFCA) had as its main purpose the training of Latin American technicians in fields connected with environmental development and, to that end, conducted co-operative programmes with CEPAL's Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning.

59. Another delegation requested clarifications concerning preparation of the reports referred to in subprogramme 12.1: Environment and development, and the mandates on which the preparation of those reports would be based. The Secretariat stated that those activities would be carried out in consultation with the countries and regional agencies concerned.

60. One delegation suggested the possibility of considering that programme jointly with programme 17: Natural resources, while others said that they would have difficulty in accepting that suggestion. In that connection, the Secretariat stated that, although the two programmes must formally be considered separately because of the nomenclature established by United Nations Headquarters, those technical units of the Secretariat which were responsible for related matters under their respective programmes of work would in fact participate in their implementation.

Programme 13: Food and agriculture

61. One delegation requested that special attention should be given to the subject of agriculture and food, since the solution of the problems involved was a priority concern for its Government.

Programme 14: Human settlements

62. One delegation asked how the horizontal co-operation envisaged in the programme would operate. The Secretariat stated that the components of the programme included activities for the promotion of such horizontal co-operation as the countries concerned might extend to each other under agreements that could be concluded bilaterally or multilaterally.

Programme 15: Industrial development

63. One delegation expressed its support for the programme and also the desire of its Government that programme element 15.2.1, concerning capital goods, should be

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financed mainly from the regular budget. In that connection, the Secretariat stated that the activity in question was financed for the most part from the regular budget and the remainder was provided by UNDP.

Programme 16: International trade and development financing

64. In reply to questions from a number of delegations, the Secretariat explained that, although subprogramme 16.5 described development activities for the Caribbean carried out exclusively by the CEPAL subregional office for the Caribbean, other programmes and subprogrammes also included activities that covered the Caribbean subregion, and he would report on them at the next meeting of CDCC. Because of the concern expressed about the need to take into account the views of the Governments members of CDCC at its seventh session (Port of Spain, 19 to 25 January 1983), the Executive Secretary said that he would transmit to the higher bodies any comments made or changes recommended by the subregional committee. He also stated his intention of continuing to reallocate CEPAL resources to the subregional office to the extent that their amount permitted, and announced his decision to give priority to the Caribbean in assigning resources decentralized from United Nations Headquarters in the future.

65. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation of the Executive Secretary's statement, and others concurred in the proposals contained in programme 16 as a whole. Some delegations stated their desire that special attention should be paid to the work relating to protectionism and one delegation spoke of the necessity of studying all countries that applied protectionist policies. A number of delegations stated that their Governments wished copper to be included in the commodity studies and those studies to be co-ordinated with the studies carried out by other regional bodies.

66. One delegation emphasized the necessity of giving greater emphasis to the study of monetary and financial issues of interest to the countries of the region which were being discussed in international forums.

Programme 17: Natural resources

67. One delegation expressed its Government's interest in the subject of horizontal co-operation for the development of the mineral resources of the region and in the establishment of an information system in that sector. It stated its concern that the information system in the sector might depend exclusively on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

68. Concerning the water resources subprogramme, one delegation requested information on the legislative authority of subprogramme 17.2, Water resources, with special reference to element 17.2.2.

69. In that connection the Secretariat observed that the mandate was contained in resolution 443 (XIX) and agreed to the suggestion that the narrative for that programme element should be redrafted in order to be brought in line with the resolution. It also agreed to delete the paragraph referring to an expert meeting on horizontal co-operation in water resources planning.

Programme 18: Population

70. Referring to programme element 18.1.1, one delegation urged that the indirect methods which it was intended to use in population studies to replace the systems for recording births and deaths should be applied at the request of Governments. With regard to the final paragraph of point 1 of programme element 18.1.2, he requested that the words "analysing the direct effects of family planning programmes on the reduction of general fertility and on the changes in the structure of age-specific fertility" should be replaced by the words "analysing the effects of existing socio-economic conditions on the phenomena indicated".

Programme 20: Science and technology

71. One delegation expressed its general support for the draft programme of work and stated that its Government was holding consultations with the CEPAL Secretariat regarding the execution, with financing which it was to provide, of a modest programme of scientific and technological development in commemoration of the quincentenary of the discovery of America in 1992. A number of delegations said that their Governments were interested in participating in that programme.

72. One delegation stated that programme element 20.1.2 was not considered vital in the light of its country's objectives and that it would prefer to deal with the matter through bilateral agreements.

73. Another delegation stressed the importance of dealing with the topics of microelectronics, genetic engineering and the conditions which the region would confront in the future owing to further technological advances in the leading countries. He said that it would be advisable to expand the activities of that programme to cover the study of the technological problems of small-scale and medium-scale industries and agriculture.

Programme 21: Social development and humanitarian affairs

74. One delegation requested the deletion of the words "... which has often generated universalist, utopian precepts or solutions" in the second paragraph of the introductory part of the programme.

75. Another delegation suggested that subprogramme 21.3 might include studies on labour legislation and family legislation for the integration of women into development.

Programme 22: Statistics

76. No comments were made on the programme.

Programme 23: Transnational corporations

77. No comments were made on the programme.

Programme 24: Transport

78. One delegation stated that his Government would prefer to discuss bilaterally the various aspects of a convention on river transport in the River Plate Basin and added that his Government had no firm opinion as yet concerning the desirability of setting up a freight conference on river transport in the River Plate Basin.

Activities relating to ocean resources and development

79. On the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, it was decided that the activities in the last programme of the draft programme of work 1984-1985 should be transferred to programme 17, Natural resources, as a subprogramme entitled "Ocean resources and regional development".

80. The content of the new subprogramme was to be identical to the programme deleted with the exception of point 1 (a), which would read: "Co-operation with the countries of the region, when they so request, in the study of the provisions and opportunities contained in the new instrument concerning the oceans, in close co-operation with the competent bodies of the United Nations system".

81. With regard to the link between the new subprogramme and the Convention on the Law of the Sea, one delegation said that that link should not prejudice the position adopted by countries concerning the Convention.

82. Before the closure of its proceedings, the Committee of the Whole adopted the draft programme of work, 1984-1985, with the amendments proposed by delegations.

83. The delegations of Argentina, Mexico and Uruguay, supported by a large number of other delegations, submitted a draft resolution on the programme of work and calendar of conferences of CEPAL. The resolution was adopted by consensus and its text appears in part C of the present report.

Calendar of conferences for the period 1982-1984 (agenda item 4 (c))

84. The Secretariat introduced the Calendar of intergovernmental meetings of CEPAL proposed for the period 1982-1984\*. It was recalled that, by virtue of a decision adopted at a previous session of the Committee of the Whole, the Commission was required to discuss at regular intervals the calendar of intergovernmental conferences of CEPAL, including not only the statutory conferences but also the Latin American regional meetings for preparing world conferences which the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council had asked CEPAL to hold. Concerning such meetings, which were generally held at the headquarters of the regional commissions, mention was made of General Assembly resolution 31/140, which provided that any Government providing an alternative venue must defray all additional costs arising from the change of venue. It was stated that it was desirable to grant a degree of flexibility to the Secretariat so that it might carry out the new

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\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.4.

mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly and eliminate superfluous meetings if that proved necessary.

85. During the debate on the item, one delegation referred to the difficulties encountered by countries wishing to attend the many international meetings held under the auspices of the various intergovernmental organizations and requested that CEPAL meetings should be limited to those which were strictly necessary. Another delegation proposed that, in order to reduce the number of meetings and in view of the fact that no financing was available for the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population, consideration should be given to the possibility of holding that meeting within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee of High-Level Governmental Experts (CEGAN), likewise scheduled for 1983. Since CEPAL, in its resolution 357 (XVI), adopted at its sixteenth session, had specifically instructed CEGAN to take up the question of population, it was agreed by consensus that the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population should be held within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee of High Level Government Experts (CEGAN), scheduled for 1983.

86. With that change, and account being taken of the suggestions made by one delegation, which were included in the calendar of conferences for 1982-1984, the calendar was adopted and is annexed to the draft resolution on the programme of work and calendar of conferences of CEPAL, which is included in part C of this report.\*

Date and place of the twentieth session of CEPAL (agenda item 5)

87. The delegation of Suriname announced that its Government had decided to maintain its offer to host the twentieth session of CEPAL, which it had made at the nineteenth session.

88. In view of that offer, the Executive Secretary requested the authorization of the Commission to enter into negotiations with the Government of Suriname with a view to making the necessary arrangements and setting the dates for the session.

Other business (agenda item 6)

89. The delegation of Bolivia introduced the draft resolution entitled "Support for the economic emergency in Bolivia", sponsored by Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay. In his introductory statement he referred to the serious economic crisis in his country and the latter's urgent need for international support. The draft was adopted by consensus and the text appears in part C of this report.

90. In view of that consensus, the delegations of Canada and France made the following reservation: "The draft resolution was submitted too late for our

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\* See para. 83.

Governments to take a decision on it. We naturally take a sympathetic attitude towards the situation of Bolivia and that country's request will be considered with the greatest attention. However, the request may entail some difficulties in that it refers to the status of least developed country. For that reason, although our delegations are not opposed to the consensus, they are not in a position to take a decision on the draft resolution".

91. Similarly, the delegations of the United States and the United Kingdom made the following reservation: "Our Governments recognize the need for the United Nations to channel increased assistance to Bolivia in response to its economic emergency. Therefore, we will not block adoption of this resolution by consensus. We must, however, explain our position on operative paragraph 2. The designation of countries to be included in the list of least developed countries is the responsibility of other United Nations bodies, not the CEPAL Committee of the Whole. The criteria for inclusion in that list are stringently applied. Even though the economic situation facing Bolivia is serious, it does not warrant Bolivia being treated as a least developed country in the absence of a determination of such status by the United Nations body responsible for making such a determination. Our delegations cannot view in a sanguine fashion operative paragraph 2. While we will join the consensus on this resolution, we want to have an explanation of reservation to operative paragraph 2 reflected in the record."

#### C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

92. The Committee of the Whole adopted by consensus four resolutions relating respectively to the following subjects: (a) decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations; (b) programme of work and calendar of conferences of CEPAL; (c) support for the economic emergency in Bolivia;\* (d) activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC). The text of these resolutions is given below.

#### 448 (PLEN.16). DECENTRALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

##### The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America

Bearing in mind resolution 431 (XIX) on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations, adopted at the nineteenth session of the Commission, which requests the Executive Secretary, in its operative paragraph 10, to "report to the Commission at the next session of the Committee of the Whole on the implementation of the measures contained in this resolution, in the light of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council at their forthcoming sessions",

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\* See paras. 90 and 91 of this report, which set forth the comments made by four countries on this resolution.



Emphasizing that the principle inherent in the process of decentralization as reflected in General Assembly resolution 32/197, also applies to decentralization within the region,

1. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of CEPAL resolution 431 (XIX) and General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202;\*
2. Also takes note of the efforts being made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to carry out a clear policy of transferring administrative and functional responsibilities to the regional commissions, as a way of increasing the efficiency of the Organization and the effectiveness of its operations;
3. Urges the General Assembly once again, through the Economic and Social Council, to assign to the Secretariat of the Commission sufficient resources to enable it to discharge effectively the expanded functions and responsibilities mentioned in General Assembly resolution 32/197, including the redeployment envisaged in this resolution;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) at its seventh session and to the Commission at its twentieth session on the progress made in the process of decentralization and in the assignment of budgetary resources for this process.

449 (PLEN.16). PROGRAMME OF WORK AND CALENDAR OF  
CONFERENCES OF CEPAL

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for  
Latin America

Bearing in mind article 8 and rule 24 of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of CEPAL, together with the relevant mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies of the system,

Recalling resolution 419 (PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL, in which it was decided that at its sessions the Commission should decide on the calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system with a view to implementing it, duly synchronized with the General Assembly's programme budgeting cycle, as from 1982 and taking into account the objectives and priorities established in the various work programmes and regional action programmes approved by member Governments,

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\* See E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.6 and E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.6/Rev.1.

Having considered the draft programme of work for the different areas of activity of the CEPAL system for the period 1984-1985,\* which covers also the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE),

Taking fully into account the views expressed, including adjustments proposed by member Governments during the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole on the proposed work programme for the period 1984-1985,

1. Approves the programme of work of the CEPAL system (including the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Latin American Demographic Centre) for the period 1984-1985 and requests the Executive Secretary to adjust the programme of work in the light of the views expressed at the seventeenth session of the Committee of the Whole and the relevant considerations of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) at its seventh session;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of CEPAL to submit in good time to the Secretary-General of the United Nations programme budget proposals for the biennium 1984-1985 in the light of the revised programme of work, in order that they may be considered by the appropriate Secretariat bodies, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Takes note that the allocation of any additional resources which may be necessary for carrying out the activities described in this programme requires the prior approval of the pertinent bodies of the United Nations;

4. Invites CDCC to make appropriate arrangements to facilitate its consideration of the relevant aspects of CEPAL work programmes for future biennia prior to their consideration by the Commission;

5. Also approves the calendar of conferences of the CEPAL system\*\* with the observations and suggestions reflected in the report of the sixteenth session of the Committee of the Whole;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the 20th session of CEPAL on the implementation of this resolution.

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\* E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.2

\*\* See annex to this resolution.

## Annex I

Title	Date and place	Legislative authority	Source of financing
<u>1982</u>			
CEPAL Committee of the Whole, sixteenth session	United Nations Headquarters, New York, 2-3 December	CEPAL resolutions 419 (PLEN.14) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), sixth session	United Nations Headquarters, New York, 6-7 December	CEPAL resolutions 419 (PLEN.14), 422 (XIX), 425 (XIX) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
<u>1983</u>			
Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), seventh session	CEPAL Office for the Caribbean, Port of Spain 19-21 January Technical level 24-25 January Ministerial level	CEPAL resolutions 358 (XVI) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America	Quito, Ecuador March	Decision of the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole, CEPAL resolution 432 (XIX)	Reallocation of regular budget funds
Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Palestine	CEPAL Headquarters May	General Assembly Resolution 36/120	Funds provided by United Nations Headquarters

Title	Date and place	Legislative authority	Source of financing
<u>1983</u> (continued)			
Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders	CEPAL Headquarters 10-14 October	Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/29	Funds provided by United Nations Headquarters
Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for International Youth Year	CEPAL Headquarters November	General Assembly resolutions 34/151, 35/126 and 36/28	Funds provided by United Nations Headquarters
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), seventh session, the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population will be held within the framework of this session	a/	CEPAL resolutions 419 (PLEN.14), 422 (XIX), 425 (XIX) and 432 (XIX) Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/87 and 1982/42	Regular budget of CEPAL
CEPAL Committee of the Whole, statutory session (1983)	a/	CEPAL resolutions 419 (PLEN.14) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), eighth session	a/	CEPAL resolutions 358 (XVI) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
<u>1984</u>			
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), eighth session	a/	CEPAL resolutions 419 (PLEN.14), 422 (XIX), 425 (XIX) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL

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Title	Date and place	Legislative authority	Source of financing
Twentieth session of CEPAL	a/	<u>1984</u> (continued) CEPAL resolution 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL
- Sessional Committee on Water			
- Sessional Committee on Human Settlements			
- Sessional Committee on Co-operation among Developing Countries and Regions			
Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), ninth session	a/	CEPAL resolutions 358 (XVI) and 432 (XIX)	Regular budget of CEPAL

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 a/ Date and place to be decided.

450 (PLEN. 16). SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC EMERGENCY IN BOLIVIA

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that Bolivia has the characteristics of one of the least developed among the developing countries of the region,

Taking into account the marked deterioration in the situation of Bolivia over the past few years and the fact that Bolivia is confronted with a serious economic crisis, the remedying of which is rendered difficult by the extreme vulnerability of the country to external economic conditions owing to its fragile structure of production and its land-locked status,

Bearing in mind that the Government of Bolivia is making substantial efforts to alleviate the above-mentioned adverse effects but that the resolute co-operation of the international community will be required if those efforts are to be effective,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite all the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to allocate all possible resources to Bolivia and to expand their programmes for Bolivia to the extent necessary in their respective fields of competence and in close collaboration with the Government of that country;

2. Recommends that, although Bolivia is not officially included in the list of the least developed among the developing countries approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2768 (XXVI), the treatment accorded to it should be, to the maximum extent possible, equivalent to the treatment which has been granted in the past or which may be granted in the future to that group of countries, until its situation returns to normal;

3. Requests to the Secretariat of the Commission, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Latin American Demographic Centre to extend the fullest co-operation to the Government of Bolivia, in accordance with any requests which the latter may make.

451 (PLEN. 16). ACTIVITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling resolution 358 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which in its operative paragraph 1 invited the Governments of the countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean, the Governments of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti and other Caribbean countries as they achieve independence, to form a committee on and co-operation to act as a co-ordinating body for activities relating to development and co-operation and as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL,

Recalling also CEPAL resolutions 372 (XVII) and 399 (XVIII) and its Committee

of the Whole resolution 420 (PLEN.14) which respectively endorsed the Constituent Declaration, functions, rules of procedure and work programme of CDCC and the reports of the first through the fifth session of the Committee,

Bearing in mind resolution 1982/58 of the Economic and Social Council, which took note of the determination of Governments members of CDCC to pursue activities aimed at strengthening the Secretariat of the Committee, including these measures recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit, requested the Secretary-General to find, through internal reallocation, the additional resources required in 1983 to enable the Committee to carry out its programme of work as set out in the report of the sixth session and further requested the Secretary-General to consider the inclusion of the additional resources in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985,

Noting with satisfaction the completion of the sixth session of the Committee, held at St. George's, Grenada, and United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 4-10 November 1981 and 3-4 February 1982, respectively,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the sixth session of CDCC and the resolutions contained therein;\*

2. Notes the progress achieved in the implementation of the approved work programme since the fifth session of the Committee;

3. Renews the expression of concern contained in Committee of the Whole resolution 420 (PLEN. 14) that the resources of the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean do not allow it to carry out adequately the priority activities in the work programme;

4. Requests the Secretariat of the Committee to proceed with the implementation of the work programme approved for the biennium 1982-1983, observing the priorities set by the Committee;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary, in the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/58 of 30 July 1982, to continue as a matter of urgency his efforts aimed at decentralization of posts and related resources to the Caribbean sub-regional office, and to report thereon to CDCC at its seventh session and to the twentieth session of the Commission;

6. Reiterates its request to the Executive Secretary of the Commission to intensify his efforts and his representations to the appropriate United Nations authorities with a view to ensuring that the General Assembly makes the necessary budgetary appropriations to enable the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean to carry out those activities in the work programme that have been assigned priority and cannot be postponed;

7. Also requests the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of making formal and informal arrangements with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the implementation of specific activities in the CDCC work programme.

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\* E/CEPAL/G.1202.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda  | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.1/Rev.1         |
| 2. Draft programme of work of the CEPAL system, 1984-1985   | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.2               |
| 3. Report on the work of the Commission since May 1981  | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.3               |
| 4. Calendar of intergovernmental meetings of CEPAL proposed for the period 1982-1984. Note by the Secretariat   | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.4               |
| 5. The planning process in the United Nations, The case of the Economic Commission for Latin America  | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.5               |
| 6. Decentralization of economic and social activities of the United Nations. Progress made in the implementation of CEPAL resolution 431 (XIX) and General Assembly resolution 32/197 and 33/202. Note by the Secretariat | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.6               |
| 7. Dissemination of information on international economic relations   | E/CEPAL/PLEN.16/L.7               |
| 8. Report of the sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee  | E/CEPAL/G.1202<br>E/CEPAL/CDCC/91 |
| 9. Report on the joint meeting of governmental experts from Africa and Latin America and technical co-operation   | E/CEPAL/G.1212<br>ECO/ETC/I/5     |

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