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Committee of the Whole

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RATIONALIZATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND PATTERN
OF MEETINGS OF THE SYSTEM OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Corrigenda

Page 4

Second paragraph, line 1: "eighteenth session" should read "eighteen sessions".

Fourth paragraph, line 3: Add "or temporary" after "ad hoc".

Page 5

Second paragraph, line 7: "paragraph 8" should read "paragraph 12".

Page 9

Second paragraph: Delete the side heading. The first sentence should begin: "Pursuant to what was promised at La Paz at the eighteenth session, and in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly...".

Page 10

Second line: Add ", Section IV," after the word "particularly".

Page 12

Second paragraph, line 4: The sentence should continue "the secretariat presents below a number of suggestions supplementing and bringing up to date the changes proposed at the Port of Spain meeting which could be made in the institutional machinery and functioning of the CEPAL system. These proposals...".

Third paragraph, line 8: "from 21 or 22 April 1981 with a duration of approximately two weeks" should read "with a duration of approximately two weeks, from 15 to 30 April,".

Page 13

First paragraph: This paragraph should be deleted and replaced by the following: "Decisions taken by the Commission regarding the programme of work of the CEPAL system would thus be more likely to be taken into account and reflected in the biennial budgets adopted by the General Assembly".

Page 14

Add the following final paragraph: "Having carefully analysed the foregoing, and in conformity with the relevant mandates from the higher bodies of the United Nations system, the secretariat submits for consideration by member Governments the draft resolution which follows. In so doing, it wishes to reiterate that its sole purpose is to facilitate the process of rationalization of the institutional structure and pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system in accordance with the mandates of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Latin America itself, keeping in mind the "special needs and conditions" of the region, as well as the other provisions and goals set forth in General Assembly resolution 32/197 and the terms of reference of the Commission".

Page 18

Paragraph 8, line 5: Insert ", 407 (XVIII)," after "387 (XVIII)".

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Part One

I. BACKGROUND

A. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

At its seventh special session, the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 1975 adopted resolution 3362 (S-VII) establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to prepare detailed action proposals with a view to making it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3172 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and 3343 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974. The fundamental aim was to make the United Nations system in general and particularly its economic and social sectors more responsive to the new, broader requirements set forth by member governments in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolutions 3201 and 3202 adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session 1 May 1974) and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974).

The report 1/ and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system were considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. On 20 December 1977 the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197 endorsing and setting forth the Committee's recommendations in the form in which they appear in the annex to that resolution, which is thus the most recent major mandate for all bodies and machinery of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions.

B. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

General Assembly resolution 32/197 stresses the importance of the regional economic commissions as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective

1/ A/32/34, A/32/34/Corr.1, A/32/34/Add.1.

regions, and consequently requests the relevant bodies and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement a series of measures aimed at strengthening them. In particular, in resolution 32/197, annex, section 4, entitled "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation", the General Assembly stated that:

"19. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, having due regard to the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities.

20. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, they should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. They may convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions.

21. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and should participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs. They should be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the United Nations medium-term plan covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.

22. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned and without prejudice to membership of regional bodies concerned, the organizations of the United Nations system should take early steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.

23. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. Without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, and taking into account the plans and priorities of the Governments concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should take measures to enable them to function expeditiously as executing agencies for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects and in areas which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, other subregional, regional and interregional projects.

24. The regional commissions concerned should assist developing countries at the request of the Governments concerned in identifying projects and preparing programmes for the promotion of co-operation among those countries. Taking fully into account the relevant global policy decisions of the competent United Nations organs, the regional commissions concerned should intensify their efforts, with the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and at the request of the Governments concerned, to strengthen and enlarge economic co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

25. As a means of promoting more effective interregional co-operation, the regional commissions should strengthen and, as appropriate, expand existing arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience. Such arrangements may include the holding of periodic intersecretariat meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

26. In order to enable them effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in the preceding paragraphs, the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions and, to the same end, adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made for their activities.

27. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions and bearing in mind the objectives set forth above, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery."

C. Principal intergovernmental bodies of the CEPAL system: development and present structure

The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by resolution 106 (VI) adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 25 February 1948. The Commission's terms of reference, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the time and subsequently amended by the Council 2/ at its ninth, thirteenth, twenty-eighth and forty-seventh sessions, and second session of 1979 appear in the annex.

In the thirty-two years which have passed since it was established, CEPAL's activities have increased enormously, not only as a result of requests from its member governments and the specific needs and characteristics of Latin America, but also because of new mandates and responsibilities entrusted to all the regional economic commissions by the Economic and Social

2/ Resolutions 234 (IX) of 12 August 1949, 414 C.I (XIII) of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, 723 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, 1979/63 of 3 August 1979 and the decision adopted by the Council on 17 November 1969 at its 47th session.

Council or the General Assembly, frequently in connexion with specialized or sectoral world conferences held within the United Nations framework.

In conformity with these terms of reference and mandates, the focal point for the discussion and decision process, both for governments and for the secretariat, has been the biennial session of the Commission itself. Between 1948 and 1951 CEPAL met every year; since 1951 its sessions have been biennial, on every odd year.

At the eighteenth session of the Commission and the twelve regular and thirteen extraordinary sessions of the Committee of the Whole (which has broadly the same terms of reference of the Commission) the member governments have entrusted CEPAL with tasks and responsibilities concerning a vast range of issues of importance for the region.

According to paragraph 10 of the Commission's terms of reference and rule 52 of its rules of procedure, "the Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities and shall define the policy and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them". And according to rule 53, "the Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks".

In carrying out the mandates entrusted to it by member States, CEPAL has set up a number of subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, some permanent and some ad hoc. Some of these are subregional, such as the Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation set up in 1951, and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) set up in 1975. Others were assigned sectoral responsibilities, such as the Committee on Trade (set up in 1955, but which has ceased to meet since the creation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), or the three committees which the Commission recently decided to constitute at each of its own sessions to deal with problems related to water, human settlements and technical co-operation among developing countries.

/As may

As may be seen from the following table, which gives a very brief summary of the main bodies and meetings of the CEPAL system today, a uniform approach has not always prevailed in setting up such bodies, although as a rule an attempt has been made to avoid proliferation and unnecessary overlapping with other international bodies. This table gives the title of the intergovernmental body, the date it was set up, the legislative authority which created it, the member countries which participate in its meetings, the periodicity of the meetings, and a brief outline of its main sphere of competence, the aims underlying its creation, and its terms of reference.

The creation of permanent subsidiary bodies requires the prior approval of the Economic and Social Council, which in the past has been taken as granted in practice when the Council "took note" of the reports of the different regional economic commissions. However, General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 established much more stringent criteria for the setting up of subsidiary bodies in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Section 2, paragraph 8, of the annex to that resolution states that the Economic and Social Council should to the maximum extent possible refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies, and that subsidiary bodies of the Council - which includes the regional economic commissions - should also refrain from creating new subordinate groups without the prior concurrence of the Council.

These questions and other institutional matters were discussed at the eighteenth session of the Commission in La Paz, Bolivia (18-26 April 1979), particularly taking into account the desire to set up new intergovernmental committees frequently expressed by experts and government representatives when meeting to discuss a specific issue. The Executive Secretary presented a detailed report on the activities of the secretariat since the seventeenth session, and described the gradual expansion of the Commission's tasks as a result of, among other things, the increased number of issues considered by the United Nations in general, the trend towards the decentralization of activities from Headquarters to the regional commissions, and the inherent dynamics of matters of concern to member governments.

/MAIN BODIES

MAIN BODIES AND CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Commission, sessions	1948	Economic and Social Council res. 106(VI)	All CEPAL member countries and associate members	Every two years	All economic and social issues in accordance with article 1 of the Commission's terms of reference. See also rule 3 of the rules of procedure relating to the provisional agenda for any session.
Committee of the Whole, regular and special sessions	1952	ECOSOC res. 106(VI) (para. 3)	All CEPAL member States and associate members	Originally every year in which no Commission session was held, convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL; now when necessary	Twelve regular sessions of the Committee have been held to discuss similar issues as at the Commission's sessions. In 1968 the Commission agreed that when a question calling for an urgent decision by the Commission arose the Executive Secretary could convene a special session of the Committee following the procedure in rule 1(b) of the rules of procedure (para. 490, doc. E/4639, E/CN.12/841/Rev.1). Thirteen extraordinary sessions of the Committee have been held.
CEPAL sessional committees	1948	Rule 53 of CEPAL rules of procedure	All CEPAL member States and associate member States	As required during sessions	The Commission may assign to sessional committees any item within its sphere of competence that is not already assigned to an existing body in the system. At the 19th session there will be 3 sessional committees on water, human settlements and technical co-operation among developing countries, in conformity with earlier CEPAL decisions.
Regional inter-governmental conferences	-	Generally resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, CEPAL or its Committee of the Whole	All CEPAL member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues. These are often preparatory meetings of a regional nature prior to world conferences of the United Nations on the issue.

MAIN BODIES ... (cont. 1)

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
Latin American Conference on the Integration of Women in Development	1977	Resolution adopted in November 1977 by the Committee of the Whole at its 11th extraordinary session	All CEPAL member States and associate members	Every three years at most	Regional Action Programme on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America.
Ad hoc meetings of government-appointed experts	-	Rule 24 of rules of procedure. CEPAL resolution 401(XVIII) and other decisions	All CEPAL member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues stemming from the Programme of Work adopted by the Commission or programmes co-ordinated with other inter-governmental bodies.
Seminars, forums, round tables and other meetings convened by the Executive Secretary pursuant to mandates from Governments	-	Rule 24 of rules of procedure. Various CEPAL resolutions, including 401(XVIII)	Experts invited by the secretariat according to the issue and available resources	As required	Specific issues stemming from the Programme of Work adopted by the Commission or programmes co-ordinated with other inter-governmental bodies.
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	1971	Res. 310(XIV)	Developing countries members of CEPAL	In good time, at least once a year, normally before the session of the Commission or as required	To act as a forum for analysing the various aspects involved in the implementation and appraisal of the objectives of the International Development Strategy in Latin America (res. 310(XIV), para. 5).
CEGAN (population)	1975	CEPAL res. 357(XVI)	Developing countries members of CEPAL		To deal with <u>population, industrialization and science and technology</u> , at specialized meetings, in conformity with the Commission's mandates. CEPAL resolution 357(XVI).
CEGAN (industrialization)					
CEGAN (science and technology)					



MAIN BODIES ... (conclusion)

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main sphere of competence/aims/terms of reference
ILPES Technical Committee	1974	Res. 340(AC.66) Eighth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole	Countries of the Latin American region	As required	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To act as the guiding governmental body for ILPES activities in the matters entrusted to it. To serve as a consultative body of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL. To review and adopt the ILPES work programme.
Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation <u>a/</u>	1951	CEPAL res. 9(IV)	Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua	As required	To act as co-ordinating body for activities aimed at encouraging the integration of the national economies of the member countries and serve as a consultative body for the Executive Secretary, both to orient studies and to consider their conclusions.
Caribbean Co-operation and Development Committee	1975	CEPAL res. 358(XVI). CDCC Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure (E/CEPAL/1022)	Countries within the sphere of action of the CEPAL Port of Spain Office and Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean countries attaining independence	Once a year. Special sessions may be convened by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL	CDCC rules of procedure, chapter II, para. 10: "To act as a co-ordinating body for whatever activities relating to development and co-operation may be agreed upon and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of CEPAL in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances".

a/ Panama has also participated as an observer in some activities of the Committee.

He pointed out that General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in section IV of the annex, defined the broader functions of the regional commissions, including the transfer to them of new substantive and operational activities. That transfer will have repercussions on the structure of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and on the secretariat itself. He said that the secretariat intended to convene an extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL before the Commission's nineteenth session in order to submit for consideration and approval by member governments a series of observations and recommendations aimed at paving the way for greater rationalization of the functioning of the various bodies of the CEPAL system, particularly in relation to its pattern of meetings.

II. MAIN TRENDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Pursuant to what was promised at La Paz at the eighteenth session

In conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly section I, paragraph 4 of the annex to the resolution 32/197, and the relevant resolution of the Economic and Social Council, particularly 1979/41 which established that documentation submitted henceforth for consideration by the Assembly, the Council and all other bodies of United Nations in the economic and social field should be action-oriented and consequently should conclude by indicating main trends, points for discussion and recommendations for action,^{3/} the secretariat presents below a number of considerations and suggestions which supplement and update the main proposals and adjustments made earlier in the institutional field. These have been assembled in the form of a draft resolution which the secretariat ventures to submit to member governments for consideration for the sole purpose of facilitating the process of rationalization of the institutional

^{3/} See E/1980/INF.3, paragraph 18(e).

structure and pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system as called for in resolution 32/197 and particularly paragraph 27 of the annex of that resolution.^{4/}

A. General observations and trends

As it happens, in a document entitled Priorities, plan of work and institutional machinery of the Commission ^{5/} submitted at the Commission's sixteenth session in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-15 May 1975, the CEPAL secretariat already outlined the main problems and trends in the institutional field, as well as a number of possible solutions. Part One of that document outlined the general world and regional framework within which CEPAL should act as the main United Nations body for Latin America in the economic and social field. It also described the development of those activities as a result of the changes which had taken place within and outside the region since the creation of the Commission, as well as the new responsibilities which had fallen to the Commission and its secretariat. It pointed out that all these developments called for periodic adjustments to the plan of work and the functioning of CEPAL and of its subsidiary bodies, with a view to concentrating the limited resources available on the tasks of fundamental importance to the region, while taking a balanced, comprehensive approach which should also take into account the various degrees and styles of economic and social development of its member countries.

The document also indicated that the periodic adjustments to the programme of work and the functioning of the institutional machinery should relate to spheres of activities, issues or problems to which member governments themselves had attached priority, such as the periodic regional appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy. By undertaking these regional appraisals in the past (and this will no doubt be the case in the future too) the member governments of CEPAL contribute to the process of constantly adjusting the guidelines and general orientations which guide the activities of the CEPAL system and its secretariat, inter alia

^{4/} See page 3.

^{5/} E/CEPAL/995.

in the institutional sphere. Emphasis was also placed in the importance of the various regional plans of action which have been adopted from time to time by member governments in relation to various spheres of activity, plans in which specific recommendations of an institutional nature have frequently been included. In 1975 some of these recommendations aimed at the creation of new permanent auxiliary or subsidiary bodies of the Commission in such fields as science and technology, industry and population. Subsequently, as a result of other regional meetings of a sectoral nature held under the auspices of the United Nations in co-ordination with CEPAL as preparatory stages of world conferences, proposals were made for the setting up of further subsidiary committees and bodies in connexion with the integration of women into economic and social development, human settlements, water resources and others. Even at that time, however - anticipating the subsequent decisions of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council - the secretariat recommended a policy of institutional austerity and restraint, avoiding the proliferation of subsidiary bodies and of meetings and documentation.

Furthermore, the 1975 document summarized some institutional considerations which, following consultations held recently, would still appear to be a valid reflection of some general trends in the CEPAL system.

Firstly, there is the growing concern on the part of member governments with respect to the means of securing full and timely participation in the decision-making process involved in the complex changes and adjustments taking place, more rapidly and intensely than previously, in the international economic and social sphere. This enhances the importance of adjusting the institutional machinery in such a way as to facilitate the analysis of events and contribute to convergent action by all interested parties at the regional and international levels, while avoiding a proliferation of meetings and documents.

Secondly, it is felt that there was greater interest on the part of the governments of the region in mutual co-operation in the various fields which could contribute to an increasing impetus being given to development from within the region, while at the same time seeking better co-ordination of efforts to improve economic relations with the rest of the world.

/Thirdly, it

Thirdly, it is stressed that a comprehensive economic and social approach to development should be adopted not only in analysis, research and planning but also in operational areas such as advisory services and technical training, including more efficient co-ordination among international and regional bodies working in those fields.

Taking into account these general considerations, as well as the specific recommendations already made on institutional issues, by CEPAL member governments as well as by higher bodies of the United Nations system, the secretariat presents below a number of suggestions on preliminary changes which could be made in the institutional machinery and functioning of the CEPAL system. These proposals concerned the priorities of the work programme underway or proposed at that time. As was pointed out earlier, the basic aim - then as now - is to rationalize further the functioning of the entire CEPAL system and of its secretariat, on the basis of a better use of existing machinery and resources, taking as a frame of reference for that rationalization the two-year programming cycle used in the United Nations system at the request of the General Assembly.

B. Recommendations for action

Meetings of the Commission, the Committee of the Whole and the Committee of High-Level Government Experts

As indicated earlier, from its creation in 1948 until 1951 the Commission met annually. Thereafter, the Commission's sessions have been held every two years, in odd years. Of the 18 sessions held to date, three have taken place in Santiago, Chile, the headquarters of the CEPAL system, and 15 in other countries of the region. The most recent was held in La Paz, Bolivia, from 18 to 26 April 1979, and, as member governments have been informed, following due consultations the nineteenth session will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, probably from 21 or 22 April 1981 with a duration of approximately two weeks, subject to confirmation before the end of this year.

In conformity with various resolutions of the General Assembly particularly of the Economic and Social Council,^{6/} of which the regional economic commissions are subsidiary bodies, the entire CEPAL system, including

^{6/} Resolutions 1768(LIV), 1913(LVII) and 1978/1.

the Commission itself and any of its subordinate bodies, must bring its pattern of conferences and meetings more into line with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations which also covers a two-year period, but with which it is presently out of step, a difficulty which it is difficult to remedy all at once. A transition period is certainly needed, but in view of the abovementioned mandates particular attention should be paid at once to the need for the member governments to decide, during the nineteenth session of the Commission in Montevideo at the latest, on whether to hold the twentieth session in April-May 1982 instead of 1983, thus changing the two-year cycle to the even years.

If that were the case, decisions taken at the session concerning the programme of work would be better reflected in the regular budget for the period 1983-1984 to be adopted by the General Assembly at the end of 1982. This would have to be completed between September and November 1981 for submission to, and consideration by, the competent authorities and bodies of the United Nations in 1982.

Meanwhile, in addition to the contribution already made by member governments of CEPAL and the secretariat towards the preparation of the international development strategy to be adopted for the third United Nations decade, advantage could be taken of the opportunity presented by other forthcoming meetings of the CEPAL system, in particular those of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), to continue to advance in the definition of the regional programme of action, for consideration by the Commission at the Montevideo session, in connexion with the possible proclamation of the 1980s as the decade of development of the countries of Latin America, in conformity with CEPAL resolution 386(XVIII) adopted at La Paz.

The process of preparing and adopting the regional programme of action should give rise to a series of guidelines and priorities which in turn will certainly help to identify and further rationalize the activities and meetings of the CEPAL system; this should also improve its institutional functioning, among other things from the budgetary standpoint. In this connexion, the

/secretariat feels

secretariat feels itself obliged to draw the attention of member countries to the ever-widening gap between the limited resources available and the new responsibilities being entrusted to the CEPAL system and to its secretariat, a matter which is dealt with in greater detail in another document submitted to this session of the Committee of the Whole for its consideration.^{7/}

^{7/} The Problem of Additional Responsibility and Limited Resources
(E/CEPAL/G.1138).

Part Two

Draft resolution

RATIONALIZATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND THE PATTERN
OF MEETINGS OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM

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

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Also recalling resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 19 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, basically so as to bring it into line with the new and expanded requirements emanating from the above-mentioned resolutions, and resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the General Assembly adopted a group of measures and provisions of an institutional nature recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee which since then constitute the most recent basic mandate for all the organs and machinery of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions, to which Section IV of the Annex to that resolution, entitled "Structures for Regional and Interregional Co-operation", particularly applies, and resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979, particularly Section IV, and 34/206 of 19 December 1979, requesting the decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions,

Taking into account the resolutions on technical co-operation among developing countries adopted by the General Assembly, such as 32/182 of 19 December and 32/183 of 19 December 1977, and 33/134 of 19 December 1978, and resolutions 3177 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, 3241 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 and 3442 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 31/119 of 16 December 1976, 32/180 of 19 December 1977, and 33/195 of 29 January 1979 on economic co-operation among developing countries,

/Also taking

Also taking into account resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations system for development, in particular its provisions relating to the establishment of priorities, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/74 of 4 August 1978, 1979/64 of 3 August 1979 on regional co-operation and development, and CEPAL resolutions 316 (XV) of 29 March 1973, 354 (XVI) of 13 May 1975, 363 (XVII) of 5 May 1977 and 387 (XVIII) of 26 April 1979 on co-operation among developing countries and regions, as well as the corresponding criteria adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its meeting in June 1980,^{1/} particularly as regards determining the priorities of the multinational programmes for the five-year period 1982-1986, to be discussed at special intergovernmental meetings convened by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the executive secretaries of the respective regional economic commissions,

Also recalling other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the control and limitation of documents and the calendar of meetings, particularly General Assembly resolutions 31/140, 33/55, 33/56, 33/417, 34/50 and 34/405, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1768 (LIV), 52 (LVII), 1913 (LVII), 1978/1, 1979/41, 1979/69, 1979/81 and decisions 281 (LXIII) and 1979/1,

Recognizing that the present structure of the CEPAL system generally corresponds to the basic requirements stemming from the original terms of reference and subsequent mandates given to the Commission,

Also recognizing that the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and the regional conferences, expert meetings, technical seminars, working groups and other meetings constitute valuable contributions to achieving the objectives and accomplishing to the full the responsibilities entrusted to the CEPAL system and its secretariat,

Recognizing, however, that the increasing scope and variety of tasks entrusted to the CEPAL system make it necessary to rationalize still further its institutional machinery and procedures, including its pattern of

^{1/} Document DP/435.

meetings, taking particular account of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/197 and of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission itself and of its subsidiary bodies,

Decides to maintain the existing fundamental institutional structure of the CEPAL system while further rationalizing its machinery, procedures and meetings, among other things by introducing the following adjustments:

1. The biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of the Committee of the Whole in the years when the Commission does not meet should constitute the focal points around which the other meetings of the CEPAL system in the forthcoming bienniums should be organized, in conformity with the decisions and priorities adopted by member governments and with the mandates of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

2. The CEPAL system, beginning with the Commission itself, should bring its pattern of conferences and meetings into line with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly. To that end, at its nineteenth session the Commission should decide on the new calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system with a view to implementing it, duly synchronized with the General Assembly's budget programming cycle, as from 1982 and taking into account the objectives and priorities established in the various work programmes and regional action programmes adopted by member governments.

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

4. The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) should also normally meet prior to the ordinary session of the Committee of the Whole in the years in which the Commission does not hold a session in order to carry out the additional responsibilities entrusted to it under resolution 357 (XVI) with respect to population, industrialization and science and technology.

5. The statutory rationalization of the meetings of the Commission, the Committee of the Whole and the Committee of High-Level Government Experts as described above shall be without prejudice to any extraordinary session which it is decided to convene in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure in order to deal with emergencies such as those caused by natural disasters and other problems considered urgent by member governments.

6. With respect to the statutory meetings of the CEPAL system, it is always desirable to indicate as clearly and early as possible the priority issues which member governments wish to consider in some depth, correlating them with the issues to which the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly attach priority, thus facilitating co-ordinated and convergent action with the other relevant international bodies both within and outside the United Nations system.

7. The Latin American Conference on the Integration of Women into Development, which was established as a permanent subsidiary organ of the Commission in 1977, will continue to be convened periodically at intervals of not more than three years in conformity with the resolution adopted on the subject at the eleventh special session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL (E/CEPAL/AC.71/4).

8. Without prejudice to the specialized conferences or technical meetings which it may be decided to hold from time to time at the regional level, at each of the Commission's biennial sessions the subjects of (i) regional co-operation, (ii) human settlements, and (iii) water must be discussed in sessional committees, in accordance with CEPAL resolutions 387 (XVIII) and 411 (XVIII). In order to ensure that this type of committee functions efficiently during the Commission's regular sessions, government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered.

9. It is recommended that, at their next sessions, the permanent regional subordinate bodies of the Commission, that is to say, the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, should consider the best means of adapting their general institutional functioning, including the adjustment of subregional meetings to the general biennial pattern established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

10. The Technical Committee of ILPES will continue to serve as a governmental organization guiding the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), part of the CEPAL system, and will meet for this purpose in the manner provided for in resolution 340 (AC.66) of the Committee of the Whole and resolutions 371 (XVII) and 397 (XVIII) of the Commission.

11. The Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) will continue to review and approve the reports of activities and programmes of work of the Latin American Demographic Centre, also part of the CEPAL system, and will meet at least every two years in order to establish guidelines for the Latin American Regional Population Programme and to discuss other matters relating to this field, in conformity with the provisions of CEPAL resolutions 357 (XVI) and 400 (XVIII).

12. As a general rule, no more than five substantive regional conferences or meetings should be held each year, including the above-mentioned statutory sessions of the Commission and the statutory meetings of the Committee of the Whole and of CEGAN, the costs of which, like the costs of the statutory sessions of the Central American Co-operation Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, must be provided for in CEPAL's regular budget and adopted by the General Assembly.

13. At each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system planned up to the next session, stipulating, where possible, the date, duration, and location of each meeting as well as its financial implications, must be considered in order to determine which of them cannot be absorbed within the regular budget and would require either additional funds expressly and promptly authorized by the General Assembly or special financing and facilities provided by the member governments themselves, especially those offering to serve as hosts for the meetings.

14. The regional meetings which must be organized within the geographical framework of the CEPAL system in preparation for world conferences or international years of the United Nations to be carried out under mandates of the General Assembly must be provided with the necessary financing duly authorized by the General Assembly itself.

15. The rationalization of the pattern of conferences and meetings of the CEPAL system, and in particular of the subregional meetings held in the CEPAL Mexico Office, which include the activities and meetings of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, and in Port-of-Spain Office, which serve the same function with respect to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, requires that these subregional meetings be given the same status as that granted by the General Assembly to meetings held at the headquarters of CEPAL in Santiago, Chile.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixth session and amended at its ninth, thirteenth, twenty-eighth and forty-seventh sessions and second session of 1979

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems arising out of the war and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world.

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and development within territories of Latin America as the Commission deems appropriate.

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

(d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region.

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council and its Technical Assistance Committee in discharging their functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in their appraisal of these activities in the Latin American region.

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the co-operation of the Latin American countries in the common effort to achieve world-wide recovery and economic stability.

3. (a) Membership of the Commission shall be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. Any territory, or part or group thereof, within the geographic scope of the Commission's work, may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the Member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

(b) Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as commission or as committee of the whole.

(c) Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee or other subordinate body which may be set up by the Commission, and shall be eligible to hold office in such body.

4. The geographical scope of the Commission's work is the twenty Latin American States Members of the United Nations, participating territories in Central and South America which have frontiers adjoining any of these States, and participating territories in the Caribbean area.

5. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in a consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

6. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

7. (a) The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend its meetings and to participate, without vote, in its deliberations with respect to items on its agenda relating to matters within the scope of their activities; and may invite observers from such other inter-governmental organizations as it may consider desirable in accordance with the practices of the Council.

(b) The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose.

8. (a) The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison shall be maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies, with special attention to the avoidance of the duplication of efforts.

(b) The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions, in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

9. The Commission shall co-operate with and take the necessary measures to co-ordinate its activities with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System and as may be necessary with the Caribbean Commission in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort between those organs and itself; to this end the Commission is empowered to, and shall seek to, make working arrangements with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System regarding the joint or independent study or execution of economic problems within its competence and the fullest exchange of information necessary for the co-ordination of efforts in the economic field. The Commission shall invite the Pan American Union to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Commission in a consultative capacity.

10. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

11. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

12. The Commission shall submit to the Council once a year a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies. For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the Commission and circulation to Governments of member States for their comments and any necessary modifications.

13. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

14. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

15. The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Santiago, Chile. The first session of the Commission shall be held during the first half of the present year in that city. The Commission shall at each session decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation.

16. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.