637(XXXII) FOLLOW-UP TO THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the principles and objectives set out in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted during the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, and in the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis in November 2005, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 at the latest and to the promotion of social, economic and cultural development,

Recalling also the principles and objectives set forth in the Bávaro Declaration, adopted in the Dominican Republic in January 2003, and in the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2007), adopted at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005, as well as in the San Salvador Commitment and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2010), adopted at the Second Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Salvador in February 2008,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva, especially as regards the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communication technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

Recalling resolutions 610(XXX) and 629(XXXI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, respectively,

Recognizing the substantive contribution made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting the countries of the region in both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society and in building the information society in the region since 2000, including the valuable technical support provided for the Second Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Salvador in February 2008,

Recalling paragraph 101 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which states that the United Nations regional commissions may, in response to requests made by Member States and within approved budgetary resources, organize follow-up activities to the World Summit on the Information Society at appropriate intervals in collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, as well as furnishing Member States with technical and other information for the design of regional strategies and the implementation of the agreements reached at regional conferences,

Recognizing that the year 2015 is the date set for meeting the global targets of the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and that the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010) is a second step towards their attainment,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Peru to host a meeting to evaluate eLAC2010 in 2010,

Taking into account the need to promote a Latin American and Caribbean vision of the information society,

Requests the secretariat, within available resources, to:

(i) Provide support to the countries of the region, especially in the formulation of national strategies, for the fulfilment of the goals of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010), which are derived directly from the commitments undertaken at the World Summit on the Information Society, by furnishing technical cooperation, carrying out studies and collaborating in the organization of meetings to the extent of its capabilities and competence;

(ii) Provide technical support for the eLAC2010 Regional Follow-up Mechanism through studies, statistics and substantive reports on the information society and associated public policies, the preparation of newsletters, the maintenance and expansion of a collaborative virtual forum and its cooperation in organizing technical meetings, the conference to be held to evaluate eLAC2010 and its preparatory process;

(iii) Provide technical support to the Presiding Officers of the eLAC2010 Regional Follow-up Mechanism so that synergies may be sought with initiatives of international agencies that may contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in eLAC2010, which shall consult with Member States regarding any such initiatives, and

(iv) Provide technical support for the organization of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Peru.