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Economic Commission for Latin America

REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(New York, 20 November 1980)

421 (PLEN. 14) FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATIN
AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE

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

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 571 (XIX), General Assembly resolutions 1838 (XVII), 2211 (XXI) and 2626 (XXV), and resolution 346 (AC.68) of the CEPAL Committee of the Whole, which express the permanent concern of the United Nations regarding population matters and their connexion with economic and social development,

Bearing in mind also the conclusions and recommendations of the World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974) and the Second Latin American Meeting on Population (Mexico, 1975), as well as resolutions 357 (XVI) and 400 (XVIII) of the Commission,

Emphasizing those of the above conclusions and resolutions that recognize the need to incorporate population variables in development planning processes and instruments and the importance of formulating policies with demographic effects that are integrated in development strategies and plans, which constitute mandates for CELADE as regards technical co-operation, research and training,

Considering that it is the task of the Commission and of its technical bodies to help to promote the development of Latin America and that consequently it is necessary for those bodies to have the resources required for the efficient and timely performance of that task,

Recalling the acknowledgement by the international community of the consequences of population dynamics for socio-economic development, as well as the effects of the modalities and rate of that development on those dynamics,

Considering that the work done by CELADE in the sphere of population in the region has won the recognition of governments because of its value and significance with regard to the efforts to promote economic and social development and because of the timeliness and efficiency with which it is carried out,

Bearing in mind that the purpose of the CEPAL Regional Population Programme is, among other things, to provide technical co-operation and

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to carry out the studies required to create and expand the knowledge, skills and inputs which contribute to the incorporation of population variables in economic and social planning and the formulation of policies with demographic effects that are integrated in development plans at the national and regional levels,

Bearing in mind also that CELADE, in its functions as a body of the CEPAL system responsible for the implementation of that Programme, should pursue, and as far as possible intensify, the technical co-operation and research activities aimed at improving the population data of the various countries and the techniques for their processing and analysis, increasing knowledge about the interrelationships between population and development, improving the techniques and instruments that make it possible to incorporate population variables in planning, promoting and facilitating the training of national personnel and disseminating information, while co-operating in the institutionalization of such activities in the various countries,

Considering moreover that the new and different concerns of the countries of the region regarding the connexions between population and development and the more complex approaches to the analysis of those connexions and the formulation of measures that will affect them, as well as the creation of increasingly advanced techniques for planning, the collection of information, and data processing and analysis, entail a substantial increase in requests for technical co-operation, not only at the national level but also at the subnational and local levels,

Bearing in mind the growing discrepancy between the resources required for the efficient implementation of the recommendations and mandates relating to population activities on the one hand, and the available financing, on the other,

Acknowledging the continuous and valuable support that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has been providing for the activities carried out by CELADE in the region under the CEPAL Regional Population Programme,

Acknowledging also the efforts made by the CEPAL secretariat and the CELADE administration to maintain the level of efficiency of the Centre while adapting to the continuing reduction in available financial resources,

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which on several occasions has entailed drastic personnel reductions at both seats of the Centre,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat concerning the institutionality of CELADE, its work programmes and its financial situation,

1. Endorses the validity of the objectives of the CEPAL Regional Population Programme, as well as the outlines and priority areas of the CELADE work programme, adopted at the eighteenth session of the Commission;

2. Reiterates its acknowledgement of the importance of the work done by CELADE pursuant to those mandates;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in order to ensure that the activities of the Commission in the field of population are pursued on a permanent basis, to make the necessary representations with a view to increasing the number of professional and local posts in CELADE that are included in the regular budget of the Commission, from 1982 onwards;

4. Recommends the governments of member countries to study the possibility of establishing bilateral agreements with CEPAL/CELADE not only for the implementation of activities in priority areas of development within the framework of the Regional Population Programme, but also with a view to ensuring and intensifying the participation of CELADE in the implementation of their national projects financed by UNFPA or other organizations of the United Nations system;

5. Also recommends the governments of member countries to study the possibility of making special contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, so that the latter may intensify its support for the activities carried out by CELADE in the region, and to that end requests the Executive Director of the Fund and the Executive Secretary of CEPAL to make the necessary representations;

6. Urges national and international financing institutions and co-operation agencies, especially the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, to intensify their efforts to provide the financial support necessary for the efficient implementation of the Regional Population Programme in general and the CELADE work programme in particular.