

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

BIENNIAL REPORT

(28 April 1988 - 11 May 1990)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1990

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UNITED NATIONS

Santiago, Chile, 1990

516 (XXIII) ACTIVITIES OF ECLAC IN THE FIELD
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Welcoming resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992 and resolution 44/229 on the strengthening of international co-operation in the field of the environment, both adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 1989, the Brasilia Declaration of 31 March 1989 on development and environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by the Sixth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Amazon Declaration, adopted by the First Meeting of Presidents of the Countries of the Amazon Region on 6 May 1989,

Considering that the countries of the region are faced with the pressing need to attain increasing economic growth rates in the short and medium term in order to ensure a continued, substantial improvement in the quality of life of their peoples, and that their economic and social progress should be ensured through the implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development policies,

Recognizing the differences of outlook and priorities that exist as between global and regional ecological problems,

Gravely concerned at the increasing environmental degradation and contamination of ground and sea water, air and soil, at the over-intensive use of natural resources and at the rapid decline in biological diversity, frequently caused by policies and strategies which have failed to take environmental aspects into account,

Noting with satisfaction that ECLAC has amassed experience in the field of technical co-operation and is making considerable progress in the task of promoting the incorporation of the environmental dimension into development strategies, policies and processes in the region,

1. Assigns high priority to research into suitable methodologies and technologies for the solution of the serious problems caused by the rapid deterioration of the environment in the region in general and in its major cities in particular;

2. Invites the member countries of the Commission to co-ordinate technical and economic co-operation policies and strategies, so as to promote increasingly equitable and environmentally sustainable development models;

3. Stresses the need for close co-operation between all countries of the Commission, in particular through a broad exchange of information, scientific knowledge and experience in addressing global and regional environmental degradation by identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems primarily at their source, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected;
4. Also invites the countries of the region, through a joint effort, to contribute their most significant experiences to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, especially through their participation in the regional meeting, to be held in Mexico City in 1991, to prepare for that Conference;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to redouble his efforts to seek new proposals for forms of environmentally and socially balanced development that would be based on strengthening bilateral and multilateral co-operation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;
6. Recommends that the Executive Secretary should provide, where possible, the support of ECLAC to countries which so request, so as to build up significant multisectoral lines of co-operation and research in the field of the environment, within the context of policies aimed at enhancing environmentally sustainable production patterns with ever-increasing equity;
7. Instructs the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to make provision in the budget for the biennium 1992-1993 both for new research and co-operation activities along the lines set forth above and for the permanent human resources needed to ensure the continuity of the Commission's action;
8. Urges the Member States of the United Nations and the intergovernmental financial agencies to make voluntary contributions to the funding of these activities.

243rd meeting
11 May 1990