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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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New York, 1973

321 (XV) PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing that some 150 million women live in the Latin American region and that only recently have opportunities been opening up for their direct participation in economic and social development efforts,

Noting with concern that in many places in the region women are suffering the effects of discriminatory legislation and practices and are frequently exploited by the prevailing social systems,

Considering that efforts to provide better opportunities for the people of Latin America and to raise the standard of living of the poorer strata of the population imply priority attention to the women of Latin America,

Considering further that there have been no economic and social studies on the role of women in the development of the region,

Recommends that the ECLA secretariat should prepare a study on the participation of women in the development of the region and the measures to be taken to eliminate discrimination and the lack of educational, employment and economic opportunities for women.

178th meeting
30 March 1973

322 (XV) APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that one of the fundamental characteristics of the developing countries is their technological dependence, which, with its economic implications, aggravates their peripheral position and perpetuates the present international division of labour, obliging such countries to adopt, on unfavourable conditions and terms, technologies which are in many cases unsuitable for their structure of production, availability of resources, and the nature of their domestic markets,

Further considering that such dependence also has a political dimension, inasmuch as it weakens the decision-making capacity of the developing countries by preventing them from exercising effective control over their development processes,

Noting that ECLA has dealt with some of these subjects in its studies and activities but has so far lacked machinery to enable it to link the advance of science and technology more closely with economic and social development,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (UNACAST) has formulated a Regional Plan of Action for the application of science and technology to development in Latin America, within the context of the World Plan of Action and the Second Development

Decade, and that the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) is responsible for promoting its discussion and implementation at the national and regional levels.

Considering further that the Specialized Conference on the Application of Science and Technology in Latin America (CACTAL), held in Brasilia in May 1972, was an intergovernmental forum in which the participants explained the positions of Governments with regard to the role of the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries in achieving their economic, social and cultural independence and development,

1. Declares:

(a) That it is convinced of the vital need for the transfer of technology suited to the needs, possibilities and characteristics of the underdeveloped countries of the region, bearing in mind the priorities laid down in their national development plans and programmes;

(b) That the technical and scientific component must contribute effectively to securing full utilization of natural resources, so that they can be transformed and adapted to meet the social needs of the Latin American population;

(c) That the advance of science and technology, especially the strengthening of its infrastructure, experimental research and development, and the application of existing knowledge, must contribute to the improvement not only of the economic aspects of living, but also of the social aspects in such fields as education, health, housing, nutrition and public health;

2. Requests the ECLA secretariat to convene a meeting of representatives of Governments, to be held immediately before the fourth meeting of the Standing Conference of Directors of National Councils for Science Policy and Research of UNESCO's Latin American Member States, to initiate the analysis of the Regional Plan of Action for the application of science and technology to development, and to examine the manner of implementation of the Regional Plan and the possibility of co-ordinating the Plan with other regional programmes being carried out by other international organizations and with the programmes and policies of the region;

3. Accepts the Mexican Government's invitation to hold the above-mentioned meeting in Mexico City, with the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology acting as the host institution;

4. Requests the participating countries, taking into account the progress of similar initiatives in the region, to express their views at that meeting concerning the advisability of establishing a committee or some other intergovernmental machinery in ECLA to analyse the application of science and technology to the development of Latin America;

5. Urges the Governments of the region:

(a) To modernize their educational systems by introducing or increasing the science and technology component;

(b) To provide support for UNCTAD resolution 39 (III), and especially for the machinery for negotiation on technology proposed in paragraph 8 (d), in order to strengthen negotiating capacity with regard to the acquisition of technology so as to avoid the high direct and indirect costs involved in such transactions and to prevent the inclusion of contractual conditions of a restrictive nature which might prejudice the interests of the Latin American countries;

(c) To promote scientific and technological research and establish suitable systems of dissemination of technology to bring technical information within the reach of the user and publicize experience, details of new domestic and foreign research and scientific advances in general,

(d) To encourage and support the exchange of technology among the Latin American countries and between them and other developing countries;

6. Requests the ECLA secretariat:

(a) To evaluate the incidence of the technological factor in the economic and social planning adopted by the countries of Latin America and the ways in which, if the indispensable adaptations and necessary economic and social structural changes are not carried out, the utilization of more advanced technology can adversely affect development by promoting, in particular, concentration of income and unemployment;

(b) To study the possibilities of using domestically produced technology and the areas in which countries could best use such technology;

(c) To study, in collaboration with UNESCO and other interested organizations, the desirability of establishing a Regional Centre for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation;

(d) To take action to disseminate as widely as possible the Regional Plan of Action for the application of science and technology to development in Latin America and other appropriate documents.

178th meeting
30 March 1973

323 (XV) ECLA'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNEXION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that the United Nations General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, adopted resolution 2997 (XXVII) which emphasized the importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation in connexion with the environment and the important role to be played by the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,