

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

**BIENNIAL REPORT  
(28 April 1994 – 20 April 1996)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1996  
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**UNITED NATIONS  
Santiago, Chile, 1996**

556(XXVI) LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLAN  
OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993) unanimously adopted the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, which set forth the common position of the countries of the region concerning the issues of population and development, and agreed also to promote the drafting of a Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,

Emphasizing the importance of the active participation of the countries in the process that led to the adoption of the Draft Regional Plan of Action at the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC (Cartagena, Colombia, April 1994), in accordance with ECLAC resolution 536(XXV),

Considering that, following the incorporation of the results of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), this Draft was adopted as the Regional Plan of Action, with the broad participation of the States members and associate members of ECLAC,

Aware that the process of seeking financing for the activities envisaged in the Regional Plan of Action is complex, but that significant progress has none the less been made,

Recalling that, in accordance with resolution 536(XXV), it was decided to establish an ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, which would be responsible for follow-up and review of the Plan of Action,

Considering that the Committee mentioned in the foregoing paragraph held its first meetings on 17 and 18 April 1996 in San José, Costa Rica, and discussed the topics agreed upon in the Regional Plan of Action, including follow-up and review of the activities envisaged therein,

Emphasizing the need to redouble efforts to obtain the financial resources needed for the implementation of the activities in the Plan,

Recognizing the essential role performed in Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to population and development activities by the non-governmental organizations—especially the women's organizations—involved in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the follow-up to those conferences,

Recalling that regional and subregional activities should be carried out in close cooperation with international organizations and competent United Nations organs, particularly the United Nations Population Fund, and with non-governmental organizations specializing in population and development,

Recognizing the relevance of the note by the secretariat prepared by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) for the meetings of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the activities carried out, with the support of the secretariat, by the Presiding Officers of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) on population, which led to the adoption of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development;
2. Acknowledges with appreciation the initiatives taken by the Presiding Officers and the secretariat to obtain financing for the activities envisaged in the Regional Plan of Action;
3. Expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for laying the groundwork for the first meeting of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and, in particular, for the preparation of the working and reference documents;
4. Agrees that each country should designate an institution to serve as a liaison for the follow-up of the Regional Plan of Action in order to facilitate communication between member countries and with the ECLAC secretariat;
5. Decides that at its next meeting the Ad Hoc Committee will consider the issue of reproductive health and poverty and instructs the secretariat to prepare the substantive documentation required;
6. Requests the secretariat to take steps to procure extrabudgetary financing for the activities envisaged in the Plan of Action and, depending upon the results of its efforts, to update the programme of activities periodically and to disseminate the relevant information in a special bulletin;
7. Instructs the secretariat to prepare a biennial report on the activities undertaken, to be presented at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, which will be held during ECLAC sessions;
8. Requests the Presiding Officers of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, in close contact with the secretariat, to take charge of follow-up of the Plan of Action between ECLAC sessions, and to collaborate in the efforts to obtain the funds necessary for its implementation;
9. Urges the international community and the States members of ECLAC to increase their financing of activities related to population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those envisaged in the Regional Plan of Action.