

609(XXX) FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that education is a right and makes a contribution to development in its ethical, social, productive, cultural and political dimensions; that the countries of the region have made significant efforts in the areas of educational reform and the allocation of financial resources in order to attain quality education within a framework of equity, but without having major impacts in terms of the educational achievement of students; and that the countries of the region still face enormous challenges in the development of education with efficiency, quality and equity,

Considering also that the situation with regard to education in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is extremely heterogeneous and inequitable, and it is therefore necessary to support those that have lagged further behind in order to ensure that the region as a whole makes harmonious progress and that it achieves the goals set forth in the World Declaration on Education for All by 2015 and the World Education Forum; that all the countries should at least meet the four priority goals by 2015, which are to provide universal pre-primary education, ensure universal completion of the primary cycle, raise the coverage of secondary education to 75% and eradicate adult illiteracy, and that the challenges that remain to be met make it necessary to assess what has been done and redirect and increase their efforts so that more significant results can be achieved,

Taking into account the fact that the additional resources needed to achieve these targets are estimated at US\$ 149 billion, which is the equivalent of 7.5 percentage points of Latin America's GDP in 2000; that the countries' ability to finance the achievement of these targets with public resources raises difficulties and varies depending on the extent of coverage and actual yield at each level of instruction, on trends in GDP and on the proportion of GDP that is allocated to public spending on education,

Aware that more public, private and international resources must be mobilized in order to make progress towards the fulfilment of educational goals and that the authorities in charge of financial and educational matters in the countries should jointly analyse, design and evaluate other options for financing education,

Highlighting the valuable contribution to the debate provided by the document entitled "Financing and management of education in Latin America and the Caribbean", which was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the conviction that education is the best means of ensuring economic growth together with the growth of production and social equity, strengthening democracy by promoting the broader exercise of citizenship without exclusions, furthering the information and knowledge society at a more rapid pace and enriching the dialogue among persons of different cultures,

1. Decides to undertake the following activities in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

- (a) To undertake a deeper analysis of innovative options for financing and managing education in Latin America and the Caribbean and to promote the formulation of public policy agendas that help the countries to reach the targets they have established in the field of education;
- (b) To pursue an in-depth analysis of the causes of educational inequity in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to stimulate the formulation of regional strategies with a view to reducing existing inequalities in the areas of economic, social and educational development;
- (c) To follow-up and backstop the fulfilment of the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals referring to education;
- (d) To contribute to the mobilization of the different stakeholders in society, in coordination with the Governments of the region, in order to uphold the principle of social responsibility for education, as reflected in the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (e) To promote interaction among the authorities responsible for education and finance with a view to arriving at agreements regarding efforts to seek out new forms of management, supplementary sources and financing options;
- (f) To include the subjects of the management and financing of education on the agenda for the forthcoming regional seminar on fiscal policy, as well as other meetings organized by the Economic Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or both, as the case may be;
- (g) To promote joint activities with other United Nations bodies and multilateral agencies to follow up issues relating to the financing and management of education in the region and formulate proposals on those subjects;
- (h) To promote South-South cooperation activities, taking advantage of the potentials existing in countries of the region.

2. Support the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the fulfilment of its mandate to follow up on the educational goals agreed upon in international forums such as the World Education Forum.