

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Br. Virgin Islands
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



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**SUMMARIES OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL AND ECLAC WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL
INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC**



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**SUMMARIES OF RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BY ECLAC WHICH MAY
BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC**

Introduction

In this document, the secretariat brings to the attention of member countries the following:

- a summary of selected resolutions which were adopted at the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly¹,
- resolutions adopted at the 1999 organizational session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and
- selected resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The resolutions included are those which may be of particular interest to member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) or may be of particular relevance to the work programme or mandate of the Committee.

The full texts of the resolutions which are summarized in this document may be obtained from the secretariat.

¹Please note that the resolutions pertaining to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly were obtained from the United Nations Home Page on the World Wide Web, which did not fully contain all of the resolutions passed at that session. Therefore there may be resolutions pertaining to CDCC member countries that have not yet been posted to the General Assembly home page.

SUMMARIES OF SELECTED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

Fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly
(September – December 1998)

1. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (General Assembly Resolution 53/1/B)

Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its support for the efforts of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis and its solidarity with their peoples as they cope with the destruction wrought by Hurricane Georges from 20-22 September 1998. It also expressed its appreciation to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief to the affected countries.

It requested that all States of the international community, as a matter of urgency, contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries. It stressed the urgency of providing financing for the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts being undertaken by the affected countries at the national and regional levels.

It also requested the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to provide support and assistance in the strengthening of the disaster preparedness and prevention capacities of the countries of the region.

2. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (General Assembly resolution 53/4)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed concern about the continued promulgation and application by member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the "Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

The General Assembly was also concerned that since the adoption of its resolutions, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied. Concern was expressed about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries. It urged States that have applied and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regimes.

3. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly (General Assembly Resolution 53/5)

In this resolution, the General Assembly stated that upon review of the convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), it found that the purposes and principles enshrined in the ACS Convention were consistent with those of the United Nations. It therefore agreed that it would be mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the two bodies and invited the ACS to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. It also requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (General Assembly Resolution 53/17)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recalled the signing on 27 May 1997 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community of a cooperation agreement between the secretariats of the two organizations.

It took note that the third meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which examined the potential for greater interaction and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of conflict prevention, was held on 28 and 29 July 1998. The General Assembly welcomed the fact that the follow-up meeting in the area of early warning and conflict prevention will be convened shortly.

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives.

It recommended that the second general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community, its associated institutions and of the United Nations system be hosted in 1999 in the Caribbean region. The main objective of the meeting would be to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the agreed areas and issues and to hold consultations on additional measures and procedures as may be required to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organizations.

5. Implementation of the World Social Summit for Social Development (General Assembly resolution 53/28)

In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitments adopted by heads of State and governments at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action. They also pledged to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all.

The General Assembly expressed its profound concern at the seriousness of the current economic crisis in many regions of the world and of its negative social and economic consequences and expressed the view that this demonstrated the necessity to implement fully the commitments made at the Summit. It also reaffirmed the need to continue to evaluate the impact of structural adjustment programmes by, *inter alia*, integrating the social dimensions involved.

The General Assembly also emphasized the urgency of placing the goals of social development as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action at the centre of economic policy-making, including policies influencing domestic and global market forces and the global economy.

It then stressed the need for revitalized economic and social development everywhere within a framework that places people at the centre of development and aims to meet human needs rapidly and more effectively by, *inter alia*, enhancing positive interaction between economic and social policies. It stressed the need for strong, sustained political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development.

It informed that the Commission for Social Development will examine at its thirty-seventh session, in 1999, the theme "Social services for all", and emphasized the importance of the continued involvement and support by funds and programmes as well as specialized agencies.

The General Assembly urged the continued involvement and support by the regional commissions in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the Summit at the regional and subregional levels. It reiterated its invitation to the commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to continue to convene on a biennial basis meetings at a high political level. These meetings will aim to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views, to identify and share best practices and lessons learned and to identify additional initiatives to strengthen implementation.

In this context, the General Assembly welcomed the convening of subregional meetings by the Economic Commission for Africa in December 1998 and in 1999, and a regional meeting by the

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in December 1998 to evaluate the follow-up of the Summit in their regions.

6. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 53/67)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its concern that despite the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 38 years ago, there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly also highlighted that there needs to be full and speedy implementation of the Declaration to eradicate colonialism if the target date of 2000 is to be met.

It also requested the Administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary General information on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status. It also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions.

Anguilla

In the case of Anguilla, the General Assembly:

- was conscious of the commitment of the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy dialogue and partnership, as illustrated through the Country Policy plan for 1993-1997;
- was aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to develop the territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation and computerizing the company registry system;
- highlighted the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug-trafficking and money laundering; and
- Called upon the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

British Virgin Islands

In the case of the British Virgin Islands, the General Assembly:

- took note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-

government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives;

- noted that that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres;
- highlighted the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering;
- requested the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status; and
- also requested the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

Montserrat

In the case of Montserrat, the General Assembly:

- took note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence;
- noted with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island;
- noted the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat;
- noted also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team;
- noted with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity; and
- requested the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status.

The United States Virgin Islands

In the case of the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly:

- requested the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;
- also requested the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;
- further requested the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community; and
- welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

7. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (General Assembly resolution 53/95)

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the goal of the international community remained the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of social and economic development in Haiti. It also paid tribute to the Haitian people in their own ongoing quest for strong and lasting democracy, justice and prosperity.

It stressed the importance of continuing to improve the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, and noted that the Haitian authorities remain committed to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms and to improving accountability. Accordingly, the General Assembly welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend for one year the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti.

The General Assembly reaffirmed once again the commitment of the international community to continue its technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts. It also agreed to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development. It also requested the Secretary General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in providing humanitarian aid and contributing to the development of Haiti.

8. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (General Assembly resolution 53/120)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized that the implementation of the Platform for Action rested primarily at the national level, that governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process. It also stressed that the national mechanisms had an important role to play, bearing in mind the fact that the promotion of international cooperation was essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should continue to oversee system-wide coordination on the basis of an integrated approach, the implementation of the Platform for Action, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. It should ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly.

It noted with appreciation that many governments had developed national strategies and action plans, in some cases in consultation with non-governmental organizations. It urged those governments that had not yet done so to prepare national action plans as soon as possible, but no later than June 1999, and to submit these plans to the Secretariat.

It also stressed that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action would require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources. The latter would be used for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men.

The General Assembly reiterated that the special session, which will take place from 5 to 9 June 2000, should review and appraise progress in implementation, focusing on examples of good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, obstacles and key challenges remaining, and identify further actions and initiatives for achieving gender equality in the next millennium. It also decided that the special session shall be entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". It also encouraged appropriate regional preparatory activities for the special session, *inter alia*, by Governments in cooperation with the regional commissions, and recommended the submission of the results as an input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session, in 2000.

9. The financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (General Assembly resolution 53/172)

In this resolution, the General Assembly stated that it recognized that global financial flows, in the context of financial globalization, have presented Governments, the multilateral financial

institutions and the international community at large with new challenges and opportunities. It also stated that they should constitute a very important element of the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

It expressed deep concern at the overall declining trend in official development assistance, which is a significant external resource for financing development and an important source of support to the efforts of developing countries, in particular least developed countries. These resources help in creating an enabling environment for eradicating poverty and tackling basic social needs, especially where private capital flows may either be inadequate or unavailable.

The General Assembly emphasized that the international financial institutions, in providing policy advice and prescriptions in the context of adjustment and financial crisis programmes, should ensure that they are sensitive to the specific circumstances of the concerned countries and to the special needs of developing countries and work towards the best possible outcome for the economies concerned.

It then requested the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations, and in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions to analyze the current trends in global financial flows. To also analyze, in a timely manner, the modalities to improve early warning, prevention and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises, taking a comprehensive and long-term perspective, while remaining responsive to the challenges of development and the protection of the most vulnerable countries and social groups.

10. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (General Assembly resolution 53/189)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recalled its decision to convene a two-day special session, in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

It welcomed the action taken by SIDS and the international donor community in implementing plans and projects for the sustainable developments of SIDS. They also welcomed the actions taken by Governments, regional commissions and organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in support of activities relating to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

The General Assembly called for the participation of associate members of regional economic commissions in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. It stated that this participation must be in the same capacity of observer as held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference. It also called for the need for effective participation of the actors of civil society, in particular, the non-governmental organizations.

**Summaries of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council
at its organizational session for 1999 (20 January and 2-5 February 1999)**

1. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/1999/L.6)

In this resolution, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) welcomed the progress made in implementing General Assembly resolution on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. It looked forward to the further implementation of these resolutions and of ECOSOC resolutions in this area.

ECOSOC reaffirmed that cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should cover cooperation at all levels, including intergovernmental, Secretariat and country levels. In this context, it welcomed the increased dialogue and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental level, and decided to make further efforts to promote and open dialogue with a view to building a strategic partnership and integrated development approach.

It recognized the consolidated report by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1998 and noted that it was a useful tool with respect to supporting its coordination function.

2. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy (E/1999/L.8)

In this resolution, ECOSOC stressed the crucial importance of the completion of the work of the Committee for Development Policy on the Vulnerability index. In this regard it requested the Committee to continue and to make all possible efforts to complete its work in this area during the forthcoming session.

It requested the Committee for Development Policy to consider the theme of "the role of employment and work in poverty eradication in the context of globalization: the empowerment and advancement of women".

**Summaries of selected resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh
session of ECLAC (11-16 May 1998)**

The following are summaries of the three resolutions which were adopted at the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC:

1. Reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC [Resolution 565(XXVII)]

With respect to the role and functions of ECLAC and the implications of the restructuring

and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, the ECLAC secretariat decided to renew the mandate of the Ad-Hoc Working Group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI). It also decided that the Group would be headed by the Chairman of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, in consultation with the Executive Secretary. It was also agreed that the Group would continue to carry out defining priorities for the programme of work and recommending to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities, taking into account the development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC also requested the Ad Hoc Working Group to consider, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, the progress achieved in the implementation of current United Nations reform proposals pertinent to the Commission, including the implementation of the pilot management scheme.

2. Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2000-2001 [Resolution 566 (XXVII)]

This resolution seeks to take full account of the views expressed and the adjustments to the programmes proposed by representatives of the Governments of Member States, in addition to the changes agreed upon in the debate at the twenty-seventh session. In particular, it approved the draft work programme of the ECLAC system, including the work programme of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), for the biennium 2000-2001. It also took into account the adjustments provided for in the resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, which served as the legislative basis for the Commission's execution of the programmes and projects and its issuance of the recurrent publications.

In the resolution the Ad Hoc Working Group is also entrusted with the tasks of setting priorities for the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 and in updating the current programme of work.

The secretariat's proposal to create a subprogramme with the purpose of promoting the tasks related to mainstreaming the gender perspective into the main spheres of the regional development process was also noted with satisfaction.

ECLAC also requested the Executive Secretary to continue to take appropriate measures, including the provision of adequate resources, to ensure that the Caribbean and Central America member States participate meaningfully in all elements of the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 and that they benefit fully from all of the Commission's activities.

3. Population and Development: Preparations for the Regional Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [Resolution 572 (XXVII)]

In this resolution, ECLAC expressed its appreciation to the Latin American Demographic

Centre (CELADE) and to the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain for the activities undertaken in the past biennium with respect to the agreements contained in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development.

ECLAC requested CELADE and its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant national and international organizations, to promote during the forthcoming biennium, activities in the countries that place priority on the following issues: human resources training in the field of population; the census round for the year 2000; international migration; population information and education directed towards vulnerable groups; ageing and the elderly; the family; social inequalities and vulnerable groups, including indigenous populations.

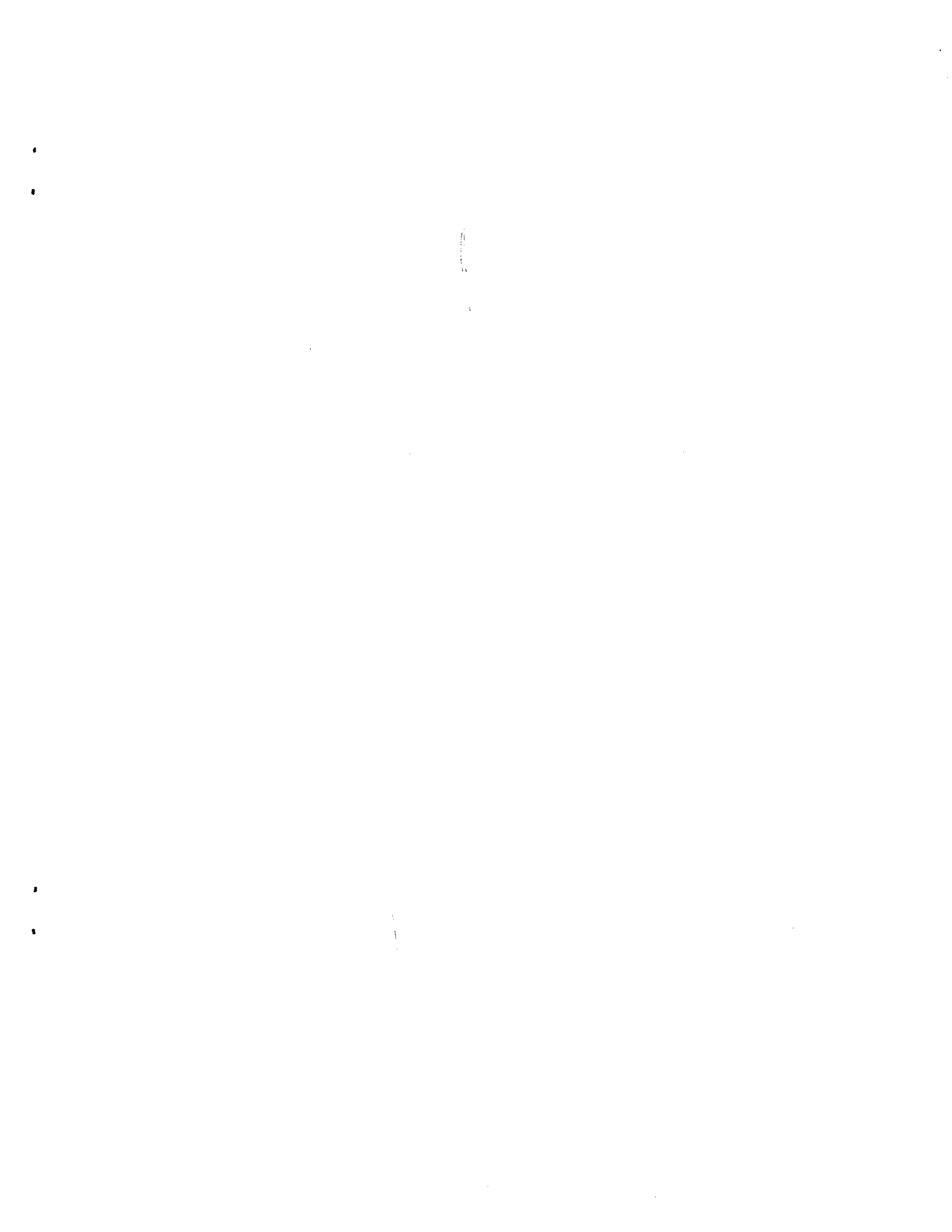
ECLAC also urged the countries of the region, even in periods of financial restraint, to allocate sufficient resources to implement population and development programmes that include the reduction of poverty among their objectives. It requested that member governments advocate the inclusion of the issues of population and reproductive health in reforms implemented in the sectors of education and health. It also urged the international community to increase its technical and financial assistance for this process, in fulfillment of the commitments established in the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

4. Participation of ECLAC associate member countries in the follow-up to the United Nations world conferences and in the Economic and Social Council [Resolution 574 (XXVII)]

In this resolution, ECLAC noted that the rules of procedure of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Summit for Social Development and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements were subsequently modified by the General Assembly to provide for official observer status for associate members of the regional commissions of the United Nations.

ECLAC requested their member countries, through their representatives to the General Assembly, to devise the necessary mechanisms to allow the associate members to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the programmes of action of the global conferences.

It also requested the member countries of ECLAC, through their representatives to the Economic and Social Council, to establish the necessary mechanisms to permit associate members of the regional economic commissions to participate in the work of the Council and of its subsidiary bodies.



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