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Latin American and Caribbean Regional
Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations
Conference on Environment and Development
Mexico City, 4-7 March 1991

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

In accordance with established practice, upon the commencement of every meeting convened by ECLAC the first order of business is the election of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It is traditional for the representative of the host country to serve as chairman.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda prepared by the secretariat as set forth herein shall be presented to the representatives for their review and approval. In accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, the representatives may make comments and suggest modifications as they deem fit at that time.

3. Changing production patterns, social equity and environmental sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which is to be held in mid-1992 offers the community of nations an opportunity to re-examine the approaches being taken by governments and national societies to two of the highest-priority tasks on mankind's agenda as we stand on the threshold of a new millennium: economic development and environmental sustainability.

At this Regional Preparatory Meeting, three interrelated topics will be analysed and discussed from the standpoint of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: the relationship between economic development and environmental sustainability; the main environmental phenomena affecting the region and how they tie in with global environmental phenomena; and the link between environmental protection and economic development within the context of international co-operation.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the concept of international co-operation should not be confined solely to a

consideration of environmental problems. In view of the fact that the development effort cannot be divorced from the question of environmental protection and that many environmental problems are a consequence of phenomena related to the pressures associated with underdevelopment --as in the case of poverty, the improper use of natural resources and the pressure exerted by the population on a finite supply of resources-- international co-operation should focus on the task of mounting an integrated and co-ordinated effort to promote development and environmental protection simultaneously. Hence, the preparations for the world conference of 1992 should foster an examination, perhaps from a new vantage point, of various items on the agenda of international co-operation.

The deliberations will be based, inter alia, on two documents prepared by the Secretariat 1/and will be organized around the discussion of three main topics with a view to the adoption of guidelines for action or proposals in these respects. These topics are: i) the promotion of the development of the countries of the region by means of changes in production patterns that will foster social equity and environmental sustainability; ii) intersectoral topics linking development, social equity, environmental sustainability and international co-operation; and iii) specific items to be included on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In summary, an effort will be made, from a global perspective, to address the question of achieving the reactivation of development by means of a process of change in the productive sector which will, in the medium and long terms, permit a progressively greater degree of social equity and environmental sustainability to be attained. The issues of development financing and access to clean, advanced technologies, coupled with a recognition of the worldwide importance of the economic potential represented by the natural resources and biological diversity of the region, should serve as the foundation for these deliberations.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The debate on agenda item three is likely to result in the issuance by the Regional Preparatory Meeting of one or more documents prepared by the governments of the region setting forth guidelines that will serve to orient the position adopted by the countries of

1/ Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity. The Prime Task of Latin American and Caribbean Development in the 1990s (LC/G.1601-P), Santiago, Chile, March 1990, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.II.G.6, and The Environment at the Service of Mankind: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and Sustainable Development (LC/G.1648(Conf.80/2)), Santiago, Chile, January 1991.

Latin America and the Caribbean during the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. Adoption of the report

The Rapporteur will submit the draft report to the representatives of the member countries for consideration and approval in its final form.

