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Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, preparatory to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Organized by ECLAC and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and co-sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Nature and purpose

This meeting of government experts is a technical symposium that will provide inputs for the debate on the topics to be dealt with at the 1993 Regional Meeting and at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Accordingly, it will provide the government experts of the region with a suitable forum to discuss and eventually adopt recommendations on these topics.

Opening meeting

The meeting will be opened by the appropriate authorities of Saint Lucia and of ECLAC, assisted by representatives of UNFPA and CELADE.

1. Election of officers

In accordance with established practice, officers (a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur) will be elected at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will analyse and adopt the agenda for the meeting.

3. Population growth, structure and distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean: socioeconomic trends and implications

Basic document 1 will cover the following areas: population growth; fertility and mortality transition; and changes in demographic structures, including ageing, trends in spatial distribution, migration and urbanization. In the discussion of these topics, emphasis will be placed on the interactions between demographic variables and social and economic development. Using selected examples, an analysis will be made of differing demographic patterns, as observed at the regional, national and sub-national levels, taking into account their associations with structural social, economic and spatial heterogeneity. The interaction between population dynamics and poverty will also be discussed.

4. Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean subregion

In addition to providing background information on the process of demographic change in the subregion, basic document 2 should emphasize topics from the list of issues to be addressed by the International Conference on Population and Development which are especially important for the countries of the subregion such as teenage pregnancy and international migration.

5. Population policies and programmes

Basic document 3 will cover population policies and programmes, considering their integration into policies and plans for economic and social development. In addition to summarizing the essential aspects of population policies and programmes, the document should include an analysis of the current situation in the region, stressing relevant institutional aspects. Due consideration should also be given to decentralized local planning efforts and their implications as well as to the recommendations of the recent Cairo meeting on these issues.

6. Population growth and distribution: their relation to development and the environment

Basic document 4 will cover the many existing linkages between population dynamics and sustainable development, which will be studied in terms of specific countries grouped according to their stage of demographic transition and their degree of urbanization; this classification will facilitate the identification of problems which arise from both population growth trends and spatial distribution patterns. In this context, an analysis of population dynamics –emphasizing the concept of sustainable development– will consider the social and economic determinants of demographic change and its effects on urban and rural development.

7. Women and population dynamics

Basic document 5 will cover the complex interactions among women's roles, their economic situation and population dynamics, including reproductive health, family life cycles, education and employment. Also considered will be aspects directly related to marriage and divorce, women heads of household, fertility patterns, maternal mortality, morbidity and abortion. Special attention will be devoted to an analysis of how the specific situation of women is affected both by long-term changes in family structure within the broader context of socioeconomic transformation and by the short-term effects of crises and structural adjustment programmes.

8. Family planning, health and family well-being

Basic document 6 will deal with family planning, health and family well-being, with emphasis on the situation of adolescents. The document will contain an analysis of measures aimed at improving the quality and coverage of family planning services and a summary of factors related to information and communication activities targeting both women and men. In discussing these topics, the document will focus on strategies for grassroots community participation in family planning activities. A special section of the document will centre on social issues concerning adolescents and their reproductive health.

9. Conclusions and recommendations.