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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF  
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLANNING

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SYSTEM OF CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION AMONG  
PLANNING BODIES OF LATIN AMERICA

Set up at the First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, held in  
Caracas, Venezuela from 13-16 April 1977 and endorsed by resolution 3/1 (XVIII)  
adopted at the seventeenth session of the Economic Commission for  
Latin America (CEPAL), held in Guatemala City  
from 28 April - 5 May 1977.



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## I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Venue and date

The Meeting of experts of the Third Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers and Heads of Planning was held at Guatemala City on 26 and 27 November 1980.

### Attendance

The Meeting of experts was attended by representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (see annex 1, list of participants).

It was also attended by observers from the Inter-american Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (CABIE), the Commission for the Scientific Development of Central America and Panama (CTACP), the Central American Technological Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI), the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Agency for International Development (AID), the Regional Office for Central America and Panama (AID/ROCAP) and the Inter-american Planning Society (IAPS).

Representatives were present from the following United Nations specialized agencies and offices: Department of Technical Co-operation and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Children's Fund and International Labour Organisation.

Election of

Election of officers

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Raúl Villatoro Recinos, Guatemala

Vice-chairmen: Camilo Silva, Colombia; Carlos Rubén Rodríguez,  
Argentina; Louis Jadotte, Haiti

Rapporteur: Mauricio Campillo, Mexico

Agenda

The following agenda was adopted:

- (a) Election of officers
- (b) Adoption of the Agenda
- (c) Opening statements
- (d) State of planning
- (e) Regional development planning
- (f) Planning in science and technology
- (g) Operation of the System for Co-operation among Planning Bodies
- (h) Technical reports and conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of planning experts.

Opening meeting

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Raúl Villatoro Recinos, Secretary-General of the National Economic Planning Council of Guatemala, took the floor.

He referred first to the importance of co-operation among planners in view of the serious challenges presented by the struggle against underdevelopment and the disquieting evolution of the economy and relations at world level. He pointed out that there was an increasingly pressing need for broad lines of action which would lead effectively to the well-being sought by all sections of the population and said that planning was the basic tool for acquiring a more exhaustive knowledge of the economic and social system.

He then referred to the importance of the items to be discussed at the Conference and to the significant contribution that should be made in its debates.

He also referred to the serious problems facing Latin America and to the responsibility borne by planners in meeting the objectives likely to raise the standards of living of society.

Finally, on behalf of his government, he expressed gratitude for the honour of hosting a meeting with such distinguished participation and wished the experts every success in the course of their deliberations. (See Information Document N° 1, Opening statements at the Meeting of Experts).

Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, then took the floor. Speaking on his own behalf and on that of the Director of ILPES, he expressed gratitude for the great support provided by the Government of Guatemala to the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning and said that the meeting of planners was one of the most important activities provided for under the Latin American co-operation systems.

He referred to the need to review the achievements made and obstacles encountered in over 25 years of experience in planning, and called attention to the grave problems still facing Latin America and to its role in the present international economic situation. He said that planning would have to be strengthened if it was to serve as a basic tool for modernizing the State and for prescribing action to be taken in the different kinds of scenario which could be constructed on the basis of the Latin American and world situation. Finally he wished the Latin American and Caribbean planners every success in their meeting (See Information Document N° 1, Statement by the Executive Secretary of CEPAL).

/The meeting

The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Fernando Zumbado, the representative of UNDP, who spoke on behalf of Mr. Gabriel Valdés, Director of the UNDP Bureau for Latin America. He said the agenda of the meeting reflected the maturity reached by the systems in recent years and stressed that as far as UNDP was concerned, planning was the area to which the largest volume of resources had been assigned and that its continued support of ILPES, in compliance with the mandates of the governments of the region, showed how much importance UNDP attached to that institution.

He ended his statement by wishing the representatives every success.

The last speaker to take the floor was Mr. Jorge Méndez Munévar, the Director of ILPES.

He referred to the items to be considered at the Conference, laying particular emphasis on the one on the state of planning, which was aimed at advancing the knowledge of the situation of planning in the region by drawing a distinction between various predominant approaches so as to facilitate the analysis of the policies for implementing development plans and to explain the social and economic mechanics which the various countries regards as best for the attainment of their national objective.

Turning to what ILPES called emerging dimensions, he referred in particular to environmental conservation and science and technology. He also referred to areas as vast as social planning and regional planning. Finally, he presented what, in the view of ILPES, would be the main planning tasks in the 1980s. (See Information Document N° 1, Statement by the Director of ILPES).

He ended by wishing the participants every success in their works.

Committees

Three committees were set up to discuss three agenda items. Committee I examined the state of planning. The following officers were elected to precede over its work:

Chairman: José A. Savasini, Brazil

Rapporteur: Guillermo Guevara, Costa Rica

Committee II considered the item on planning and science and technology. The following officers were elected to precede over its work:

Chairman: Amílcar E. Luguelles, Argentina

Rapporteur: Alberto Chiodi, Uruguay

Committee III dealt with the item on regional development planning. The following officers were elected to precede over its work:

Chairman: José Agustín Espino, Panama

Rapporteur: José Enrique Pérez, Paraguay

Adoption of the report and of the conclusions and recommendations

After considering the technical reports of the committees and the documents related to them and studying the operation of the System for Co-operation and Co-ordination among Planning Bodies, the planning experts adopted this final report and the conclusions and recommendations contained herein.

Closing meeting

At the closing meeting of the Meeting of Experts, the chairman thanked the representatives for the very important contribution made in the course of their consideration of the items on their agenda.

## II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Report of Committee I on the state of planning

#### (a) Introduction

The exchange of ideas on the state of planning was divided into three parts: first, ILPES, in its capacity of technical secretariat, elaborated on some topics covered by the document entitled "The state of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean", which had been submitted to the Third Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers and Heads of Planning.

Secondly, the participants described their national experience with regard to the item under discussion (see Information Paper No 2 - National Experiences).

It was suggested that in their statements, representatives should refer to the following topics:

1. Present state of planning in their country.
2. Style of planning adopted. Comments.
3. Elaboration of the following subjects:
  - (a) External openness
  - (b) Energy
  - (c) Social planning (including employment, participation and planning and satisfaction of basic needs)
  - (d) Co-ordination of short and medium-term action. Operational planning.

Thirdly, the country representatives exchanged views on the issues under discussion and formulated recommendations for consideration by the Conference of planning ministers.

/(b) Summary

(b) Summary of proceedings

The various delegations considered the item on the state of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a number of themes meriting special attention emerged from their discussions. For the purposes of the report, questions on which consensus was reached among the participants are presented below.

1. General considerations

A number of representatives stressed the importance of applying the advances made in administrative development to planning activities, especially in the case of those countries which had not yet done so.

The country representatives expressed concern for the need for more experience in horizontal co-operation, especially co-operation extended by countries which had made progress in some fields to other countries which were further behind.

Another representative stressed the importance of respecting the cultural and social differences of countries of the region by making an effort to ensure that the target-model adopted should not be a transposition of the experience of industrialized countries.

Emphasis was also placed on the need to include cultural matters in development plans.

Reference was made to the need for increased public participation in development plans, especially on the part of women and young people.

2. External sector

Mention was made of the importance of this sector for the development process and of the need to bring it into association with other development variables and to treat it integrally, with attention paid to its commercial and financial aspects, bearing in mind that many of its characteristics were due to structural factors and did not derive solely from the current economic situation.

/3. Social planning

### 3. Social planning

The majority of those who spoke on this topic referred to the importance of including social considerations in development plans and of making progress in the design and formulation of appropriate social planning methods and techniques.

Stress was also laid on the need for social and economic planning to be integrated with each other, rather than tightly compartmentalized.

A number of delegations stressed that the achievement of social targets called for special action and did not result automatically from economic growth.

Mention was also made of the need for treating social planning activities integrally, covering planning in fields such as education, nutrition and diet, health, social security and housing, and for paying particular attention to the fact that employment constituted the link between economic and social considerations.

There was also a clear demonstration of the concern felt for the fact that in many cases basic services did not reach the people for whom they were intended.

It was also mentioned that sometimes social policies were used to subsidize groups where the need was not the greatest, and in that connexion it was suggested that one criterion should be that social policies should always be biased towards redistribution.

Another representative drew attention to the need for appropriate planning with regard to the production of basic foodstuffs for the whole population.

A number of representatives said their countries had decided to make public participation a more integral part of planning activities. It was, however, made clear that governments bore the sole responsibility for deciding the range and scope of such machinery.

### 4. Co-ordination

4. Co-ordination of short- and medium-term action

Several representatives expressed concern for the co-ordination of short- and medium-term action.

One representative said that most countries had a similar set of instruments for the achievement of such co-ordination but that, in each case, there were differences in the ways in which they were used, which would be worth studying.

Special mention was made of the need for accurate and timely information. The view was expressed that operational planning included aspects other than the co-ordination of short- and medium-term action.

The participants considered it relevant to their work to express their gratitude to ILPES for the valuable work it had performed in training, research and advisory services in the field of planning in Latin America.

(c) Recommendations of the Committee on the State of Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean

After having shared their experience and discussed a number of issues relating to the item on the state of planning, the experts of the planning bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stress:

The importance of pursuing, on a permanent basis, consideration of the planning processes in the Latin American and Caribbean region as the most appropriate way of determining what progress has been achieved, what obstacles there are to such progress and ways of establishing policies and methods for ensuring the results achieved.

The desirability that the various planning bodies should exchange experience as a further way of contributing to improvement of their action and consequently recommend that:

/ILPES,

ILPES, in co-ordination with the planning bodies of the individual countries, should, in addition to the efforts it has already undertaken in preparing the study on the "State of Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean", endeavour to analyse not national experience but the plan share problems affecting the countries of the region. Such studies should also systematically cover other topics referred to in the Commission's other recommendations and also the analysis of planning systems, participation machinery operative planning and monitoring systems.

Considering that:

Many delegations emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to social development,

Attention was also drawn to the intention of number of countries to place particular emphasis on social development in the 1980s,

Ultimately, social development does not automatically result from economic growth, even though the latter may be a prerequisite for the former.

Stress:

The importance of continuing and expanding studies on social planning.

And suggest, in addition that:

Appropriate methods and techniques of social planning should be developed and prepared further.

The relationship between economic and social planning should be developed further and the impact of economic policy at the social level and, conversely, the implications that social policies has for economic activities should be determined.

New ways of co-ordinating the activities of various bodies active in the social field should be explored in order to render their action more coherent, thus increasing the effectiveness of social expenditure.

/The possibility

The possibility of developing methodologies and establishing national systems for providing social indicators that permit evaluation at the global level the social impact of government policy should be considered.

Machinery for identifying, preparing, evaluating and monitoring social projects should be improved.

Problems relating to access for target groups to basic social services should be studied.

Social policy should accord high priority to meeting the basic needs of the population and, in particular those of extremely poor and such policy should furthermore, be aimed at achieving a clear redistributive effect.

Considering that:

The question of the external sector was referred to repeatedly as one of the crucial question confronting the Latin American countries and agreeing that it should be considered in a broad context, with attention paid to both physical and financial aspects, and taking into account its structural character as well as its current economic context.

Recommend that:

High priority should be given to studies in the future, particularly under ILPES programmes.

An endeavour should be made to progress in the following specific directions in particular:

Comparative analysis of national experience with regard to global policies relating to foreign trade.

Consideration of the impact of such policies on industrial expansion, employment, the investment process, regional distribution of economic activity, distribution of income and other variables relevant to planning processes.

Studies to provide a basis for developing effective foreign trade policies.

/ Considering that

Considering that:

All long-term projections identify the elimination of unemployment and the provision of employment for the growing economically active population as one of the most serious problems that the region will have to face in the coming decades, and if that problem is not faced it will be more difficult to reduce the number of persons below the critical poverty threshold.

Understand that:

Economic policies must be aimed at reconciling employment objectives and goals with the other objectives of development plans.

Science and technology policies must also systematically take the goal in question into consideration.

Social policies must regard employment as a variable that is of basic importance in attaining social development goals.

And suggest that:

ILPES should devote particular attention to the question of employment in its research, training and advisory assistance activities, in appropriate co-ordination with other international bodies and programmes concerned with the same question.

Considering that:

Many delegations devoted particular attention, to the question of annual operative planning and reconciling medium-term planning with policies to deal with the current economic situation.

Recommend that

An endeavour should be made to improve available statistical information required both for formulating operative plans and for carrying out monitoring tasks and reformulating policies as necessary. Moreover, taking into account that bodies responsible for carrying statistics have limited resources, it would be advisable to make a particular effort to identify with the greatest possible exactitude the various categories of information required and to consider the possibilities for making full use of available statistics.

Compatible models should be used and an endeavour should be made to adjust such models appropriately to the conditions and requirements of each country, making use of the experience gained in the region and considering the possibility of adapting the experience of other countries.

Existing methods of maintaining interagency links should be improved with a view to rendering statistics compatible and considering new alternative machinery.

Considering that:

The development plans of many countries represented at the meeting stressed the importance of encouraging participation in preparing and implementing development plans.

And that, furthermore, such participation could be useful for ensuring that the plans in question are more geared to meeting the requirements of the various social agents and that they receive more effective public attention during their implementation stages.

Recalling that:

There is insufficient information on appropriate procedures and machinery for furthering such aims of ensuring participation.

Recommend that:

Comparative analysis of experience in this field existing both inside and outside the region should be carried out.

Necessary and potential links between machinery to ensure participation in planning and institutional and administrative systems currently in effect, should be analysed.

Considering that:

The planning process is not confined to preparation of "book-plans", in order to justify the existence of planning bodies.

/The anticipated

The anticipated results of planning are determined by the administrative capacity to implement plans.

In addition to the translation of decisions into public policy, execution and monitoring of results must be guaranteed.

Recommend that:

Promotion of development of the operative capacity of State administrative machinery should be included among the concerns of planning bodies (so that such machinery is in a position to channel the demands of the social sector rapidly and effectively), and appropriate response should be provided.

Considering that:

Various delegations participating have voiced their concern with regard to the impact of the oil crisis on the economy of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The oil crisis generates structural imbalances that vary according to the extent to which each of the countries in question is dependent on petroleum.

There is a real imbalance because higher oil prices represent a burden for importing economies, which are obliged to increase the volume of their exports in order to obtain the same quantity of oil, in other words, in the short term, higher oil prices mean that a higher proportion of the national product must be surrendered in exchange for imported oil.

Since relative domestic prices do not encourage investment in alternative sources of energy, those countries that are self-sufficient in oil are concerned at the danger of exhausting their oil reserves, as the reserves in question are a non-renewable source of energy and are finite.

/Recommend that:

Recommend that:

The exchange of experience among individual countries with regard to the way in which they contribute to solving the energy crisis should be promoted and comparative studies of such experiences should be conducted.

Considering:

The importance of the above-mentioned question, the diversity of the situations in each country in the Latin American region, and

The need to exploit to the maximum existing resources, in view of the magnitude of the task ahead.

Recommend that:

For the greater part, research work on economic and social planning should take place at national level, without prejudice to the existence of and efforts to established appropriate co-ordination procedures with a view to multiplying the effect of such research activities.

Countries should encourage execution of research activities, and ILPES should co-operate with countries in the field of planning, placing emphasis on the questions referred to in these recommendations.

ILPES should also promote co-ordination of activities with other United Nations agencies whose field of work is linked or related to its own, thus thereby avoiding overlapping and duplication of effort.

2. Report of the Committee on development planning  
and science and technology

The Committee envisaged its work as comprising the following items:

/A. SYNTHESIS OF

A. SYNTHESIS OF THE VARIOUS POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCES DESCRIBED  
BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Positions

(a) ILPES. The Technical Secretary of the Committee summarized the three documents submitted by ILPES.

He explained that they related to the mandate given by the Second Conference of Ministers on the need to study the role of technological development in planning.

He said that all the studies conducted verified that technology made a support contribution to economic growth and an enhanced life style, which was the reason for incorporating this dimension into planning. The average expenditure of the region on science and technology was low and inadequate, which did much to curtail invention and the contribution it could make to development and limited the appropriate use of renewable national resources, which must necessarily be studied in their own environment.

Despite this inadequate development of indigeneous technology, the region had made progress in the past twenty years; but it still lagged far behind and depended greatly on external transfers although in many countries the installed capacity was not fully utilized; further development of the science and technology variable and the ability to use it more effectively was a problem closely related to the level of education. The choice of appropriate technology to cope with a national problem was a matter of integral evaluation which went beyond cost-benefit assessment, and the inclusion of science and technology in planning would call for a study of a methodology which would take some years to achieve its full effectiveness and must be studied in co-operation with the countries of the region; to that end, ILPES, in collaboration with UNESCO, had submitted a project for consideration by the recently established United Nations Interim Fund - a project which he thought should be recommended by those countries which would benefit from it.

/B. SUMMARY

## B. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

### Introduction

The various delegations participating in the work of this Committee expressed their views on the topic under discussion, which may be summarized as follows:

There was widespread knowledge concerning the close interrelationship between scientific and technological development and economic and social development. For that reason, the countries in the region had, to varying degrees, established scientific and technological development policies (on such matters as research, transfer of technology, information, support services, etc.), and attempts had been made to include them in an integral development plan.

At the same time there was recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of the effort to incorporate the scientific and technological variable in planning and hence of the fluency which the scientific and technological community, planners, production sectors and other groups of high-level decision-makers must acquire in their dialogue.

Since the efforts to incorporate the scientific and technological variable into planning had only recently been embarked upon in the majority of the countries of the region, it was felt that they were in a primary stage of development and were still unformed. This was partly the result of difficulties related to the incorporation of a new dimension as complicated as the scientific and technological variable, the dearth of any previous experience and the variety of forms in which the research process and scientific and technological development were conducted.

As a result of these difficulties and conditions, the inclusion of science and technology in the development plans of many countries was more a matter of form than of any practical value although attention was drawn to

/some valuable

some valuable experiments in which scientific and technological planning was adequately co-ordinated with the objectives of national plans. The representatives felt that if the problems referred to above were to be dealt with successfully, human and financial resources not always available in all the countries of the region would be needed.

It was also stated that Central America's experience with the industrialization process had been rooted in the direct participation of transnational corporations so that the scientific and technological development of the Central American countries had been limited in the same way as it had in other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The experts expressed their gratitude for the conceptual and methodological contribution made by the documents submitted by ILPES and for the help provided by the point contained in Guatemala's position.

### C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recalling that the concept of a New International Economic Order is the result of an awareness in countries of the need to bring about significant change in current international relations since there is otherwise, very little likelihood that the quality of life of the population of developing countries will improve.

Aware that the applications of science and technology should contribute to eliminating the growing disparities between the developed and developing countries since the benefits of technology are not shared equally by all the members of the international community,

Reiterating the need for fair and just norms to be established, the context of a new type of international economic relations to regulate the international transfer of technology, the systems of patents and trademarks and the activities of the transnational corporations, taking special account of the interests of the developing countries, particularly those belonging to the region of Latin America and Caribbean.

Concerned by the growing delay in the different international forums for the adoption of international agreements in this regard,

RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTERS:

The Renewal of efforts to promote at international level and in co-ordinated forms:

The restructuring of the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property so as genuinely to reflect the interests of the developing countries, particularly those of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The preparation of the International Code of Conduct for the transfer of technology, the primordial objective of which is to contribute to achieving a balance in the contractual relations between sellers, purchasers of technologies and improving the conditions of the developing countries for acquiring technology.

The adoption of the International Code of Conduct on transnational corporations and

4. Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), which is an invaluable means of initiating, designing, organizing, strengthening and promoting co-operation among developing countries so that they can generate, transfer, assimilate, disseminate and share scientific and technological knowledge.

/Recalling that

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development recommended in its programme of action the establishment of financing system for science and technology for development with the objective of "financing a full range of activities aimed at strengthening the endogenous scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries.... ."

Also recalling that in December 1979, the United Nations General Assembly approved the creation of an Interim Fund for science and technology for development administered by the United Nations Development Programme.

Seriously concerned because to date, although various projects chargeable to the fund have been adopted, machinery has not been set up for their presentation, appraisal and adoption to the detriment of the countries interested in opting for the Fund's resources.

RECOMMEND TO THE MINISTERS:

Should convey to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme their concern for the need for provision to be made as soon as possible for a system of standards for regulating the presentation, evaluation and approval of the projects proposed.

Should co-ordinate activities so that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, considered as one region, will occupy a favourable position in the allocation of resources by the Interim Fund in question.

Should designate and support National Focal Points for the Interim Fund which as far as possible should be the same bodies as carried out this task for the activities prior to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

/Aware of

Aware of the need to co-ordinate all efforts at the regional level as regards of science and technology policies and planning so as to share and exchange national experience in this regard and to take advantage and make the best possible use of the resources of the region for the benefit of the countries which compose it, improving their relative position at the world level as regards science and technology.

Aware, therefore, of the various efforts as regards science and technology which have been made at the subregional level, which constitute a fundamental stage in the regions integration process.

RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTERS:

Should express their recognition of initiatives of a subregional nature which have potencialized in Latin America and the Caribbean through bodies such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the Caribbean Community, the Commission for the Scientific and Technological Development of Central America and other specific bodies.

Should support developing activities of a subregional nature which contribute to a greater integration of activities in policy and planning, research, management, utilization, related services, etc., relating to the science and technology applied for the benefit of the region.

Aware that ILPES has submitted a project to the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

Considering that this project aims at meeting the needs of anticipating conceptual, technical and methodological bases for the introduction of the science and technology dimension into development planning.

Aware that the countries of the region as a group must make efforts to introduce the scientific and technological dimension into their development planning process in an adequate form.

/RECOMMEND THAT

RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTERS:

Should submit to the competent technical levels of their countries the project submitted by ILPES to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development in order to determine the advisability of support at the national level and give the considerations and opinions regarded as relevant.

Taking into account the central concerns expressed by the countries as regards the incorporation of scientific and technological variables into planning, indicated in the summary of the discussion, and the need to stimulate the scientific and technological development which can generate an adequate channelling of public expenditure.

It was considered advisable to establish a list of activities aimed at to solving these problems.

RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTERS assign top priority to activities aimed at:

Fomenting co-operation among the countries of the region in order to share the progress which each has made in specific areas or in order to tackle jointly the solution of certain problems in particular.

Studying the behaviour and fostering the systematization of national experiences as regards policy machinery and methodologies and the planning of scientific and technological development; this should be done in such a way as to give an adequately explicit place to the science and technology variable in the planning systems and specifically in the national, regional and sectoral development plans at different levels:

- (a) In the nation long- and medium-term policies and strategies.
- (b) In sectoral planning in a connected form and with a view to the solution of specific short- medium- and long-term problems.
- (c) In the definition and implementation of policy machinery and instruments.
- (d) In production of a list of activities by sectors and regions in order of priority.

/The initiation

The initiation or strengthening of the work of collecting and disseminating complete and up-to-date information on the technological alternatives now available in the region.

Efforts to orient public spending so as to assist the scientific and technological development of the countries of the region.

Taking into account the need to identify main functions so as to order the work which the countries, with the possible collaboration of ILPES, will carry out with a view to the explicit incorporation of the scientific and technological variable into planning.

RECOMMEND that the Ministers support the development of the following functions:

Functions of research and implementation:

- (a) Determination of the main "problem areas"
- (b) Existing possibilities for tackling:
  - (i) The transfer of technology
  - (ii) The development of national capacity and human resources
  - (iii) The development of the infrastructure and integration of the national science and technology systems
  - (iv) Project identification, formulation and evaluation
- (c) Inclusion of science and technology in economic and social planning
  - (i) Sectoral studies
  - (ii) Studies of instruments of analysis and decision-making
  - (iii) Form of financing
  - (iv) Establishment of norms or codes of conduct
- (d) Studies of methodology, machinery and formulation of policies for technological development

/Function of

Function of co-ordination of the effort at the following levels:

- (a) Inter-institutional
- (b) Intersectoral
- (c) Bi or multilateral
- (d) National

Function of information

- (a) Inventory of machinery and projects, norms, patents, trademarks, etc, which relate to the establishment of a regional information system on science and technology.
- (b) Institutions and projects existing at the national level.
- (c) Policies at the sectoral and entrepreneurial level

Function of participation:

- (a) Creation of public awareness of the importance of the science and technology variable.
- (b) Generation of machinery to channel the opinion and interests of users and generators of technology.

### 3. Report of the Committee on regional development planning

#### A. AGENCA AND COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

After adopting its agenda, the Committee listened to the presentation of the country reports.

#### B. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The Committee's consideration of the item for which it was responsible began with a short presentation of the document prepared by ILPES, which was delivered by the technical secretary of the Committee. He pointed out that the matter under review was a regional one and that there was need to give it enough momentum to sustain implementation of meaningful regional

/development policies

development policies and the evaluation of the impact of the macro-economic policies in each region with a view to introducing compensatory machinery in cases where that impact was negative. He also drew attention to the importance of strengthening the capacity of the regions to organize their own development process. The Committee's discussions took place within the framework suggested by its officers and focused on the consideration of such matters as regionalization, political stumbling blocs to it and the appropriateness, in many cases, of supporting regional planning by political-administrative decision; by the regionally differentiated effect of some of the usual macroeconomic policies which give rise to a need to identify compensatory mechanisms and put them into action when those effects are negative insofar as the regions are concerned; by increasing the competence of the regions and their administrative apparatus to handle the global processes of resource allocation and by taking the size of countries into consideration in selecting methodologies for the formulation of regional development policies.

During the debate, mention was made of the need to establish national regional development funds to finance the implementation of the process.

Reference was also made to the need for proposals on regionalization to give consideration to aspects vital to their success including conscience-raising with regard to the public apparatus for handling the regional problem, the planning and operational capacity of public institutions, the status of the central planning body and, finally, political support of the proposal itself.

Attention was drawn to the fact that regionalization is necessary in small as well as large countries; and it was felt that it would be appropriate to conduct research into the characteristics of small countries.

/Attention was

Attention was also drawn to the problem of the scarcity of the professional resources on which regional planning depended.

The view was expressed that regional planning should be regarded as a dimension of general and sectoral planning and as a mechanism linking general and sectoral proposals to local requests. Mention was also made of the need to co-ordinate regional development policies with supra-national integration systems.

It was suggested that co-ordinating bodies should be set up in metropolitan areas independent of the urban authorities of the centres within such areas to promote a better quality of life for their inhabitants.

Finally, the Committee decided to express gratitude to ILPES for its valuable work in the fields of research, training and advisory services in connexion with regional planning.

#### C. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered the agreements stemming from the Meeting of the Heads of the Central Planning Bodies of the Central American held in Panama City on 7 November 1980, and decided:

(a) To include and institutionalize regional planning in the national planning systems in those countries in which this had not already taken place, as a mechanism which, inter alia, permits the integration of the country in different contexts and decision-making at all levels.

(b) To rationalize public spending through the concession of priorities granted through the process of participation in planning and by implementing an investment policy aimed at regional development.

(c) To reduce the concentration of resources and activities which would permit the sustained development of the areas ignored to date most development plans, taking into account the respective government programmes, and

/(d) To traduce

(d) To traduce administrative, legal and institutional reforms which will permit greater efficacy and efficiency on the part of the government and its institutions general participation in the regional development of the countries.

The Committee, taking into account that one of the objectives of regional planning is the formulation of plans and programmes aimed at organizing and developing national space so as to direct human activity within a specific physical territorial framework which will permit the incorporation into the development process of the economic, social and cultural elements which characterize the different regions of the countries.

Since it is necessary to set up a mechanism which will ensure the operational functioning of the regions system in the work of the planning and programming of development.

Recognizing that the implementation of the tasks connected with the regional problem requires the provision of financial resources.

Taking into account that the spatial problem requires a technical and institutional support which the public sector can provide, since the achievement of the regional goal means the implementation of a process which requires skilled human resources at the technical and operation level.

Recommends to the Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean countries:

(a) That in the short and medium term, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean should be able to count on duly institutionalized regionalization, provided with a regional administrative structure at the national level, incorporating the existence of relatively autonomous regional authorities, so as to provide a technical and political operational function which will take the form of the formulation and implementation of differentiated policies.

/(b) That at

(b) That, at the same time, a regional investment fund should be set up, constituted with an initial and annual contribution from the state; and under the responsibility of the regional authority, which will orient appropriately the flow of earnings towards the financing of regional programmes and policies to foster the development of the subsystem; it is also suggested that the State, as the guiding agent of national development, should incorporate into the country's general budget of income and expenditure spatial criteria which will permit the programming of financial resources to guarantee the implementation of the regional plans.

(c) That training, research and technical co-operation programmes should be boosted at the different levels of regional planning which (a) will reinforce horizontal co-operation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries; (b) Pursue a better relationship with the countries so as to provide recommendations of a more operational nature for immediately application.

The Committee recommends that countries taking part in integration processes and in co-operation, complementarity and frontier integration activities should bring policy measures programmes and projects in these two fields who line with regional development measures so as to avoid their adverse effects.

The Committee, considering that regional disparities in development are strongly affected by State action in the implementation of homogeneous macro-economic policies, recommends the adoption of regional criteria in the formulation of these policies so as to distribute fairly the costs and benefits of the growth process.

Considering that the regional development process depends not only on the action of the central government but also on each region's own organizational capacity organization, considers that it is desirable to

/Recommend that

recommend that the national governments should give special attention to strengthening the governments and the systems of subregional administration.

4. System of co-operation and co-ordination among planning bodies

The chairman of the meeting of experts gave the floor to the Secretariat, whose representative referred to the achievements and prospects of the co-operation system. He said that the planning bodies felt that the System was becoming a basic machinery for furthering co-operation and improved planning. The Third Conference was a meaningful demonstration of the consolidation of the System. He went on to refer to the achievement made by the System since its establishment, pointing out that there had been two Conferences of Ministers and a number of technical meetings of planners in the Caribbean area. Moreover, ILPES, as the secretariat of the System, had participated in meetings of planners of Central America and Panama the results of which had proved very valuable for the strengthening of the System.

On the matter of instruments, he mentioned in particular the Information System for Co-operation in Planning and a number of publications, including the Planning Bulletin, which appeared in both Spanish and English, the Temas de Planificación series, the Cuadernos and other texts issued by the System. He also mentioned the exchange of experience and horizontal co-operation.

Finally, he drew attention to the need to continue improving the co-operation machinery in compliance with the mandates of the countries so that the conferences of Ministers would become a forum in which increasing attention would be given to the results obtained in the process of mutual co-operation in matters of priority for the countries.

/The Chairman

The Chairman then gave the floor to the Director of CLADES, who spoke about the operation of the Information System for Co-operation in Planning. He said that the foundations of the System had already been laid, thanks to the support of the countries and to the valuable financial and technical contribution made by IDRC of Canada.

Finally, he informed the participants that the next stage would consist in the establishment and/or improvement of information systems at national level and that in that connexion a further contribution was being sought from IDRC. Country contributions would also be decisive in this phase.

A draft recommendation was then introduced, which was adopted in the following form after a number of representatives had commented on it.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON THE SYSTEM  
OF CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION AMONG PLANNING BODIES

Recognizing the success achieved during the last four years by the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies in carrying out the objectives established during the first Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, recommends that the countries, with the support of the secretariat, should design a detailed mechanism which will make it possible to bring about the materialization of the interest of the governments in going ahead with specific activities and programmes as regards co-operation for planning.

In view of the present technical and human potential of the planning bodies of the region, it is recommended that co-operation between them should be boosted and specific co-operation projects for planning should be submitted by the countries to UNDP and other financing bodies so as to be able to implement initiatives and priorities established by the governments through the planners at this meeting and in previous meetings of a regional and subregional nature.

/Considering the

Considering the need of support for the Information System for Planning (INFOPLAN), it is recommended that the International Development Research Centre should be requested to continue collaborating in its financing so as to consolidate the effort made and guarantee the tasks of decentralization and direct participation of the governments, for which the design of the INFOPLAN system is adopted.