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ACTIVITIES OF ILPES BETWEEN 1977 AND 1979, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

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INTRODUCTION

This report includes the activities carried out by the Institute between May 1977 and April 1979, and guidelines for the activities to be carried out as from 1980.

The report is divided into three parts. Part One describes the functions that were assigned to ILPES when it was established in 1962 and the new functions it has assumed in compliance with resolutions 351 (XVI) and 371 (XVII) of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Part Two presents a summary of the activities carried out by the Institute between May 1977 and April 1979 under its Advisory Services, Training, Research and Planning Co-operation programmes. It also includes information on the financial aspects.

Part Three contains the basic guidelines for the Institute's activities as from 1980, as consistent with the resolutions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the ILPES Technical Committee and the Conferences of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. Basic information on the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning

The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning of the United Nations (ILPES) was established with the object of expanding the activities formerly carried out by CEPAL in the fields of training, advisory assistance and research in connexion with development planning.

The inception of the Institute and the establishment of the above mentioned functions stem from CEPAL resolutions 199 (IX) of May 30, 1961,

261 (AC.50) adopted by the Committee of the Whole in February 1962, and 220 (AC.52) of 6 June 1962. Subsequently, resolution 351 of May 1975 adds the function of co-operating in the exchange of experience and research results on global, sectoral and regional (area) planning between the planning bodies of member countries, so as to promote collaboration among them. Furthermore, in resolution 371 of 5 May 1977, noting that the First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning held in Caracas in April 1977 established a System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America, the Commission assigns to ILPES the responsibility of assisting the governments in their joint co-operation efforts and supports the operation of the System.

ILPES forms part of the CEPAL system, it is headed by a Director and has a Technical Committee composed of the Ministers and Heads of Planning of the countries of the region.

ILPES has enjoyed the full support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from its inception up to the present time. Other important factors have been the contributions from the United Nations, the contributions from the governments, bilateral resources and funds from the Inter-American Development Bank. Its present basic sources of financing are UNDP, the United Nations, the governments' contributions, bilateral resources and the income obtained from advisory services agreements.

The Second Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized jointly by the National Planning Institute of Peru, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Economic Commission for Latin America, was held between 15 and 18 November 1978 in Lima, Peru.

/In compliance

In compliance with CEPAL resolution 371 (XVII) a meeting of the ILPES technical Committee was also held on the occasion of this Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning. Both the Conference and the Technical Committee fully supported the activities carried out by ILPES and adopted a group of recommendations to orient its future activities aimed at strengthening the national systems of planning and co-operation among planning bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean.^{1/}

The First Meeting of Planning Experts of the Caribbean was held between 21 and 31 January 1979 in Havana, Cuba, under the auspices of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. This Meeting adopted a number of recommendations to orient the Institute's activities in the sub-region.^{2/}

2. Summary of activities carried out between May 1977
and April 1979

Advisory Services Programme

(a) May 1977 to April 1978

In view of the increasing and diversified demand for its services, the Programme has established new modes of action in order to increase the work capacity of its basic team. Thus the missions directed by permanent

^{1/} Attached to this document is the Report of the Second Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, which contains the recommendations and resolutions of both the ILPES Technical Committee and the Conference.

^{2/} See the Report of the First Meeting of Planning Experts of the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/CDCC/49/Rev.2).

/staff members

staff members and consisting of consultants whose services have been contracted for short periods have facilitated action which increases the capacity for technical co-operation with the countries.

In response to requests formulated by the governments, ILPES has provided the following countries with technical co-operation in the fields indicated below.

In Bolivia, it collaborated with the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination of the Office of the President of the Republic in the formulation of the 1976-1980 Economic and Social Development Plan. It also provided advisory assistance in preparing the Operational Plan for 1977 and 1978.

In Ecuador, it co-operated with the National Economic Planning and Co-operation Board in evaluating the Integrated Change and Development Plan, 1973-1977. Assistance was furnished in assessing the impact of the additional resources obtained from petroleum on the country's economic development, the transformation of its production and social structure, the level of employment and income distribution. Moreover, an in-depth analysis was made in order to interpret the role played by the agricultural sector and government action in the social field.

In Chile the Institute, jointly with CEPAL, co-operated with the National Planning Office in the formulation of the 1977 Annual Plan, 1977 Emergency Programme and 1978-1981 Development Plan for the fourth region, with the Regional Planning and Co-ordination Bureau, and with the sectoral ministerial offices of the fourth region.

In Brazil, it centred its technical co-operation on strengthening the state planning sub-systems and on their linkage with the national system. This co-operation was furnished to the States of Minas Gerais, Bahia, Rio Grande do Norte and Pernambuco.

/In Pernambuco

In Pernambuco the Institute co-operated with the Foundation for the Development of the Recife Metropolitan Area in urban development planning and policy, with the purpose of acquiring a better knowledge of the interrelationships existing between the urban, regional and national variables. It also helped the Development Institute of Pernambuco to prepare a state strategy for long-term development. In Minas Gerais, it collaborated in the preparation of the Plan for the Implementation and Follow-up of the Second Economic and Social Development Plan, 1976-1979, for that state, and in strengthening the State Statistical System; in addition, the state government selected the Institute as specialized agency for the activities of the Zona da Mata Project, financed by the World Bank.

In the State of Bahia, its main activity was to provide assistance in the preparation of a medium and long-term economic and social development strategy and the most important short-term measures. In Rio Grande do Norte it co-operated in evaluating the development of this state in the last few years, and in preparing economic and social development guidelines for the period 1979-1984.

In El Salvador the Institute co-operated in the final stages of the formulation of the 1978-1982 Development Plan.

(b) May 1978 to April 1979

In Bolivia ILPES collaborated with the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination of the Office of the President of the Republic in general, regional and short-term planning.

In Brazil, it continued its technical co-operation in strengthening the state planning sub-systems and their linkage with the national system, collaborating with the States of Minas Gerais, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte. In the State of Minas Gerais, ILPES co-operated in preparing a diagnostic study of the mining economy over the past 20 years, in strengthening the state statistical system and in the activities of the Zona da Mata Project financed by the World Bank.

/ In the

In the State of Pernambuco it completed the stage of co-operation with the Development Institute of Pernambuco in the formulation of a state strategy for long-term development; and with the Foundation for the Development of the Recife Metropolitan Area in defining instruments for the implementation of the Integrated Development Plan.

In the State of Rio Grande do Norte, it completed its co-operation activities in evaluating the state's development in the last few years and defining economic and social development guidelines for the period 1979-1984.

In Ecuador, it co-operated with the National Economic Planning and Co-ordination Board in preparing a medium-term National Development Plan, incorporating regional development aspects in the national planning process, transferring programming techniques to national planning system personnel, and co-ordinating the activities of the National Economic Planning and Co-ordination Board with those of the sectoral planning offices of the various ministries, and of regional programming bodies.

In El Salvador, it continued with the co-operation provided during 1977 in the final stages of formulation of the 1978-1982 Development Plan, with the aim of establishing the machinery and instruments for implementing the priority programmes and projects.

In Haiti the ground was prepared for the Institute's co-operation in a project financed by the Inter-American Development Bank for the strengthening of planning.

In Honduras, ILPES co-operated in the regional aspects of development planning.

In Venezuela, it co-operated jointly with CEPAL, UNESCO and UNEP in the study of the relationship between the environment and socio-economic space in development planning.

/In addition,

In addition, the Programme co-operated in defining a planning information system for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in various activities of the training programmes of planning bodies and of programmes of co-operation among planning bodies.

Training Programme

The Training Programme has continued to collaborate with the governments of the region in the regular and specialized training of its technical personnel in the field of planning and economic and social policy. In all the activities carried out it endeavoured to establish the closest possible co-operation with national training centres in order to avoid a duplication of effort and enhance their effectiveness and multiplier effect.

(a) May 1977 to April 1978

The following courses were organized and held during this period:

International courses (location: United Nations Building, Santiago, Chile).

(i) Course on Regional Development Planning, from 23 May to 16 December 1977 (26 participants); (ii) Basic Course on Planning and Economic Policy, with specialized training in global planning and employment planning and policy, from 27 June to 17 December 1977 (26 participants); (iii) Course on Environmental Aspects of Water Resources Management, from 29 August to 30 September 1977 (19 participants).

National courses

(i) Course on Planning and Economic Policy, with specialized training in industrial and agricultural planning, held in La Paz from 14 March to 10 June 1977 (29 participants); (ii) Course on Planning and Economic Policy, with specialized training in industrial planning, organized in San Salvador from 24 October to 17 December 1977 (36 participants); (iii) Course on Regional Development Planning, held in La Serena, Chile

from 18 July to 12 August 1977 (20 participants); (iv) Third Course on Regional Development Planning, held in Brasilia from June to December 1977, in collaboration with the Economic Development Training Centre (27 participants) (v) Course on Regional Development Planning, held in Villarica, Chile, from 10 October to 18 November 1977 (25 participants).

Within the framework of its Training Programme, the Institute also participated in the organization and teaching activities of the courses held by the Development Training Centre of Mexico; the National Economic Planning and Co-ordination Board of Ecuador; the Planning Office of Chile; the Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia; the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of The Hague; the Land Settlement Studies Centre of Israel; the International Centre for Training in Environmental Sciences (CIFCA) of Spain; the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank; and the Inter-American Statistical Studies Centre (OAS/Chile).

Furthermore, it worked on the preparation of the following activities for 1978: annual course on regional development planning; basic course on planning and economic policy, with specialized training in global planning and agricultural planning; seminar-course on social planning; seminar-course on the environmental dimension in development policy and plans; seminar-course on direct foreign investment and the presence of transnational corporations; course on planning and economic policy (La Paz); course on planning and economic policy, with specialized training in global planning and regional planning (Guatemala City); and course on agricultural planning (Santo Domingo).

/b) May

(b) May 1978 to April 1979

International courses (location: United Nations Building, Santiago, Chile).

(i) Basic Course on Planning and Economic Policy, with specialized training in global planning and agricultural planning, held between 29 May and 8 December 1978 at ILPES headquarters, Santiago, Chile. This course was attended by 29 professionals (global planning: 18; agricultural planning: 11) from 16 Latin American countries. The special course on agriculture was held with FAO's co-operation.

(ii) Ninth Course on Regional Development Planning, held between 29 May and 8 December at ILPES headquarters, Santiago, Chile. This course was attended by 22 professionals from 12 Latin American countries and was linked with the Master's Programme of the Institute of Social Studies of The Hague.

(iii) Seminar-Course on the Environmental Dimension in Development Policies and Plans, held between 21 August and 29 September 1978. This Seminar-Course was attended by 19 professionals from 12 Latin American countries and was held with the collaboration of the Inter-American Centre for Training in Environmental Sciences (CIFCA).

(iv) Seminar Course on Social Planning, held jointly with UNICEF from 5 March to 13 April 1979, and attended by 25 professionals from nine Latin American countries.

National courses and support for national training centres

(i) First Course on Planning and Economic Policy in Guatemala, with specialized training in global planning and regional planning, held between 4 September and 1 December 1978. This course was attended by 19 professionals (global planning: 9; regional planning: 10). It was conducted with the collaboration of the Government of Guatemala through the General Secretariat of the National Economic Planning Council, the Economic and Social Research Institute of the Universidad de San Carlos, and the Banco de Guatemala.

/(ii) Fourth

(ii) Fourth Course on National Development Planning, held in collaboration with the Centre for Economic Development Training (CENDEC) from 19 June to 8 December 1978 in Brasilia. This course was attended by 32 professionals and took place at the Centre for Economic Development Training.

(iii) Teaching support for the Basic Course on Economic Programming and Policy, held between 19 June and 15 December 1978 in Mexico. This course was attended by 27 professionals, and took place at the Centre for Development Training (CECADE).

Periods of training for teaching staff of CECADE (Mexico)

Three members of the teaching staff of CECADE attended the ILPES Basic and Regional Courses on their particular specialities (economic development, economic policy and projects), with the purpose of acquainting themselves with the operation of the courses held at ILPES, compiling and analysing bibliographies used in the courses, and participating as assistants in these courses, so as to increase their teaching experience with a view to its future use in the training centre to which they belong.

Other activities. Several working missions visited Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras in order to organize national courses for 1978 and 1979.

Moreover, the Programme continued its mutual co-operation with academic centres such as ISS (Netherlands) and the Land Settlement Studies Centre (Israel) with which there was an exchange of teaching staff, and with other international agencies such as FAO, CIPCA and the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) with which joint courses were held and/or teaching staff exchanged. The Programme further participated in the organization of the CEPAL/ILPES/CELADE Academic Seminar and in other specialized seminars for which studies and publications were prepared. During this period too, ILPES collaborated in technical assistance activities requested by the Governments of Bolivia and Costa Rica.

/Finally, during

Finally, during the period under review ILPES worked on the preparation and organization of some courses to be held in 1979, such as the Central Planning Course with specialized training in global planning and regional planning to take place at ILPES, the Course on Agricultural Development Planning organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, with the co-operation of the United Nations and CEPAL, and national courses in Jamaica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

Research Programme

(a) May 1977 to April 1978

The Programme carried out research in the following areas:

- (i) Planning, government action and the State's operational capacity;
- (ii) State enterprises and the planning process in Latin America;
- (iii) Social effects of the modernization of production and analysis of rural social development strategy options;
- (iv) Integration of economic and social plans and programmes;
- (v) Implementation and evaluation of social policies;
- (vi) Co-operation with the Project on Critical Poverty in Latin America;
- (vii) Relationship between long and medium-term planning, operational plans and programme budgets.

The main research publications included the book entitled La planificación del desarrollo agropecuario: un enfoque para América Latina, Editorial Siglo XXI, Mexico; and Poder y desarrollo en América Latina. Estudios sociológicos en homenaje a José Medina Echavarría, Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, 1977. An article entitled "Development and educational policy in Latin America" by the Director of the Programme was published in the CEPAL Review, first half of 1977.

/A final

A final version of the study entitled The planning process in Latin America: Scenarios, problems and prospects was distributed within the context of the Project on the State and Planning, as well as a compilation in two volumes under the title La pobreza crítica en América Latina, and the document Problemas fundamentales para el estudio de la modernización productiva y el desarrollo social rural.

(b) May 1978 to April 1979

The Programme organized a Seminar on the Planning Process in Latin America and State Enterprises, which was held in Lima from 28 to 30 August 1978.

The following documents were prepared for consideration at this Seminar: La inserción de las empresas públicas en el aparato estatal uruguayo, by Aldo E. Solari and Rolando Franco; and Empresas estatales: el caso chileno y un análisis general, by Edgardo Boeninger and Eduardo Palma. These documents were subsequently revised and are now ready for publication.

A number of conclusions reached at this Seminar are summarized in the document Las empresas estatales y el proceso de planificación. Conclusiones de un Seminario respecto a futuras líneas de investigación, presented at the Second Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning held in Lima from 15 to 18 November 1978.

In the Central Project on Rural Social Development, directed by the Chief of the Research Programme, ILPES produced a number of documents on various topics such as rural social movements, indigenous groups in rural development, and agro-industry, and prepared the Institute's part of the joint CEPAL/FAO document on rural social development presented at the Technical Meeting on the same subject, held in Montevideo under the sponsorship of both organizations, prior to the FAO Regional Conference.

/The final

The final document on the region as a whole, entitled Las transformaciones rurales en América Latina: ¿Desarrollo social o marginación?, is in process of being printed in the Cuadernos de la CEPAL series.

In the field of social policy and planning, the services of some academic institutions and research specialists of the region have been contracted to prepare a number of studies, the preliminary versions of which were considered at the Colloquium on Social Policy and Planning held in Santiago in April 1979.

The Programme also prepared two documents for the Colloquium: Pobreza y políticas sociales: lecciones de la experiencia and La incorporación de los objetivos sociales en los planes de desarrollo.

The following documents were prepared as a contribution to the Inter-Agency Project on Critical Poverty in Latin America: Sociología de la pobreza: una aproximación preliminar; Un análisis sociopolítico de la pobreza y de las acciones tendientes a su erradicación and Pobreza y asistencia legal en Chile: una perspectiva sociológica.

The Programme has begun to co-ordinate the document on the State and planning in Latin America which will be presented at the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning to be held in Guatemala at the end of this year.

A study was prepared on budget programming and its relationship with development planning, and was presented at the Seventh Inter-American Seminar on the Budget held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 11 August 1978.

/Programme of

Programme of Co-operation among Planning Bodies

(a) May 1977 to April 1978

This Programme was established in compliance with the mandates of the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas in April 1977, and with some CEPAL resolutions, in particular 351 (XVI) and 371 (XVII).

The Caracas Conference established the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America, its main objectives being to serve as a forum for the planning bodies of the countries of Latin America, to bring about better knowledge and closer links among them, to promote and carry out exchanges of national planning experience in economic and social planning and to establish ways of implementing joint action to promote, through planning, suitable machinery in order to strengthen co-operation among the countries of the region.

The Conference agreed that ILPES should support planning bodies in the operation of the System.

In CEPAL resolution 371 (XVII) of May 1977, the Commission supported the establishment of the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America and resolved that ILPES should assist the Ministers and Heads of Planning in their joint co-operation efforts.

Prior to the Caracas Conference, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee had adopted a resolution establishing co-operation machinery among planning bodies of the Caribbean and assigning to CEPAL, jointly with ILPES, the functions of technical secretariat.

In May 1977, ILPES began to lay the bases for the System's operation, for submission to the Ministers and Heads of Planning, and started to perform the new functions assigned to it.

/ - It began

- It began to establish the channels for systematically organizing and stepping up the exchange of information and experience;

- It co-operated with the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination of Bolivia in the organization of a National Seminar on the Operational Plan, which was held in La Paz in July 1977;

- The publications programme of the System was launched with the issue of two organs: Planning Bulletin and Notes and Information.

- ILPES participated in the Fourth National Seminar on the Budget in Brazil;

- It started to establish the bases for joint action with the governments and the United Nations in the implementation of horizontal co-operation programmes in the planning field;

- Work programmes were prepared and their implementation initiated with respect to the exchange of experience and publications, and the operation of the System.

(b) May 1978 to April 1979

In the period covered by this report, ILPES co-operated with planning bodies in the following activities:

Bases for the organization and functioning of the System

The following mechanisms required for the proper organization and functioning of the System are being designed and put into effect:

Information system for planning. With the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, an information system for planning is being established jointly with CLADES and CELADE/DOCPAL. Support is also expected from the Netherlands Government.

/Horizontal co-operation

Horizontal co-operation system. Consultations are in process with the governments for the establishment of a system of horizontal co-operation among planning bodies. So far, planning bodies of the Dominican Republic, Chile, Brazil and Costa Rica have participated in co-operation activities.

Publications. Publication of the Planning Bulletin (in English and Spanish) and Notes and Information has continued, and that of the Temas de planificación series has been initiated.

Second Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning (Lima, Peru, 15 to 18 November 1978). ILPES co-operated with the governments in the organization of this Conference, which convened planning experts and Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the following subjects: ILPES work programme; national planning experiences; links between long, medium and short-term plans; integration of the social aspects of planning; planning and the international economic situation.

The Conference adopted important recommendations for action by CEPAL and ILPES to strengthen the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies.

First Meeting of Planning Experts of the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), Havana, Cuba, from 25 to 31 January 1979.

ILPES co-operated with the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean in the organization of this Meeting, which brought together planning experts of the Caribbean to exchange their planning experiences. Important recommendations were adopted to establish a system of co-operation in planning for the CDCC countries and to orient ILPES activities in the sub-region.

Co-operation in other meetings and seminars

The Programme co-operated in the organization of a Seminar on Planning, Science and Technology and in a Meeting on Regional Development Strategies.

ILPES financing

During the period under review, ILPES received considerable financial backing from the United Nations Development Programme, which has supported it since its inception. Other basic sources of financing are the United Nations' contribution, contributions from the governments, and income obtained from advisory services agreements and other bilateral sources.

This period marked the conclusion of Phase IV of the ILPES/UNDP Project (1 July 1974 to 28 February 1978) and the start of Phase V (1 March 1978 to 31 December 1979).

It should be noted that the composition of the Institutes sources of financing has improved substantially in line with the CEPAL resolutions in the sense of diversifying its sources of financing, the aim being to carry this process still further in the future.

3. Basic guidelines for the ILPES programme

from 1980 onwards

General background

ILPES, which has recently expanded its functions in compliance with mandates from the governments, should prepared itself to perform increasingly important and complex tasks from 1980 onwards. Not only is there an evident need to intensify co-operation in development planning in many countries of the region, but such co-operation will be more and more demanding with respect to the quality, efficiency and operational applicability of the assistance offered by international agencies.

The foreseeable complexity of the Institute's work would seem to stem, in the first place, from the fact that the Latin American States have considerably diversified their models and styles of development in the last few years. Some countries, for example, have obtained most successful results through their policy of opening up their economies to the world market, increasing their exports through the inclusion of new items, and liberalizing trade; others, in contrast, have become more dependent on exports of basic commodities. In some countries the State has increased its participation in economic life, while in others there has been a trend towards the reduction of such participation together with the increased use of market forces. Moreover, the size of the countries and their population and the volume of their resources have also determined profound differences in terms of the results which can be obtained through specific policies and the particular type of problems that have to be faced. In other fields, also by way of example, the situation of member countries of economic integration agreements, which impose certain contractual obligations

/in connexion

in connexion with external trade and investment, contrast with that of countries for which regional integration has ceased to be a really important factor.

The specific area covered by ILPES is economic and social planning. It is easy to see from the foregoing that the actual role assigned to planning by the individual States varies widely, as do its objectives, the government plans and policies into which it is translated, the forms it assumes, and the agents and organizations taking part in it.

Added to this are the renewed importance of old problems, e.g., the social objectives of development, and a number of new areas such as the environment, employment, science and technology, etc.

On the whole, development planning has experienced, especially in the last few years, some significant progress and transformations. Not only has attention been drawn to the desirability of strengthening planning bodies for the attainment of economic and social objectives and to serve as an efficient guide to economic and social policy; but new areas have emerged, which have gained increasing force and need to be formally included in the global planning process. Some of these areas, because of their particular characteristics, are being dealt with by United Nations specialized institutions; but the relationship between those specialized fields and general planning needs to be much more explicit.

From the foregoing considerations it will be seen that the following among other areas require special attention from ILPES:

(a) the interrelationship between social and economic objectives in the planning process;

(b) the time horizon of planning (relationship between the short, medium and long term, the establishment of an order of priorities for objectives, etc.);

(c) harmonization of the sectoral processes of planning, both economic and social; and compatibility between the various State policies and the planning process;

/(d) analysis

- (d) analysis of the various agents of the planning process;
- (e) regional development planning;
- (f) relationship between planning and specialized fields such as science and technology, and the environment.

These are the major areas and specific problems on which ILPES should centre its activities in connexion with advisory services, training, research and co-operation with planning bodies.

ILPES will associate itself with the work of various organizations and institutions which have made significant progress in the new areas, and with those concerned with analysing sectoral problems in order to study the relationship of each of these groups of institutions with the planning process and their appropriate role in it.

On the basis of these general guidelines, ILPES should have ample capacity for responding to the region's needs in a nucleus of central planning problems.

The foregoing considerations indicate, moreover, from the point of view of the work programme from 1980 onwards, that direct services should be provided in the form of advisory assistance, training and co-operation with planning bodies; but that parallel progress should be made in the analysis and in-depth study of the basic areas indicated above. In view of their complexity and the need for the Institute to keep abreast of progress in these areas, the latter should be a central activity.

These general observations underlie the ideas on the activities of the various Institute programmes set forth below.

/Continuation of

Continuation of the Institute's basic advisory and training activities

Considerable work in the field of advisory services may be foreseen for the Institute in the next few years. In the first place, some of the present ILPES projects will be extended beyond the end of this year. Secondly, the bases are being discussed for its participation in new projects which will be initiated in mid-1979 and will also be extended beyond the end of the year. Furthermore, by the end of this year ILPES expects to have made some progress in the study of a project with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the provision of advisory assistance to four countries of the region which are considered to be relatively less developed: Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador and Bolivia.

The requirements which ILPES has been able to identify in its contacts with planners and from its own field experience will give rise to new areas of activity for advisory services in planning.

It is proposed that in order to carry out these advisory activities a system of priorities be established, in agreement with the governments, covering those countries and regions in which the Institute's action is most necessary. Priority would be assigned to the relatively less developed countries and the most backward areas of countries at a more advanced stage of development. In line with the foregoing observations, the Institute considers it of priority importance to furnish advisory assistance in general planning, regional planning and social planning, and in national systems of projects linked with planning.

In the face of the foreseeable demand, ILPES expects to have the necessary financing for a team of experts to cover the countries' requirements in the various areas of development planning. Although ILPES has a relatively small basic team, its multiplier effect is fairly considerable if account is taken of the fact that in many cases advisory services to individual

/countries are

countries are financed by the countries themselves, thus enabling ILPES to recruit ad hoc consultants to work under the direction of its own staff. Furthermore, ILPES is seeking to formalize co-operation and co-ordination agreements with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCO), which would ensure an increasingly rationalized use of international technical assistance resources in the region.

The Institute's training activities will accentuate its aim of co-operating with the governments of the region in training specialized personnel for the various bodies responsible for planning and assignment of resources, and in the preparation of teaching material for training courses on planning.

With this aim in view, ILPES will carry out integrated research and training activities which will, moreover, enable it to make a more thorough study of, and modernize its training in techniques applicable to the existing characteristics of the development processes in the Latin American countries, and give its attention to the relation between medium and long-term planning and conjunctural economic policy.

To that end, a central planning course on various specialties will continue to be held at ILPES headquarters, and will assemble and systematically organize the research and studies on development and planning in Latin America. This course will aim primarily at the global training of the participants and will lend coherence to the specialties taught within its context.

The results of this course will also make it possible to improve the co-operation provided to national training centres and to give increased support to centres such as those existing in Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

/At the

At the same time, in accordance with resolutions of the conferences of ministers and meetings of the ILPES Technical Committee, action will be taken to increase the number of national courses and to promote the development of sub-regional courses. ILPES could also promote other projects similar to that of the National Training Programme for planners of the Mexican rural sector, financed by the Government of Mexico and co-ordinated by ILPES, which is scheduled to start in the middle of this year and end in 1981.

Moreover, training activities will be included in the co-operation and information systems, the first step being to by prepare a directory of institutions for training in development planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, and then to provide information to users.

Lastly, with the object of obtaining an improvement in the content of the courses and the presence of highly qualified teaching staff, the Institute will establish closer relations with academic institutions of the region, the United States and Europe. It is thus hoped to comply with the Lima recommendation regarding the preparation and study of a course leading to a post-graduate degree.

Interpretative study of changes in the planning process
in Latin America and other basic research

The central task of the ILPES Research Programme is to analyse the present state of planning in the countries of the region and its first results will be presented at the next Conference of Ministers of Planning in Guatemala. The first part of this study will include a description of the planning systems and process of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the second part an analysis at the global regional level of the different types of planning process and the main problems they face.

/This study

This study is intended not only as a basis for discussion at the planners' Conference with the object of further perfecting it, but to identify planning problems requiring priority action.

Although the study of the state of planning in Latin America will serve to detect the fields in which a greater effort of renewal and international co-operation is required the main areas which should be the object of research, discussion and dissemination by ILPES in order to keep its own technical and conceptual capacity up to date and promote the necessary action at the regional and national levels may be identified now. Several of these studies are already under way, while others should be outlined in the course of this year to be carried out from 1980 onwards.

The main areas are:

(a) The role of planning in the various political and social systems of the region and in the different styles of development and their interrelationships. The project will also serve as a basis for the organization of a high-level Seminar to which world figures of academic, scientific and political circles will be invited, and which could be held at the end of 1980 or early in 1981. UNDP has expressed interest in principle in this idea;

(b) The interrelationship between social and economic objectives in the planning process;

(c) The State and other agents of the planning process;

(d) Comparative study of State policies and their integration in the planning process;

(e) Planning and social policies: objectives, methods, techniques;

(f) Policies governing the State's role in the international economy and their relationship with the planning process (monetary, exchange, external financing, etc.);

/(g) The time

- (g) The time element in planning prospects, short-term planning and policies, their potential impact on long-term objectives of development plans, and forms of harmonization;
- (h) Indicators of economic and social development and their role in the planning process;
- (i) New planning techniques;
- (j) Regional development planning and its integration in national planning;
- (k) Relationship between planning and specialized fields such as science and technology and the environment.

Support for the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation
among Planning Bodies

In compliance with CEPAL resolutions 351 (XVI) and 371 (XVII) and the decisions of the Meetings of the Technical Committee and the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, ILPES will intensify its action in support of the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to encourage the exchange of national experience in economic and social planning and to establish ways of implementing joint action to promote, through planning, suitable machinery in order to strengthen co-operation and integration among the countries of the region.

The mutual co-operation efforts of planning bodies, with which ILPES has had the privilege of being closely linked and which have recently led to co-operation instruments with sound political and technical support, are also aimed at the fulfilment of the objectives of

/Technical Co-operation:

Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), which has emerged as a new dimension of international development co-operation, expressing the developing world's determination to attain national and collective self-reliance, and the need to establish a new international economic order.^{1/}

From 1980 onwards, machinery for the most appropriate operation of the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation will be established or improved.^{2/} Emphasis will be placed on the exchange of experience, the improvement of the System of Information for Planning Co-operation (Joint IDRC of Canada, CEPAL/CLADES, ILPES, CELADE/DOCPAL Project for the establishment of an Information System for Planning), horizontal co-operation, and publications for disseminating the experience and results of the System.

ILPES will support the Conferences of Ministers and Heads of Planning, the Meetings of Planning Experts of the Caribbean Countries, the meetings of planning specialists of other sub-regional systems, and joint activities such as seminars and technical meetings decided on by planning bodies. It will also participate in activities of other co-operation systems linked with planning. The direct participation of planning officials and experts in ILPES activities (advisory services, training, research, co-operation among planning bodies) will be encouraged. Links with other regions with a view to mutual co-operation in planning will be promoted. Relations with the economic commissions for Africa

1/ See the Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978.

2/ See document El ILPES y la cooperación en planificación, INST/117, January 1979.

and Asia and planning institutes and bodies of those regions will be strengthened for the purpose. The organization by ILPES of the Seminar on Planning at a world level referred to previously will afford an excellent opportunity to establish the bases for co-operation beyond the frontiers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As already noted, the Institute is carrying out a study of the state of planning in Latin America. This study will be particularly useful to ILPES and to the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies in defining jointly with the governments, areas of co-operation either at the country level or within the context of regional co-operation.

Co-operation with integration bodies

In January of this year the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) sent a request to ILPES to co-operate, jointly with CEPAL, with the agencies of the Cartagena Agreement in a study of long-term projections on the basis of which to propose general guidelines to be followed by the Andean Group in that period.

ILPES has agreed to this request and will participate with keen interest in the project, which should cover the next two years. In March, ILPES and CEPAL staff members had started to discuss with the authorities of JUNAC the bases for the project, its mode of execution and the individual agencies' responsibilities.

Conclusions

In the preceding pages, some lines of action are suggested for ILPES from 1980 onwards, on the basis of the continuing problems and new situations which Latin America has to face.

/ The wide

The wide range of economic and social development models that have emerged in response to those problems and situations are reflected in the varying roles assigned to planning and the constant renewal of its conceptual and instrumental aspects. Accordingly, a prime concern will be the research aimed at evaluating the progress in and obstacles to the planning process and its variations and prospects, with the purpose of presenting conclusions that will contribute to the continual improvement of planning as a government instrument for achieving higher levels of development.

At the same time, the basic advisory and training services should continue to satisfy the governments' requirements and the Institute's action will be strengthened in order to promote co-operation among planning bodies and support the economic and social integration efforts.

All these activities will be closely co-ordinated and there should be interaction between one another in order to provide a form of co-operation whose aims, in the last analysis, will be unified.

ILPES can successfully achieve these aims only through collaboration with other institutions and agencies and the increased participation of specialists of national and regional planning bodies in its various activities.

The results of its activities will be disseminated by means of an extensive programme of publications of various types, according to the nature of the material, the urgency of communicating it to development planning bodies, and its possible interest for a more general public. Thus the Institute will perform the essential function of keeping specialists informed of the progress made in planning, promoting a fuller knowledge ILPES and facilitating an appraisal of the manner in which it fulfils its objectives.

/To sum

To sum up, this document contains proposals concerning preliminary basic guidelines for future ILPES activities to be considered and further perfected at the eighteenth session of the Commission.

