

CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE DEMOGRAFIA

VI REUNION DEL CONSEJO DIRECTIVO

○ BRIEF REPORT ON AGREEMENTS REGARDING
CELADE ADOPTED DURING ECLA S FIFTEENTH PERIOD
OF SESSIONS IN QUITO, ECUADOR, 23 - 30 MARCH 1973

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(point 3. In the Provisional Agenda of the Sixth Meeting of CELADE's Governing Board, Santiago, Chile, 26-27 April 1973).

1. There were two reasons for including a point on CELADE in the Agenda of the XV Period of Sessions of the Economic Commission for Latin America. First, since in the fourteenth period of sessions of the Commission, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1971, it was adopted a resolution declaring that CELADE is an autonomous body under the aegis of ECLA, it was appropriate to submit to the Commission a report on the activities CELADE carried out since 1971 and programmed for 1973-1974. The second reason being that the Commission should elect two members of the Governing Board of the Center according to the rules set up by the Plan of Operations of CELADE.
2. The Agenda of the XV period of sessions of ECLA included another item, namely Latin America's role in the World Population Conference, that also bears upon CELADE's activities.
3. This document, consequently, reports on the two above mentioned items of the Agenda. It makes a reference to the documents submitted to the ECLA session and transcribes the pertinent paragraphs of ECLA's draft annual report, as well as, resolution 327 (XV) adopted by the Commission in Quito and dealing with the World Population Conference.

Latin America's role in the World Population Conference

4. ECLA's Secretariat prepared a document (Participation of Latin America in the World Population Conference and World Population Year: population and development activities, E/CN.12/956) with a programme of activities that, on its view should be undertaken in relation to the World Population Conference. The document stated that this expansion of the Secretariat's work in the population field would be carried out, in close collaboration with CELADE.

5. The text of the Draft Annual Report of ECLA (document (E/CN.12/958) that is copied below reflects the discussion of this point in the Commission's session.

Participation of Latin America in the World Population Conference

347. Through the message sent to the session by the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference, participants were informed of the preparations for the Conference and the background leading up to it. Ever since the population problem became part of the United Nations work programme, the principle followed had been that the fundamental objective was to raise the quality of human life. Latin America presented a wide range of situations, from countries which considered that their problem was not a high rate of population growth but too small a population, to those which exercised their sovereignty in carrying out programmes aimed at reducing the fertility rate. ECLA's work was not aimed at trying to achieve an impossible uniformity in population matters, but at building ECLA, in co-operation with CELADE, into a centre for the co-ordination of ideas so that population policies could be devised as an aspect of general economic and social development policies.

348. The secretariat explained that the guidelines being followed by ECLA in population matters were as follows: i) to concentrate on the fundamental problems of the relations between population and development and the place of population policies in general policies; ii) to maintain close co-operation with CELADE and help to co-ordinate and stimulate the research work of other institutions, reducing overlapping to the minimum; iii) to help to prepare for the Conference by promoting the interest of Governments and originating ideas, iv) to integrate demographic considerations into all the various types of activities of ECLA, and v) to build up the capacity to be able to offer advisory assistance to Governments.

349. Delegations were agreed that the subject of population growth could not be considered in isolation, but must be considered in relation to development, and they recommended that ECLA and CELADE should continue their studies along these lines. Furthermore, in its preparatory work for the participation of Latin America in the World Population Conference, ECLA must take account in its studies of the special features of Latin America, whose situation was very different from that of other underdeveloped and over-populated regions.

350. Several delegations stated that it was an over-simplification to suppose that the reason for development problems lay in excessive population growth and that the only object of population policy was to reduce the fertility rate: there were countries of low population density which needed a much larger population to fill the territory and fully exploit its resources.

351. In particular, one delegation recommended ECLA to devote special attention to intra-regional, migrations from one Latin American country to another, as they constitute a very important phenomenon from the demographic and employment point of view and should be organized in such a way as to benefit both countries and human beings.

352. With regard to the preparations for the World Population Conference, one representative expressed unhappiness over the expression "Plan of Action" used by the Conference which seemed to give it a political rather than a technical complexion. The analytical indices in some of the documents also gave that impression, since they seemed to point to conclusions which failed to take account of the situation of countries which needed a larger population.

353. At its 178th meeting on 30 March 1973, the Commission adopted resolution 327 (XV) on the preparations for the World Population Conference and the strengthening of the capacity of ECLA and CELADE in population matters.

6. The resolution adopted states:

327 (XV) WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

The Economic Commission for Latin America,
Taking into account resolution 1672 (LII) dated 2 June 1972 of the Economic and Social Council on Population and Development, which, inter alia, recapitulates earlier resolutions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly on the designation of 1974 as World Population Year and the holding in 1974 of a World Population Conference, makes certain recommendations on these questions, and invites the regional economic commissions to continue their population work programmes in conformit with regional needs,
Taking note with satisfaction of document E/CN.12/956, submitted by the Secretariat, containing its proposals for the orientation of future work on population and for participation in the World Population Year and World Population Conference, and also of document E/CN.12/950 submitted by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), reporting on its activities and future work programmes.
Aware of the importance of continuing research into demographic trends and of objective exploration of the relationships between population and development as requisites for the formulation of population policies adapted to the circumstances and development strategies of the Latin American countries,
Considering that the Commission had adopted resolution 304 (XIV) which recognizes the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) as an autonomous agency under the aegis of ECLA and requests it to continue to extend and improve

its teaching and research activities and provide advisory services to the countries of the region on request,

1. Approves in principle the secretariat's and CELADE's proposal for the strengthening of basic demographic information and research;
2. Urges that the secretariat strengthen its capacity to satisfy Government requests for technical assistance in the improvement of demographic statistics and in the inclusion of demographic variables in development planning;
3. Welcomes the contributions of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the strengthening of ECLA population activities and hopes that the proposed expansion of these activities will receive favourable consideration from the Fund;
4. Recognizes the need for continuation of CELADE's activities in demographic research and training as an essential complement to the secretariat's programme;
5. Urges Member Governments to consider the possibility of continuing or expanding financial support to CELADE beyond 1974, and supports CELADE's efforts to obtain financial backing from other sources;
6. Supports secretariat participation in preparatory work for the World Population Conference and World Population Year;
7. Recognizes that active participation by Member Governments in providing information and clarifying their own policy orientation would contribute to the success of the World Population Conference and the World Population Year;
8. Receives favourably the proposal for a meeting of Government representatives in early 1974 prior to the World Population Conference for the purpose of discussing the positions of the Latin American Governments in relation to the questions that will be presented to the Conference, so that the circumstances of the countries of the region and their development strategies are taken into account;
9. Notes with satisfaction the offer by the Government of Costa Rica to act as host for the preparatory meeting of the Latin American countries on the World Population Conference of 1974.

Latin American Demographic Centre

7. Two documents were submitted to the Commission dealing with the activities carried out by CELADE in 1971-1972 and programmed for 1973-1974. One, prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.12/950) and the Informative Document N°3, submitted by CELADE. The latter is only an extension of the former.

8. With regard to the election of new members of the Governing Board of the Center, some brief information was provided to the Commission (E/CN.12/952) recalling that the period of office of the members elected by ECLA in 1969 had expired and that new members should be elected. The pertinent rule of the Plan of Operation of CELADE, calling for the election of members by the Commission to represent governments participating in the project, was transcribed.

9. Paragraphs 393 and 399 of the Draft Report of ECLA (E/CN.12/953) refer to the point in the Agenda on the Latin American Demographic Centre as follows:

393. In accordance with resolution 304 (XIV), the participants considered the report on the work of CELADE in 1971-1972 and its programme of work for the period 1973-1974 (E/CN.12/950) and recognized the need for it to continue its demographic research and training activities as an essential complement to the programme of the ECLA secretariat. (See also paragraphs 347 to 353 on the World Population Conference).

399. Since the term of office of two members of the Governing Council had expired, the Commission had to elect two full members and two alternates for a term of two and one half years. Mr. Roberto Marcenaro Boutell (Argentina) and Mr. Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto (Mexico) were elected members and Mr. Jorge Arias de Blois (Guatemala) and Mr. Nestor Urrutia (Peru) were elected alternates.

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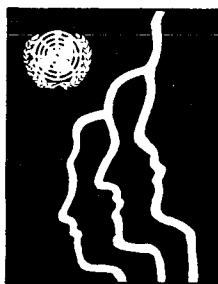
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