

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(7 April 1984 - 25 April 1986)

**REPORT**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1986**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 13**



**UNITED NATIONS**

**Santiago, Chile, 1986**

484 (XXI) ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking account of the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Water Conference which make up the Mar del Plata Action Plan, together with subsequent resolutions adopted in this respect by the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, especially those relating to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recognizing that the present economic crisis is one of the factors affecting the countries of the region which makes it necessary for them to reorientate their water development strategies by endeavouring to balance the efforts undertaken to increase the supply with those aimed at rationalizing consumption in accordance with the varying conditions of the countries in the region and which also makes it desirable to review and increase the efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean to improve and expand their co-operation in this field,

Considering the progress made since 1981 in the promotion of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially as regards support for the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

1. Recommends the countries of the region to follow the lines given below in water development matters:

- a) To give priority to those activities which, with the least financial effort, benefit the broadest sectors of the population,
- b) To promote more rational and efficient use of natural resources, the existing infrastructure and water, in their various applications,
- c) To support the decentralization process and seek increasing participation by users in the planning, conservation and financing of water resource programmes;

2. Recommends the Secretariat of the Commission to continue its support for activities by governments related with the implementation of the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, with particular emphasis on the strengthening of its activities to promote and support horizontal co-operation in the field of water resources and the identification of specific areas of common interest and complementarity to this end, at the regional and subregional levels;

3. Also recommends the Secretariat of the Commission to collaborate with the region in the identification of means of enriching national portfolios of water development projects, to promote programmes of research, training and technological development, in co-ordination with the competent national and regional bodies, with a view to using water more efficiently and taking full advantage of existing

water installations, and to promote technical co-operation to identify and develop small water-use projects with community participation;

4. Urges governments to send regular annual reports to the Secretariat on the progress made in implementing the Mar del Plata Action Plan in their respective countries, with the report for the present year preferably reaching the Secretariat no later than 30 September 1986;

5. Likewise urges governments to participate in the Regional Workshop on Appropriate Technology for Environmental Sanitation in Rural Areas, to be held late in 1987;

6. Recommends the Secretariat of the Commission to:

- a) Continue its efforts aimed at promoting the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, with due attention to the needs of each subregion;
- b) Keep up its participation in co-operation efforts between United Nations specialized agencies and other international bodies active in the field of water at the regional level;
- c) Continue its activities aimed at helping to achieve better development and management of water resources and stimulate the application of advanced technologies and microcomputers in water resource management;
- d) Report to the twenty-second session of ECLAC on the progress made with regard to the matters referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this resolution and those raised at the request of the delegations participating in the Committee on Water, which are contained in the report of that Committee;
- e) Give particular consideration in all its activities to those problems which are characteristic of subregions such as Central America and the Caribbean islands.

230th meeting  
25 April 1986