

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

**BIENNIAL REPORT
(7 April 2000 - 10 May 2002)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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**UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile, 2002**

591(XXIX) COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONSThe Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires in September 1978 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,

Taking into account the decisions adopted at the ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which met from 30 May to 2 June 1995 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and, in particular, decision 9/2 on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking into account also the decisions adopted at the twelfth session of the High-level Committee, held from 29 May to 1 June 2001 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in particular decision 12/1 B, in which the Committee examined the progress made in implementing the strategy of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling its resolution 583(XXVIII) on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions,

1. Takes note of the report on the activities of the ECLAC system in support of such cooperation contained in the document entitled "Report on the activities of the Commission since April 2000,"¹ Part II.C, "Cooperation activities," which has been considered by the Commission at its current session;

2. Reaffirms the importance of technical cooperation among the countries of the region for the achievement of their economic and social development objectives, especially through the exchange of experiences in the design and implementation of policies relating to the principal aspects of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, such as the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, environmental sustainability, production and employment, scientific and technological development, tourism, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, gender, trade, investment and macroeconomic management;

3. Stresses the need to move towards fuller technical cooperation among developing countries and regions in promoting sustained economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the globalization process and, in that regard, underscores the importance of promoting both technical cooperation and economic cooperation among developing countries and regions;

4. Underlines the need to strengthen support for the activities of the Governments of the region aimed at enhancing and increasing the use of mechanisms and modalities of technical cooperation among

¹ Report on the activities of the Commission since April 2000 (LC/G.2160(SES.29/6)).

developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels in priority areas of public economic and social development policy;

5. Underlines also the need to obtain more resources for technical cooperation for development both from developed countries and multilateral agencies and from developing countries, as noted in the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the relevant mandates, to take steps to:

(a) Intensify activities aimed at incorporating modalities of technical cooperation among developing countries into the various areas of the secretariat's programme of work for 2002-2003, especially as it relates to the formulation and execution of technical cooperation projects financed with extrabudgetary funding from bilateral or multilateral donors;

(b) Hold such consultations as may be relevant to the identification of priority areas for technical cooperation among developing countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, using for this purpose national centres for technical cooperation among developing countries, in close coordination with the Latin American Economic System;

(c) Underscore the need to strengthen a concept of cooperation that places priority on the exchange of knowledge and experiences among Governments, public bodies and the private sector, including civil society;

(d) Broaden the channels available for the dissemination of information on technical cooperation projects and activities to national focal points for development cooperation, with special importance being attributed to the use of the Internet;

(e) Strengthen the exchange of national and subregional experiences and best practices in technical cooperation projects, especially in the areas of social policies aimed at increasing equity; the improvement of employment and access to education and health care within a context of sustainable development; identification of successful strategies for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises within the framework of technical and economic cooperation schemes in the region; trade, environmental, scientific and technological development, tourism, investment, macroeconomic management and gender policies; and disaster prevention and mitigation;

(f) Continue to consolidate the links between the ECLAC system and national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and regions with a view to expanding the use of information on successful practices identified in technical cooperation projects executed by the Commission at the regional and subregional levels, especially in relation to the strengthening of training initiatives designed to help such focal points to take advantage of the opportunities offered by connection to global information networks;

(g) Continue to collaborate with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme in its efforts to strengthen technical cooperation among countries in the region within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and of the strategy for moving in those directions;

(h) Express his support for the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme in its task of organizing subregional orientation workshops for national focal points to facilitate and ensure a fuller understanding of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality adopted by decision 12/1 of the High-level Committee at its twelfth meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 29 May to 1 June 2001;

(i) Continue to collaborate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System in organizing activities designed to provide support to national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries within the framework of their respective mandates, especially those concerning the annual meetings of national directors of international technical cooperation, including a working meeting with directors of international cooperation to analyse the issue of financing for technical cooperation, as recommended at the fifteenth Meeting of Directors of International Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System and held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 11 to 13 March 2002;

(j) Collaborate with the Latin American Economic System in the implementation of mechanisms for the management, follow-up and assessment of projects relating to technical cooperation among developing countries which will permit the assessment and quantification of the effects of technical cooperation among developing countries, with a view to making it more efficient and effective;

(k) Promote, within the framework of mechanisms for consultation with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, joint activities aimed at supporting technical and economic cooperation among countries in the various developing regions in coordination with the competent organizations of the United Nations system working in fields in which such activities may have an impact;

(l) Request the international community to support, by means that include technical cooperation among developing countries, the efforts of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to respond to the problems arising from globalization in order to enable them to become well integrated into the global economic system, benefit from international trade and investment and attain adequate systems of social protection.