

**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**

**590(XXIX) POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT:  
PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2002-2004**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development adopted in Mexico City in May 1993; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted in Cairo in September 1994; the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the document entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development";<sup>1</sup> the report of the special session of the General Assembly entitled, "Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development"; resolution 577(XVIII) on population and development: priority lines of action for 2000-2002, as adopted by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, held in Mexico City in April 2000; the agreements adopted at the open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Sessional Committee on Population and Development held in Santiago, Chile, on 4 and 5 December 2001; and, in particular, the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000,

Taking into account that on 12 April 2002 in Madrid, on the occasion of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the countries of the world approved the International Plan of Action on Ageing to guide the countries in their formulation of specific policies, plans and programmes to improve the living conditions of older adults and to enhance the positive effects of the ageing of the population, and that the Plan of Action indicates that the United Nations regional commissions have responsibility for translating it into regional action plans and that they should also assist, upon request, national institutions in implementing and monitoring their actions on ageing,

Recalling also that the year 2004 will mark the tenth anniversary of the approval of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Bearing in mind that the ECLAC Ad Hoc Sessional Committee on Population and Development held its fourth meeting on 7 May in Brasilia, at which it considered, *inter alia*, the following questions: sociodemographic vulnerability and systems of indicators for monitoring and following up on the implementation in Latin America of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

1. Welcomes the document prepared by the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) entitled, "Sociodemographic vulnerability: old and new risks for communities, households and individuals" and recommends that it be widely disseminated;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the United Nations Population Fund for having incorporated the suggestions and observations made by the Committee into the document on youth, population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean; for having submitted a document making special reference to adolescence to the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and

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<sup>1</sup> LC/DEM/G.184.

Government held in November 2000 in Panama City; and for having collaborated in the preparation of the regional document on children;

3. Instructs the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), together with the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC and in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund, to continue to assign priority to the provision of support to the countries in the development of information systems, whose indicators should permit adequate follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Programme of Action and the Regional Plan of Action and of the fulfilment of commitments made at other world summits and conferences held during the 1990s, and to the maintenance and expansion of the regional system of indicators, in particular with a view to the evaluation of the Programme of Action to be made in 2004, 10 years after its adoption;

4. Agrees that, at its next meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee should review the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region, on the basis of a document which the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) is requested to prepare in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund using inputs from countries derived from their national reviews, requests that the secretariat and the Fund prepare guidelines for those reviews and suggests that consideration should be given to the possibility of holding an open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee in 2003 to discuss this issue;

5. Reiterates the importance of promoting and maintaining, insofar as possible, a national mechanism and a system of indicators in all the countries to ensure appropriate follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of identifying and maintaining a liaison agency to coordinate activities relating to the Regional Plan of Action and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

6. Requests the secretariat to organize, in coordination with other relevant international agencies, a regional intergovernmental conference on ageing, for the purpose of formulating a regional strategy for the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

7. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee, at its next regular meeting, to be held in 2004, in addition to considering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, should analyse the topic "ageing, population and development" and should instruct the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare the relevant substantive documents;

8. Welcomes the initiative of the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and of the International Organization for Migration in organizing a hemispheric conference on international migration and human rights, to be held in November 2002, which will also have the support of the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Organization of American States;

9. Thanks the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) for the activities it has carried out over the past two years in support of the execution and analysis of the census round for the year 2000, and requests this and other relevant international agencies, including the United Nations Population Fund, to continue providing support to the countries of

the region in promoting and facilitating the analysis and dissemination of the census information which is so necessary for the proper implementation of the recommendations of the international summit meetings and conferences held during the past decade;

10. Calls upon the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant national and international organizations, to also give priority to human resources training in the field of population and development in order to enhance the countries' capacity to generate the sociodemographic information and knowledge that is necessary to enable the corresponding institutions to incorporate these data into the design and implementation of social policies and programmes;

11. Recommends that the countries of the region should make every effort to allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the incorporation of population programmes, including reproductive health programmes, into public policies with a view to including poverty reduction among their objectives, linking population and reproductive health issues more closely to social, environmental and cultural policies as viewed from a gender and age-based perspective, and promoting the consideration of population and reproductive health issues in reforms carried out in the education and health-care sectors;

12. Expresses its concern regarding the continued reduction of the international financial resources made available to Latin America and the Caribbean for activities in the field of population and development and, in consequence, urges the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the Ad Hoc Committee to take the necessary steps in the appropriate forums to reverse this trend and to promote the introduction of cost-sharing arrangements at the national level for the implementation of population programmes, including reproductive health programmes;

13. Also urges the international community to increase its technical and financial assistance for these purposes, in fulfilment of the commitments assumed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the report of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".