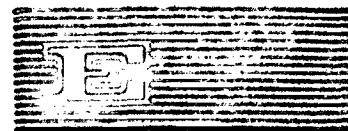


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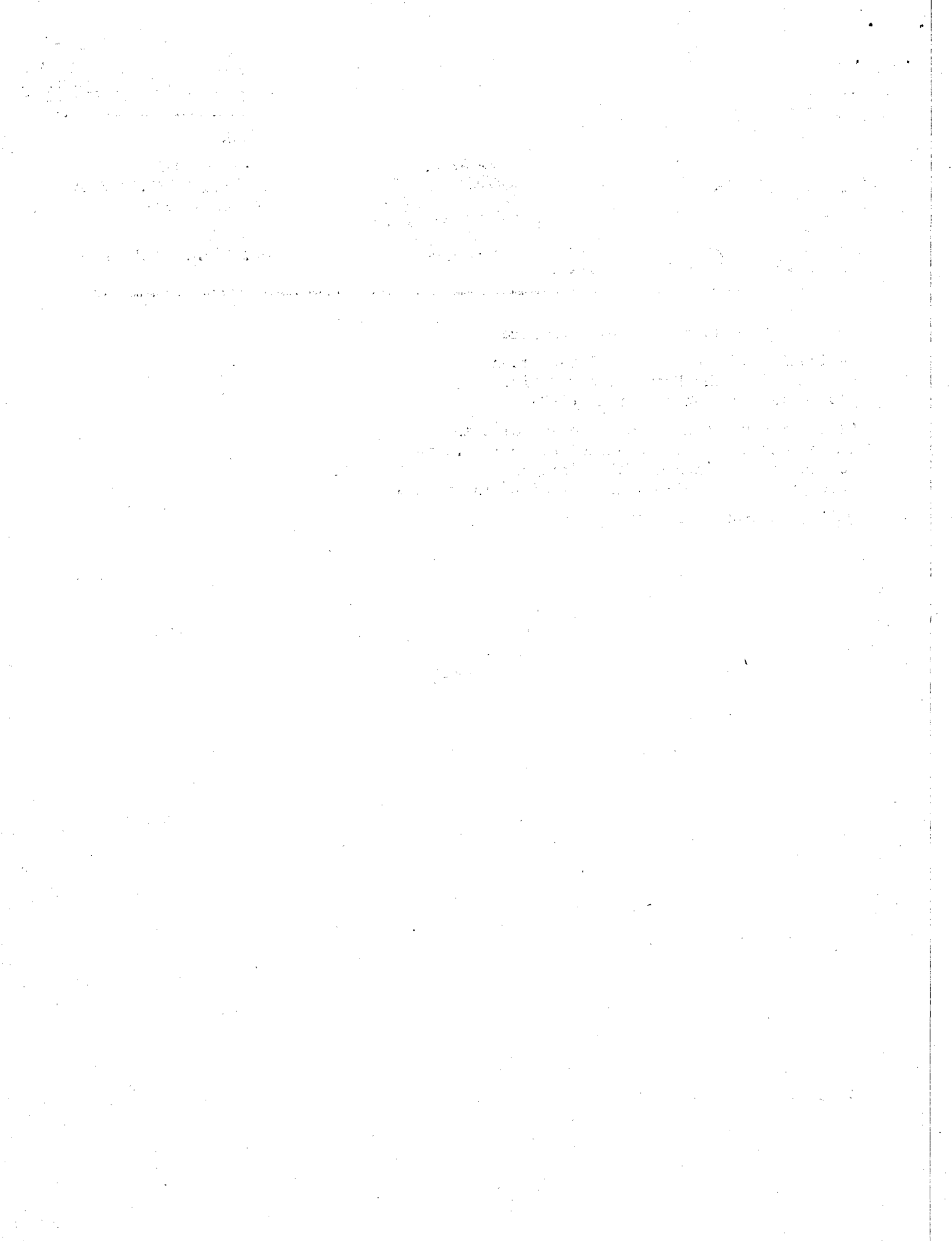
Economic Commission for Latin America

Regional Conference on the Integration  
of Women into the Economic and Social  
Development of Latin America (CRM)

Group of Government Experts to Appraise the  
Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action  
for the Integration of Women into the  
Economic and Social Development of Latin America

Quito, Ecuador, 8-10 March 1979

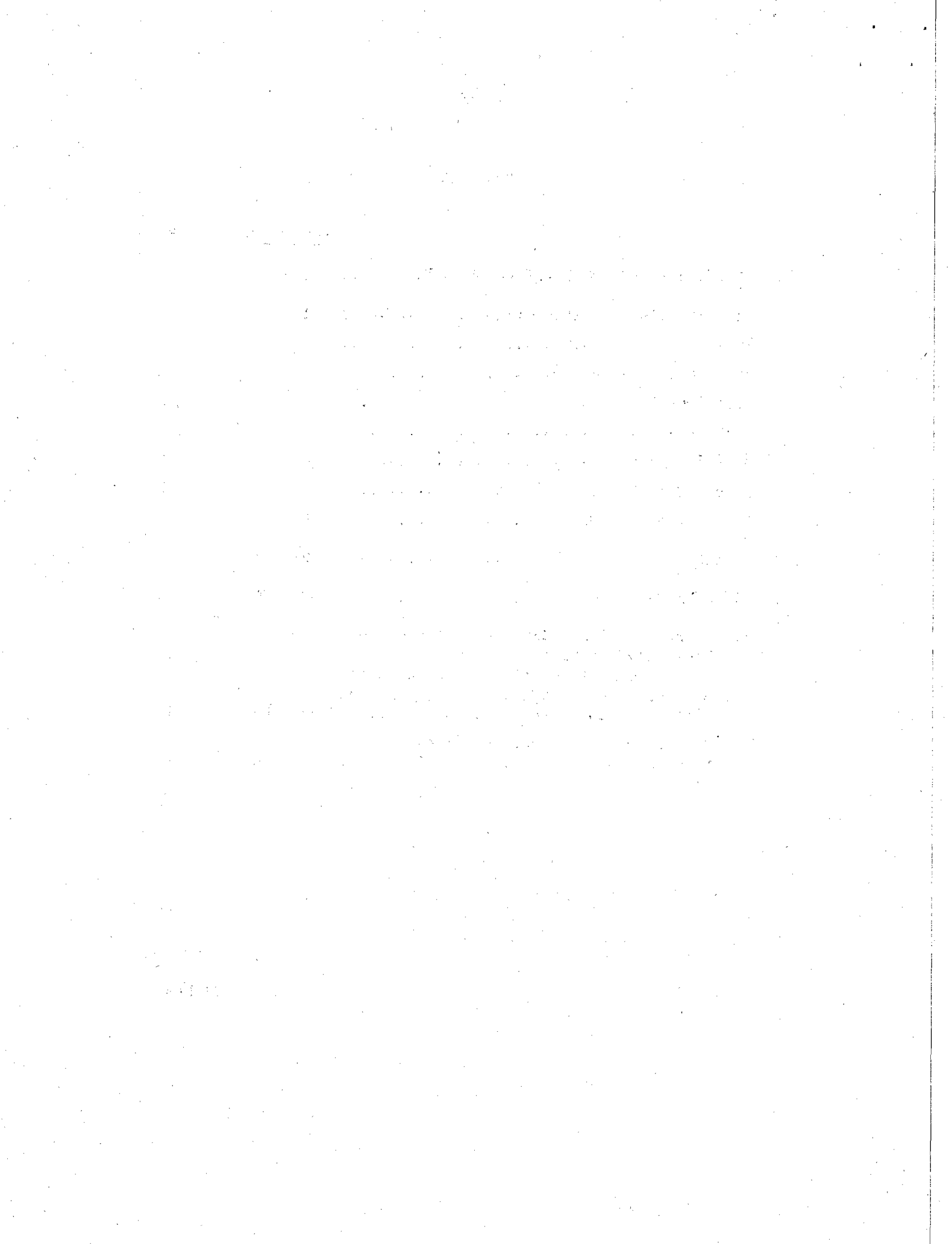
REPORT



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/I. ATTENDANCE



## I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Date and place of the meeting

1. The Group of Government Experts to Appraise the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, convened by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), met from 8 to 10 March 1979 in Quito, Ecuador. The meeting was convened in pursuance of paragraph 4 of the "Resolution recommending approval of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and measures for its implementation", adopted by the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America (Havana, Cuba, 13-17 June 1977), and also in accordance with the Regional Plan of Action and the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the CEPAL Committee of the Whole on 21 November 1977. The meeting of the Group precedes the Second Regional Conference on the same subject, to be held in 1979 in accordance with paragraph 88 (1) of the Regional Plan of Action as a permanent and regular activity within the framework of CEPAL. This Conference in its turn, is a preliminary activity for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980.

### Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

### Opening of the meeting

3. The Group began its work on the morning of 8 March with an informal meeting of heads of delegations, at which the names of the officers to be put forward at the first plenary meeting were decided upon and the possible organization of work was considered. The suggestions arising from the meeting were approved at the first plenary meeting, held that afternoon, when the proceedings of the Group officially began.

/Election of

Election of Officers

4. At the first plenary meeting the following Officers were confirmed:
- Chairman: Dr. César Espinosa Ortiz (Ecuador)
  - First Vice-Chairman: Roberto Samuel Fábrega Goitía (Panama)
  - Second Vice-Chairman: Luis Henrique P. Da Fonseca (Brazil)
  - Rapporteur: Marly Silva H. (Venezuela)

Agenda

5. At the same meeting the Group adopted the following agenda:
1. Election of Officers
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Appraisal of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America
  4. Possible action priorities
  5. Consideration and approval of the final report to the Commission.

Drafting group

6. It was decided to set up a drafting group, open to all delegations, to examine items 3 and 4 for subsequent consideration in the plenary meeting.

Documentation

7. In order to facilitate its work, the Group of Government Experts had before it a document prepared by the secretariat on the situation of women in Latin America as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2), and comments on that document made by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/3).

Adoption of the report

8. At its morning meeting of Saturday 10 March, the Group of Government Experts adopted the present report of the meeting.

## II. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

9. On behalf of CEPAL, the Secretary of the Commission thanked the Government of Ecuador, which hosted the meeting, for the cordial welcome given to the participants.

10. On taking the chair, Dr. César Espinosa Ortiz, head of the delegation of Ecuador, thanked the participants for electing him and referred to the constant concern of the Latin American governments to find machinery for the full participation of women in development. He pointed out that several countries were making slower progress than others in this regard, because of unfair social and economic structures in some cases, and also because of still-prevalent historical traditions and scales of values. He said that progress should not be restricted to legal matters, but should also take the form of specific action in different fields. He went on to list some of the initiatives taken by the Government of Ecuador to improve the situation of women, and pointed out that new advances were required, especially with regard to improving the situation of marginalized women and preparing a diagnosis of the real situation of women. Lastly, he congratulated CEPAL for its initiative in holding the meeting and expressed the hope that its results would benefit all the countries of the region.

11. When the agenda of the meeting was adopted, attention was drawn to the fact that in considering item 4 - possible action priorities - a review would be made of the preparations for the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, which would also be a preparatory meeting for the World Conference.

12. The secretariat of CEPAL made a brief presentation of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, "Women in Latin America: The situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action".

13. The delegation of Mexico, after expressing the continuing interest of the Mexican Government in matters concerning women, proceeded to make some comments on the document. First of all, the Mexican delegation considered it unnecessary to re-open the question of a conceptual framework for discussion, since, as also in the case of section V, this was something which had already been resolved. An amendment was proposed to paragraph 10

/so as

so as to make the document an expression of the Group of Experts and not of the secretariat of CEPAL; in paragraph 8, it was pointed out that Mexico should figure among the countries which answered the questionnaire; in paragraphs 89 and 108, it was observed that it was not only one country which was implementing a policy aimed at improving the situation of women, children and the family within a global concept of social development, since at least Cuba and Mexico were doing this; lastly, it was suggested that matters concerning the appraisal should be kept separate from those involving action priorities.

14. With regard to paragraph 89 of the same document, the delegation of Chile observed that in its country the National Secretariat for Women was carrying out a broad range of activities in connexion with the social development of women.

15. The delegation of Costa Rica expressed its Government's full support for activities aimed at integrating women into development, and mentioned various aspects of the participation of women in the political, social and working life of Costa Rica.

16. Several delegations observed that, despite repeated requests for information by CEPAL, some countries were encountering difficulties and problems in furnishing it, and adequate technical co-ordination would therefore appear to be required in order for this information to be collected and sent out in time.

17. In response to these comments, the secretariat explained the procedures used to send questionnaires and requests for information to the countries. It suggested that the distribution of the documentation sent to Ministries of Foreign Affairs should be expedited so that it would reach the bodies furnishing the information more rapidly: the secretariat, for its part, could send this documentation not only to Ministries of Foreign Affairs but also to other government bodies indicated by the governments themselves. Following each specialized meeting, the secretariat took note of the addresses of the experts present, in order to send them the report of the meeting and other documentation which might be of interest to them. Lastly, the secretariat recommended that, at least for the Second Regional Conference, the planning bodies of each government should convene a meeting of governmental and non-governmental units dealing with this subject, so as to obtain the necessary information in an ordered and timely manner.

18. The representative of Brazil, after thanking the host country for its hospitality, said that his government considered that the short time since the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action did not allow for an in-depth appraisal. He congratulated the secretariat on the document presented, which was quite unexceptionable, and he mentioned in particular his support of paragraphs 121 and 122, which contained specific recommendations. As part of its concern to raise levels of living in general, the Government of Brazil had taken measures specially aimed at women, with particular emphasis on the food and nutrition programme. He said that women's participation in the labour force had increased to a significant extent, and that legislation had been brought in to protect women workers.

19. The representative of Bolivia expressed agreement with the terms of the secretariat document, and observed that it was essential to establish a conceptual framework in order to prepare better diagnoses. In Bolivia the number of social, economic, ethnic and cultural differences made it impossible to use a single approach in tackling the problem of women, and these differences should be taken into account in preparing policies. With regard to information, it was important for the countries themselves to have access to basic disaggregated and differentiated data, not only for provision to international organizations, but also for use in their own planning. He requested further clarification of the parameters for appraisal of action implicit in document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, and mentioned the need to identify and specify aspects of the strategies. Lastly, he asked the secretariat about co-ordination of its activities with those of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

20. In reply to that question, a member of the secretariat described the co-ordination which existed among international bodies to avoid duplication of effort, and which took various forms. Referring to meetings between such bodies, he pointed out that document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/3 contained the comments of United Nations agencies on the secretariat document. Other organizations outside the United Nations system, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), were all invited to CEPAL meetings, and would also be  
/invited to

invited to the Second Regional Meeting on women. He also mentioned that at least two meetings a year were held between the Executive Secretary of CEPAL and the Secretary-General of OAS in order to ensure co-ordination of the activities of the two bodies. Finally, he pointed out that it was difficult to avoid some degree of duplication of effort when two bodies were given practically identical mandates.

21. In order to permit more specific consideration of agenda items 3 and 4, a drafting group was established made up of representatives of Bolivia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the United States. This group, which was chaired by the representative of Bolivia and was open to all the other delegations, was set up to receive country reports on the application of the Plan of Action, and then to make comments and suggestions designed to improve its application.

22. After an exchange of views, it was decided that in addition to the contribution from delegations, the summaries prepared by the secretariat, and especially their descriptive sections, would also be considered, and it was announced that document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2 would be submitted to the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, together with any written observations on the document submitted by delegations during the present meeting. The secretariat also indicated that it could distribute the national reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, although it was not in a position to have them reproduced or translated. Those reports would serve two purposes: to provide the information originally sought in the questionnaire, and to make the respective government's action known to the other member countries of CEPAL.

23. In response to the concern expressed by one delegation regarding difficulties in replying to the questionnaires circulated by international organizations, a member of the secretariat suggested that the governments themselves could encourage the agencies to hold meetings with one another to standardize their questionnaires.

24. The Cuban delegation thanked the secretariat for submitting document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, which was a valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem, and noted that both the countries and the CEPAL secretariat found it difficult to carry out appraisals because of the small amount of  
/information available

information available and the fact that not all the countries had replied to the questionnaire. It was desirable that the structure of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2 should closely follow that of the Regional Plan of Action, and its language should be simplified so as to make it more accessible. The document was also somewhat pessimistic: despite the difficult economic and social conditions facing the region, there were always prospects for the integration of women into development. In conclusion, the Group of Experts should emphasize to the governments its concern at the meagre interest many of them had shown in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, with the aim of encouraging them to play a bigger role and provide more information on their achievements.

25. The delegation of Ecuador outlined the progress made to date by that country in implementing the Regional Plan of Action. It described some legal initiatives and structural changes introduced in order to improve the living conditions of the population in general and women in particular, and referred to legal provisions which guaranteed women equality before the law, a share in the property of the family, participation in community organizations and protection at work. It also mentioned rural development policies to combat unemployment, training policies, education and greater participation by women in higher education, while not overlooking the shortcomings which still existed in the expansion of basic education. Finally, it reported on the progress made in the fields of health and social security, as well as the work done by voluntary workers and their share in measures designed to improve the situation of women.

26. The representative of the United States warned that her Government was considering the possibility of not participating in meetings for which the documentation was not received in due time. As regards document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, she said that it did not reflect the views of her Government, which objected in particular to paragraphs 32, 41, 57, 58, 59 and 60: the first two were not applicable to educational conditions in her country, and the last four did not reflect the attitudes of United States employers. She also sought clarification of the concepts used in paragraph 89, especially regarding the assertion that only one country was implementing a policy aimed at improving the situation of women, children

/and the

and the family within a global concept of social development. With regard to strategies, she expressed support for the measures recommended in paragraphs 9 to 13 of the summary notes presented by the secretariat, observing that the first of these paragraphs appeared particularly valid for the majority of the countries. She reiterated her concern at the lack of response to the questionnaires, and suggested that this problem might get even worse as regards the Second Regional Conference. Since information constituted a decisive element in any assessment, her country had submitted a complete and full report of progress in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, both by answering the questionnaire and by submitting the report of the National Women's Conference in Houston, with its twenty-six recommendations and the reply by President Carter to the Plan, summaries of new programmes and legislation on women, and the full report to Congress on the extensive bilateral assistance provided by the United States with a view to integrating women into development on a global basis.

27. The representative of Chile requested that his comment on paragraph 89 of document E/CEPAL/CMR/R.1/2 should be reproduced verbatim in the report of the meeting. He said that he would abstain from taking part in matters involving strategies, but supported the proposals contained in the Regional Plan of Action with regard to the competence of the States about the application of the Plan.

28. The delegation of Grenada thanked the host country for its hospitality and congratulated CEPAL on the work done. Grenada had always respected the function of women in the community, and had now given even greater impetus to work in this area, taking the family unit and the improvement of the situation of women and children as complementary aspects of a single whole. The delegation went on to refer to various educational, health, training and rural development activities, stressing the importance of giving flexibility to the international financial machinery for programmes of this type.

29. The delegation of Costa Rica asked the secretariat for a new opportunity to send information and an assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action in that country, and a new deadline in order to permit countries which had not done so to reply to the questionnaire sent out by  
/the secretariat.

the secretariat. It recommended that each country should set up a commission on matters relating to women, with full political support from the Government and links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other State institutions responsible for implementing plans, and also suggested that programmes on the integration of women into development should be included in national development plans.

30. The delegation of Brazil stated that the document to be prepared by the present meeting of government experts should mention the short time which had elapsed since the Regional Plan of Action had been adopted, which did not allow any major results to be observed at the national level; support for the Plan and the need to make progress in implementing it should be reiterated, however. The delegation expressed its support of document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, and suggested that paragraph 122 of it should be included in the document to be prepared by the present meeting, which should be simple and easy to use. Several delegations agreed with this suggestion.

31. The representative of Bolivia recognized the difficulty of arriving at strategies acceptable to all the countries, and suggested that it would be better to concentrate on the criteria which the strategies would have to take into account. In the case of Bolivia, these strategies should be medium-term, so as to avoid considerations which were too all-embracing or measures which were excessively partial. It was important to gain a real knowledge of the different situations in which women lived and to focus strategies so as to take these differences into account - a point which the CEPAL document did not stress sufficiently. The importance of strengthening national machinery for obtaining information as well as CEPAL action in this respect, should be reiterated, and lastly the document prepared by the meeting should stress co-ordination at the national level of activities relating to the integration of women into development, the need to have access to theoretical and methodological bases for the intermediate range strategies, and the need for an educational strategy.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

32. The Group of Experts arrived at the following conclusions concerning items 3 and 4 of the agenda.

A. APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA  
(item 3 of the agenda)

33. This Meeting is the beginning of a process of appraisal of the situation of women in the region and of the progress made in implementing the Regional Plan of Action. Its results will subsequently be submitted for consideration at the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, to be held in the second half of 1979. This process, in its turn, forms part of the process of global appraisal which will culminate in the 1980 World Conference. This first appraisal, which is being carried out only a relatively short time after the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action, and in conditions where not all the information required for a full appraisal is available, is intended to indicate trends and seek solutions to the most serious present and future problems. Use will be made for this purpose of the methodology and experience obtained in the regional appraisals already effected within the context of the International Development Strategy (Quito, 1973; Chaguaramas, 1975; and Guatemala City, 1977). The short time which has elapsed since the Regional Plan of Action was adopted, and the difficulties of distributing the documentation, have made it impossible to gather the information required to make all the relevant analyses or to consider adequately the changes recorded.

34. This first process of appraisal is taking place mid-way through the "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", and on the eve of the formulation of the international strategy which will be in force throughout the Third United Nations Development Decade, in the preparation of which the results of the appraisal of the situation of women should be incorporated. Both these circumstances heighten the need to focus on the problems that women will have to face in the next decade, given the national

/and regional

and regional development prospects. Therefore, the aim is to go beyond the repetition of diagnoses that have already been made and the statement of desirable objectives, which are sufficiently explicit in the Regional Plan of Action and whose validity can only be reaffirmed, and forge ahead in the formulation of action strategies really capable of being put into effect. The clear expression of such action strategies will, in its turn, facilitate future appraisals.

35. Because of the rate at which social changes normally take place it is advisable that the appraisal exercises should be fairly far apart, without prejudice to keeping a close watch on existing and future trends. It should be borne in mind that in addition to the usual difficulties in obtaining the information required for evaluating social processes, in the case of women other difficulties arise for want of a breakdown of the statistics by sex and because the information does not adequately reflect the situation of women, particularly as regards domestic activities and employment. The countries must make social efforts to obtain the necessary basic information for formulating diagnoses and implementing action, appropriately broken down by sex and other differences, taking advantage of the forthcoming 1980 censuses for this purpose.

36. The situations in which the women of the region are living constitute a problem which affects not only women but the whole of society. Accordingly, such situations should be considered within the context of the global processes of economic and social development and change in the countries of the region, which fall in their own turn within a specific international context. In this respect, men and women share the living conditions determined by the fact that they belong to a particular society and a socio-economic stratum of that society, but women also face the more specific types of discrimination resulting from the social and sexual division of labour.

37. Although, generally speaking, it may be affirmed that the situation of women in the region has steadily improved, this cannot be said of all women in every aspect of social life. The situations in which women are living vary widely according to the socio-economic stratum to which they belong, and their modes of participation in economic, political, social and cultural life and the sources and forms of discrimination against them vary accordingly.

38. The most alarming situation affects women belonging to poor groups, particularly in rural areas, many of whom are heads of households and live in consensual unions.

39. In the social organization of the region each family unit is responsible for the biological and social reproduction of its members and, therefore, of the population. Virtually all adult women are responsible for the relevant domestic work, which they perform with the means available to the family units according to the socio-economic stratum to which they belong. However, this important contribution of women in fulfilling their reproductive roles enjoys no social recognition, and merely serves as a means of perpetuating the existing sexual stereotypes and cultural patterns that discriminate against women. What is more important, since the situation of women is usually viewed as forming part of the social welfare sector no recognition tends to be given to women's non-reproductive roles. This is detrimental both to women and to society, since their contribution to economic development is ignored.

40. When strategies are formulated and the corresponding action is planned, this link between the majority of women and domestic work should be taken into account, while at the same time bearing in mind that the objective of integrated development is hampered by a whole group of interrelated social problems which affect the men and women of large population sectors alike, such as critical poverty, inequitable income distribution, unemployment, illiteracy, or semi-illiteracy, the marginality of large urban, rural and indigenous sectors, little or no participation in the most important aspects of national life; and so on.

41. The widely varying situations at the national level and within each country suggest the advisability of placing more emphasis on general strategies than on the detailed consideration of specific action programmes. The choice of the appropriate strategy will depend on the particular conditions prevailing in each country, according to the nature of the problems identified, the resources available and the existing political will, in line with the principles stated in the Introduction to the Regional Plan of Action.

42. In the light of the general situation that is commonly found in the region, however, a satisfactory strategy should: assign priority to the situation of women in the poor rural and urban sectors; be incorporated in global national or regional development programmes and strategies; have an integrated and multisectoral approach, since the deficiencies existing in the various sectors aggravate one another; and take into account the role of family units in the reproduction of individuals as well as the contribution made by women to the economy, according to the various socio-economic strata. Within these general principles, several options may be discerned which, far from being mutually exclusive, tend to complement one another.

43. A strategy could consist of a review of the policies currently in force so as to determine how far and in what way women are considered as social or domestic consumers or producers, in order to recommend the adjustments necessary to achieve the proposed objectives. In this respect, (a) it would have to be determined how far the policies intended to have a direct influence on the operational levels of the economy, apparently unrelated to the social side, affect the living conditions of women; (b) in integrated policies such as those applicable to critical poverty or rural development, account must be taken of the existence of family units with female heads of household, which are often excluded from such policies, and of the fact that in changing the characteristics of economic activity they ultimately lead to increased discrimination against and subordination of women; (c) in sectoral policies it should be borne in mind that women are considered in various roles. First, as consumers of services: in many cases they do not have access to goods and services (wages and salaries, education, etc.) on an equal footing with men, so that it becomes necessary to determine the reasons for this differential access and to adopt complementary corrective measures. Secondly, as producers of services: in critical sectors such as education, health, production and marketing of domestic food supplies, women make a major contribution to the economy. Thirdly, as those benefiting from and executing social development policies, on the basis of their domestic tasks. In this respect, their training has a certain priority. Lastly, as persons deserving of special consideration (maternal and child care services) or recipients of particular benefits (basic services infrastructure, housing, technology to lighten their domestic duties, etc.).

44. Another possible strategy would be to define as accurately as possible the focal groups and a central high-priority objective (for example, the provision of piped water, the elimination of illiteracy among the whole rural population within a specified period, etc.). Action could be centred on this objective, resources could be channelled to it, and other objectives and programmes devised as the needs are identified. If several countries of the region were to agree on the definition of the same central objective, this would open up a broad field for horizontal technical co-operation and provide a basic framework for the co-ordination of international assistance.

45. Another possible strategy for improving the situation of poor families could consist of a minimum set of measures that would include: (a) providing the heads of households, including women in consensual unions, with stable employment or self-help activities providing an adequate minimum family income, near the family unit's place of residence; (b) health, housing, education and basic services infrastructure programmes designed to lighten the burden of domestic work and enable women to initiate other activities; (c) mass family education programmes, especially for adolescents and young couples; (d) programmes for the organization of families in neighbourhood and community associations; (e) legislative measures designed to support the preceding action and objectives. This is considered to be a minimum set of measures because of its interrelated nature, since the lack of any one measure leaves intact the other limiting factors affecting the organization of poor family units, with their sequel of negative consequences for the family members, in particular the women and children. It is also regarded as minimum because the governments of the region are to a greater or lesser extent implementing policies in virtually all the areas indicated, earmarking for the purpose human and financial resources whose co-ordination would increase their effectiveness. The creation or strengthening of co-ordination machinery would enable national activities to be placed on a more rational basis and make possible the proper channelling of international assistance received.

46. Special attention should be given to the situation of female heads of households. Although these are found in various social strata, they are more numerous and the results more serious in the rural and poor urban sectors.

/The policies

The policies designed for this type of family unit should take into account both the domestic tasks performed by the heads of household and the fact that they are responsible for obtaining the family income, with all the resulting difficulties in combining these two activities. Experience shows that assistance-oriented approaches do not solve the problems of this focal group but quite the opposite, since they are only a short-time palliative and do not attack the root of the problem. A long-term solution could therefore be the development of a strategy which would link training to self-employment, i.e., the promotion of income-generating activities.

47. Attention should once again be drawn to the need for a review of the existing legislation, in particular that relating to the family institution (conjugal union, parental authority, duties and rights of spouses with respect to each other and the children), accompanied by campaigns for the dissemination and extension of legal services.

48. It will also be necessary, as section III of the Regional Plan of Action indicates, to lay stress on campaigns against sexual stereotypes and the respective cultural patterns which are maintained, strengthened and transmitted through textbooks, publicity and the mass media. Educational programmes should be incorporated in these fields and particular emphasis should be placed on reevaluating domestic work, modifying the concept of it as exclusively women's work, and changing such cultural patterns as undermine the value of women. It should be borne in mind, however, that this involves redefining the roles of both sexes, not only of women, in view of their mutual social relationship.

49. The political will required to prepare strategies, formulate policies and implement measures should not be understood to be confined to the governments' technical and administrative teams. Such political will can have the necessary effectiveness only if the awareness, consensus, organization and active participation of the women in the focal groups in question are sought and obtained.

B. POSSIBLE ACTION PRIORITIES  
(item 4 of the agenda)

50. The Group of Government Experts was of the view that it would be the responsibility of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America to finalize the appraisal of the progress made in the application of the Regional Plan of Action and to draw up priorities for the action to be taken in the region in the coming years. In adopting this view it took into account the fact that both the appraisal and the priorities were to be drawn up at the present particularly important stage of international action, when the United Nations was engaged in defining guidelines and priorities for the international strategy which would be in force throughout the Third United Nations Development Decade and in preparing for the forthcoming World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; that the World Plan of Action established global priorities which would have to be fulfilled within a given period of time; and that the Regional Plan of Action did likewise with respect to specific sectors. Nevertheless, it was considered appropriate to recommend the adoption of the following measures:

(a) To reiterate the urgent need for governments, according to their own administrative systems of operation, to set up or strengthen administrative machinery in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Regional Plan of Action, placing special stress on the functions of information, co-ordination and communication;

(b) To urge governments which had not already done so to incorporate in their global and sectoral plans action designed to ensure the full integration of women into development;

(c) To recommend to governments that they should endeavour to define the priorities - national, regional and international - which they wished to see adopted specifically at the Second Regional Conference, including those relating to the activities of international bodies;

(d) To invite the international bodies to co-ordinate their requests for information from governments, and invite the governments to reply to such requests in a full and timely manner, particularly to the questionnaires which such bodies send them;

/(e) Request

(e) To request the secretariat, when convening the Second Regional Conference, to furnish the relevant documentation, which should include the report of the present meeting of the Group of Experts, the reports of the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, secretariat document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, a document containing all the comments and observations on the subject which member governments considered necessary and appropriate, and another document containing the observations of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. All this should be done without prejudice to the documentation which governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations might wish to contribute towards the subject matter of the Conference, in conformity with the appropriate provisions;

(f) To emphasize, finally, that since the Regional Conference was a permanent and regular body functioning within the framework of CEPAL, the results of its second session should serve two purposes: to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and define the action to be taken by the CEPAL system in that field in coming years, and to contribute to the preparatory activities for Latin America's participation in the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Group of Government Experts to Appraise the Implementation  
of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of  
Women into the Economic and Social Development  
of Latin America

Quito, Ecuador, 8 and 9 March 1979

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