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ECLA RESOLUTIONS
WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR CDCC



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

ECLA RESOLUTIONS
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The following ECLA Resolutions listed below have some direct implications for CDCC and its programme of activities are therefore brought to the attention of the Committee:

- (i) Resolution 440(XIX) - Technical and Economic Co-operation between the Countries of the Caribbean Area and the Other Countries of the Region;
- (ii) Resolution on Programme of Work and Calendar of Conferences of ECLA;
- (iii) Resolution on Change of Name of ECLA;
- (iv) Resolution on Activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC);
- (v) Resolution on New Programme of Work and Support for the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES);
- (vi) Resolution on Technical and Economic Co-operation Between the Countries of the Caribbean Area and the Other Countries of the Region;
- (vii) Resolutions on Admission of the British Virgin Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands to Associate Membership in ECLA.

The first and sixth resolutions deal with the same topic but the first resolution, 440(XIX), was adopted in 1981; the text outlines the activities prior to the twentieth session of ECLA. The latter resolution was passed at this most recent session of ECLA and requires follow-up action, some of which have been anticipated in the Programme of Work for the 1984-85 and 1986-87 bienniums.

(i) Resolution 440(XIX) - Technical and Economic Co-operation Between the Countries of the Caribbean Area and the Other Countries of the Region

This resolution was adopted by ECLA at the Nineteenth Session in 1981. The resolution, inter alia, urged member countries of the Commission to identify specific possibilities of technical and economic co-operation ... "with a view to developing new links of co-operation ... or strengthening those which already exists". It further requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Caribbean institutions "to prepare a short, medium, and long-term programme of work .. including undertaking of studies and projects to mobilize and strengthen technical and economic co-operation". The programme of work and studies were to be oriented towards identifying the main obstacles to greater areas of co-operation, the potential areas of complementarities and mechanisms to foster trade.

In accordance with this resolution a series of activities have been carried out which have been reported on previously.

At the Seventh Session delegations were informed that draft papers on technical and economic co-operation had been prepared by various ECLA subregional offices as follows:

(a) Economic Relations of Central American Countries and the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/G.1197), prepared by the ECLA Office in Mexico;

(b) Economic Relations of Colombia and Venezuela and the Caribbean, prepared by the ECLA Office in Colombia; and

(c) Economic Relations and Co-operation between Brazil and the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/BRAS/INT.9) prepared by the ECLA Office in Brazil.

In a subsequent exercise representatives of various subregional offices met in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to prepare a consolidated document entitled "Caribbean/Latin American Co-operation". (CLAC/WG/83/1). The document presents a brief outline of the characteristics of both groups of countries, the rationale for co-operation, as well as the constraints inhibiting such co-operation. It seeks to provide a compendium of technical and economic co-operation activities at the governmental and non-governmental levels as well as to outline possible subject areas for future action.

It will be recalled that the initial input by the ECLA Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain, a report entitled "Caribbean/Latin American Relations" (CEPAL/CARIB/82/16) was already circulated to governments in 1983. Since that report dealt comprehensively with the socio-political aspects of Caribbean/Latin America Relations (as well as other aspects) it was seen as a separate and complementary exercise and no attempt was made to include parts of it into the consolidated document mentioned above.

An Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts was convened from 1-2 February 1984 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to review the consolidated document and indicate those subject areas most appropriate to form the basis of a future work programme. The meeting was attended by nine CDCC countries and various intraregional bodies. In the Annex B to the report (E/CEPAL/CDCC/113) some preliminary proposals for action are included, based on extensive discussions at the meeting itself. A general consensus was reached as to the philosophy which should guide Latin America/Caribbean co-operation. It stressed that if co-operation between the two sets of developing countries was to have the special significance implied in South-South co-operation it would have to mean more than merely switching the same type of economic relations from the North to the South. The focus would need to be placed on development in its truest sense which implied optimizing the use of domestic resources. This objective could only be realized if partners in co-operation recognized the special needs and constraints of small developing island states. In this context it was repeatedly stated that for economic relations to be effective they would have to take due account of the framework of socio-political and cultural relations existing between the Caribbean and Latin America.

Industrial complementarity was proposed as one mechanism that would advance Caribbean countries from being purely producers of primary products and increase the proportion of value added retained in the region. In this regard bauxite processing provided a concrete example of what might be possible. Similar initiatives had been pursued

in the past and it was felt that benefits might be derived from a study of these attempts. Among the other conclusions of the meeting was the requirement for the broadest possible participation of all groups within the society including non-governmental groups, and especially the private sector.

A copy of the basic document "Caribbean/Latin America Co-operation" (E/CEPAL/Ses.20/G.29 - CLAC/WG.83/1) was circulated at the Twentieth Session of ECLA. A subsequent programme of work would need to be defined, suitable for implementation in the long, medium and short-terms, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution.

(ii) Resolution on Programme of Work and
Calendar of Conferences of ECLA

This resolution which approved the draft programme of work of the ECLA System for 1986-87, took note that the work programme of the CDCC, which was not included in the above-mentioned document, would be submitted for consideration and approval at the seventeenth session of the ECLA Committee of the Whole after being discussed at the CDCC eighth session.

The CDCC work programme for 1986-87 is listed as item 7 on the Draft Provisional Agenda (Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/G.114) and the seventeenth session of the Committee of the Whole is scheduled for 28 June at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Following endorsement of the Committee of the Whole the work programme will be submitted along with the ECLA work programme to the pertinent UN bodies for consideration.

(iii) Resolution on Change of Name of ECLA

This resolution noted the recommendation of the CDCC at its seventh session that the name of the Economic Commission for Latin America should be changed to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and recommended accordingly that the United Nations Economic and Social Council approve this new designation.

(iv) Resolution on Activities of the Caribbean
Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)

This resolution recalled previous resolutions 358(XVI), 372(XVII) and 399(XVIII) of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which endorsed the Constituent Declaration, functions, rules of procedure and work programme of the CDCC and the reports of the first through the sixth sessions of the Committee; endorsed the report of the seventh session of CDCC as well as the programme of work approved for the current biennium. The operative paragraphs requested the Executive Secretary of ECLA to seek the revision of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 in order to re-establish a separate programme for the ECLA Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean;

The resolution further requested the Executive Secretary "to accelerate efforts to seek and to channel funding and resources to the ECLA Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and also to accelerate the filling of vacant posts in that Office bearing in mind that several Caribbean countries are non-represented or under-represented on the staff of the United Nations".

The CDCC Secretariat is also requested to proceed with the implementation of the approved work programme for 1984-85, observing priorities set by the Committee.

(v) Resolution on New Programme of Work and Support
for the Latin American Institute for Economic
and Social Planning (ILPES)

This resolution recognized that ILPES is "of fundamental importance for strengthening the co-ordination of economic and social policies and strategies as instruments of development and co-operation among the countries of the region".

Among other things it requested the Executive Secretary of ECLA to approach the relevant bodies of the United Nations with a view to expanding the technical staff of ILPES paid for from the regular budget of the United Nations. It took note of the greater emphasis that would be given by ILPES to programmes for Central America and the Caribbean. It also took note of the recommendations of the Third Meeting of Caribbean Planning Experts (Port-of-Spain, 28 April-2 May 1983) and requested ILPES and governments of the Caribbean to ensure conditions such as to permit greater activity in the Caribbean subregion.

(vi) Resolution on Technical and Economic Co-operation
between the Countries of the Caribbean Area and
the other Countries of the Region

This resolution recalled ECLA resolution 440(XIX) of May 1981 dealing with the same subject and the activities which had resulted therefrom including the meeting held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 1-2 February 1984. The operative section requested the Executive Secretary of ECLA to prepare in co-operation with a number of institutions including CDCC Secretariat "specific projects which offer concrete possibilities for co-operation" and to report on implementation to the twenty-first session of ECLA.

It may be noted that activities on this subject are included in the programme of work for the 1986-87 period which is to be discussed at CDCC VIII.

(vii) Resolutions on Admission of British Virgin Islands
and U.S. Virgin Islands to Associate Membership
in ECLA

These resolutions recalled the terms of reference of the Commission, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixth session, and also recalled General Assembly resolutions 566(VI), 647(VII), 744(VIII) and 1539(XV) which recommended direct participation of non-self-governing territories in the work of the United Nations and invited the administering States to (...) "... propose them for participation in the work of the regional commissions ...".

The resolutions welcomed the applications of the administering states and admitted the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands as associate members of ECLA and also welcomed their participation in the work of the Commission.

CDCC member governments have already been informed that both the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands have applied for membership in CDCC. This subject is listed as Agenda Item 4 on the Draft Provisional Agenda (E/CEPAL/CDCC/114).

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