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ECLAC
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Meeting of the Group of Experts on the effects of Agenda 21 on
integrated water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean
organized by ECLAC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Santiago, Chile, 16-18 March 1994

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the members of the Group of Experts will elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The experts may adopt the provisional agenda in the form in which it has been presented or decide to change it as they consider appropriate. They must also establish the organization of work of the meeting. It is proposed that plenary sessions be held as well as working groups for considering agenda items 4, 5 and 6.

3. The situation in the countries of the region in relation to the challenges of water resources management posed in Agenda 21

In the plenary sessions, the experts will discuss the evaluation of the situation in the countries of the region in relation to the challenges related to water resources management posed in Agenda 21 and in the Dublin Statement. The secretariat will present a report evaluating the current situation of water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of studies on a selected group of countries.

- g) Impacts of climate change on water resources.

The Dublin Statement contains an action programme with similar recommendations.

On the basis of the proposals made both at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and at the International Conference on Water and the Environment, the experts may propose priority actions for creating appropriate institutional structure and legal instruments to enable the countries of the region to reach the goals set for the year 2000 in chapter 18 of Agenda 21.

6. Support programmes for government measures adopted at the regional level

In discussing this agenda item, the experts may put forward recommendations on ways of encouraging cooperation in:

- a) The introduction of regional mechanisms for the follow-up and evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the goals laid down in Agenda 21;
- b) The development and improvement of water resources management capacity to achieve integrated multisectoral management;
- c) The consideration of alternatives for addressing issues related to shared water resources.

Under this item, the experts may also discuss their views and recommendations on future studies by ECLAC, UNEP and other regional and international organizations involved in activities related to water resources in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the experts may consider other relevant matters within the scope and intent of the meeting.

8. Adoption of the report

The report to be adopted will reflect the opinions and recommendations of the expert group for submission to the Governments at the next ECLAC session.

4. Alternatives for establishing effective water use programmes and arriving at sustainable arrangements for the integrated management of water resources

In discussing this agenda item, the experts may draw up recommendations for Governments on action programmes for improving integrated management of water resources in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Special emphasis will be placed on activities launched to achieve the four main objectives established under programme A, "Integrated water resources development and management", which appears in chapter 18 of Agenda 21:

- a) To promote a dynamic, interactive, iterative and multisectoral approach to water resources management, including the identification and protection of potential sources of freshwater supply, that integrates technological, socio-economic, environmental and human health considerations;
- b) To plan for the sustainable and rational utilization, protection, conservation and management of water resources based on community needs and priorities within the framework of national economic development policy;
- c) To design, implement and evaluate projects and programmes that are both economically efficient and socially appropriate within clearly defined strategies, based on an approach of full public participation, including that of women, youth, indigenous people, local communities, in water management policy-making and decision-making;
- d) To identify and strengthen or develop, as required, in particular in developing countries, the appropriate institutional, legal and financial mechanisms to ensure that water policy and its implementation are a catalyst for sustainable social progress and economic growth.

5. National action programmes and the creation of appropriate institutional structures and legal instruments

In chapter 18 of Agenda 21, "Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources", seven programme areas are proposed to Governments:

- a) Integrated water resources development and management;
- b) Water resources assessment;
- c) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems;
- d) Drinking-water supply and sanitation;
- e) Water and sustainable urban development;
- f) Water for sustainable food production and rural development;