

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

## **BIENNIAL REPORT**

(28 April 1988 - 11 May 1990)

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1990**

## **SUPPLEMENT No. 14**



**UNITED NATIONS**

**Santiago, Chile, 1990**

514(XXIII) DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION  
TO THE YEAR 2000

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking account of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at its nineteenth session on support for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and on measures to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Decade in the region,

Deeply concerned by the severe repercussions of the crisis prevailing in the region since 1981, which has acted to the detriment of forms of economic and social development designed to benefit the whole population and has affected levels of investment in the drinking water supply and sanitation sector in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Conscious that the shortage of resources for the sector has reduced the expansion of services and the maintenance of existing systems, and that the effects of the reduction in resources have mainly been felt by the lower-income groups in both urban and rural areas,

Bearing in mind the declaration of the States of the Latin American region, made at the one-day special session of the United Nations General Assembly on 10 November 1980 to launch the Decade, to the effect that Latin America has as one of its priorities the achievement of the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Taking note of resolution WHA42.25 adopted by the World Health Assembly on the Decade in which the Assembly, inter alia, urges those member States which are not likely to meet the targets of the Decade to review the status of the sector, expand its development and adopt innovative approaches to the promotion and financing of water supply and sanitation systems,

Recognizing that it is urgently necessary to redouble such efforts in the majority of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean if sustainable economic and social development is to be achieved and maintained in the region,

1. Calls upon Governments to renew and strengthen their political commitment to reconsider and re-establish priorities for drinking water supply and sanitation projects and to establish universal targets for the year 2000;

2. Further calls upon Governments to seek adequate organization of the sector in the countries at the various national levels in order to obtain the most appropriate institutional infrastructure for the development of the sector, taking into

consideration decentralization policies and including the interrelationships that must be maintained with the other sectors and external co-operation;

3. Urges Governments to examine the situation of the institutions responsible for the sector in order to prepare them --through a process of institutional development that will integrate within one system the information, planning, financing, commercial, operational and maintenance, training and other necessary subsystems-- to discharge their functions effectively, efficiently and in a co-ordinated manner and to adapt themselves to the needs of the communities they serve, within their corresponding institutional framework; develop policies and financial systems that take into account the needs of the lower-income population in urban and rural areas, while at the same time ensuring the financial viability of the institutions so as to facilitate the development of adequate water supply and sanitation services for all; adopt policies for the development and application of appropriate technologies in order to reduce the cost of installations and of the operation and maintenance of services, thus freeing resources for use in expanding services, at lesser cost, to more people; develop and apply strategies to increase the overall participation of the community, including women, in the various phases of the development of water supply and sanitation services; seek to establish an effective linkage between primary health care and water supply and sanitation services; develop and institutionalize intersectoral co-operation and co-ordination among institutions in order to make programmes and actions more effective and mutually beneficial; strengthen external co-operation mechanisms in order to allow for more efficient and rapid use of the economic and technical resources offered by the external support agencies;

4. Urges Governments to establish international co-operation machinery to review the objectives, strategies and goals of the sector, maintaining up to the year 2000 the spirit that gave rise to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and taking steps to ensure that it is extended to participation in the forthcoming world conference on the Decade, to be held in New Delhi.

243rd meeting  
11 May 1990