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REPORT

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Note: The Summary of Debates adopted by the delegations at the last plenary meeting of the eighteenth session did not include an account of the statements made at it; this appears in paragraphs 548 to 563 of this report, and could not therefore be made available to the representatives. In keeping with established practice, any observations it is desired to make on the subject should be submitted within 30 days of the date of this report.

79-6-1451

392 (XVIII). MIGRATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR 30/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the problem of international migrations, especially of unskilled labour, is of growing importance in the region, and particularly in the small and relatively less developed countries, whose prospects of development it affects,

Recognizing that it is urgently necessary to confront this problem and seek ways of solving it,

Instructs the Executive Secretary of ECLA to study, in co-ordination with other bodies of the United Nations system, the interregional migration of unskilled labour between countries of the region. The study should indicate the principal economic and social causes of such migration, evaluate its effects and recommend measures to retain, reintegrate and increase the human resources of the countries of the region, especially those which are relatively less developed.

393 (XVIII). GUIDELINES FOR THE STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF
THE ECLA SYSTEM 30/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1947 (LVIII) of 7 May 1975, in which the Council requested the organizations and agencies of the United Nations to assist Member States in the planning and implementation of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme,

Also bearing in mind that in its resolution 2055 (LXII) of 5 May 1977, the Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the regional commissions and the appropriate United Nations specialized agencies, to provide all necessary support for this Programme in order to develop national capability for taking household surveys,

Considering, moreover, that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries 36/ establishes, inter alia, the objectives of promoting and strengthening collective self-reliance through exchanges of experience, the pooling, sharing and utilization of technical resources, and the development of complementary capacities,

Aware of the fundamental importance of access to timely statistics for an adequate review of the problems raised by the economic and social development process,

36/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLA:

- (a) To maintain an up-to-date broad regional framework of statistical data on the economic and social situation of the countries of the region, and for this purpose to set up and maintain an economic and social statistical data bank;
- (b) To promote and develop the application of appropriate methods of quantitative analysis for the investigation of the economic and social problems of the countries of the region;
- (c) To intensify efforts to develop and apply appropriate methods of measurement for obtaining comparable data on the social situation, income distribution, poverty, economic development and employment in the countries of the region;
- (d) To disseminate in a widespread and timely manner the statistical data collected and prepared by the ECLA secretariat, the results of the qualitative analyses and the measurements effected, and the methodologies used;
- (e) To help the countries to develop and increase their capacity for the timely production of economic and social statistics to facilitate the diagnosis of economic and social problems and contribute to orienting the development processes and for this purpose convene meetings of working groups on specific topics, with the participation of national experts;
- (f) To promote technical co-operation among the countries of the region, making use of the experience of those countries which have developed statistical methods and capacities;
- (g) To take part in international efforts to develop and improve statistics, and contribute to ensuring that the region's statistical needs are considered in international recommendations;
- (h) To collaborate with the countries of the region so that they can develop and consolidate national capability for taking household surveys, with a view to collecting demographic, social and economic statistics;
- (i) To co-operate with the countries of Latin America in the organization, execution and processing of the population and housing censuses which they are to conduct as part of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme;
- (j) To co-ordinate the efforts made by the secretariat in the field of statistical development with those of other regional and subregional agencies, particularly in the estimation of the real product in a common currency, the measurement of well-being and the formulation of regional statistical recommendations.