

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC



Distr.
GENERAL
LC/G.1766(Conf.82/8)
21 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT OF THE THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(Santiago, Chile, 23-25 November 1992)

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date

1. The Third Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 23 to 25 November 1992 in Santiago, Chile.

Attendance

2. Participating in the Conference were representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.
3. Attending as observers were representatives of the following States: Belgium, Germany, the Holy See, Iran, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.
4. The following United Nations bodies were represented: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
5. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented: the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
6. Also represented was the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Officers

7. The following officers were elected at the Conference:

Chairman:	Chile
Vice-chairmen:	Brazil
	Guatemala
	Jamaica
Rapporteur:	Mexico

Agenda

8. The following agenda was adopted for the Third Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. Assessment of poverty levels and characteristics and poverty reduction efforts
2. Policies to promote higher productivity among poor rural and urban groups in the region
3. Targeting of social policies to reduce poverty in the region.

Opening meeting

9. Speaking at the opening meeting were Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Mr. Fernando Zumbado, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP; and Mr. Sergio Molina, Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Chile.

10. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, after cordially welcoming the participants, said that poverty was one of the greatest challenges confronting all the countries of the region. The objective of the Conference, which had been convened by ECLAC in conjunction with the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation of Chile and UNDP, was to examine the diverse situations in the countries of the region with respect to poverty and to exchange ideas on how to eliminate or at least reduce it.

11. Poverty had been a central concern of ECLAC since its inception: in the 1950s, the Commission had drawn attention to the persistence of large areas of poverty alongside islands of modernity in the region; in the 1960s, it had stressed that the region's development style was still concentrative and exclusionary, and had made progress in understanding the connection between absolute and relative poverty; in the 1970s, the ECLAC secretariat had worked with UNDP in analysing critical poverty in the region; and in the 1980s, it had continued to gather, organize and interpret data on the magnitude and features of poverty and on income distribution. Thus, ECLAC knew much more about the poor—who they were, where they were and what their characteristics were—than ever before, and about what would be required to improve their situation.

12. The frame of reference for the secretariat's thinking on poverty was contained in the document Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity, which had been complemented by subsequent studies. That proposal, which had emerged from a collective process of analysis on the part of the secretariat and the countries of the region, was founded on a number of premises: i) that in order to conquer poverty and enhance social equity, it was necessary to change production patterns by basing economic growth on the deliberate and systematic absorption of technical progress, under environmentally sustainable conditions, with a view to progressively increasing productivity and creating more jobs; ii) that greater social equity, in turn, was a prerequisite for sustaining changes in production patterns over time because of the latter's systemic nature, which involved a vast network of linkages that influenced enterprises' degree of competitiveness; iii) that other reasons for giving equal priority to the objectives of social equity and economic growth were the high incidence of poverty and even of indigence, and notoriously inequitable distributive structures, since rapid and sustained growth rates did not necessarily lead to greater social equity; iv) that although account must be taken of the trade-offs between efficiency- and growth-oriented policies and those whose goal was greater well-being and more equitable income distribution, their potential complementarity must not be underestimated; v) that since growth and social

equity were the product of both economic and social policy, an integrated approach should be taken in which public policy as a whole supported both changes in production patterns and social equity; vi) that since marginalized groups took a long time to become incorporated into increasingly productive activities, complementary redistributive and transfer mechanisms were needed; vii) that coherent, sustained macroeconomic management was essential, but not sufficient, since it must be coupled with sectoral policies that encouraged the absorption of technical progress into production processes; viii) that economic strategies and policies must be designed and implemented in a democratic, participatory context in which a basic minimum of consensus was reached among the various sectors of society regarding policy content, scope and sequencing; ix) that social conflicts must be kept within limits that were manageable in a democratic system, through participation, deconcentration and decentralization of governance, as well as pluralistic, participatory political regimes; and x) that the style of State intervention must be redefined through the modernization of government to enable it to perform its functions effectively and efficiently. Lastly, he said that the development strategy proposed by ECLAC revolved around a number of key points, including innovation and technical progress, productive employment and investment in human resources.

13. The Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that, as reiterated in the Programme's latest Human Development Report, the distribution of income and opportunities was narrower in Latin America and the Caribbean than in any other developing region. Mechanisms for distributing the fruits of growth must therefore be modified through anti-poverty measures and the achievement of uninterrupted economic development.

14. The elimination of poverty was an ethical imperative, a political challenge and an economic necessity. The extraordinary degree of consensus among the region's Governments on economic matters had induced them to undertake reforms aimed at stabilizing their economies and initiating growth processes through which the latter could be incorporated into the world economy. It was important for economic reforms to facilitate the recovery of balanced distribution and the reduction of poverty, since those effects would give them the continuity they needed to ensure more equitable development in the medium and long terms.

15. The many approaches to that process that were currently recognized gave Governments a wide range of options and required them to be flexible; but the need for social reform to go hand in hand with economic reform and to seek similar objectives must not be ignored. In that context, while the State's efficiency must be enhanced, the reform of government machinery must not be used as a pretext for reducing social spending at all costs. Instead, the State's role, which was indispensable in some areas, should be redefined, as should the role of society, to keep decentralization policies from perpetuating the deficiencies of centralized administration and to begin the urgent process of transferring real power and responsibility to the populations of the countries of the region.

16. The Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Chile recalled that at the Second Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 1990, Chile had been designated as host country for the next Conference, and had therefore acted as secretariat pro tempore. In that capacity, it had been responsible for requesting information from the countries on recent assessments of poverty levels and characteristics and poverty reduction efforts, policies to promote higher productivity among poor rural and urban groups and targeting of social policies to reduce poverty. That information was contained in the working papers submitted to the participants.

17. Regarding the topic itself, he said that the scourge of poverty plagued nearly half the region's population and showed signs of increasing. Adjustment policies to reduce inflation, liberalize external trade and scale down the State through privatization had hurt the poorest groups and tended to create volatile conditions in the short term, which the State must control. Meanwhile, education coverage remained insufficient and of highly variable quality, and under- and unemployment were growing, especially among the young. The quality of life of the most vulnerable groups must be improved through carefully coordinated and targeted public policies; special attention should be given to children, female heads of household and the elderly.

18. Chile's notable growth in recent years had been accompanied by an intensification of poverty; in fact, the proportion of poor people had nearly doubled between the 1970s and 1990s, representing almost 40% of the country's population. That situation had prompted the current administration to seek the simultaneous achievement of growth and equity as its basic objective, and to launch activities to help the most vulnerable groups. He mentioned some of the most important programmes that were being carried out to improve the situation of children, young people, female heads of household and workers in micro-enterprises.

19. Lastly, with regard to the institutional framework needed to fight poverty, Chile had not created a hierarchy in the social sphere similar to that of political and economic authorities. In his view, an entity was needed to coordinate, monitor and evaluate policies, to formulate a coherent social programme and to propose the priorities to be taken into account in allocating resources.

Adoption of the report

20. The participants adopted the text entitled "Conclusions of the Rapporteur", which appears in part B of this report, and mandated the secretariat to produce the full report of the Conference, which was to include a summary of the debates.

Closing meeting

21. At the closing meeting, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, welcomed the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar.

22. The President of Chile addressed the participants. The text of his statement is reproduced below.

First, on behalf of myself and the Government of Chile, I would like to express our satisfaction that this Conference was held in our country, which had the honour of hosting a high-level meeting to analyse, on the basis of thorough documentation, a problem of such importance in the lives of our people.

Poverty is indeed the greatest challenge facing all countries, not only those in the developing world, and not only those in Latin America and the Caribbean, as humanity stands at the threshold of the third millennium of our era. At a time when scientific and technological progress have so enhanced humanity's capacity to exercise dominion over nature and to reap all of its potential benefits for mankind, it is truly scandalous, irrational and morally outrageous that so many millions of poor and extremely poor people are still found in a world which, at the same time, has reached

a level of abundance undreamt of in earlier times. There is a contrast, then, between humanity's demonstrated capacity for development, as witnessed by the high degree of development attained in many countries, and this phenomenon of poverty and extreme poverty that affects such a large percentage of the world's population. Poverty is not only morally unacceptable, but also an evident cause of social, economic and political instability; nations cannot be expected to live in peace, and order and tranquillity cannot be expected to reign, in a world where the opportunities and well-being enjoyed by some contrast so sharply with the misery of countless others. That is why I find it very positive and heartening that meetings such as this one are held, at which the Latin American and Caribbean Governments, in cooperation with ECLAC and UNDP, meet to exchange experiences and ideas on how to face this enormous challenge.

In that same spirit of awakening all of humanity to the significance of this problem and of seeking agreement not only among the countries of the developing world, but also with those of the developed and highly industrialized world, Chile has proposed to the United Nations—with the support of all those here present, as I understand, and of many other countries—that a world summit on social development be convened; the idea has already been accepted, and should be put into practice in 1995.

I think that the experience we are accumulating in our country in the fight against poverty could be a positive contribution to that event, and that concrete proposals should be encouraged so that the summit will yield the results which mankind has a right to expect today from a meeting of this nature.

I will not dwell on what the Government of Chile is doing in relation to this topic of such importance, in part because your analysis has already dealt with it, so that further discussion would be redundant, and in part because the Minister of Planning and Cooperation, Mr. Sergio Molina, described it in detail in his opening statement. I wish only to emphasize that to us, it is apparent that the fight against poverty requires the harmonization of two policies, an economic policy and a social policy, that must somehow be integrated into a whole.

Put more simply, without jargon and in the words of the common man, it is clear that poverty cannot be eliminated if there is no growth, if wealth does not increase; thus, in countries like ours—developing countries—, economic policies capable of generating growth on a stable basis are essential. If we do not increase per capita income in our countries, we will not have the resources needed to end poverty. Any merely redistributive or populist policy will spread poverty more evenly and reduce imbalances within countries, but will not solve the problem. To rise above poverty, we must grow, and to grow, we must have balanced economic policies solidly founded on the consideration of basic needs. Policies that disregard macroeconomic balances and lead, sooner or later, to outbursts of inflation which destroy all that has been achieved do not allow for sustained growth. In turn, growth does not suffice to overcome poverty; growth alone does not necessarily ensure that the most marginalized groups in society, who most often suffer from poverty or extreme poverty, will change their situation. Those who believe that growth leads in and of itself to the solution of this problem do not duly appreciate the inequality with which, owing to the pressure of various social actors, the fruits of progress and growth are distributed among the various strata of society.

People who live in indigence tend to remain indigent, however much their country may grow and whatever well-being may be enjoyed in other social classes. This is why, in our country, we

have spoken of a policy of growth with social equity, meaning that we add a social component—social equity, social justice—to the economic growth factor. This involves a series of policies on which I will not elaborate now, since you have been studying them and are more familiar with them than I, being specialists on the subject. There is a need for concrete policies in respect of which the State cannot be a mere observer. These policies cannot be expected to yield good results by virtue of the laws of the marketplace or private initiatives alone. As custodian of the common good, the State must design and implement policies not in isolation, but with the participation of all sectors and with real national and even international involvement.

I believe that in this effort, as noted earlier by Sergio Molina, it is very important to reach broad-based national consensus and to transcend political and partisan divisions, which are not only found in all democratic systems but are an inevitable manifestation of human freedom that allows different views, criteria and ideas to coexist in the same society. In dealing with a problem as important as poverty, these differences must not hinder the formulation of criteria backed up by some degree of consensus, of widespread acceptance that involves various social sectors.

The business sector's involvement is vital for ensuring the full effectiveness of these policies. For example, in the area of job training, which is a basic tool for conquering poverty, State policies alone, implemented through vocational education centres and the school system, probably will not yield optimal results unless the business sectors cooperate adequately, and unless theoretical concepts are combined with the practical experience gained by workers trained in the very enterprises that may employ them in the future.

In addition to this political and social consensus—this involvement of all or most political sectors, social actors, workers and businessmen—I believe, as Sergio Molina indicated, that the State should operate through the most efficient mechanisms possible. Goodwill is not enough; the establishment of services to help the poor rise above poverty is not enough; the granting of subsidies is not enough. To achieve real results, actions must be efficient, meaning that Governments must undertake the necessary administrative reforms to maximize the State's efficiency.

In my view, one of the challenges facing the countries of the developing world today, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, is that of scaling down the State while at the same time streamlining it and giving public service personnel the capacity, stimulus and motivation they need to accomplish their work with the necessary efficiency.

I wish to end these brief remarks by expressing my gratitude for the contribution which each of the countries here represented has made to this meeting and to this common task, in view of its importance for the destiny of our continent. I am convinced that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are beginning a new phase in their political and economic life and their historic development that offers bright prospects. This phase is marked by the consolidation of democratic political systems; by the conviction, based on experience, that miracles cannot be expected of either populist policies or authoritarian experiments, and that by instituting our political systems along lines compatible with freedom and broader participation, we can move towards progress. All the countries of our continent are endowed with natural resources which, judiciously used, can help us achieve growth levels compatible with current realities and the needs of our people. Our societies' willingness to seek national consensus or agreements to implement realistic, effective

policies, and cooperation between countries, in which the experiences of each are placed at the service of all the others, lead us to believe that we can look to the future with hope and optimism.

The development of the communications media has led to a growing recognition among groups who are victims of poverty and extreme poverty that if they wish to change their situation, they cannot simply be passive beneficiaries, but must participate actively in the process of dignifying and improving their living conditions.

As you know, I recently visited a number of Asian countries, where I was extraordinarily impressed by the dynamism with which that region's economies are growing. I feel that America must not lag behind, that the Latin American and Caribbean countries have the necessary conditions for giving our development similar dynamism and that, by making a concerted effort and sharing experiences as you have done at this Conference, we will move forward in this difficult task of eliminating poverty. I am confident that in the course of the 1990s, our countries will be able, by helping each other, to take a decisive step towards ending poverty once and for all.

B. CONCLUSIONS OF THE RAPPORTEUR

23. The conclusions of the Rapporteur, which are reproduced below, were adopted by the delegations participating in the Conference.

In the early 1990s, nearly 200 million Latin Americans were unable to meet their basic needs. Information provided by the ECLAC secretariat confirmed that poverty continued to increase in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The serious repercussions of necessary macroeconomic adjustments —often coupled with an adverse international environment— in the social sphere had become evident. The lowest-income groups had borne the brunt of those effects, which were still being felt in some countries, but middle- and low-income groups which had made their way out of poverty during the postwar period had also been affected.

In the least developed countries, the long-standing, severe structural poverty that predominated mainly in rural zones had been compounded by worsening urban poverty; as a result, the magnitude of the phenomenon had increased to the point of generating serious political conflicts and significant migration.

More affluent countries, whose social and physical household infrastructure was far superior, had witnessed a steep decline in household income levels, especially in urban areas, which had given rise to a new type of poverty. Even wage-earners in the public and formal private sectors were being affected.

Currently, there was greater awareness that such a situation could have negative implications for the continuity of resumed economic growth, social cohesiveness, the formation of political consensus, and even the stability of democracy itself. In that regard, mention was made of the need to promote the unrestricted movement of merchandise, which would contribute to the fight against poverty by improving the countries' economies.

In those circumstances, Governments should (and in some cases did) attach top priority to the reduction of poverty through the coordinated promotion of economic and social development, contrary to the approach taken in the 1980s, when independently managed economic policies had deferred social objectives. The distributive effects of growth could thereby be improved and the costs of any future adjustment processes could be distributed more equitably among the different social strata.

Under that combined strategy, economic policy was in charge of expanding productive employment and raising the wage and income levels of the poor. Social policy also played a decisive role in the poverty reduction effort, for which the public sector bore primary responsibility. In order to maximize the impact of social policy, efforts were currently being made to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its management, to restore and then increase per capita levels of public social expenditure and to encourage greater participation by the poor population in social programmes. Fortunately, in recent years most countries had managed to reverse the downturn in social spending observed in the 1980s, aided by the recovery of economic growth and, in some cases, by tax reforms or reorganizations that had made it possible to raise government revenues without creating budgetary imbalances.

Notable among the many initiatives launched by Governments was the strengthening of sectoral policies and programmes in fields such as education, health, and housing and basic infrastructure. Participants shared some successful experiences in those areas, and discussed some of the obstacles those policies had encountered in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In particular, they examined the new orientations of educational policies and programmes; stress continued to be placed on broadening primary and preschool coverage, but concrete initiatives targeting young people, especially young women in rural areas, were also being taken. Concern was expressed about improving education and gearing it to the requirements of the labour market, to facilitate access to the kinds of jobs on which the enhancement of the international competitiveness of the region's economies depended.

In the field of health, most of the representatives said that priority was being given to primary care and to the expansion of vaccination and maternal and child care programmes, which in some cases had achieved notable success in reducing mortality and malnutrition among children and young people. Some of the experiences described in that area illustrated the advantages of linking the monitoring of maternal and child health with nutritional programmes, such as those involving the distribution of milk and other food supplements to nursing mothers and unweaned infants, which had proved effective in reducing the risk of malnutrition and infant mortality.

With respect to housing and basic infrastructure policies, some countries had introduced subsidy systems to finance low-cost housing; in designing those systems, they had drawn upon the experiences of other countries of the region. Efforts also continued to be concentrated on large-scale investment programmes to provide the population with drinking water, sanitation systems and electricity. It was important, in that area, to channel resources to projects that benefited entire communities, such as neighbourhood infrastructure, road paving and improvement of the environment, since such actions could substantially enhance the population's quality of life.

Some of the difficulties encountered in connection with those types of policies or programmes stemmed from the very institutional framework for policy decisions and

implementation; those problems included a shortage of resources, inefficiency resulting from the duplication of work by various government agencies, impediments to improving management quality, technical limitations on efforts to monitor their execution and assess their outputs, and an insufficient level of participation by target groups.

Poverty reduction policies were increasingly being focused on the most vulnerable groups, whose identification was one of the tasks required in order to target social expenditure. Among those groups, particular emphasis was placed on young people living under difficult conditions, female heads of household, poorly educated and unemployed youth, and poor members of the economically inactive population who lacked social security coverage. Mention was made in that regard of initiatives and programmes designed to achieve a number of mutually complementary objectives simultaneously. Examples included provisions for expanding the coverage of day care facilities and for keeping health care facilities open longer, complementary feeding programmes in schools, and monetary subsidies for older people not covered by any pension system.

The participants discussed numerous successful experiments that had met their objective of boosting the productivity of poor people who worked in micro-enterprises or were self-employed by giving them greater access to land, water, training, credit and other resources. A decisive factor in the success of those efforts had been the consideration of the projects' economic viability during the design stage; when the approach taken was based entirely on welfare-oriented criteria, the results were short-lived.

However, the importance of such projects should not be allowed to obscure the fact that their scope was limited, since the target groups that were reasonably likely to take an active part in the modern economy represented only a small percentage of the working poor.

Through domestic financial initiatives and international cooperation, most of the countries had established social investment funds and given them responsibility for implementing some of the above-mentioned programmes for vulnerable groups. The funds' establishment and functioning had not been problem-free, but had been plagued by jurisdictional disputes with local authorities, the potential beneficiaries' insufficient technical capacity to prepare projects, and the difficulties involved in granting repayable loans and defining guidelines for setting interest rates. None the less, most of those funds were functioning, in many cases with encouraging results.

The general thrust of the countries' approaches to the conception, design and implementation of poverty reduction policies reflected a growing consensus on the need to target the poorest sectors in order to serve them on a priority basis; to use resources more efficiently so that increased demands could be met even though funds were limited; to move towards the decentralization of institutions and activities; and to encourage the target population to participate. In that connection, importance was attached to poor people's social organization, an area in which non-governmental organizations could play a significant role.

Given the wide diversity of types of poor people and dimensions of poverty, a multiplicity of institutions, policies and programmes, each with its own goals and resources, was needed to attack poverty from various angles. However, all of those institutions and programmes must have a sense of teamwork in order to give a clear direction to all anti-poverty activities. Selectivity of action, institutional coordination and programming were basic and mutually compatible criteria. By organizing activities to combat poverty, coordination would not only increase their impact, but

would also make it possible to present and defend them more effectively before the government authorities that determined priorities for public action. Various countries of the region had already established social cabinets, social fronts or ministries of social development to coordinate activities in that field, and it was very important that the idea of creating clearly defined social authorities should be consolidated and extended throughout the region.

It was proposed that an intergovernmental information network on anti-poverty social policies should be established, since the scope and complexity of those policies had created a need to organize the exchange of the experiences and information being accumulated. The network would also permit an advisory system to be created, to provide assistance in solving the problems that often arose when social policies were put into practice.

Emphasis was also placed on the need for national information systems to orient the execution of the policies formulated. Those systems should provide for nationwide surveys (which had already been done in several countries) to determine the location and features of the poor and to evaluate the results of policies. Those data should be complemented by detailed information on a significant percentage of poor families, which was essential for the allocation of monetary and other benefits. In that connection, the secretariat was asked to continue to cooperate with the countries in researching the quantitative aspects of the topic, and to provide advisory services to Governments in that regard.

Finally, the government representatives expressed their satisfaction with the organization and work methods of the Third Regional Conference on Poverty, especially with the fact that the discussion had centred on certain specified topics: an analysis of changes in poverty in the last few years, an exchange of the Governments' experiences with poverty reduction activities, and, in particular, targeting and raising the productivity of the poor.

They agreed that that method of organization and work should be maintained in the future, and that the role assigned to ECLAC by common accord of the Governments should therefore be strengthened so that the Commission could act effectively as technical secretariat, as it did in other areas in which it organized intergovernmental meetings. They therefore committed themselves to supporting the Commission's efforts to obtain the resources needed to carry out the mandates of the Third Regional Conference on Poverty.

They pointed out the need to coordinate the various anti-poverty actions of intergovernmental agencies, both regional and international, to maintain the continuity of regional cooperation, avoid duplication of effort and take full advantage of available resources, in the framework of national strategies to fight poverty. In that regard, they considered the Regional Conference on Poverty, which would continue to be held biennially, an excellent forum for that kind of coordination.

The Governments agreed that between conferences, technical working meetings with more specific agendas were needed at the subregional or regional level to increase the intensity and effectiveness of the exchange of experiences. The technical secretariat would have to organize those meetings, in so far as it had the necessary additional resources.

The participating Governments welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to host the Fourth Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean and to coordinate its organization with the technical secretariat.

C. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

24. The Director of the ECLAC Statistics and Projections Division presented some of the conclusions of the study "Latin American poverty profiles for the early 1990s" (LC/L.716(Conf.82/6)). First, he stressed the increase in the magnitude and heterogeneity of poverty in most countries of the region. Countries in which only a small percentage of the population had been poor in the 1970s currently faced the problem of households with both insufficient access to adequate physical infrastructure and marked shortages in income. The spread and greater heterogeneity of poverty had increased the need for a broad spectrum of policies, which put pressure on the institutional system.

25. Second, he presented the poverty profiles elaborated by the secretariat. Among the many features of poverty described therein, he emphasized the link between employment and poverty. In the nine countries studied, which were predominantly urban, 70% of the urban working population consisted of wage-earners and between 40% and 50% were employed in the public sector or in private enterprises with more than five employees. A sizeable proportion of wage-earners, in both micro-enterprises and the more structured sector, lived in poverty. Thus, although policies had been implemented for self-employed workers, there was a vast contingent of poor people whose fate fundamentally depended on the level of their wages. According to the development modality being pursued in Latin America, that factor hinged mainly on economic growth.

26. Lastly, he pointed to the correlations between the population's levels of education and its access to jobs and income. Statistics showed that in general, access to the most productive jobs depended on the level of education; but since such jobs represented no more than 50% of the total, they could not guarantee income levels that would significantly reduce the probability of poverty.

27. The Director of the ECLAC Social Development Division said that, pursuant to the mandate issued at the Second Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, the secretariat had sent a survey to the Governments of the region to evaluate the progress made in reducing poverty over the last two years. Fifteen Governments had replied to the survey, and two others had sent reference material. The secretariat had then prepared and distributed the document "Anti-poverty activities of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean" (LC/L.713 (Conf.82/5)), which summarized the main points of the replies. In general, the qualitative information received had been very valuable, but the fact that the quantitative information was outdated had made it difficult to evaluate a phenomenon for which no current statistics were available.

28. The replies noted that one of the main trends in social policies had been the growing importance which Governments attached to the issue of poverty. In the early 1980s, public policy had focused on correcting the macroeconomic imbalances caused by the external debt crisis. The issue of poverty had not been ignored, but the Governments had trusted that the balancing of monetary, fiscal and balance-of-payments accounts, together with structural adjustment, would make it possible to recover economic growth and, in turn, to eradicate poverty in a reasonable length of time. By the early 1990s, that optimistic view had begun to change for a number of reasons: on the one hand, the adverse social effects of the crisis and of the policies implemented to deal with it were evident, and on the other, the formidable obstacles to poverty reduction, even in countries with high rates of economic growth, were plainly apparent. In addition, the negative consequences of worsening social problems became more obvious by the day; poverty could ultimately undermine the very foundations of economic development, political democracy and social integration.

29. A second trend evidenced by the survey replies was the growing recognition, reflected in public policies, that the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction was not what it had seemed: economic growth could not reduce poverty in and of itself, but only if it was given a social bias to increase its impact on poverty, *inter alia* by boosting productive employment and improving income distribution.

30. A third trend in public policy revealed by the replies was the growing importance attached to the State's role in anti-poverty efforts. In the 1980s, the vast majority of the region's Governments had begun to assign a more prominent role to private initiatives and market forces, while at the same time scaling down State action. The private sector and the marketplace could —and must— make an important contribution to reducing poverty, but the State remained primarily responsible for that task. That view was probably influenced by the growing recognition of the marketplace's inability to meet needs in terms of health and education, and by the fact that large-scale privatization of social services tended to result in inadequate attention to low-income strata —i.e., the poor. Thus, it was expected that in the 1990s, the State's regulatory and financial role in the social sphere would be consolidated.

31. Lastly, he highlighted the Governments' widespread acknowledgement of the need to continue to broaden poor people's participation in social programmes.

32. The representative of Costa Rica said that her country had made significant progress in its fight against poverty since the Quito Conference of 1992. It had recognized the defects of the existing development model and the fact that economic reform, though necessary, was insufficient in itself to ensure equitable growth. After the crisis of the 1980s, new strategies had been sought with a view to setting up social policies to guarantee human development. Initially, they had consisted mainly of programmes to mitigate the effects of the crisis and of the necessary structural adjustment. Later, new dimensions had been added to those efforts: first, State reform, which involved the restructuring of government machinery to avoid excessive bureaucracy, make better use of resources, enhance the effectiveness of State management and free up resources for use in the social sphere; and second, changes in the productive structure. In her view, the key issue was not the social cost of reform and economic adjustment, but rather the social cost of not making such changes before it was too late.

33. Regarding specific actions in the social sphere, she mentioned the establishment of an information system or master record of target groups to ensure a selective rationale for social spending, and a social investment survey to determine the characteristics of the Costa Rican population and the impact and coverage of social programmes. The United Nations provided support for the compilation of data, which Costa Rica planned to update every two years. Other achievements included the formulation of a policy on children and juveniles, with the participation of non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Efforts had tended to retain and complement existing social programmes, with the aim of consolidating the country's social action and the institutions in charge of putting it into practice.

34. The search for a social policy centred more on human development and less on compensatory action had given rise to new challenges, such as changing the tax system, establishing redistributive mechanisms, creating productive employment and increasing the number of business owners; that last challenge was being met through the country's so-called "economic democratization", which consisted of privatizing enterprises by offering them to social organizations, such as trade unions.

35. The representative of Mexico said that the fight against poverty was currently a national priority in most countries, even in the developed world. His country had instituted the National Solidarity

Programme four years earlier to improve levels of well-being among the majority of Mexicans, and had given a new direction to State social policy, for which purpose the new Ministry of Social Development had been established. The dramatic economic and political changes that had taken place in Mexico had been based on the direct participation and support of the citizenry, as fundamental social actors.

36. Trade liberalization and the search for new markets had led to economic progress, but Mexico had not opted for a liberalism subject only to market forces, but rather a social liberalism that sought a better standard of living for all and less inequality in the distribution of wealth. That social liberalism fostered citizen participation, especially on the part of the most disadvantaged, in defining priorities and programmes at the national, regional and municipal levels. The basic idea was that economic concerns were inseparable from social ones, since economic progress was meaningless without improvement in the population's quality of life and broadened citizen participation in solving national problems. One proof of the Mexican Government's social commitment was the increase in the Federal Government's budget for the National Solidarity Programme, which had a sound financial foundation and a sustained and notable growth rate. Between 1989 and 1992, that budget had nearly quadrupled, and currently represented 1% of the country's gross domestic product. Under the Programme, urban and rural communities participated directly in repairing hospitals, paving roads and laying water, drainage and electricity networks. The organized community contributed what it had: construction materials, manpower, economic cooperation, organization and enthusiasm. The Programme supplied social expenditure, which translated into urban and rural infrastructure and public works that yielded ongoing benefits.

37. The Mexican Government was aware that urban, education and health services were insufficient to eliminate poverty. The poor must have clear employment and income alternatives and opportunities in order to escape poverty effectively and permanently. Therefore, once the "social baseline" or minimum level of well-being had been achieved through the organized communities, new projects were implemented, based once again on citizen initiative, to introduce productive activities. The country had set up production support funds that granted credit "on faith" to rural producers for primary activities. In addition, the National Solidarity Programme supported viable, profitable production projects of social groups living in poverty, to strengthen their economic independence through the formation of enterprises that would guarantee them and their families a better standard of living. Mexicans saw the challenge of eliminating poverty not as a generous concession to the poor, but as an inevitable obligation that Governments could not shirk. Many countries were implementing very similar programmes, and the current meeting in Santiago was encouraging because it offered a good opportunity for achieving greater integration and determining whether programmes that had been successful in one country could be applied in others.

38. The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke of her country's difficult situation in the last decade, in which it had undergone three adjustment processes and recorded zero growth. The lack of resources had forced the Government to concentrate on identifying specific groups in need of support and determining how to reach them.

39. The country's capacity for social action depended on government income and expenditure and on the tax burden, which was very slight. In terms of total public expenditure, the country was running a deficit and had fallen into debt, but the traditional percentage devoted to social spending had been maintained. In 1991 a new adjustment had been made, that time in conjunction with a crisis in public services, which had prompted the Government to seek a solidarity pact based on agreement between employers and workers, with the Church as mediator. The objective had been to identify vulnerable

groups in the most socially disadvantaged areas and to define programme guidelines to ensure that actions were both targeted and sectoral. Among the priorities agreed upon were basic education, primary health care and housing, the last of which had not previously been given enough attention in the Dominican Republic.

40. She drew attention to the lack of management capacity in the social sectors, which generally confined themselves to requesting resources, while remaining unaware of their own priority needs. Among other necessary mechanisms, she mentioned the establishment of social funds, which, however, were often administered inefficiently. Social-sector institutions must therefore be strengthened to tackle the problem of poverty, and officials must look beyond government ministries and work more closely with the community, as in the case of Mexico. She ended by emphasizing problems in the use of social statistics —such as the importance attached to figures on informal-sector employment, when more poor people were currently wage-earners— and the inapplicability of specific solutions owing to the lack of information on where poor groups were found.

41. The representative of Guatemala said that over 75% of all families in that country lived in poverty, most of them in rural areas. To fight that scourge, it was necessary to create four general conditions: to establish a firm and lasting domestic peace; to consolidate democracy with a participating, organized citizenry; to achieve economic growth with social equity; and to rationalize public administration to make it more agile, efficient and modern.

42. The basic pillar of anti-poverty policies was the development of human resources, based on education. For that purpose, an institutional framework headed by a social cabinet had been set up, and a national poverty reduction programme had been launched, with a nationwide network of social institutions related to projects on the subject and with a specific budget for activities in that field. In addition, efforts had been made to promote effective citizen participation, and external cooperation had been organized under specific programmes. The next step was to define a specific national policy for government action, with emphasis on education, health, food and nutrition, housing and sanitation, and to form a national team of administrators for the cycle of projects on the topic in the areas of employment, wages and prices, and the social advancement of women and children.

43. Lastly, the representative suggested that a possible draft resolution should stress the need to i) emphasize the importance of the social sector and of strengthening Governments' capacity to fight poverty; ii) unite the efforts and approaches of various anti-poverty programmes; and iii) exchange and learn from the experiences of the countries of the region in that area.

44. The representative of Panama said that although serious social problems were still apparent in her country, poverty had shown signs of declining. That result was attributable *inter alia* to the social and economic infrastructure projects carried out by the Social Emergency Fund, mostly in the last two years; the Programme of Economic Development and Modernization, which served as a framework for new economic policies and a mechanism for the creation of a system that would offer more equitable opportunities; the National Poverty Reduction Strategy; and the Plan of Action for Human, Child and Youth Development, which gave priority to the most vulnerable groups.

45. She summarized the programmes being carried out in all of the areas defined as deficient. In general, Panama recognized the need to restructure and strengthen institutions which, owing to their nature and objectives, were most concerned with serving the most disadvantaged groups. In that connection, a liaison office had been established to link the Government with non-governmental

organizations in order to coordinate activities targeting those groups, and measures were being taken to develop an information system through which the population's social situation and the achievement of established goals could be evaluated on a continuing basis.

46. The Panamanian Government's political will to adopt concrete measures to raise the population's standard of living was reflected in its allocation of budgetary resources to social programmes and projects in general and in the implementation of activities targeting the poorest groups. In fact, 42% of all public investments in 1992 had been used to address the country's social problems, compared to about 20% in the preceding two years. In any case, there was a need for more agile and efficient mechanisms to ensure that a higher proportion of social investment reached the most vulnerable groups, and for greater cooperation with countries that had had similar experiences, so that activities of proven effectiveness would be carried out and mistakes would not be repeated.

47. The representative of Peru said that poverty affected over half of her country's population and had been worsened by the recent bout of hyperinflation, illiteracy, poor health conditions, lack of education and the insufficiency of basic services. Those problems had been compounded by the application of ineffective anti-poverty policies and the allocation of social spending which, though sufficient in terms of its amount, was inappropriately used. Rural poverty, which was more widespread and chronic, must be distinguished from urban poverty, which was more limited and recent.

48. To remedy that distressing situation, the country had initially established a social emergency programme under which external resources for meeting needs in the areas of food and health were channelled through grass-roots organizations. Subsequently, a more permanent social compensation fund had been set up and put in charge of administering, among other things, a national food assistance programme for marginalized urban sectors. The institutional framework included a Ministry for the Presidency, to which the Ministry of Social Development reported. With respect to the country's plans for the future, its poverty alleviation strategy for 1992-1995 was based on an economic recovery that would promote employment, improved efficiency, the targeting of social spending, better coordination with the community and a broader role for grass-roots and community organizations.

49. The representative of Venezuela gave a brief summary of his country's economic evolution since the mid-1970s, noting that the population's living conditions had deteriorated steadily and that poverty, in particular, had worsened during that time. The country had launched a structural adjustment programme in 1988 to correct serious imbalances, and a development strategy in 1989 that included compensatory programmes, for the first time in the country's history.

50. Various problems hindered the implementation of social policies, including resistance to political changes in some areas, especially taxation; the population's low level of participation in the execution of social programmes; the scarcity of private investment; technical limitations that hampered proper evaluation of social programmes; and lack of institutional linkage in the social sphere. Despite those problems, the Venezuelan Government intended to continue to implement compensatory programmes, to give priority to community economic organizations and to begin a thorough reform of social services, which needed strengthening in terms of both coverage and quality.

51. One of the most important tasks in the coming years would be the definition of the State's functions, which should not be confined to the provision of services. The new structure should empower the State to oversee the quality of services and the satisfaction of social needs in general, through appropriate coordination.

52. The representative of Argentina said that the poverty of the 1980s, which was still an unsolved problem, had been unprecedented in his country's history. Although poor people had always been found in Argentina, their numbers had greatly increased, their characteristics were different from those of the needy who suffered from structural poverty, and their geographical concentration had changed, so that income distribution was currently marked by "pockets of wealth". Among the direct causes of that situation were the application of deficient, incomplete adjustment plans and the lack of institutional stability. He cited some indicators dating from 1989, which showed that 31% of Argentine households lived below the poverty line, the average growth rate was -2% a year, the real wage index was 20% lower than in 1970 and the social expenditure planned for 1992 amounted to about 25% of all public spending, which represented a decrease in absolute terms.

53. Although the heterogeneous behaviour of social indicators made it difficult to compose a general overview, it appeared that poverty had worsened, even though Argentina was considered a rich country with a sizeable middle class. That situation had arisen because of the economic context of global recession, the inadequacy of the traditional model of industrialization, and high rates of inflation and indebtedness. The Government had thus been forced to undertake a drastic structural adjustment, with the consequent reduction of social spending, increase in resources earmarked for debt payments, abandonment of welfare-oriented policies and deconcentration and decentralization of the entities that provided social services, *inter alia* through their transfer to municipalities. Initially at least, the adjustment's goals had determined an accentuation of the social, economic and cultural aspects of poverty, and the social policies implemented had been marked by isolation, lack of coordination and, in general, inefficiency and strong dependence on external financing.

54. The specific measures adopted in the social sphere included maternal and child health programmes and a micro-enterprise programme based on a subregional agreement with Paraguay and Uruguay.

55. He concluded by expressing the hope that the participants, rather than setting objectives that had rarely been attainable, would seek ways of solving specific poverty-related problems and exchange information on experiences that could apply to other countries.

56. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that it had been recognized that most of the poor were children and most children were poor. The feminization of poverty was another phenomenon of growing concern. Therefore, poverty eradication programmes should target children and women. Only by ensuring children's comprehensive development could countries hope to achieve their common objective of social equity. No investment yielded greater returns than an investment in children, though it bore fruit only in the long term. With respect to children's comprehensive development, she stressed investment in the education of girls, which had proved especially advantageous because, in the long term, it resulted in smaller families and guaranteed a more egalitarian use of family income in meeting basic needs.

57. The watchword for the 1980s had been adjustment with a human face; in the 1990s, it must be development with a human face. As noted previously at the meeting, economic development was inseparable from social development. At the dawn of the 1990s, a meeting of heads of State had been held in New York to discuss the problems of children. It had been agreed at that summit meeting that political will and mass mobilization were preconditions for solving the problems children faced. Since it was also important to have clear, shared goals, concrete objectives had been set at the World Summit for Children, including reduction of infant and maternal mortality, increased access to drinking water and sanitation, reduction of illiteracy, universal access to basic education and protection of children in especially difficult

circumstances. Anti-poverty policies should seek those goals as well. In addition, she emphasized the ethical platform mentioned previously in relation to human development, which involved the inclusion of children and women in the countries' political, economic and social programmes.

58. The representative of Paraguay said that the political context for his country's social problems involved the conclusion of an authoritarian regime, which had determined changes in citizen behaviour, social indicators, forms of participation and expectations. The process of transition to democracy, reflected in a series of democratic elections, had shed more light on social problems, yielded more transparent information on the country's social situation and accumulated social debt, and prompted reform of government machinery with a view to its regionalization and decentralization.

59. Although the current circumstances were marked by a difficult adjustment process and slow growth (1.5% a year, compared to a 3.1% increase in population), the Government intended to set up a new, more equitable economic and social order that would guarantee the free play of economic agents. Growth was considered the answer to social problems, and his country's Government sought to achieve it by strengthening production, creating jobs and controlling inflation, until sustained development with social justice had been attained.

60. Paraguay agreed on the desirability of a centre that would generate updated information and promote horizontal cooperation in the social sphere; that role could be played by the ECLAC Social Development Division. Currently, Paraguay faced the problems of insufficient financial, human and methodological resources and qualitative and quantitative deficiencies in the statistics needed for baseline studies and for monitoring and evaluating the economic and social impact of its actions. Those actions included agrarian and education reform; programmes to supply drinking water, housing and children's services (the last with support from UNICEF); establishment of a health fund under a project of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO); and a successful human development programme carried out by the Ministry of Finance.

61. Lastly, some obstacles to the decentralization of government administration and services, which was a requirement for citizen participation, were the passivity of the target groups and their lack of organization to carry out self-managed activities. In the fight against poverty, the processes of administrative restructuring and modernization of the State were essential.

62. The representative of the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said that for the last four years, his institution had been working on the topic of payment of the social debt in Latin America and the Caribbean, which could also be called the topic of macro-social imbalances to avoid the internal friction which the first term had caused in some countries. All of the research conducted demonstrated that adjustment processes had been paid for by the poorest sectors of the population. The studies had found that the basic mechanisms operative in the adjustment process were the labour market and social spending policies. The high social cost of adjustment had fallen to the most vulnerable sectors, not only the poor but also the middle classes. As its contribution to the meeting, PREALC would present a methodology for determining which sectors had paid the social cost of adjustment and which groups had been most severely affected. It was important to examine the policies implemented by the countries, none of which had been spared the costs of adjustment; however, some had been more successful than others in reducing those costs, including Chile, Costa Rica and Colombia. One mechanism that could help reduce macro-social imbalances was an active minimum-wage policy, which had proved very effective in reducing poverty.

63. With respect to economic recovery in the export sector, job creation was not enough; those jobs must have a certain level of remuneration and productivity, since a country could not compete internationally without trained human resources that assured an adequate level of productivity and competitiveness. Social expenditure was a variable that should be analysed more carefully at the macroeconomic level, since the poorest sectors were heavily dependent on it. He cited the amounts which various countries allocated to per capita social expenditure and, on that basis, proposed that a social expenditure floor of US\$300 per person should be established in future strategies.

64. The representative of Ecuador explained that since a new presidential administration had just begun in her country, she would merely describe the future plans of her Government. The main thrust of future anti-poverty activities would be to harmonize the views and efforts of the various social and economic ministries, which had already adopted important provisions that had begun to yield results in the poorest sectors and even in the middle class. On the social front, emergency compensatory measures were being implemented, but in coordination with citizen participation, which was an important and innovative component. In addition, the State was being modernized and decentralized to ensure more rational use of resources. All of those activities were carried out with the participation of municipalities and social organizations. A privatization strategy had been put into practice, as had a short-term development plan devoted to only a few high-priority areas that would be intensively addressed, under the National Development Council (CONADE) of the Ministry of Planning and other entities dealing with social development. Another measure would be the establishment of a single social fund to replace the many that currently operated with little efficiency. The Government allocated funds in response to demands, since its aim was not to institute vertical, State-run projects of short-term support, but rather to provide ongoing, targeted assistance.

65. The representative of El Salvador briefly summarized the consequences of the political, economic and social crisis of the 1980s in his country, such as macroeconomic imbalances, destruction of productive resources, mass migration and exacerbation of poverty. The Government was dealing with that situation through its Economic and Social Development Plan and a process of adjustment and stabilization, which had considerably improved the state of things, especially in the economic sphere. He noted the participation of the community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in compensatory social policies to alleviate poverty, and the organization of open discussions as a forum for the expression of needs. Among the objectives of those strategies were an increase in social investment and in the supply of basic goods and services for the poor.

66. The main achievements in the social sphere to date had been the creation of more jobs, the construction of physical infrastructure, the implementation of feeding and training programmes for young people, the establishment of communal banks and community homes for mothers and the institution of credits for housing and micro-enterprises. In addition, great strides had been made in education and primary health care.

67. Another basic objective of government action had been the consolidation of peace through national unity and reconciliation; to that end, a National Reconstruction Plan had been formulated to improve economic and social conditions among the groups hardest hit by the conflict, to promote their reintegration into society. Despite the progress made, much remained to be done, and he hoped that the meeting would provide possible answers to the many challenges facing his country.

68. The representative of Bolivia said that his country was still the second poorest in the region. Poverty in Bolivia, which mainly affected rural sectors, had a structural component and a short-term

component that arose from the crisis and the adjustment process, and was felt mostly in the areas of nutrition and health, education and basic sanitation. To fight poverty, the democratic Government had elaborated, in the context of a market economy, a social strategy closely linked to its development strategy by the focus on human capital, on the assumption that training and education would increase the population's productivity and consequently improve its standard of living. To meet those goals, the Government was managing social expenditure more efficiently, elaborating selective social policies and defining target groups. The implementation of social policy had been temporarily entrusted to the Social Emergency Fund, and later to the Social Investment Fund, which carried out compensatory policies. Among the results achieved had been the improvement of physical infrastructure in the area of education and, in the area of health, the broadening of immunization campaigns. Lastly, he warned against the danger of turning temporary funds into permanent entities, and recalled that social policy should reconcile fairness with effectiveness in the allocation of resources in a market economy.

69. The representative of Cuba reminded the participants that the many efforts to eliminate poverty in the region had met with little success, and that if current trends persisted, the situation would continue to worsen. He mentioned the adverse effects of protectionism and of the collapse of the Soviet Union on the Cuban economy, which had forced the country to make great sacrifices in order to survive without giving up its main economic and social programmes. For the second time, Cuba had had to restrict foreign trade and restructure its markets, though with better conditions in its political and social spheres and its infrastructure. There was no poverty in Cuba in the sense of marginalization, hunger, unemployment or lack of education and training. All needs in terms of basic products, electricity generation, transportation and other services were being met through organization, adaptation and solidarity. Great progress had been made in the areas of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, and more attention was being devoted to the development of tourism.

70. Although countries took different approaches to poverty, it was important for Cuba to share the policies and other methods it had used to withstand the threat of poverty and continue to develop, since the problem and its causes had been clearly identified and could be remedied through concrete measures.

71. The representative of Uruguay said that his country's anti-poverty strategy had focused initially on the establishment of a short-term social investment fund and the formation of a social cabinet to coordinate the Ministries' work in that area. For the medium term, the country planned to establish population and project data banks and to evaluate social programmes, with financial support from United Nations entities and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He noted that the failure of such strategies often reflected the opposition they aroused in powerful sectors of society, and the improper allocation or waste of available resources. To enhance the results of regional conferences and lend continuity to the fight against poverty, he suggested that subregional preparatory meetings should be held and that the technical secretariat should be mandated to act as liaison between the countries and possible sources of financing for their proposals.

72. The representative of Honduras said that income levels in his country were among the region's lowest, and that seven out of every ten people lived below the poverty line. His Government was confronting that situation with a strategy to ensure growth and integrated development, which included compensatory social policies to raise the population's standard of living, and other policies to achieve political stability, better use of resources, reduction of the State's role, more flexibility in markets and promotion of foreign trade. Given the scarcity of resources, it had been necessary to elaborate "poverty maps" to classify priority areas and groups according to their needs. On that basis, measures had been designed to give children and young people, mothers and the rural and urban poor greater access to basic

services; to increase their chances of acquiring the knowledge they needed to raise their standards of living; and to support the creation of productive employment and new sources of employment, the last by promoting the awarding of land titles and the establishment of small production units and child care centres for children of working mothers. The aim was to implement emergency social programmes with targeted, large-scale, complementary activities. Lastly, he mentioned the national plan of action for human development, which was expected to yield medium- and long-term results, with special emphasis on cost-cutting and increased efficiency.

73. The representative of Jamaica said that like most countries of the region, Jamaica had witnessed an increase in poverty, which affected about one third of the population. That phenomenon was attributable in part to the economic liberalization measures adopted in the last year, which, however, had been accompanied by a government campaign to fight poverty.

74. That campaign revolved around the establishment of an information system to identify the neediest groups, social-sector reform to ensure that available funds were earmarked for those groups, economic expansion (especially of micro-enterprises) and the creation of a social structure favourable to the poorest sectors. She referred in particular to the activities of the Micro-Investment Development Agency (MIDA), which worked in conjunction with credit institutions and used various mechanisms to stimulate the sector's development, including a system of private-sector guarantees and community revolving funds. Measures had also been taken to ensure that a given percentage of public spending was devoted to primary health care and education.

75. She ended by noting that the Jamaican Government had begun to re-order its priorities. Accordingly, it was making changes in the administrative structure of public services and carrying out a social and economic support programme that was expected to yield immediate results.

76. The representative of Brazil spoke of his country's economic crisis in the 1980s and early 1990s, which had taken on particular intensity in the last two years owing in part to the failure of Brazil's drastic stabilization measures and orthodox adjustment policy. Those factors had translated into not only a reduction in public spending, but also an increase in the poor population: as of 1989, 34.6% of Brazil's inhabitants lived in conditions of absolute poverty. To deal with that difficult situation, the Brazilian Government had decided to concentrate on adopting social policy measures, which were considered a significant factor in the consolidation of democracy.

77. He then mentioned the areas that should receive priority attention from the federal and local governments. Moreover, financial institutions, especially international ones, should pay more attention to the consequences of structural adjustment, and modify their credit policies to help countries carry out activities that would directly benefit marginalized sectors.

78. The representative of Colombia said that his country's social profile had some unusual features: first, the country had enjoyed macroeconomic stability in recent years, which had contributed to social progress; and second, social changes had been particularly dramatic, in contrast to the situation of other countries, where poverty was deeply rooted. Income distribution and poverty indicators had changed radically in the last 60 years: whereas 85% of the population had lived below the poverty line in the 1930s, that percentage had dropped to 40% between the 1950s and 1970s, and currently ranged from 25% to 33%. That decrease in the proportion of the population living in poverty facilitated the targeting and effectiveness of programmes to combat the problem.

79. A shift in development strategy had been proposed in the past two years and in a few short months, a process of opening up and reallocation of public resources to such areas as education, health, drinking water and housing had taken place. Although social indicators were improving, serious problems had to be dealt with, for underlying the problem of resources was an institutional problem. Initially, efforts had been aimed at overhauling the State with a view to decentralization. Unfortunately, the transition from central entities to local entities had not occurred without conflicts, for bureaucracy, among other things, hindered the smooth transfer of resources.

80. The extreme regional diversity of Colombia had posed a problem in specific geographic targeting. The Constitution adopted in 1991 contained an explicit provision for the decentralization and transfer of resources towards those local entities most in need. None the less, the local entities' capacity to manage resources was at times a serious impediment; for example, an emergency fund had been designed with the aim of targeting the 50 poorest municipalities in the country, but owing to institutional incapacity at the local level, it took one year to begin operating. In addition to combining a regional approach with the sectoral approach traditionally employed by the government apparatus, an effort was attempted to devote explicit attention to vulnerable groups (youth, children, the elderly). As such coordination of social activities at the sectoral, regional and group level was difficult to achieve, local entities ended up being in charge of specific, small-scale and disparate programmes.

81. Commending the extensive and interesting documentation submitted to the Conference, he evoked the memory of Fernando Fajnzylber and drew attention to the fact that the documentation did not sufficiently stress education as an essential medium-term task in the struggle against poverty.

82. The representative of Belize said that in the 11 years that her nation had been independent, its export-oriented growth strategy had paid dividends in terms of the growth of exports and in the gross domestic product, but broadbased social development had not been achieved. In particular, income distribution, poverty reduction, job creation, better health and education had received insufficient attention. The current 1990-1994 five-year development plan placed emphasis on raising average wage levels through the increased labour productivity that education would bring. In the area of education, great importance was attached to primary education, while in health, the emphasis was on primary health care and on water and sanitation services to benefit all strata of the population.

83. The core principle of Belizean social policy was each individual's right to satisfy his or her basic needs. An effort was also being made to achieve gender equity, by increasing women's opportunities to gain access to training, employment and enterprise development.

84. The task of poverty alleviation was an ongoing one, and increased expenditures on sectors such as health and education must be paid for by improved collection of tax revenue and customs duties and through efficient government management of the budget. The economy was being made more efficient through changes in the tax system and the privatization of State enterprises such as the telephone company and the electricity company. The monies raised through the sale of those companies were being used in priority projects in the social sector and for the creation of an economic infrastructure.

85. In the era of free trade, Belize must ensure that its economy became more efficient so that social expenditures could continue to increase. An inefficient economy and unfair trade practices could be the greatest problem Belize would have to overcome in its efforts to eliminate persistent pockets of poverty and to prevent new pockets of poverty from forming.

86. A representative of the Social Development Division, briefly assessing the programmes to stimulate growth in productivity among the region's urban and rural poor, said that such programmes displayed such diversity that it was difficult to draw conclusions or formulate recommendations that would be applicable to such different government activities. In his statement, he would therefore not attempt to provide an exhaustive breakdown of policy objectives suggested by the information gathered, but would rather attempt to set forth certain general criteria.

87. The various proposals and activities were aimed at reconciling growth objectives with the achievement of social equity and greater satisfaction of the basic needs of the most underprivileged groups. Within that value system, all the experiences reviewed demonstrated that economic sustainability, productive efficiency, streamlined management and sound social organization were unavoidable objectives in providing assistance to small-scale productive projects, from credit and technical assistance programmes to organizational support and training programmes.

88. There seemed to be an ever-greater awareness that the demands of productivity could not be skirted in bolstering the productivity of the poor strata. If those strata were to be assured not only basic services and goods but, more importantly, of becoming fully fledged citizens who had a say in decision-making and measures affecting the world around them, then in their own way, they would have to rise to the challenges which the task of modernization imposed: economic sustainability, streamlined management, productive efficiency and organizational provisions. In many of the current programmes designed to bolster the productivity of the rural and urban poor, particularly in the informal sectors, those demands were increasingly acute. For example, mention should be made of the work done by El Salvador in its recent experiences assisting urban micro-enterprises; by Mexico, in relation to activities and goals under its National Solidarity Enterprises Programme; by Brazil, in its experience with hydrographic micro-basins; by Chile, with institutions assisting in the training of low-income urban youth; and by Colombia in its experience with its National Apprenticeship Service.

89. The delegation of Argentina agreed with the Uruguayan statement delivered earlier. In that regard, it called for a definition of courses of action and, specifically, the fitting out of information systems and the formation of subregional groups.

90. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that, while every national experience was different, her country's experience showed that all the work that had gone into increasing the productivity of the urban poor had taken place in the private sector. She was not certain that State intervention was necessarily a spur to the development of micro-enterprises. Experiences with non-governmental organizations that extended credit at subsidized rates had ended in failure and the private banking system worked very well for micro-enterprises. Even training was in the hands of the private sector.

91. Concerning micro-enterprises, she questioned whether they boosted productivity (in her country, urban micro-enterprises were engaged mainly in sales and rural micro-enterprises had been failures). Concerning income generation, she pointed out the need to consider that family income was derived from the work of unpaid family members. In conclusion, she said that the State's role was to provide support to private initiative, but not to intervene directly.

92. The delegation of Jamaica expressed annoyance that not all the Conference documentation had been submitted in English, which placed the Caribbean delegations at a disadvantage when they formed their opinions.

93. The representative of PREALC elaborated on the recent experiences of PREALC in improving the productivity of the urban poor and said that all over Latin America, there were examples of support to informal production through credit and training. Such activities had been carried out mainly by non-governmental organizations, which had very diverse methodologies and experiences. Non-governmental organizations that were able to stay afloat were very efficient, generated one job for every US\$1,000-US\$2,000 in available loan resources, and absorbed underemployment. Such organizations, however, barely made a dent, as they had no significant impact on poverty indexes.

94. At the moment, high hopes were being pinned on the funds that IDB would contribute; however, it was believed that those funds, although comparatively plentiful, would also have a very limited impact. The solution would lie in finding a way to use the funds on every country's financial market and overcome the difficulties created by the high cost of small loans. That could be done by consolidating shares of stock in order to reduce the cost per share and better organizing the administration of such credit programmes (taking into account, for example, cash flow projections). In his opinion, it would be best to establish a bank for small-scale production, which would necessarily have a dual nature: on the one hand, it would have to be modern and competitive when it came time to attract resources and, on the other hand, it would have to tailor its loans to small-scale producers' needs.

95. The public sector should play a vital role in those processes, in view of its capacity to enlist the cooperation of all parties, channel huge flows of funds (such as IDB funds) and set general guidelines for predicting the effects of massive changes in the productive conditions of micro-enterprises.

96. Finally, he stressed the way in which small-scale production was integrated into the aggregate market, indicating that the market acted as a "centre" against the "periphery" of informal production, which had a procyclical effect on income and an anticyclical effect on employment.

97. The representative of Costa Rica described an experience with micro-enterprises in his country: community homes for children, from birth to seven years of age, whose working parents could not take proper care of them. The programme, which was subsidized, had also earned the parents' cooperation and a symbolic financial contribution from them. That programme, with the participation and sympathy of the community and the State, addressed a serious social problem and encouraged positive behaviour. The private banking system was regaining ground in Costa Rica and the country would soon have a development bank.

98. The FAO secretariat, responding to the concern expressed by Argentina about the possibility of exchanging information, said that there were two regional technical cooperation networks that could serve that purpose —one for rural development assistance, which helped small-scale producers to organize and provided services to them, and the other for rural women.

99. The Mexican delegation advocated a progressive approach to dealing with poverty, beginning with the establishment of a social organization at the community level; the establishment of credit institutions, also at the community level; and the linkage of micro-enterprises to a large business entity that would ensure a market for their production.

100. The representative of Panama said that the same solutions could not be applied in markets so different in scale as the Mexican and Panamanian markets, and certainly not at the same time as policies of economic openness. Moreover, the absence of development banks to deal with social problems was regrettable.

101. The Jamaican delegate wondered whether the poverty level was lower in those countries where no huge wage discrepancies existed among different educational levels.

102. The ECLAC secretariat said that that was not necessarily a hard and fast rule, since it also occurred in countries with high poverty indexes.

103. The Colombian representative highlighted the vital importance of education in urban environments, while in rural areas, it was not stressed nearly as much, since agricultural technologies required less knowledge. Referring to micro-enterprises and the popular economy, he questioned whether that methodology was still valid, calling it elitist. In that connection, he mentioned the case of Colombian foundations, which selected persons with entrepreneurial potential from among the middle-class strata of the population, a system which could not be implemented on a mass scale.

104. The representative of PREALC referred to three types of poverty-reduction credit: i) at the level of mutual cooperation groups (four to five persons), which replaced lenders; ii) at the level of associations (cooperatives), which reduced the cost of poverty reduction; and iii) development, which might or might not benefit the poor, since its aim was profit or productivity.

105. The representative of Mexico, replying to a question, said that poverty was a very complex phenomenon and that the task of poverty reduction must be left to the private sector. For example, he referred to the quasi-philanthropic nature of the activity of non-governmental organizations and private foundations. The Mexican Government, recognizing its fundamental responsibility to reduce poverty, preferred to finance micro-enterprises directly or indirectly.

106. The representative of the Dominican Republic, referring to the Panamanian statement, said that the approach to the operation of micro-enterprises depended on specific market conditions and the situation of the formal sector, since the quality and quantity of their production made it difficult for micro-enterprises to integrate into the market. He wondered whether micro-enterprises were not ultimately doomed to failure, defenceless against trade liberalization policies.

107. The representative of Mexico said that, realistically speaking, it was important to face the fact that there were poor strata that would never be able to integrate into the market and which could only be subsidized.

108. The ECLAC secretariat, referring to the Colombian statement, said that the problem did not lie in the productivity of micro-enterprises, but rather in the low wages paid in the formal sector. Governments had to deal with the difficult problem posed by the existence of a stratum of the population that could not integrate into the formal economy and the fact that even in the productive sectors, self-employed workers were rarely to be found, since most of them worked in sales and service activities. Attention would thus have to be focused on formal-sector wages, because of their potential influence on other sectors.

109. The Panamanian representative asked where the demand for agricultural production would come from, for it was basically the same all over the region, especially in a duty-free market.

110. The Director of Social Programmes and Policies of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) said that targeting, together with programme evaluation, was a fundamental criterion in the rationalization of policy and social spending. Targeting not only helped to clearly identify the potential beneficiaries of a programme and adapt social policies to the needs of civil

society, but it also facilitated inter-institutional coordination within the state apparatus, particularly between central Government institutions and municipalities. Thus, as indicated in the ECLAC secretariat document, targeting also served to reaffirm the legitimacy of the State and prevent clientism.

111. Targeting was generally accepted as a sound approach in times of crisis, when the shrinkage of available resources and the existence of a greater number of unsatisfied needs made it necessary to focus efforts on those most in need. None the less, specifically targeted measures, which helped to perfect programme design and enhance their effectiveness, was advisable under any circumstances. Since needs always outweighed resources, targeting could augment per capita benefits per unit of resources invested. Moreover, although it might entail higher costs, it also provided an opportunity to save resources by withholding them from those who were not really in need; the kinds of administrative problems that might arise in connection with programme targeting in less developed countries were no different from those that arose in connection with any other programme.

112. There were no general formulas applicable to all targeting methods. The criteria used depended on the type of programme, the problems it dealt with and the recipient population. In principle, there were two different approaches to targeting: identification of individuals or families and identification of geographic areas. Once those elements were identified, the impact of each programme should be determined irrespective of its coverage and the repercussions of investments on social infrastructure and current social spending. The impact was equal to how great the benefit was to programme recipients and should be assessed throughout the implementation process, using specific methodologies. Only through a combination of effective targeting and impact assessment could the fundamental objective of social policy —improvement of people's living conditions— be attained.

113. The representative of Costa Rica said that the kinds of services that could be targeted should be identified. The validity of certain universal policies, such as education and health polices, could not be questioned, but policies that provided merely for welfare assistance or compensation could indeed be targeted (for example, housing was given priority just before elections). With that proviso, she referred to bureaucratic intervention, which drew away some of the resources intended for poverty reduction. The bureaucratic model prevented social spending from accruing wholly to the benefit of those groups in need of assistance. Spending and social investment were two very different things, and the distinguishing factor was the proportion of resources absorbed by bureaucracy. Moreover, the concept of public service had changed. It could no longer be assumed that the State would provide all services, even though it could franchise the provision of certain services to third parties and retain its supervisory role. An effort should be made to adopt that model if the aim was to reduce bureaucracy.

114. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that the CASIM survey was based on two social policy approaches: the traditional redistributive approach and the approach aimed at the satisfaction of basic needs. In the first approach, targeting stood in contradiction to the universality of certain programmes; the main thing was to determine the social policy objective. It should be taken into account that not all social policies were intended exclusively to satisfy basic needs; the redistribution of income and the narrowing of differences also figured among their objectives.

115. The concept of targeting triggered an intense debate among the countries concerning the allocation of resources to social sectors. It was argued that even the recurring or ordinary expenditures of international organizations could not be covered. She clarified that not all ordinary expenditures were truly ordinary and that bureaucracy could be trimmed. The elaboration of her country's budget had posed serious difficulties in determining the percentage that would actually benefit the population, for attached

to each programme was a general and a specific bureaucracy, but the reallocation of expenditures was even more important than targeting. The growing scarcity of funds made it necessary, but normally targeting was used only when expenditure was inefficient. It would be better to do just the opposite: rationalize social spending and afterward determine what would go directly to the population.

116. The representative of Guatemala said that targeting was not an end but rather a means that should be complemented by other kinds of measures and proposed identifying a number of elements that each country could adapt to its situation. Institutions such as ECLAC and ILPES could select those elements that would contribute to the poverty reduction struggle within a coherent context.

117. The Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Chile, on behalf of the Chilean delegation, said that an essential element in the reallocation of social spending was a good information system. In the case of Chile, the system consisted of three levels that made it possible to determine social priorities: general and sectoral surveys, the establishment of ministerial goals and programme evaluation.

118. He then referred to the various sectors and gave examples of cases of targeting which had identified the groups in greater need of assistance. He also stressed how important it was for the population to be aware of the benefits to which it was entitled. Unfortunately, the conditions prevailing in the poorest strata were negative, which explained why universal policies were not effective when applied to those sectors. Where poverty was more acute, those policies yielded better results, but in order to reach smaller groups, policies had to be targeted.

119. In Chile, an effort had been made to establish mechanisms to respond to the needs of the population that received no benefits of any kind, but a tremendous effort was involved in compiling the statistical data to identify it. In targeting by sector or by group, increasingly complex instruments were required and the work of targeting was extremely painstaking. In order to target more specifically, the evaluation of programmes by their beneficiaries had been used, which translated into greater participation. Although much remained to be done, Chile had made headway in that process, with a view to gradually rationalizing public expenditure.

120. Finally, he referred to management, which could be the responsibility of the public sector or of the private sector but which, in any case, had to satisfy two basic requirements: effectiveness and equitability. The State could not reach the smaller communities —to do so, it had to rely on a network of intermediaries. The central Government had to focus on providing support to local governments in order to enhance their management capacity.

121. The secretariat said that it wished to refer to the apparent contradiction between universalization and targeting of policies. In fact, there was no such contradiction, since in order to achieve the universal satisfaction of needs, activities had to be targeted. That was the only way to reach individuals on the fringes of the mass-scale programmes. In order to illustrate his point, he cited the example of free, universal, compulsory education, which was the State's responsibility, but from which some groups never benefited from while others did not complete their schooling; therefore, in order to achieve genuine universalization, which would include the poorest, it was absolutely necessary to target and thereby gear programmes to their recipients' circumstances.

122. The Jamaican delegate asked the secretariat whether the cost of the programme impact assessment would not be much more than it was worth. She referred in particular to a food stamp programme being carried out in Jamaica.

123. The secretariat replied that the cost of evaluation was not high compared to the cost of squandering resources on programmes that did not attain their objectives or did not reach the groups for which they had been originally intended.

124. Referring to the question from the Jamaican representative, the Guatemalan delegate said that his country had used a reliable indicator to evaluate child feeding programmes, one that could be obtained at low cost —the height of first-year students.

125. The delegate of Guyana said that poverty reduction required political will on the part of the Government, the courage to carry out reforms, a capital investment aimed at strengthening human development, structural adjustment of a different stamp and leaders who set an example of democracy, responsibility, integrity and efficiency. In struggling against that scourge, the Government of Guyana accorded priority to social policies and implementation and follow-up systems. Within the framework of those policies, she highlighted a programme designed to mitigate the negative effects of economic structural adjustment on the vulnerable groups of society. The programme enabled them to improve their lot and thereby contribute to national development. It consisted essentially of a small-scale project financing mechanism for those groups, which made it a model public mechanism, very different from the existing bureaucratic State entities in Guyana.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

A. Participating countries
Países participantes

ARGENTINA

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BELICE

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Miembros de la delegación Diego Ribadeneira, Ministro, Embajada en Chile

EL SALVADOR

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HAITI

Representante Guy Pierre André, Encargado de Negocios en Chile

HONDURAS

Representante Jorge Navarro, Director Planificación Global, Secretaría de Planificación

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Miembros de la delegación Maureen Webber, Executive Director, Office of the Primer Minister

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Miembros de la delegación Rosa Flores, Ministerio de Economía; Gustavo Otero, Consejero, Embajada en Chile

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REPUBLICA DOMINICANA**

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URUGUAY

Representante José María Alzamora, Embajador en Chile

Representante alterno: Jorge Parodi, Director Ejecutivo del Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia

Miembros de la delegación: Nina Buzzini, Ministro Consejero de la Embajada en Chile

VENEZUELA

Representante Marino González, Director General Sectorial de Planificación de Mediano y Largo Plazo, CORDIPLAN

Miembros de la delegación Mario A. Aguzzi Durán, Segundo Secretario de la Embajada en Chile

**B. Observer countries
Países observadores**

**GERMANY
ALEMANIA**

Representante Guido Simons, Ministerio Federal de Cooperación Económica

**BELGIUM
BELGICA**

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IRAN

Representante Mohammad Nemati, Primer Secretario de la Embajada en Chile

**HOLY SEE
SANTA SEDE**

Representante Monseñor Dominique Mamberti, Secretario de la Nunciatura Apostólica en Chile

**SOUTH AFRICA
SUDAFRICA**

Representante Len Malan Brand, Embajador en Chile

**SWEDEN
SUECIA**

Representante Stina Mossberg, Primer Secretario de la Embajada en Chile

**SWITZERLAND
SUIZA**

Representante Paul Wipfli, Embajador en Chile

Miembros de la delegación Michel Coquoz, Consejero de la Embajada en Chile

**C. United Nations bodies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas**

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR/UNHCR)

Víctor Mello

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo/United Nations Development Programme (PNUD/UNDP)

Fernando Zumbado, Administrador Auxiliar y Director Regional, Dirección Regional de América Latina y el Caribe

Hugo Fernández-Faingold, Coordinador Proyecto Regional sobre Pobreza

Luis Thais, Representante Residente (Chile)

Carlos Felipe Martínez, Representante Residente Adjunto (Chile)

Percy Rodríguez, Senior Expert

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Marta Maurás Pérez, Directora Regional para A.L. y el Caribe

Eduardo Bustelo, Delegado en Argentina

Crisóstomo Pizarro, Delegado en República Dominicana

Kristina Gonçalves, Representante Area para Chile, Argentina y Uruguay

**D. Specialized agencies
Organismos especializados**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo/International Labour Office (OIT/ILO)

- **Programa Regional del Empleo para América Latina y el Caribe (PREALC)**

Ricardo Infante, Experto Políticas de Empleo

Jaime Mezzera, Consejero Regional

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Leopoldo Sandoval, Oficial Regional en Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Ernesto Schiefelbein, Director a.i., Oficina Regional de Educación para América Latina y el Caribe

**E. Other intergovernmental organizations
Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales**

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo/Inter-American Development Bank (BID)

Luis Ratinoff, Jefe Oficina Estudios Estratégicos

**F. Secretariat
Secretaría**

Gert Rosenthal, Secretario Ejecutivo

Daniel S. Blanchard, Secretario de la Comisión

Adolfo Gurrieri, Director, División de Desarrollo Social

Pedro Sáinz, Director, División de Estadística y Proyecciones Económicas

Ernesto Ottone, Secretario Adjunto de la Comisión

Martín Hopenhayn, Experto en Política Social, División de Desarrollo Social

Eda Cleary, Experta en Política Social, División de Desarrollo Social

Horacio Santamaría, Director CEPAL México

Rolando Franco, Director de Políticas Sociales, ILPES

Annex 2

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS
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| LC/L.710(CONF.82/1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temario provisional anotado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I.Temario provisional II.Anotaciones al temario provisional - Annotated provisional agenda |
| LC/L.711(CONF.82/2)
y Corr.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apoyo a la productividad de los pobres rurales: nuevas experiencias en América Latina y el Caribe - Support for the productivity of the rural poor: new experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| Add.1 (sólo portugués) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - O programa brasileiro de microbacias hidrográficas: o caso do Parana |
| Add.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Los impactos del programa DRI sobre la productividad y el nivel de vida de los pequeños productores rurales en Colombia |
| Add.3 (sólo inglés) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current experience in increasing the productivity level among the poor sectors in rural areas of Dominica: the case of Petite Savanne |
| Add.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - El combate a la pobreza rural a través del apoyo a la producción en México |
| Add.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manejo de cuencas y productividad campesina: el caso del Cusco |
| LC/L.714 (CONF.82/3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focalización y pobreza: nuevas tendencias en la política social - Targeting and poverty: new tendencies in social policy |
| Add.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fondo Social de Emergencia (FSE) y Fondo de Inversión Social (FIS): dos experiencias de focalización en Bolivia |
| Add.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Un instrumento para la evaluación del impacto de los programas sociales. Encuesta de caracterización socioeconómica nacional |
| Add.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red comunitaria de atención infantil en Ecuador: logros, problemas y perspectivas |
| Add.4 (sólo inglés) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social programmes for poverty alleviation in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago |

- Add.5 y Corr.1** - Focalización de programas masivos: el caso venezolano de la Beca Alimentaria
- Add.6** - Costa Rica: focalización y seguimiento de programas sociales en gran escala
- LC/L.715 (CONF.82/4)** - Pobres urbanos y productividad: clases de intervención
- Urban poor and productivity: keys to action
- Add.1** - El programa de atención a la microempresa del Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA) de Colombia: experiencias, evaluación, conclusiones y aportes
- Add.2 y Corr.1** - Capacitación para el empleo en la juventud popular urbana. Aporte y potencial de la oferta pública en Chile
- Add.3** - Programas de capacitación para microempresarios urbanos. El Salvador
- Add.4** - Manos del Uruguay: una experiencia de apoyo a la productividad de mujeres de bajos ingresos
- Add.5 (sólo inglés)** - Public programmes aimed at raising productivity of poor sectors in urban areas of Jamaica
- LC/L.713 (CONF.82/5)** - Actividades de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe para la superación de la pobreza
- Anti-poverty activities of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Add.1** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Argentina
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- Add.3 (sólo portugués)** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Brasil
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- Add.10** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Panamá
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- Add.12** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Venezuela
- Add.13 (sólo inglés)** - Response of the Government of Belize
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- Add.15 (sólo inglés)** - Response of the Government of Guyana
- Add.16** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Cuba
- Add.17** - Respuesta del Gobierno de Perú
- LC/L.716 (CONF.82/6)** - El perfil de la pobreza en América Latina a comienzos de los años noventa
- Latin American poverty profiles for the early 1990s
- LC/L.717 (CONF.82/7)** - Renovadas orientaciones y tendencias de los programas de compensación social de la región
- New directions and trends in social compensation programmes in the region
- LC/R.1210** - Proyecto de informe de la reunión técnica sobre pobreza en el Caribe
- Draft report of the technical meeting on poverty in the Caribbean