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Economic Commission for Latin America

OPERATIONAL POLICIES OF CEPAL IN CONNEXION WITH TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND WITH THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND AMONG DEVELOPING REGIONS OF DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Note prepared by the secretariat of CEPAL for the regional meeting of heads of technical co-operation of the Governments of Latin America (Panama City, 28 November-2 December 1977), convened by the Governments of Argentina and Peru in compliance with the mandate received from the Latin American Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Lima, 10-15 May 1976).

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/I. THE

I. THE CEPAL SYSTEM AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The main purpose of technical co-operation is to promote increasing self-reliance as regards the managerial, technical, administrative and research capabilities required to formulate and implement development plans, programmes and policies at the global, regional, national and sectoral levels in the light of the options available. This includes, among other things: (a) development of human resources; (b) acquisition of basic information and data; (c) adaptation, development and dissemination of technology; (d) development of institutional infrastructure; (e) development of services (administratives, consultancy and engineering, agricultural and industrial extension, etc.).

The primary task of the CEPAL system 1/ is to promote the economic and social development of the Latin American countries and foster international economic co-operation. The system is pre-eminently research-oriented, with subsidiary operational activities (i.e., technical co-operation activities for development such as the provision of advisory services to the countries or sub-regional groupings of the region and the organization and conduct, at the regional level, of training programmes, technical seminars, meetings of experts, working groups, etc.). The CEPAL system's technical co-operation activities for development have mainly a regional or sub-regional approach and are derived, as a rule, from the activities included in the programme of work approved by the Commission.

The operational activities of the CEPAL system are normally based on or supported by previous studies and research at the country, regional or sub-regional levels, and these activities therefore fall into two main categories: (a) technical co-operation rendered to a

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1/ The CEPAL system comprises the CEPAL headquarters secretariat, the sub-regional and other offices abroad, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

/particular country

particular country or group of countries in the form of a study on a specific economic or social problem or sector of the economy; and (b) technical co-operation rendered by transferring to individual countries or regional or sub-regional groupings, the results of research carried out by the secretariat, either through direct advisory services carried out by CEPAL experts or through training courses or regional or sub-regional technical meetings on specialized subjects.

The two main categories of operational activities mentioned above are carried out with the CEPAL system's own resources and with financial support from multilateral (UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNIDO) and bilateral sources, and are designed to facilitate co-operation among developing countries in the solution of common problems, in the exchange of experience and skills, and in strengthening economic ties. They are also designed to help Governments to promote regional integration and co-operation and to facilitate the integration of development into all priority areas of their programmes.

The CEPAL system operates at three levels in carrying out its research and operational activities: (a) as a component agency of a world organization, it constitutes a regional centre of dialogue, analysis and generation of ideas for orienting Latin America's action as regards its relations with the rest of the international community; (b) in its capacity as a regional system whose member countries have common traditions, interests and problems, it continuously explores all possible ways of strengthening relations and co-operation between the countries of Latin America; and (c) it has a responsibility to the countries of the region to offer its views on strategies for Latin American development, since it enjoys the advantage of being able to analyse and familiarize itself with many different development processes.

The CEPAL system is also a centre for the promotion of ideas, for reflection on the fundamental strategies for Latin American development, and for the synthesis of the varied experience accumulated in the field of economic and social development, which must be placed

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at the disposal of Member Governments and public opinion. With their experience in promoting regional and sub-regional co-operation, the CEPAL system and the other regional economic commissions are also the appropriate institutions within the United Nations to act as centres for the formulation, co-ordination and execution of programmes for the promotion of interregional co-operation, especially with respect to technical co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas.

In order to implement and carry out the above objectives, CEPAL's Division of Operations seeks to achieve the following: (a) to act as the appropriate channel, with the Programming Office, for the practical harmonization and co-ordination of operational activities within the secretariat; (b) to set priorities for the advisory services and technical assistance to Governments provided by the secretariat; (c) to manage approved operational programmes and projects in line with the policies and order of priorities laid down in the Commission's work programme; and (d) to translate broad objectives and general policy guidelines into concrete operational activities.

To this end, and in order to assist in solving priority economic and social problems at the request of individual Governments or groups of Governments, to help develop their economies and institutions, and to intensify regional and sub-regional economic integration, the Division is responsible for: (a) formulating and negotiating regional and sub-regional operational projects financed from bilateral or multilateral sources, taking into account the development objectives of countries, the resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies, and ways in which they can complement regional technical co-operation projects at the country level; (b) co-ordinating CEPAL's advisory services and technical co-operation to Governments, through both regional advisers and staff members of the secretariat, and (c) managing special projects, such as those related to the provision of technical assistance to countries stricken by natural disasters.

/II. AREAS

II. AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND PRIORITIES OF CEPAL

The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February and 5 March 1948 with the main task of promoting the economic and social development of the Latin American countries and of "maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world". By resolution 723 (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, the Economic and Social Council decided to insert in paragraph 8 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America a provision whereby the Commission was to establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions, in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Within this general framework, CEPAL has always been a centre of information on the economic and social situation in Latin America. It has developed its thinking and interpreted that situation from a purely Latin American approach, and on the basis of its diagnoses, it has gradually outlined a set of economic policies in line with the criteria deriving from its research, which in many cases have found practical application in the region. Firmly convinced of the need for external co-operation as an important complement to the internal effort, it has carried out innumerable projects on both the theoretical and practical level and has provided technical co-operation to all the countries of the region in a wide range of economic and social development questions.

Thus, ever since CEPAL was established, it has been co-operating with the countries of the region in the study of solutions for economic and social problems, the preparation of development plans and projects, and the provision of specialized training for university graduates, through the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE),

/in the

in the economic and social planning disciplines, the improvement and reinforcement of the institutions of the countries, and the strengthening of the sub-regional economic integration process.

The idea of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and regions is a highly positive one. There is no doubt that a constructive and responsible regionalism could be useful in stimulating domestic development and giving new dimensions and scope to relations between the developing countries of the region themselves and between these countries and the rest of the world. In this respect, the experience gained by CEPAL could be useful in the analysis of problems and the technical formulation of solutions, while it could offer specific supporting services in various fields with a view to adopting a concerted position and promoting mutual co-operation both inside and outside the region.

The machinery available to CEPAL can make an effective contribution to meeting the requirements involved in technical co-operation among developing countries and regions, since the Commission combines in a single organization a large store of technical knowledge on a wide range of social science specialties and thus enjoys intrinsic comparative advantages for fulfilling the objectives of this undertaking. Thus, a major role which CEPAL should play in this respect is to furnish the conceptual bases, the policy elements and specific proposals for action-oriented strategies aimed at achieving the accelerated development of the region as a whole, of its geographical sub-regions, and of countries or groups of gcountries with certain related characteristics.

CEPAL is currently undertaking studies in different economic and social development fields with a view to placing in the hand of the governments of the region the tools and technical knowledge to help them design mutual co-operation programmes and projects. These studies reflect the following areas of priority envisaged by the Latin American governments themselves:

/(i) Expansion

(i) Expansion of the regional market for exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures and increase in export earnings; agreements on reciprocal trade preferences at the regional and interregional levels;

(ii) Exploration, exploitation and development of natural resources;

(iii) Promotion of regional and sub-regional co-operation for the exploitation, extraction, production and use of energy (especially the development of non-conventional sources and the integrated development of these sources); co-ordination of energy policies and programmes at the regional and sub-regional levels and development of rural electrification;

(iv) Development of the transport infrastructure by means of regional and sub-regional co-operation agreements on rail transport, implementation of the Integrated System for the Transport of Goods, and studies on international intermodal transport and on the automation of information systems for transport planning;

(v) Studies and measures to help promote the various integration processes in the region;

(vi) Industrial complementation and integration agreements; establishment of semi-public industrial enterprises and regional multinational enterprises; development of specific branches of industry;

(vii) Development of basic commodities and raw materials; promotion of agreements between producers, and the establishment or strengthening of basic commodity consultation mechanisms;

(viii) Development of food and agriculture; diversification of agricultural production and stabilization and expansion of food supplies;

(ix) Development of capacity for the creation of technology and appropriate techniques; guidelines for the formulation of national and regional policies and of preferential agreements for the transfer, exchange and use of appropriate techniques; establishment of binational or multinational technological research centres in selected fields;

(x) Strengthening of the bargaining power of the region vis-à-vis transnational corporations.

/III. DEVELOPMENT

III. DEVELOPMENT OF TCDC IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE AREAS OF INTEREST TO CEPAL

The governments of the region are showing more and more interest in co-operating with one another in various fields which help to create a form of development stimulated from within, while at the same time striving for better co-ordination of their efforts so as to achieve better understanding among themselves and with the rest of the world.

In the last few years Latin America has made remarkable efforts to strengthen horizontal technical co-operation, the most important examples of multilateral co-operation being the regional and sub-regional economic integration groups. Latin America has shown distinct signs of progress in this connexion, which is being achieved in all areas - not without some inevitable difficulties - by increasingly complex stages. Four schemes are currently in progress; they have their ups-and-downs and problems, but do represent an attempt to explore avenues of close co-operation.

The Latin American Economic System (SELA) was set up with the purpose of establishing forms of intra-regional economic co-operation, and serves as a forum for consultation and co-ordination of Latin America's position vis-à-vis third countries and at international meetings.

Moreover, a number of regional public sector organizations have been set up in recent years to exchange experience and provide reciprocal technical assistance.2/

Latin America has also made continued progress in the field of financial co-operation. The long-term resources mobilized within the

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2/ Among these may be mentioned the Regional Electricity Integration Commission (CIER), the Latin American State Petroleum Enterprises Mutual Aid Association (ARPEL), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF), the Latin American Shipowners' Association (ALAMAR), and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).

/region not

region not only supplement capital inflows from industrial countries but also reflect, in conjunction with increased short-term intra-regional financing and compensatory payments between central banks, necessary progress in regional and sub-regional economic integration.

No less important are the conventions and agreements on bilateral co-operation and complementarity and reciprocal co-operation concluded between Latin American countries in such wide-ranging fields as technical and financial co-operation; trade and economic co-operation; special régimes for the treatment of technical assistance personnel and equipment; professional and vocational training; cultural, scientific and technological exchange; development of border areas, and exploitation of water resources.

Lastly, it should be recalled that co-operation among the countries of the region has also taken place spontaneously with varying results between enterprises and institutions of the public and private sectors, though not recorded in the form of agreements. This includes co-operation in the exchange of information and knowledge through scientific, technological, cultural, entrepreneurial, trade union, professional and other associations which today make up a wide network capable of sustaining a major mutual technical co-operation effort.

The efforts carried out in different fields in the region are an indisputable fact. Nevertheless, new areas for mutual co-operation should be explored, with an effort being made to define its nature and scope, its objectives and priorities and its operational mechanisms and means of action, while endeavouring to obtain more knowledge about the potential supply of resources, goods and services available in the region. A broad conception of horizontal co-operation should be adopted, aimed at mobilizing all national and international institutions able to contribute to the common activities of the region.

/To that

To that end, the political bases should be laid for more vigorous efforts centering around four elements of priority importance: (a) collective solidarity among the countries of the region; (b) faith and conviction concerning this new approach and the political will to translate it into practice; (c) the capacity for mobilization at the national, sub-regional, regional and interregional levels with a view to co-operation among countries and groups of countries; and (d) the transformation of deep-rooted mental attitudes of resistance to change so that the countries can constitute the principal agents, subjects and beneficiaries in the exchange of experience and knowledge gained in the process of securing their own well-being.

IV. ROLE OF CEPAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Mandates received by CEPAL

Several sessions of the Economic Commission for Latin America have considered and discussed the subject of co-operation among developing countries and regions, and after taking into account the resolutions passed in different international forums and keeping in mind the desire of the countries of the region to promote horizontal co-operation, have given mandates to the Executive Secretary and recommended specific measures.3/

In its resolution 316 (XV) on "Co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas", the Commission requested the CEPAL secretariat to: (a) hold consultations with the secretariats of the other regional commissions with a view to collecting basic data, arranging to undertake studies and promoting interregional projects for co-operation among developing countries; (b) ask the Secretary-General to provide adequate financial support for these undertakings; and (c) make arrangements for the co-operation of specialized agencies, UNDP, regional development banks and regional integration bodies in the formulation of such projects.

In its resolution 354 (XVI) on "Technical co-operation among developing countries", the Commission recommended the Executive Secretary to provide maximum support to the countries of the region and to UNDP in activities aimed at promoting technical co-operation among these countries.

In its comprehensive resolution 363 (XVII) entitled "Co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas" the commission decided, in view of the importance of this subject, to include it in the agenda of all its biennial sessions as a permanent item for consideration by member governments. In the same resolution, it requested the Executive Secretary: (a) to expedite the necessary institutional arrangements to establish within the secretariat,

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3/ See annex 1.

/in close

in close co-operation with the competent bodies of the United Nations system, a special unit to promote sub-regional, regional and interregional co-operation for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries; and (b) to take the necessary measures to develop and intensify mutual co-operation with the secretariats of other regional commissions in this field.

In paragraph 4 of the above resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to "make adequate provision in order to enable the secretariat of the Commission to carry out its activities effectively in the sphere of co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas in compliance with operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI)".

2. Mandates given to CEPAL at the Latin American Intergovernmental Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Lima, 10-11 May 1976)

At this meeting it was stressed that technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) must be subject to the sovereign control of each government and, at the regional level, of the governments as a group, and it was considered necessary to identify as thoroughly as possible both the co-operation needs and the conditions which such co-operation should satisfy. It was also deemed necessary to evaluate the need for co-operation with other developing countries in the light of the information available on their needs.

The meeting considered that an urgent and immediate need is to build up a regional network for TCDC to serve as an instrument of interaction between governments.

CEPAL's role as an important centre of economic and social information in Latin America and its wide experience in regional technical co-operation were also underlined. Through a regional programme for TCDC, the governments of the region, with the collaboration of CEPAL, should carry out studies and analyses to design new methods and procedures for mobilizing effectively the capacity of the region.

/3. Potential

3. Potential of the CEPAL system for intra-regional TCDC 4/

The CEPAL system, with its knowledge of the economic and social situation of the region in general and of each country in particular, and its installed capacity for research, training, advisory and technical information services, combined with its long tradition as a forum for the discussion of specific economic and social questions, can take a broad view of the real situation in Latin America, which is a fundamental factor in making reciprocal technical co-operation more expeditious and effective.

In this respect, the CEPAL system could be the catalyzing agency for promoting mutual co-operation and understanding among the countries of the region, aiding the exchange and development of knowledge, experience and technology, and strengthening institutional and technical capacity at the national, sub-regional, regional and interregional levels in order to increase the utilization of resources of the Latin American countries.

In particular, the CEPAL system could collaborate in the following activities which could enable it to place in the hands of the governments of the region the tools and technical knowledge to facilitate the design of mutual co-operation programmes and projects:

(a) Providing the conceptual bases, policy elements and specific proposals for action-oriented TCDC strategies;

(b) Preparing studies in various areas of economic and social development with the object of mobilizing and promoting technical co-operation among the countries of the region;

(c) Intensifying the organization and execution of specialized training programmes for professionals of the countries in the region, since the shortage of personnel is one of the main obstacles to development in many developing countries.

(d) Implementing a referral system applicable to the requirements of TCDC in the region which would operate in close association with UNDP's recently-launched global electronic system of information (TCDC/INRES);

4/ Interregional co-operation is dealt with in the following chapter.

/(e) Organizing

(e) Organizing specialized meetings, aimed at the exchange of experience on specific subjects of common interest among experts from the countries of the region, at which CEPAL would contribute the results of its own analyses and experience;

(f) Collaborating in the formulation of bilateral or trilateral co-operative programmes with the countries of the region, with CEPAL acting as the agency responsible for the co-ordination or operational implementation of such programmes, thus taking advantage of the infrastructure existing in the secretariat.

As in the case of action in the field of horizontal co-operation envisaged at the country level, the action which could be developed with respect to co-operation among groups of countries and among regional and sub-regional institutions would be confined mainly to that of playing the role of catalyzing agent in promoting mutual co-operation and understanding of these organs and institutions with a view to improving their machinery and enabling them to help one another to achieve the objectives for which they were established.

4. Institutional arrangements

TCDC calls for the establishment of official and unofficial machinery for the effective implementation of this alternative style of technical co-operation. At the national level, all countries should set up or strengthen their respective liaison bodies or focal points for TCDC.

Consideration should also be given to the need to set up in the region suitably flexible machinery to serve as a point of contact and co-ordination between the respective national technical co-operation bodies, with a view to identifying possibilities and promoting concrete action to put TCDC activities into practice at the regional and interregional levels, as well as to review and evaluate the effective implementation of the Plan of Action, adopting additional measures for such implementation as required.

/In considering

In considering these possible arrangements, due account should be taken of the need to avoid the creation of bodies which would imply a new entity and increased bureaucracy.

The final report of the Working Group on TCDC (DP/69) recommends, inter alia, that the regional commissions should systematically review their procedures, organizational arrangements, programmes and projects and make adjustments therein to facilitate TCDC.

Furthermore, Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) on "Strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation" stresses the need to strengthen the secretariats of the regional commissions "to enable them to promote effectively co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels".

In this respect, the major objectives of the CEPAL system's TCDC strategy are to promote the exchange and development of knowledge, experience and technology among the countries of Latin America; to strengthen institutional, technical and economic capacity at the national, regional and sub-regional levels in order to increase the utilization of resources of the Latin American countries; and to promote technical co-operation between Latin America and other developing geographical areas.

In order to fulfill adequately the objectives of promoting effective co-operation among developing countries at the intra- and interregional levels and as requested in CEPAL resolution 363 (XVII) adopted in Guatemala in May 1977, appropriate mechanisms have been established for co-ordinating the CEPAL system's TCDC activities.5/

The above activities should have the permanent support and backstopping of CEPAL's technical divisions and Division of Operations, particularly in the preparation of programmes and projects for TCDC. The technical divisions should also temporarily detail some of their own staff for carrying out assignments relating to TCDC programmes and projects carried out or sponsored by the Commission.

5/ See chapter VI.

/To this

To this end it is also necessary to support TCDC activities through technical documentation, information and publicity services.

With regard to the structure for technical information and documentation, it should be recalled that in 1971 CEPAL established the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) as a unit of the secretariat. CLADES has set itself the mission of promoting the establishment of national documentation and technical information systems in Latin America, orienting the technology of these systems so that they will be sufficiently compatible to permit the expeditious transfer of information on an intergovernmental and regional basis, and co-ordinating the action of governments in this field in order to avoid duplications of effort and investment in systems and equipment, which fail to meet their development needs.

On the basis of a very general diagnosis in the field of information, CLADES has established a set of specific objectives for the performance of its overall mission:

(a) To increase, directly or indirectly, the flow of technical advisory assistance to national and intergovernmental institutions using information in the economic, social and technological fields;

(b) To collaborate in the co-ordination and rationalization of regional efforts and action to establish and integrate information systems, by co-operating with the appropriate national co-ordinating institutions;

(c) To encourage the adaptation of proposed systems for the exchange of information at the international level, with the object of expressly incorporating the viewpoints and actual situation of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) To collaborate in strengthening the region's specialized technical capacity in the field of information sciences and techniques.

As regards public information, it is important to create regular flows of information among the developing countries in each geographical area by strengthening the existing information centres (or establishing new ones) at the national level and using the mass communications media.

/Existing public

Existing public information bodies operating at the international level in each region (including that of CEPAL) should adapt themselves to supply adequate information on TCDC questions.

Among the purposes of public information, it is of primary importance to develop and strengthen the awareness of the developing countries of their ability to initiate and carry out mutual co-operation programmes.

Summing up, the role of CEPAL in promoting and putting into effect an effective intra-regional TCDC network could be the following:

(a) To provide an integrated view of the genuine development problems of the countries of the region. This can be the basis of TCDC activities geared to the real needs of the developing countries and carried out in the light of their sociocultural features;

(b) To co-ordinate TCDC activities at the sectoral level through an effective integrated view of the action carried out by the United Nations bodies at the regional level;

(c) To gather and distribute information on TCDC matters and provide inputs for the UNDP electronic data system (TCDC/INRES);

(d) To exercise the operational role required in formulating and implementing TCDC activities of an intra-regional character;

(e) To provide member governments, in close collaboration with other regional organizations and institutions, as appropriate, with a forum for exchanging experience, identifying TCDC programmes and projects, and exercising the political will to adopt and implement such programmes and projects.

/V. INTERREGIONAL

V. INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

There is a need to promote communication between the developing regions of the world through the exchange of information and through joint programmes and projects. The regional commissions could make an important contribution in this respect, since they make up a worldwide system of support for and co-operation with their respective member countries and their technical structures cover a wide range of fields which could contribute to the objectives of interregional co-operation for development.

Among the possible forms of co-operation between the secretariats of the regional commissions, the following could assist in the direct or indirect promotion and mobilization of the fuller understanding and strengthening of technical co-operation among different geographical areas:

(a) The formulation of programmes of mutual co-operation between individual countries or groups of developing countries of different geographical areas, for whose implementation the regional commissions could be intermediaries. Thus, the regional commissions concerned could, in general, prepare joint studies on subjects or sectors selected in accordance with the greater or lesser experience of one or another of the countries of the different participating geographical regions, or with the mutual interest these countries may have in such subjects or sectors. These studies, which would help to mobilize such co-operation, could also include suitable operational and financial procedures for putting into practice co-operation schemes among the developing countries concerned in the two regions;

(b) In particular, the regional commissions participating in inter-secretariat arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas could assist in the design and implementation of such activities as: (i) organizing specialized meetings and study tours aimed at the exchange of

/experience and

experience and know-how on specific subjects of common interest between experts from developing countries of the participating geographical regions concerned, for which purpose the participating regional commissions would contribute the results of their own analyses and experience; and (ii) organizing specialized training programmes for intermediate-level professionals of developing countries of a given geographical region to be carried out at United Nations or non-United Nations training institutes of another geographical region;

(c) The formulation of programmes of mutual co-operation among regional and sub-regional groupings of different geographical areas, for which the regional commissions concerned could also play the role of catalytic agents to mobilize co-operation between these groupings in such areas as: (i) the systematic exchange of technical information (documents, studies, bulletins); (ii) the organization of short-term exchange programmes for technical staff of the secretariats of those regional and sub-regional groupings, with the dual purpose of acquiring knowledge and transferring experience; and (iii) the organization of technical meetings for the exchange of experience on questions of common interest to these groups of countries;

(d) Development of joint activities by the secretariats, which could include: (i) preparation of a diagnosis of the potential existing in the different regions for mobilizing technical co-operation between two or more geographical areas and of an inventory of the exchange or co-operation flows already existing in the various fields (economic (by sectors), trade, financial, scientific and technological, educational, cultural, etc.); (ii) selection of priority sectors or areas for promotion and action in the sphere of interregional co-operation and for the preparation of studies or pilot projects; (iii) organization of

/training programmes

training programmes in order that intermediate-level government officials of countries in one geographical area may receive specialized training in United Nations regional institutes within or outside the purview of regional commissions in other geographical areas; (iv) organization and implementation of technical seminars for intermediate-level government officials of countries of different regions with a view to sharing experience and working together to find common solutions to their problems; and (v) organization of exchange programmes, whereby staff members of one secretariat would spend a period in the secretariat of the other region;

(e) The systematic exchange of technical information among regional commissions, taking advantage of the existing infrastructure in this field.6/

6/ For instance, CEPAL's Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) could co-ordinate its action with similar bodies in other regions in the compilation, processing, systematization and dissemination of technical information concerning the requirements involved in mobilizing technical co-operation which are of interest to the other regional commissions.

VI. CEPAL ACTIVITIES IN CONNEXION WITH TCDC

1. Technical co-operation in the Central American area

At its fourth session held in Mexico City in June 1951, CEPAL adopted resolution 9 (IV) in which it expressed the interest of the Central American Governments "in the development of agricultural and industrial production and of transportation systems in their respective countries so as to promote the integration of their economies and the expansion of markets by the exchange of their products, the co-ordination of their development programmes and the establishment of enterprises in which all or some of these countries have an interest."

Accordingly, the Commission decided to invite the Governments of Central America "whenever they deem it appropriate, to form a committee on economic co-operation ... to act as a co-ordinating body for activities relating to the above-mentioned questions, and as a consultive organ of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL..."

On the basis of this resolution, the First Meeting of Ministers of Economic Affairs of the five Central American countries decided to set up the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee (CCE) (Tegucigalpa, 23-28 August 1952) as a permanent subsidiary organ of CEPAL, and to launch a programme of gradual and progressive integration of the Central American economies on the basis of co-operation and reciprocity among the Governments of these countries.

As the result of several studies, most of which were prepared by CEPAL and United Nations experts, the Governments of the area gradually established, inter alia, the following technical organs with the functions of promoting the Central American Economic Integration Programme and fostering co-operation among the countries of the area: the Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama (INCAP) in 1949; the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA) in 1949; the Advanced School of Public Administration for

/Central America

Central America (ESAPAC) 7/ in 1954; the Central American Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI) in 1955; the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) in 1960; the Central American Air Traffic Corporation (COCESNA) in 1960; the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industrialists' Associations of Central America (FECAICA) in 1960; and the Central American Clearing House in 1961.

The CEPAL Office in Mexico acts as the secretariat of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and is responsible for providing the co-operation required by the CCE sub-committees, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and other organs of the Programme aimed at consolidating the integration process of the area and promoting co-operation among the Central American countries.

2. Technical co-operation in the Caribbean area

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) was established in November 1975, in accordance with the terms of CEPAL resolution 358 (XVI) of 13 May 1975.

In the Constituent Declaration of the Committee, the Member Governments of CDCC 8/ declared their political will and their resolution to "carry out a policy for the optimum utilization of the available resources of the sub-region thus promoting its economic and social development and advancing progressively towards superior forms of co-ordination of their economies in the future. Based on the recognition of the advantages of economic complementation, this policy will give impetus to co-operation among member countries, particularly in the form of implementation of joint project, the

7/ In 1967 the title was changed to Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP).

8/ Full members of CDCC: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago. Members of the Commission and of CDCC: Belize and the West Indies Associated States.

/exchange of

exchange of experience and mutual aid, and also through mechanisms - including trade - which will contribute to this end."

The CEPAL Office for the Caribbean at Port of Spain performs the functions of secretariat of CDCC, delegated to it by the Executive Secretary. In this capacity, among the activities hitherto undertaken by this Office and those planned, the following may be noted:

(a) Promotion of co-operation among universities and other research institutions of the area by means of a meeting of rectors of Caribbean universities for which certain preparatory measures for the meeting have been programmed, which would deal with questions of science and technology, food production and processing, and education in relation to development;

(b) Establishment of a Documentation Centre for the Caribbean countries, capable of stimulating co-operation among the countries and academic centres of the area;

(c) Publication of agricultural statistics for the countries of the Caribbean as an information basis for future studies on the demand for food and agricultural raw materials for agro-industries, within a wide framework of specialization and complementarity;

(d) A survey in the Caribbean countries with a view to collecting information on producers' associations, chambers of commerce and associations of exporters of the main products of crop-farming and stock-raising, as a basis for establishing mechanisms conducive to closer links and co-operation among them;

(e) Preparation of the bases for a co-ordinated programme for eliminating language barriers, and another for the establishment of an educational network of novel projects;

(f) Preparation of a work programme for the proper development of fishing, the protection of the environment and the promotion of co-operation among the countries of the Caribbean in order to help protect their basic rights and their essential economic interests with respect to maritime resources;

/(g) Studies

(g) Studies conducive to the establishment of a multinational Caribbean enterprise for the production and distribution of printed and audiovisual material, and of centres for a cultural revival and stimulus;

(h) Steps to prepare a common science and technology policy and develop programmes in connexion with the application and inter-Caribbean transfer of science and technology and the development of autochtonous technologies in the sub-region.

3. Co-operation among the regional commissions: the case of Africa and Latin America 9/

One of the most important activities to be carried out in a first stage of this co-operation is the exchange of information between Africa and Latin America. The experience gained in co-operation among Latin American countries in connexion with sectoral technical associations reveals that this information constitutes the basis for an operative mechanism of co-operation, transmission of experiences, reciprocal technical assistance, etc.

In this respect, the Latin American countries should be provided with systematic information on what might be called "the economic dynamics" of the African countries, and should give the African countries similar information on Latin America. Such information should cover, inter alia, the main barriers to the implementation of development plans and the acceleration of the growth rate, investment programmes and projects of a strategic nature, forecasts of the volume and composition of foreign trade, etc. The general picture that would gradually take shape of the situation and prospects of the countries of each region should be made available to the respective governments and private organizations as a regular and periodical flow of systematic information.

9/ In 1977, CEPAL and ECA jointly organized a co-operative project in which a group of high-level and middle-level African economists visited the secretariats of various economic integration systems of Latin America in order to study the experience acquired by the region in the field of economic integration and co-operation.

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At the same time as mechanisms are established for this basic information, studies should be made of the present situation with respect to co-operation received by the African and Latin American countries, as for example:

(a) The experience in co-operation and exchange which the countries of each of these regions have already had, and agreements or other types of commitments concluded between Latin American and African governments;

(b) The machinery and procedures for technical co-operation which the African countries receive from their former metropolises;

(c) A survey of demand for technical co-operation which the countries would conduct outside their own region, and an evaluation of the possibilities that such demand can be satisfied by the countries of the other region.

As regards the technical co-operation which Latin America could provide to Africa, in an initial stage a few areas would be chosen as the most promising for achieving short-term results in horizontal co-operation. These areas could comprise four sectors: agriculture, infrastructure (mainly transport), education and foreign trade, and a more general field such as technology.

The Latin American countries possess a fund of transferable experience with which to co-operate in the agricultural sector, both as regards problems affecting tropical and temperate-zone agricultural commodities and plantation agriculture, and in connexion with agro-industry. Action in this respect could take the form of promoting a joint study by technical specialists from CEPAL and ECA aimed at identifying the most important areas for the provision of technical co-operation, and holding seminars and training courses in those Latin American countries with the richest experience in each of the areas concerned.

In the case of infrastructure, especially in relation to transport, the activities could be oriented towards the transfer of experience in solving transport problems within the Latin American

/region, covering

region, covering not only technical aspects but also its regulation and legislation, and towards transport and port problems affecting trade between the two regions, the existing difficulties and future prospects.

In the education field, a study would be made to determine the basic requirements of the African countries and the best possibilities offered by the Latin American States. A basic principle which should be taken into account in these studies and analyses is the transfer of experience which Latin America possesses in connexion with the training of administrative and programming personnel. Thus, training courses could be held for administrators in different areas of the public sector, such as state enterprises or the large-scale public services, for which purpose the African government officials should be put in touch with the excellent centres found in certain Latin American countries. By way of example, some thought is being given to the training of administrators and programmers in public health, electrical services, road administration, rural education, management and administration, etc. A system of fellowships should be organized for the purpose, as well as the possibility of offering in-service training through the exchange of government officials. Seminars provide a useful mechanism for the elucidation of the programmes to be undertaken, and for the design of study programmes and training methodologies.

In the field of foreign trade, there are two possible areas of technical co-operation between Africa and Latin America which could be analysed: (a) the exchange of experience between Latin America and Africa in connexion with foreign trade, external financing and development policies; and (b) technical co-operation more specifically linked with trade and economic relations between Latin America and Africa.

This could cover: the exchange of experience between Latin America and Africa in connexion with foreign trade and development strategies, the management of foreign trade policies (instruments such as tariffs,

/foreign exchange,

foreign exchange, etc.), export promotion policies, integration and regional co-operation policies, external financing policies, internal organization for external negotiation.

In each of these areas an attempt would be made to examine the experience of both these regions, their successes, failures, limitations and problems, since each region has had experiences which may be useful to the other.

As regards technical co-operation in connexion with trade and economic relations between Latin America and Africa, the subjects envisaged could include co-operation in the analysis of past and present trade and economic relations in general between Latin America and Africa, and possibilities of co-operation in the future, with a view to extending the scope and improving such co-operation and the procedures for implementing it. The following points may be considered in this area: (a) possibilities of potential complementarity between countries of the two regions: sectors, projects, etc. On the basis of the development policies and priority projects for both groups of countries it is possible to detect the most promising areas for complementarity; (b) co-operation possibilities resulting from the previous point; (c) co-operation procedures compatible with the present stage of development of the two regions, which have either never been used before or have been used only to a limited extent, and which could be utilized or extended in the future. Here too consideration will be given to combined methods of co-operation covering investment, technology, trade, etc.

The transfer and adaptation of technology is perhaps the field offering the broadest co-operation with the African countries. In many Latin American countries there are several areas in the production of goods and services where valuable experience may be found in the adaptation of technology, methods of acquiring foreign technology, and domestic research and development activities.

/In this

In this case too, the first step would be to study Africa's needs and promote the above-mentioned sectors. Information seminars and the exchange of experience would serve these purposes.

These activities will be carried out by the CEPAL Office in Buenos Aires with the substantive support of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Transport Division, Trade and Development Division, and Joint CEPAL/FAO Agriculture Division at CEPAL headquarters, Santiago. The Division of Operations will co-ordinate the operational aspects of these activities.

4. Co-operation among planning bodies of Latin America

The activities under this programme are designed to promote a wider exchange of development planning experience and research in Latin America.

The exchange will take place through the following activities:

(a) The technical staff of planning bodies in the countries of the region will participate in the various project activities (training, advisory services and research). All or part of the cost of this technical personnel (salaries, travel and subsistence expenses) could be paid by their own governments;

(b) The co-operation provided by the technical personnel of one country of the region to the planning office (national, sectoral or regional) of another will be mobilized and co-ordinated;

(c) Research will be promoted in the countries (or in ILPES itself) with the purpose of identifying the obstacles and progress in the planning process on the basis of the concrete experience of the countries of the region;

(d) With the object of promoting specific action at the level of the countries or of the regional or sub-regional agencies, possible joint activities among the countries deriving from a knowledge of their development processes and in relation to economic integration and technical co-operation, will be identified;

/(e) Co-operation

(e) Co-operation will be given in the organization of meetings and seminars for the exchange of experience in accordance with the countries' priorities;

(f) A publications programme will be prepared with the object of keeping the countries informed about the main planning developments, inside and outside the region, including the publication of a periodical information bulletin.

The secretariat's activities in this field are centred at ILPES headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

5. Other activities involving elements of TCDC

a) Training. Although the training and advisory programmes being carried out by the CEPAL system cannot, strictly speaking, be described as technical co-operation among developing countries, they have laid the bases for subsequently achieving such co-operation.

In the first place, training in such important fields as economic and social planning and demography has enabled government officials and professional personnel of the public and private sectors and academic centres in the Latin American countries to become acquainted with the basic problems of the region and learn techniques for solving them. Secondly, through these programmes close contact has been established between those graduating from the courses, who have often gone on to occupy important positions in the public administration of their own countries. In this way, a valuable technical infrastructure has been created which could be used to great advantage in schemes of technical co-operation among countries of the region.

Thus, from 1952 to 1976 CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE have organized about 200 training courses at the regional, sub-regional and national levels, attended by nearly 7,000 university graduates from all the countries of the region.

(b) Regional and sub-regional economic integration. The countries of Latin America have attained a high level of political and economic unity and are already committed to some kind of joint responsibility for economic and social development in the region as a whole.

/CEPAL participated

CEPAL participated actively in the creation of the Latin American Free Trade Association (ALALC) and the Central American economic integration scheme and has been co-operating actively in carrying out the aims and objectives of the Andean Pact and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM).

In addition to the various current and proposed activities of CEPAL aimed at intensifying regional and sub-regional integration, support continues to be provided on a sectoral and commodity basis. CEPAL will also increasingly function as a forum for the exchange and dissemination of information between sub-regional schemes within the region.

Thus, CEPAL could collaborate with the various integration processes and encourage closer links or association between the various groups of countries in the region, since certain economic considerations make such closer association advisable. The time may have come, for example, for the member countries of a system to pass on from the stage of negotiation among themselves to the stage of expressing themselves as a unit vis-à-vis other sub-regional groupings that are equal or even more important than those grouped in one association, and CEPAL could perhaps be the catalyzing element paving the way for closer links, association or interrelationships among them.

(c) Transnational corporations. Studies are being carried out aimed at strengthening the bargaining position of Latin American governments vis-à-vis transnational corporations.

(d) Information and documentation. CEPAL's Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) is carrying out a survey to study the economic and social information infrastructure in the Latin American and Caribbean countries which will make it possible to analyse the different national situations regarding information and thus formulate policies based on these findings. On the basis of the survey, it will be possible to establish contacts among the different information units in the region (e.g., at the levels of government, academic centres and private enterprise) and thus bring about a more efficient exchange among them.

/(e) Sectoral

(e) Sectoral co-operation and development. CEPAL has been actively present in the following fields:

(i) International trade.. Co-operation with the Latin American countries regarding the multilateral trade negotiations currently being held under the auspices of GATT. CEPAL is also studying the implications for Latin America of the present state of the international monetary and financial system so that the countries can adopt appropriate measures for adequate protection from external factors. In general, the work of CEPAL in the field of international and economic relations is mainly focussed on problems dealing with the programme of action for the establishment of a new international economic order and on helping to carry out decisions taken at UNCTAD IV.

(ii) Industry. Studies on specific industrial branches (chemicals, metal products and machinery, forestry and agricultural-based industries) with a view to identifying their potential and problems. Support to the Central American countries in the formulation of sectoral policies, with emphasis on areas of specialization and complementarity. Increased co-operation and complementarity among the Latin American countries will be promoted through specific projects and through the creation of Latin American multinational enterprises.

(iii) Transport. CEPAL has assisted in the design and implementation of an integrated system for the movement of goods imported by Bolivia through the Chilean port of Arica. It is also promoting economic co-operation in the field of transport and trade facilitation and is presently finalizing a study on transport services in the Andean Corridor Santiago-Caracas with the aim of identifying bottlenecks, both physical and institutional, that hinder the movement of goods and people in the Andean sub-region.

(iv) Natural resources and energy. In close co-operation with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), CEPAL will promote joint action by the countries in multinational activities aimed at improving their energy policies. It will also collaborate with Central American governments in the evaluation and optimal exploitation

/of natural

of natural resources with a view to strengthening an integrationist approach to the joint exploitation of the natural resources of the area.

(v) Food and agriculture. Co-operation with integration bodies to strengthen their capacity to identify and formulate programmes, projects or activities designed to increase agricultural co-operation among member countries of the different integration schemes regarding the transformation of rural structures, creation of technology (including food technology), production of technical inputs, improvement of distribution systems, etc.

(vi) Science and technology. Research studies on the choice of techniques and appropriate technology in the light of employment and other socio-economic objectives; case studies at the industrial sub-sector and enterprise level (transfer and adaptation of technology); case studies on native technological and scientific development; methodology for evaluating investment projects in the field of scientific and technological development. These studies will have the objective of defining the criteria to be used in establishing technological development policies for channelling investments, the subjects covered in the current phase being the following: the building, steel chemical and petrochemical sectors; the relationship between technology and the export of manufactures, and legal and institutional structures for creating technological know-how.

/Annex I

Annex I

316 (XV) CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that it is indispensable that there should be more co-operation among the developing countries of different geographical areas in order to protect their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, defend the prices of their export commodities, improve the conditions of access and stabilize the markets for those commodities, as well as in other fields related to economic and social development,

Drawing attention to the agreements reached in the Declaration and Principles of the Action Programme of Lima in November 1971 and in the Action Programme adopted at the Georgetown Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries in August 1972,

Bearing in mind the importance of giving full support to the various agencies concerned with co-operation among developing countries, which have made considerable progress in defence of the interests of countries producing and exporting raw materials,

Also bearing in mind the importance of making use of the machinery afforded by the Protocol relating to trade negotiations among developing countries, which is open to them all whether or not they are members of GATT, but which is not open to the developed countries,

Requests the secretariat of ECLA:

(a) To hold consultations as a matter of urgency with the secretariats of the other United Nations regional economic commissions and with the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut with a view to collecting basic data, arranging to undertake studies and,

where appropriate and in consultation with Governments, promoting interregional projects for co-operation among developing countries on the aspects mentioned in the preambular paragraphs of this resolution;

(b) To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide maximum co-operation and adequate financial support for the preparation of projects for co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas;

(c) To arrange, as appropriate, for the co-operation of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, the secretariats of subregional and regional economic integration bodies and the regional development banks in the formulation of such projects.

177th. meeting
29 March 1973

354 (XVI) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling ECLA resolution 316 (XV) of 29 March 1973 on co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas,

Drawing attention to General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and particularly section VII on the promotion of co-operation among developing countries,

Drawing attention also to the report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries submitted to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the report of the Administrator of UNDP submitted to the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of UNDP on the same subject,

Bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the final report of the Working Group and in particular those mentioning the role of the regional economic commissions in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolution 3251 (XXIX) on technical co-operation among developing countries, and especially the operative part, in which the regional economic commissions are requested to study measures aimed at applying the recommendations made to them in the report of the Working Group,

Considering that technical co-operation among developing countries constitutes a new and important dimension of international technical co-operation, in the promotion and co-ordination of which the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution assigns a central role to UNDP,

Believing it is important that the secretariat of the Commission should promote greater co-operation among the developing countries of Latin America and make suitable institutional arrangements for this purpose,

1. Notes with satisfaction the establishment of a co-ordination centre in the secretariat, to be responsible for co-ordinating the Commission's activities connected with the promotion of technical co-operation among the developing countries of the region;

2. Urges the Governments of developing countries members of the Commission:

(a) To increase technical co-operation among themselves;

(b) To draw up, adopt and put into practice specific programmes for technical co-operation among the developing countries of the region;

(c) To set up institutional machinery to programme and co-ordinate activities connected with technical co-operation with other developing countries in the region;

3. Recommends the Executive Secretary of ECLA:

(a) To provide maximum support to the Governments of the developing countries of the region and to UNDP in order to set in motion activities aimed at promoting technical co-operation among such countries, with emphasis on the organization and operation of a system for providing information on the existing capacities and needs of the developing countries of the region;

(b) To co-sponsor with UNDP the Latin American intergovernmental meeting to be held prior to the world intergovernmental symposium on technical co-operation among developing countries, pursuant to the recommendation of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (DP/69, paragraph 35) which was endorsed by the General Assembly (resolution 3251 (XXIX), operative paragraph 4);

4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3251 (XXIX), to consider the need to assign one or more regional advisers to ECLA secretariat headquarters in order to strength mutual co-operation efforts among the developing countries of the region.

191st. meeting
13 May 1975

363 (XVII) CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS OF DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Noting General Assembly resolutions 3177 (XXVIII), 3241 (XXIX), 3442 (XXX), and 31/119 on economic co-operation among developing countries, and resolutions 3202 (S-VI) and 3362 (S-VIII), particularly sections VII and VI, respectively, as well as resolutions 2974 (XXVII), 3251 (XXIX) and 3461 (XXX) on technical co-operation among developing countries and resolutions 31/179 concerning the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1963 (LIX) on technical co-operation among developing countries and 2023 (LXI) concerning the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, as well as resolution 2043 (LXI) on strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation, particularly operative paragraph 5 recommending the co-operation of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies with the regional economic commissions "with a view to making them centres for the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of programmes for the promotion of co-operation among States members of the respective commissions",

Noting further decision 142 (XVI) adopted by the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, establishing a Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, and particularly its functions of strengthening the mutual co-operation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XV) of 29 March 1973 on co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas and 354 (XVI) of 13 May 1975 on technical co-operation among developing countries,

Mindful of the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven (2 to 7 February 1977), and in particular of Part Two, section C, which stresses the need to foster mutual co-operation among developing countries

Bearing in mind the Measures for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries adopted at the Conference of the Group of Seventy-seven (Mexico City, 13 to 22 September 1976), in particular the requests for assistance on different aspects of these Measures addressed by the Conference to the regional economic commissions,

Convinced that the concept of collective self-reliance represents a renewed effort of co-operation among developing countries aimed at achieving forms of mutual support and complementarity in the development of their respective economies and societies,

Recognizing the increasing importance of programmes of mutual co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas as a strategy for accelerating their development on the basis of the principle of collective self-reliance,

Conscious of the role that the Commission should play in the mobilization and more effective utilization of domestic resources at the subregional and regional levels to reinforce the unity and capacity of the developing countries of the region for joint action and for self-reliant national development,

1. Takes note of the final report of the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries convened by the United Nations Development Programme in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America in Lima, Peru, from 10 to 15 May 1976 (DP/TCDC/RBLA/10);

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Expedite the necessary institutional arrangements to establish within the secretariat, in close co-operation with the competent bodies of the United Nations system, a special unit to promote mutual co-operation among developing countries of the region, paying particular attention to geographically disadvantaged and land-locked countries, and between those countries and the countries of other geographical areas, with the objective of integrating this activity fully within the programme of work of the Commission in order to implement without delay the recommendations addressed to the regional economic commissions in

the report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (DP/69), in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, and in other United Nations fora;

(b) Take the necessary measures to develop and intensify mutual co-operation with the secretariats of other regional economic commissions with a view to promoting programmes and projects for the mobilization of economic and technical co-operation at the regional and interregional levels, including the organization and holding of seminars and meetings of working groups, if required and in co-ordination with other competent bodies of the United Nations system, in which a technical dialogue and exchange of experience can be effected;

(c) Invite the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize jointly a meeting at the technical level on interregional horizontal co-operation between the secretariats of both regional commissions and to convene in due course an interregional meeting at governmental level to discuss appropriate measures for the implementation of concrete projects of co-operation among the African and Latin American regions;

(d) Assist the United Nations Development Programme, as required, in the preparatory activities concerned with the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held in Buenos Aires from 27 March to 7 April 1978;

(e) Take all appropriate measures to assist the developing member countries of the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the final report of the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Lima, Peru;

(f) Assist the developing member countries of the Commission, as appropriate, in their preparations for the Buenos Aires Conference;

3. Urges all developing member nations of the region to establish appropriate mechanisms for promoting technical co-operation activities among themselves;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make adequate provision in order to enable the secretariat of the Commission to carry out its activities effectively in the sphere of different geographical areas in compliance with operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2043 (LXI);

5. Decides to include an item on co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas in the agenda of all the biennial sessions of the Commission as a permanent question to be examined by the Member Governments.

201st. meeting
5 May 1977