

2006



THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF ECLAC
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 20 – 24 MARCH 2006

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.2306(SES.31/14)
10 March 2006

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ACTIVITIES OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DURING THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM

Note by the secretariat

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I. International cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: overview and general trends

This document reviews the cooperation activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) during the 2004-2005 biennium, in the context of United Nations guidelines and reforms relating to technical cooperation. The first section presents an overview of activities carried out in recent years in the area of international cooperation for development. The second section, which constitutes the core of this document, reports on the full range of cooperation activities carried out by the Commission in the 2004-2005 biennium and incorporates specific references to South-South cooperation. Lastly, the regulatory framework of activities of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC and the United Nations system is described in an annex to this report.

A. Characteristics of international cooperation

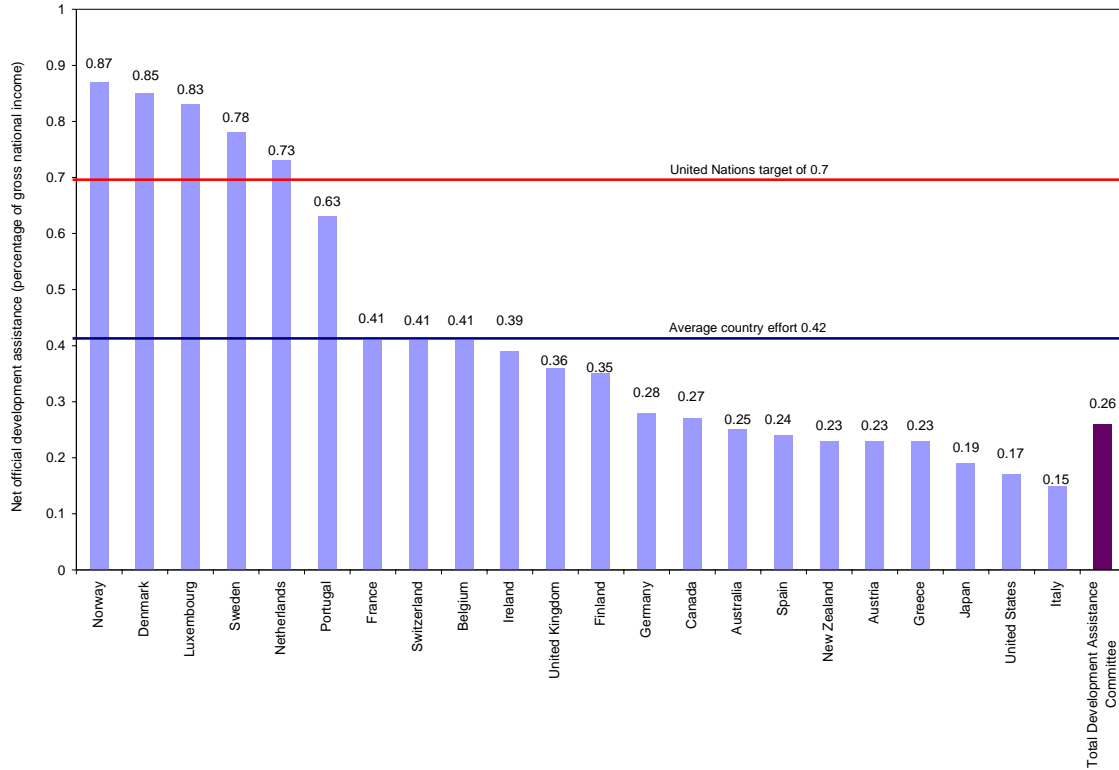
During the 2004-2005 biennium, the aggregate flow of official development assistance (ODA) continued to follow the upward trend observed in the previous biennium. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), official development assistance from the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) **stood at US\$ 79.512 billion (current dollars) in 2004 and is expected to increase to about US\$ 90 billion in 2005.**¹ These are record figures in both nominal and real terms. In 2004, total ODA grew by 5.9% in real terms and 15.2% in nominal terms compared with the previous year. In 2002 and 2003, ODA totalled US\$ 60.5 billion and US\$ 69.029 billion, respectively.² Thus, recent years have seen a confirmation of the positive trend in international cooperation observed since 2000, following a period of stagnation in absolute terms and the slight decline with respect to global GDP in 1992-1997. In the biennium under review, a number of short-term factors contributed to the increase in ODA, namely the depreciation of the dollar, the conflict in Iraq and the exceptional circumstances that prevailed in South Asia at the beginning of 2005 in the wake of the devastating tsunami.

With effect from 2002, thanks to the impetus of the new commitments undertaken at the International Conference on Financing for Development, the net contribution of donor countries in relation to their gross income rallied slightly, rising to 0.23% in 2002 and 0.25% in 2003. In 2004, the contribution increased slightly —by 0.01 of a percentage point over the previous year's— reaching an average of 0.26% of gross income of the countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Flows from the different donor countries vary significantly (see figure 1). Growth in this indicator is remarkable, although current levels are still far below the United Nations target of 0.7% of gross income and even lower than the levels of the early 1990s (0.33% of GNP between 1980 and 1992).

¹ The 23 member countries of the the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provide about 95% of official development assistance worldwide. For figures, see OECD, December 2005.

² Figures in current dollars.

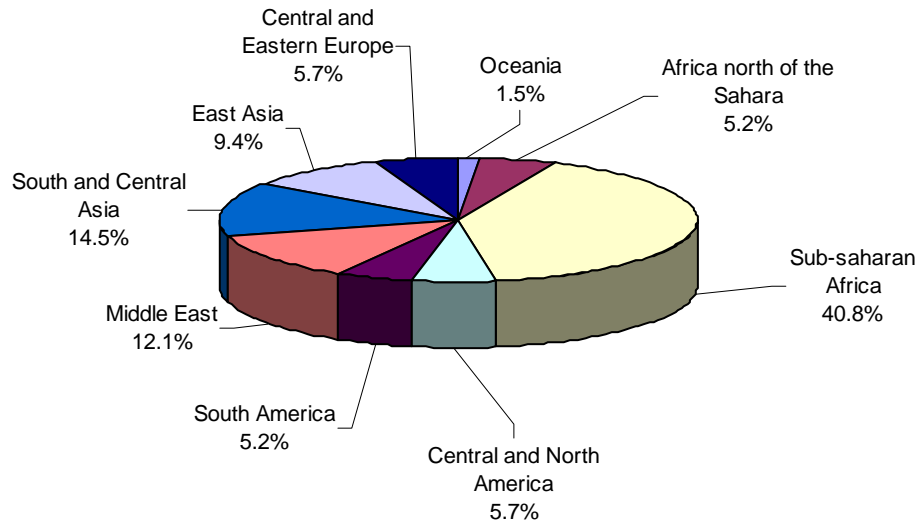
Figure 1
FLOWS OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME, BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2004
(Percentages)



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC), December 2005.

The distribution of official development assistance in regions and countries remains highly unequal (see figure 2). The group of least developed countries accounts for 31.8% of assistance and heavily indebted poor countries, receive 31%. Sub-Saharan Africa, the leading destination of ODA, received 40.8% of bilateral flows in 2004. In that same year, Africa and Asia accounted for 82% of net assistance, while Latin America and the Caribbean received 10.9%, close to the level received in the previous year (10.7%). This proportion is similar to the 9% observed in the 1990s, but lower than the figures recorded at the beginning of the present decade (12% in 2001). Haiti is the only country in the region classified as one of the least developed countries. All the other Latin American and Caribbean countries have higher per capita income levels than those of other regions in the world, hence the significantly lower levels of ODA inflows into the region compared with Africa or Asia. If income distribution indicators are taken into account, however, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean continue to show the worst statistics in the world, and the social panorama continues to be highly unsatisfactory.

Figure 2
DISTRIBUTION OF NET ODA FLOWS BY REGION, 2004^a



Source: Statistical database of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), December 2005.

^a Net ODA flows include specifically targeted funds from countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), multilateral organizations and countries that do not belong to that Committee.

The issue of ODA for Latin America and the Caribbean was also discussed in the inter-agency report on fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals entitled *The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective*.³ The fruit of a joint effort by different United Nations agencies and offices in the region, this report was coordinated by ECLAC in preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in September 2005. According to the report, official development assistance has played a redistributive role in the region—since the most heavily indebted poor countries are the leading beneficiaries— as well as a countercyclical role, thanks to interventions by regional and subregional development banks in times of crisis. In that publication, ECLAC, together with the United Nations funds and programmes in the region, underscored the fundamental role played by official assistance for development processes in Latin America and the Caribbean, which, together with migrants' remittances have become one of the most stable and least procyclical sources of funds received by the poorest countries and areas in this region.

Official development assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean has been available for solving unforeseen political, economic and natural crises, although it has not increased and accounts for a very small percentage of assistance to developing countries. Indeed, even if all ODA were to be channelled towards benefiting only people living in poverty in the region, data for 2002 show that they would still receive less per capita than citizens in the other regions of the world, that is, US\$ 22 or US\$ 23, compared with the per capita figure of US\$ 27 in Africa, US\$ 55 in the European countries in transition and US\$ 183 in Oceania.

³ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective* (LC/G.2331-P), J.L. Machinea, A. Bárcena and A. León (coords.), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), August 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.G.107.

The document in question suggests that inequality and heterogeneity in Latin America and the Caribbean make it necessary to set up mechanisms for ensuring that the assistance is channelled towards the most disadvantaged sectors and areas. The use of development indicators by country, which average out very uneven and heterogeneous situations, continues to mask the regional and national realities and alters the distribution and the priorities of assistance, thereby reducing the chances of progress for the most disadvantaged citizens in Latin America and the Caribbean. Donors are therefore urged to calculate their assistance to developing countries on the basis of the funding these countries lack for fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals and pressing ahead with their national poverty reduction strategies.

B. The United Nations system and cooperation activities

As part of the reform process launched by the Office of the Secretary-General, the United Nations system has embarked on a review of its entire array of technical cooperation activities in an effort to increase the effectiveness of the programmes financed by official development assistance, provide greater clarity, increase the flow of information and improve coordination between the United Nations Secretariat including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the regional commissions and funds and programmes that fulfil a role in this area, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). One of the main advances achieved in this reform process is the work of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which coordinates the development activities of the offices, agencies and programmes of the Organization on the basis of instruments elaborated jointly, such as strategic guides for common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. These shared frameworks guarantee greater coherence and more effective interventions by the United Nations system.

ECLAC and the other regional commissions play a fundamental role in technical cooperation activities carried out by the United Nations system within the region. On the basis of their characteristics and activities, these regional agencies address issues that benefit or disadvantage a specific group of clearly identifiable countries. These issues include the effects of climate change, free trade agreements, regional and subregional trade and the coordination of macroeconomic policies. The regional economic commissions contribute analytical and formative studies to the discussions on defining economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development patterns suitable for their particular region. Equally important is the promotion of regional cooperation and the political consensus for the national, subregional and regional implementation of the international commitments derived from the summits and world conferences that constitute the cornerstone of the work of the United Nations system.

With respect to Latin America and the Caribbean, the main spheres of activities for which ECLAC is responsible are harmonization and the establishment of networks for discussion and coordination of macroeconomic policies; the design and implementation of fiscal policies, policies for productive development, measures directed towards sustainable development and the rational and integrated use of natural resources; regional cooperation on statistical matters; further advancement of the status of women and gender equity in public policies; specific initiatives in the areas of energy, trade and regional integration; and support for the creation of covenants for social cohesion. Equally important are the activities conducted by ECLAC in various subregional spheres, at its two subregional headquarters (Mexico and the Caribbean) and at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The following section contains more detailed information on the subject areas and specific projects addressed by the Commission during the biennium under review. The document relating to the programme of work of ECLAC for the 2006-2007 biennium outlines the areas in which the Commission will concentrate its efforts during this period.

II. Cooperation activities undertaken by ECLAC

A. Features of technical cooperation projects undertaken by ECLAC

The ECLAC technical cooperation programme is implemented with substantive and financial support from various donors including the member countries or other countries interested in collaborating with ECLAC, United Nations agencies or other multilateral organizations and academic centres, foundations, non-State agencies and non-governmental organizations.

These technical cooperation activities include the implementation of individual projects, which are identified on the basis of the ECLAC programme of work and member countries' priorities. The projects enable ECLAC to create broader comparative research activities, shared with beneficiary countries, and to deepen technical assistance to member countries. They also ensure that the Commission's leverage benefits countries in the region as well as donor countries and organizations through seminars, workshops and training courses, the creation of databases and the coordination of expert networks. One of the Commission's strengths lies in being able to combine research, technical assistance and training in a way that optimizes the intervention for beneficiary countries and donor countries and organizations.

In general, the projects implemented by ECLAC are of regional or subregional scope or benefit more than one country. Thus, initiatives applied in one country can be replicated, good practices disseminated, and mistakes avoided and problems and solutions can be approached from a supranational perspective. ECLAC also implements projects for individual countries upon request, as well as other activities relating to its mandates and new issues and requirements that arise from specific requests.

ECLAC cooperation activities are increasingly being conducted on a multisectoral and multi-year basis and programmes involve several subprogrammes and divisions and extend over more than one biennium. Thus in its relationship with donors, ECLAC has been opting for cooperation programmes of this kind rather than specific projects. The Commission is therefore in a position to deal with development issues from a multidimensional and multi-year perspective, which is more in keeping with the way in which problems arise in the real world.

The outputs of the projects are disseminated through technical assistance and training activities and the publication of ECLAC series, its own publications and co-publications launched with commercial publishing houses. These publications are disseminated through the ECLAC website (<http://www.eclac.cl>) and through dispatches to institutions in the region.

The Commission implements South-South cooperation programmes, some of which are listed in the following sections and whose regulatory framework is included in annex 1 of this document, within the scope of its technical cooperation programme and with resources from the regular budget.

B. Projects financed with extrabudgetary resources

1. General description of cooperation activities

During the period under review, the Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC continued to support the execution of numerous technical cooperation projects with extrabudgetary resources under the responsibility of ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, the two subregional headquarters and the national offices.

These technical cooperation projects have been formulated on the basis of mandates and requests of member countries, and in keeping with guidelines from donor agencies and organizations. These projects have enabled the ECLAC secretariat to reinforce and expand some of the activities from its programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium.

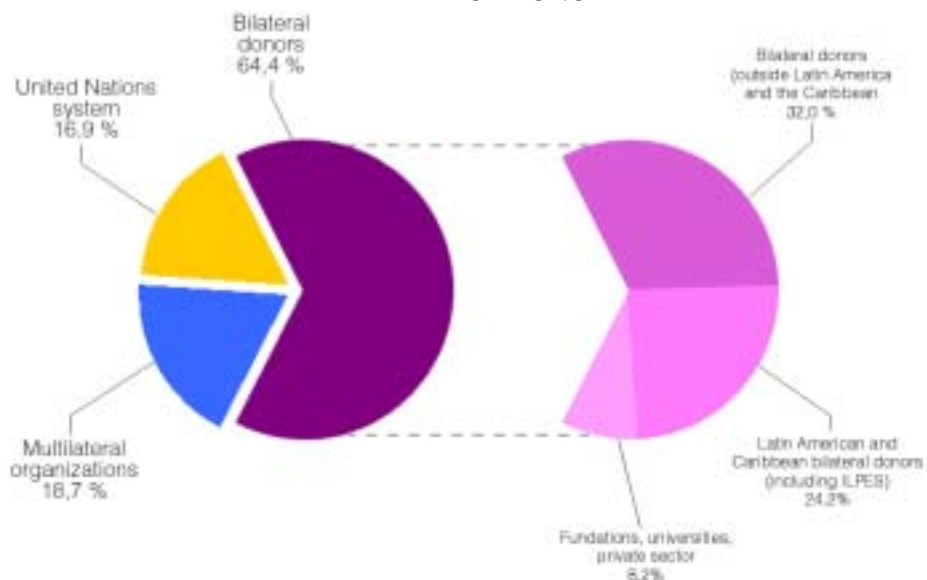
The projects implemented during this period include national, subregional or regional research and comparative studies, technical assistance at the national level and collaboration with subnational organizations, as well as training activities, workshops and seminars organized at the national, subregional or regional level. In addition, the work of the Commission was disseminated, with due acknowledgement of the contributions of donors, through the publication of ECLAC books, series issued by the substantive divisions, co-publications launched with publishing houses within and outside the region and the publication of many of these studies through the Commission's website. The most important outputs of the activities were also incorporated in various ECLAC institutional documents.

2. Expenditure incurred in the 2004-2005 biennium and charged against extrabudgetary sources

In the 2004-2005 biennium, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean carried out more than 180 projects financed with extrabudgetary resources, which represented an estimated expenditure of US\$ 18,588,325.⁴ As in previous bienniums, most of the extrabudgetary funds were from bilateral sources (64.4% of expenditure incurred during the period). These were followed by contributions from multilateral organizations, which accounted for 18.7% and, lastly, the funding from the United Nations system, amounting to 16.9% (see figure 3 and table 1).

⁴ Estimates based on expenditure incurred up to November 2005.

Figure 3
**FINANCING SOURCES FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
 BY TYPE OF DONOR**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

Table 1
**FINANCING SOURCES FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
 BY TYPE OF DONOR**

Type of donor	2002-2003 biennium		2004-2005 biennium	
	(Dollars)	(Percentages)	(Dollars)	(Percentages)
Multilateral sources				
Multilateral organizations	1 851 831	10.1	3 475 898	18.7
United Nations system	3 043 937	16.6	3 147 683	16.9
Subtotal	4 895 768	26.7	6 623 581	35.6
Bilateral sources				
Donor countries outside the region	7 129 257	39.0	5 948 869	32.0
Donor countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	5 682, 136	31.1	4 489 656	24.2
Foundations, universities and private sector	586 021	3.2	1 526 219	8.2
Subtotal	13 397 414	73.3	11 964 744	64.4
Total expenditure financed	18 293 182	100.0	18 588 325	100.0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

Multilateral sources of financing

The expenditure covered by multilateral sources of financing increased from 26.7% to 35.6% owing mainly to the considerable increase in contributions from the European Union, which financed expenditure totalling more than US\$ 1 million in net terms and raised its share from 1.2% to 6.8% (see table 2).

Special mention should be made of the projects financed by the United Nations Development Account, which were entered in a separate account in the previous biennium. The proportion of expenditure financed by the Development Account increased from 5.8% to 8.9%. This was due to the financing of additional projects and to the simultaneous implementation of Tranche 3 (2002-2003) and Tranche 4 (2004-2005) projects, owing to a late start-up in the previous biennium. The funds from the Development Account are of great significance, since they promote joint interventions by the different United Nations agencies, programmes and funds for resolving development problems, thereby enhancing the synergies and potential of the initiatives, and enabling them to fulfil the mandates of member countries in this regard.

Table 2
FINANCING FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
BY MULTILATERAL SOURCES

Multilateral sources of financing	2002-2003 biennium		2004-2005 biennium	
	(Dollars)	(Percentages)	(Dollars)	(Percentages)
Multilateral organizations				
Inter-American Development Bank	1 108 015	6.1	1 083 498	5.8
World Bank	86 170	0.5	513 655	2.8
European Union	213 793	1.2	1 255 604	6.8
Global Water Partnership	...	-	404 566	2.2
Central American Integration System	319 334	1.7	21 790	0.1
Other multilateral organizations	124 519	0.7	196 785	1.1
Subtotal	1 851 831	10.2	3 475 898	18.7
United Nations system				
United Nations Development Programme	1 338 931	7.3	39 332	0.2
Development Account	...	-	1 650 514	8.9
United Nations Population Fund	1 156 782	6.3	1 166 680	6.3
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)	238 300	1.3	56 660	0.3
Other United Nations agencies	309 924	1.7	234 497	1.3
Subtotal	3 043 937	16.6	3 147 683	16.9
Total multilateral financing	4 895 768	26.7	6 623 581	35.6

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

Bilateral sources of financing

As in the previous biennium, German cooperation continues to be the principal source of bilateral financing (around 13%) (see table 3). This is a clear reflection of the stable and prolonged partnership between ECLAC and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), by virtue of which BMZ finances multi-year, multidimensional ECLAC programmes. During the biennium, this strategic partnership, as both institutions have described it, has been crowned with Germany's formal entry as a member of the Commission (Economic and Social Council Resolution 2005/41 of 26 July 2005) and with the adoption of the programme for 2006-2007 "Towards a Fair, Equitable and Sustainable Globalization".

Table 3
FINANCING FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
BY BILATERAL SOURCES

Bilateral sources	Biennium 2002-2003		Biennium 2004-2005	
	(Dollars)	(Percentages)	(Dollars)	(Percentages)
Countries from outside the region				
Germany	2 378 012	13.0	2 387 462	12.8
Canada	25 338	0.1	880 604	4.7
Spain ^a	416 821	2.3	217 861	1.2
France	131 505	0.7	253 040	1.4
Italy	1 432 672	7.8	838 721	4.5
Japan ^b	157 565	0.9	276 458	1.5
Netherlands	1 009 549	5.5	258 107	1.4
Sueden	1 526 011	8.3	684 928	3.7
Other countries	51 784	0.3	151 688	0.8
Subtotal	7 129 257	39.0	5 948 201	32.0
Countries in the region				
Argentina	2 510 541	13.7	995 578	5.4
Brazil	...	-	835 095	4.5
Chile	651 007	3.6	154 610	0.8
Colombia	114 653	0.6	258 273	1.4
Uruguay	136 061	0.7	169 624	0.9
Other Latin American and Caribbean countries	154 554	0.8	303 458	1.6
Subtotal	3 566 816			
ILPES	2 115 320	11.6	1 773 018 ^c	9.5
Foundations, universities and private sector	586 021	3.2	1 526 219	8.2
Total bilateral sources	13 397 414	73.2	11 964 744	64.4

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

^a Forms part of the contribution to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

^b Includes a contribution made through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its Thematic Trust Fund for Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICTD).

^c Includes quota payments and other contributions made by countries such as Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Spain.

The contributions made by Latin American and Caribbean countries (24.2%), continue to play an important part in bilateral contributions. This shows that member countries recognize the work of the Commission and embrace the organization as their own.

Most countries have substantially increased their contributions, mainly because of the numerous requests that ECLAC has been receiving from its member countries to attend to specific needs and because States are willing to cover the direct expenses deriving from these activities. The financial resources of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) are the same as in the previous biennium; the differences in the table are due to savings made by the Institute. In this regard, ILPES member countries are to be commended for their punctuality in paying their quotas and contributions.

Other noteworthy developments during this period include the considerable expansion in Canada's share of expenditure, from 0.1% in the 2002-2004 biennium to 4.7% in the biennium under review, and in France's share, which rose from 0.7% to 1.4%. These increases have helped to offset the decline in the contributions of other developed countries.

Other bilateral sources: universities, foundations and private-sector institutions

Universities, foundations and bilateral private organizations increased their percentage share in the distribution of expenditure from 3.2% to 8.2% in the 2004-2005 biennium (see table 4). The Kellogg Foundation funded 47.9% of this total through the competition "Experiences in social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean", whose basic objective is to identify successful initiatives in social development. A prize is awarded annually to an innovative poverty reduction initiative and the results are disseminated in the countries of the region. The project will be implemented in annual cycles up to 2008 and has been an excellent opportunity to disseminate ECLAC activities in the most remote areas of the region.

Table 4
FINANCING FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, BY UNIVERSITIES, FOUNDATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Foundations, universities and the private sector	Biennium 2002-2003		Biennium 2004-2005	
	<i>(Dollars)</i>	<i>(Percentages)</i>	<i>(Dollars)</i>	<i>(Percentages)</i>
Ford Foundation	381 604	2.1	216 967	1.2
Kellogg Foundation	83 497	0.5	731 048	3.9
University of Harvard	134 481	0.7
Other universities, foundations and private institutions	120 920	0.7	443 723	2.4
Total	586 021	3.3	1 526 219	8.2

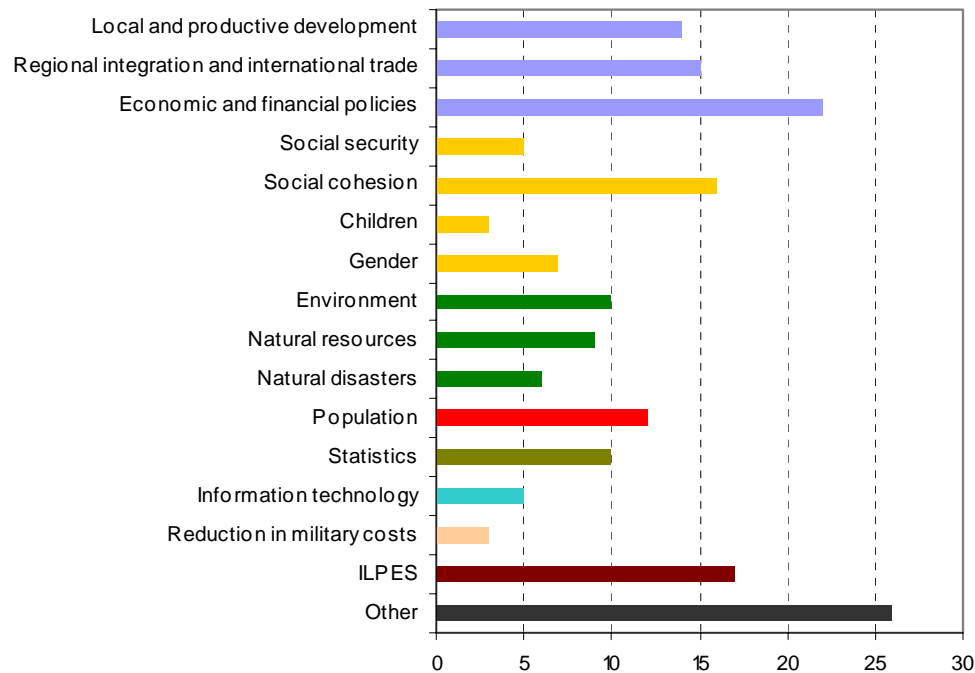
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

3. Project distribution by subject area

The 180 projects that were executed in the 2004-2005 biennium cover a wide variety of issues that are divided into five main areas, irrespective of the substantive ECLAC divisions that are responsible for their implementation (see figure 4). Of these projects, 28.3% relate to economic issues (including economic and financial policies, regional integration and international trade, local and productive development, statistics and information technologies); 17.2% fall under the heading of social issues

(which encompasses gender mainstreaming, child protection, social cohesion and social protection policies); and 13.9% relate to the environment and sustainable development (environmental issues, natural resources and natural disaster assessment). ILPES accounts for 9.4% of projects relating to training in areas of planning and fiscal management.

Figure 4
PROJECTS UNDER WAY IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, BY SUBJECT AREA
(Number of projects)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data to November 2005.

4. Projects and activities relating to South-South cooperation

The activities carried out by ECLAC to support and promote technical cooperation among developing countries and regions are governed by the United Nations regulatory framework on cooperation activities and by the recommendations formulated by member countries through the ECLAC sessional Committee on South-South Cooperation (see annex 1). In implementing these activities, the ECLAC secretariat takes into account the regular programme of work and the projects financed with extrabudgetary resources.

In the 2004-2005 biennium, ECLAC conducted numerous activities that included important elements of South-South cooperation. These included comparative studies, which enabled countries to expand their knowledge of the initiatives launched in countries with a greater or similar degree of development; foster the exchange of experiences, best practices and new methodologies through analytical seminars and training workshops; and establish and expand formal and informal networks of experts or government representatives to facilitate a more constant and long-standing exchange of knowledge and experience.

As indicated below, a number of issues have been covered and have included all the subprogrammes of the ECLAC Programme of work. Detailed information on projects linked to South-South cooperation can be found at the website on ECLAC Cooperation: <http://www.eclac.cl/cooperacion/>. Some initiatives in the economic, environmental and social areas have been selected and are shown below.

Economic area



Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA II)

ECLAC-European Union project



ECLAC has always supported regional as well as subregional integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of this support in 2005, the Commission launched the second phase of the Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA II), with technical and financial support from the European Union. This project fosters macroeconomic dialogue and the exchange of good practices among public policymakers and high-level officials in ministries of finance and central banks in Latin America.

Under the project, meetings are organized with representatives of the Andean Community (REDIMACAN), Central America (REDIMACA) and MERCOSUR plus Chile (REDIMASUR). South-South cooperation is fostered through the creation of dialogue and the exchanges of good practices in fiscal aspects of economic convergence, debt management and the role of regional reserve funds, among other macroeconomic issues. For example, the meeting of the REDIMACAN group in June 2005 considered good practices in the design of monetary instruments and policies for setting inflation targets. Presentations were made by experts from Colombia, Peru and Chile (which does not belong to the Andean region) and these formed the basis for the exchange of experiences. Similarly, at the REDIMASUR meeting held in November 2005, members shared information on good practices relating to the design of fiscal responsibility rules, with emphasis on the case of Brazil. The REDIMACA meeting, also held in November 2005, considered an ECLAC study on income tax in Central America. The participants also discussed other fiscal issues (such as counter-cyclical policies), exchanged experiences on fostering economic growth and considered the relevance of creating a more formal framework for macroeconomic dialogue in Central America as part of the existing integration activities.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/redima/>



State modernization, fostering productive development and sustainable management of natural resources

ECLAC – German cooperation



Under the 2004-2005 programme of ECLAC and in conjunction with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) held seminars, workshops and training courses for representatives of national and subnational governments, as well as for other public institutions of countries of the regions. These activities covered the following areas: strategic public-sector budget planning (promoting multi-year programming methodologies and practices, participatory budget formulation and public programme performance assessment, among other issues) and the design and application of strategic management instruments for local or regional development and territorial competitiveness.

This programme has made significant contributions to South-South cooperation by proposing to examine progress made in the context of various countries' reforms and to share these findings with public policymakers in other countries. In this context, ILPES has conducted six international and eight national workshops during this biennium, in addition to the regional seminar on fiscal policy that it organizes annually with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and other international organizations. The regional seminar is held at ECLAC headquarters and brings together senior officials responsible for fiscal policy from all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and has become a key regional forum for the exchange of sound fiscal practices and the inclusion of new issues in the fiscal programmes of the region's countries.

The training seminars and workshops held within the framework of this project, together with the seminar on fiscal policy, have become an effective means of disseminating initiatives that have yielded good results in particular countries in the region and of promoting the exchange of good practices between participants.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/ilpes/>



Strengthening competition in the Central American isthmus: national policies and institutions, regional coordination and participation in international negotiations.

Project sponsored by ECLAC and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada



The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico is carrying out this project with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The project is divided into three modules: general competition conditions; competition conditions in the banking and securities sector; and competition in the telecommunications sector. Most of the countries of the Central American subregion are in the process of analysing and promulgating their competition laws and establishing their corresponding institutional framework. Even Costa Rica and Panama, which both have a competition law and commission, are reviewing their original laws. Within the framework of the project, more suitable competition policies for the States are being analysed, bearing in mind their status as small, developing countries. The idea is to identify best practices in the subregion and in other countries of Latin America that have extensive experience in this area. Studies have been completed on six countries in the three modules mentioned, and three comparative documents have been produced; in addition, three workshops have been conducted in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. At these workshops, the documents in question were analysed by competition authorities or entities responsible for competition law (usually ministries of the economy), experts and the authorities of third countries (such as Mexico and Chile). This has then served as inspiration for other countries of Central America in the drafting of their bills. The workshops held in El Salvador and Honduras were preceded by open seminars, in which the new legislation of both countries was presented and then commented on by the authorities of the other countries. In this regard, this project provided an opportunity for South-South collaboration, whereby competition authorities and banking and telecommunication regulators from at least eight Latin American countries were able to exchange experiences. The main conclusions will be presented for further analysis at a final meeting in Mexico in March 2006 to be attended by experts from Latin American countries, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/mexico/competencia/index.htm>



Political and regulatory dialogue of the @LIS programme Alliance for the Information Society ECLAC – European Union



As part of its support of development processes in Latin American and Caribbean countries, ECLAC promotes the adoption of new technologies and the increasing use of information technology at the regional and subregional level. With the financial assistance of the European Union, ECLAC is therefore implementing the political and regulatory dialogue of the Alliance for the Information Society (@LIS). The main aims of the project are to facilitate the elaboration of regional, subregional and national strategies addressing the development of the Information Society for social cohesion in Latin America and encourage dialogue between the European Union and Latin America for the purposes of access to and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development. Through this project, ECLAC intends to: (i) boost public policies to promote development-based information societies in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) stimulate cooperation between the region's countries and among regions to facilitate their integration into a global information society and create a long-term association; and (iii) facilitate regional and subregional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean by harmonizing policies on the use of information and communication technologies for development and through the use of common comparative mechanisms for coordination, cooperation, assessment and analysis. Through this programme, ECLAC has succeeded in strengthening South-South cooperation in the area of the information society. Indeed, the programme has been the driving force behind transparent and participatory interactions between government representatives in the region, based on the creation of networks for dialogue and the exchange of experiences among key stakeholders in developing the information society. The most significant results of this cooperation were the adoption of the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLac 2007), which was officially approved by all the region's Governments at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10 June 2005. The eLac 2007 Plan is based on dialogue and cooperation among all Latin American and Caribbean countries with a view to adopting a common political agenda in this area. The Conference was the region's opportunity to present formulate a common position for presentation at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis in November 2005.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/socinfo>



**Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics (REDESA)
ECLAC - United Nations Development Account (UNDA)**



The aim of this project was to strengthen the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to produce timely and reliable social and environmental statistics to improve the formulation and monitoring of development policies, while enhancing coordination among the region's countries in the production of statistics. It was with these aims in mind that research, training and technical assistance activities were carried out and the REDESA Network created.

The REDESA directory on social statistics includes representatives from 53 institutions in 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 451 experts from 21 countries. The environmental statistics directory includes 51 institutions from 20 countries in the region and 162 experts from 19 countries. Almost 100,000 searches were carried out in the database during 2005 alone. These directories and networks are an excellent platform for South-South cooperation.

In 2005, the REDESA Network facilitated horizontal cooperation between the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) of Mexico, the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) and the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil. Between 22 and 26 August, the Director of environmental statistics and indicators of SEMARNAT shared with the IBGE his institution's experience in formulating a system of environmental statistics with the technical support of ECLAC. Between 29 and 31 August, a similar activity was organized with the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil, with special emphasis placed on the environmental quality report and the national environmental information system. ECLAC received a letter from the president of the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of this cooperation, which had contributed to the development of environmental statistics in his country.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/redesa/Aplicacion/Redesa.asp>

Environmental and sustainable development issues



Sustainability Assessment in Latin America and the Caribbean (ESALC)

ECLAC – Netherlands



During the 2004-2005 biennium, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division completed the project on Sustainability Assessment in Latin America and the Caribbean (ESALC) with the support of the Netherlands Government. The purpose of the project was to support public policymaking in the region's countries by combining environmental, social, institutional and economic indicators. The project served as a basis for an integrated framework for assessing countries' progress in terms of sustainable development, on the basis of the concept of the socio-environmental system. Research was carried out on conceptual and methodological aspects of measuring sustainable development and a document was produced on the current regional and international situation in terms of environmental and sustainable development indicators. National sustainable development indicators (SDI) and georeferenced indicators for tertiary administrative levels were established for almost all countries in the region, in addition to a database of national indicators on sustainable development in Latin America (BADESALC) and a geographical information system (SIGESALC) containing spatial data for all the region's countries. The Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division and its work on the ESALC project and the network of sustainable development indicators (RIDS) have boosted capacity-building and the exchange of experiences and information among the region's countries to assess progress made. This extensive exchange, which is an excellent model for South-South cooperation, has resulted in an intense learning process conducive to promoting good practices and avoiding mistakes that may have been made in some of the region's countries.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/dmaah/proyectos/esalc>



Training programme in environmental management

ECLAC - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



With the cooperation of the Government of Sweden, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division has implemented a training programme in environmental management to teach officials from environment ministries the methodological bases of environmental management and have them benefit from successful initiatives.

Between 2003 and 2005, over 190 participants have received training and, in many of the region's countries, sustainability evaluation exercises have been launched on the basis of the knowledge and methodologies taught during the workshops. Officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico have actively participated in this South-South cooperation by sharing with other participants their experiences in developing national indicator systems. The case study of Argentina is particularly interesting, given the productive inter-agency cooperation that prevailed throughout the process. The training courses and workshops have also given rise to a network of participants that has made a significant contribution to the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the countries concerned.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/dmaah>

Social issues



Experiences in social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC – W.K. Kellogg Foundation



The project "Experiences in social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean" was developed by the ECLAC Social Development Division with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Its aim is to identify, analyse and disseminate initiatives that target disadvantaged communities or groups and create conditions for the development and strengthening of full participation by citizens. An annual contest is held to award innovative initiatives designed to improve health, education, nutrition, agricultural production and the income of local inhabitants.

In the first cycle, the contest received 1,600 entries from countries in the region. The 20 finalists included non-governmental and social organizations from nine Latin American and Caribbean countries. The winner of the first cycle was the "let agogo" (milk a gogo) project of Veterimed in Haiti, which has brought about impressive changes in the production and marketing of milk by combining technical knowledge with farming know-how. The project has benefited the local community and the country as a whole.

The project has also resulted in several achievements in terms of South-South cooperation. First, there was an intense exchange among representatives of the 20 finalist projects on innovative initiatives and good practices in the area of management and activities. Also, the initiatives generated much public interest at the Social Innovation Fair (ECLAC headquarters, Santiago, Chile), which also served to raise the profile of social organizations from the public and private sector. Furthermore, ECLAC will disseminate details of the 43 semi-finalist projects among academics, students, policymakers, representatives of non-governmental organizations from all the region's countries, thereby boosting the innovative implementation of these activities. Through the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Social Institutions (RISALC), the Commission will also organize a virtual dialogue between finalists and institutions that deal with similar issues in the region, so that the latter can decide whether the innovations in the projects can be implemented in the countries concerned.

Internet link: <http://www.eclac.cl/id.asp?id=21890>



**Latin American and Caribbean Network of Social Institutions (RISALC)
ECLAC – Italian Cooperation**



This project is financed by Italy and has resulted in the creation of a virtual forum for the exchange of experiences, knowledge and ideas among institutions, programmes and experts working to improve the social situation of citizens in Latin America and Caribbean.

The Network includes about 1,300 institutions, programmes and experts in the region, plus 11 virtual corridors for communicating with public institutions and non-governmental organizations and accessing their websites. The Network has generated virtual forums for dialogue and cooperation between experts, policymakers and researchers in various social issues. The main activities carried out during 2005 include virtual forums on the following subjects: (i) early education, organized with the Hogar de Cristo (home of Christ – Chilean charity) and UNICEF (190 participants from all over the region); (ii) violence against boy children, girl children and adolescents in Latin America, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and PAHO (257 participants); and (iii) homeless people, organized in conjunction with the Hogar de Cristo to analyse the first national assessment of homeless people carried out by the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation of Chile (181 participants).

Internet link: <http://www.risalc.org>

C. Technical assistance missions

During the 2004-2005 biennium, officials, experts and consultants from the ECLAC subprogrammes carried out a total of 1,564 technical assistance missions (see table 5).⁵ This is more than twice the number of missions carried out in the previous biennium. This was mainly due to greater demand for technical assistance from the countries of the region, regional project activities requiring a higher number of trips and the computerization of mission reports that has increased the accuracy of records of missions carried out. The increase is also a reflection of a greater willingness to cover mission costs on the part of countries requesting technical assistance, which has significantly expanded the Commission's capacity to provide such a service.

Table 5 shows the distribution of technical assistance missions by geographical area and the three main subject areas: economic, social and environmental and sustainable development issues.

⁵ Up to 30 November 2005.

Table 5
**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, BY
 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND SUBJECT AREA**

	Economic issues	Social issues	Environmental and sustainable development issues	Total	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percentage distribution by geographical area (%)
Central America and Mexico	156	101	105	362	23.1
South America	386	293	221	900	57.5
Caribbean	138	66	98	302	19.3
Total	680	460	424	1 564	100.0
Percentage distribution by subject area (%)	43.5	29.4	27.1	100.0	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

The number of technical assistance missions carried out in Caribbean countries was higher than in the previous biennium, rising to 19.3% of the total. South America received 57.5% of such missions, while Central America and the Caribbean accounted for 23.1%.

In terms of subject areas, the highest proportion of technical assistance missions (43.5%) related to economic issues. Social and environmental issues recorded percentages of 29.4% and 27.1%, respectively. It should be pointed out that ECLAC is playing an increasingly important role in environmental matters (see map 1).

Map 1
**ECLAC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
 TOTALS BY SUBJECT AREA AND GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

1. Technical assistance missions - economic issues

For economic issues, 680 technical assistance missions were carried out to practically all countries in the region. Within these economic missions, 20% came under statistics and national accounts (see table 6). Many of these missions were financed by requesting countries.

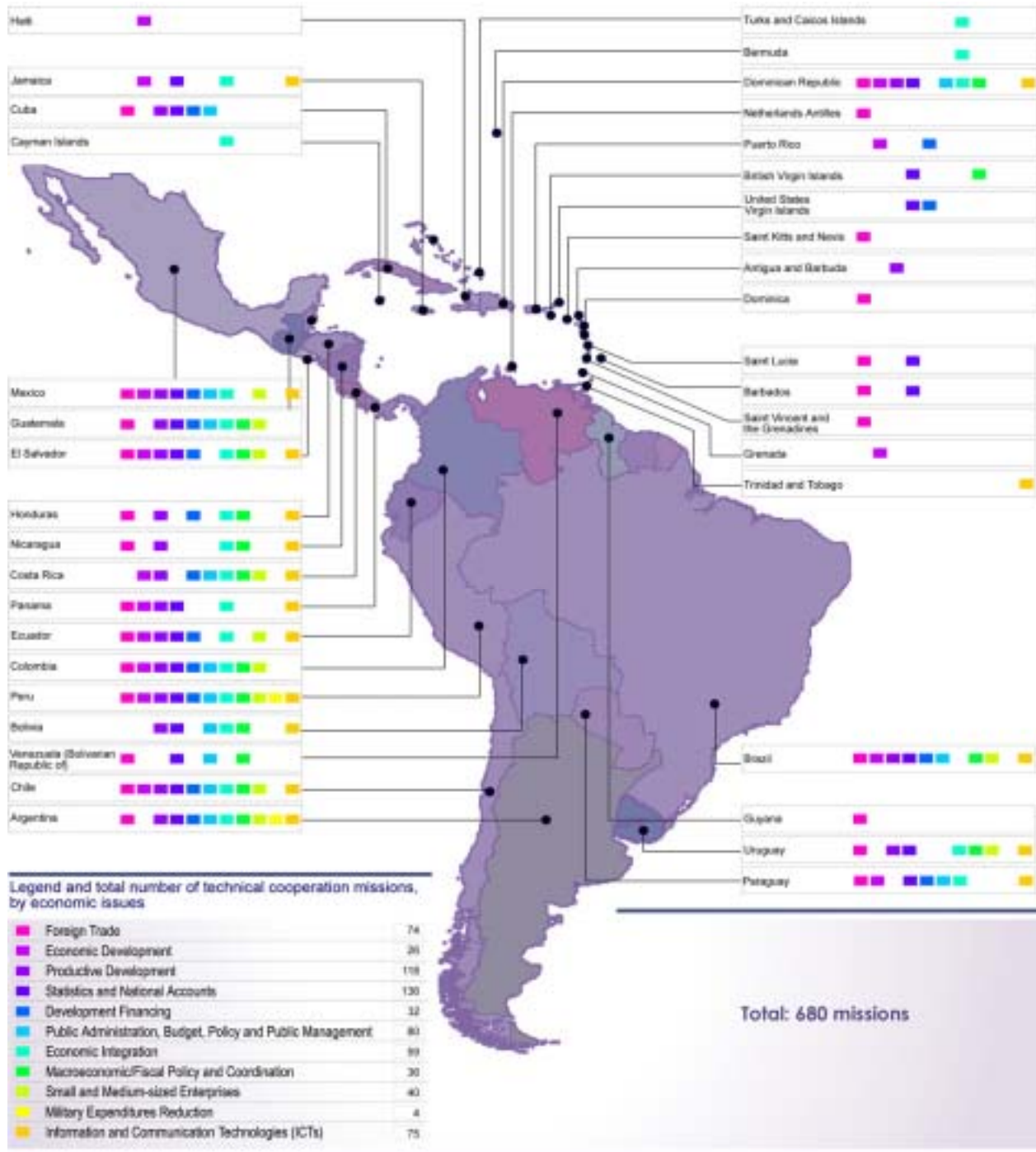
Table 6
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, ECONOMIC ISSUES
(By category)

Category	Number of missions	Percentage of total
Regional integration	59	8.7
International trade	74	10.9
Financing for development (saving and investment/social security)	32	4.7
Productive development	118	17.4
Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	40	5.9
Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	75	11.0
Economic development	26	3.8
Macroeconomic and fiscal policy and coordination	36	5.3
Statistics and national accounts	136	20.0
Public administration, budget policies and public investment	80	11.8
Reduction of military expenditure	4	0.6
Total	680	100.0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

The next most significant subcategories within economic issues are: productive development, with 17.4% of missions; public management, budget policies and public investment, representing 11.8% (mainly in the form of ILPES missions financed by Government contributions and funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)/GTZ); then information and communication technologies (ICTs) with 11.0% (mainly attributable to the political and regulatory dialogue project within the European Union programme known as the Alliance for the Information Society (@LIS)) (see map 2).

Map 2
ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, ECONOMIC ISSUES



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2. Technical assistance missions - social issues

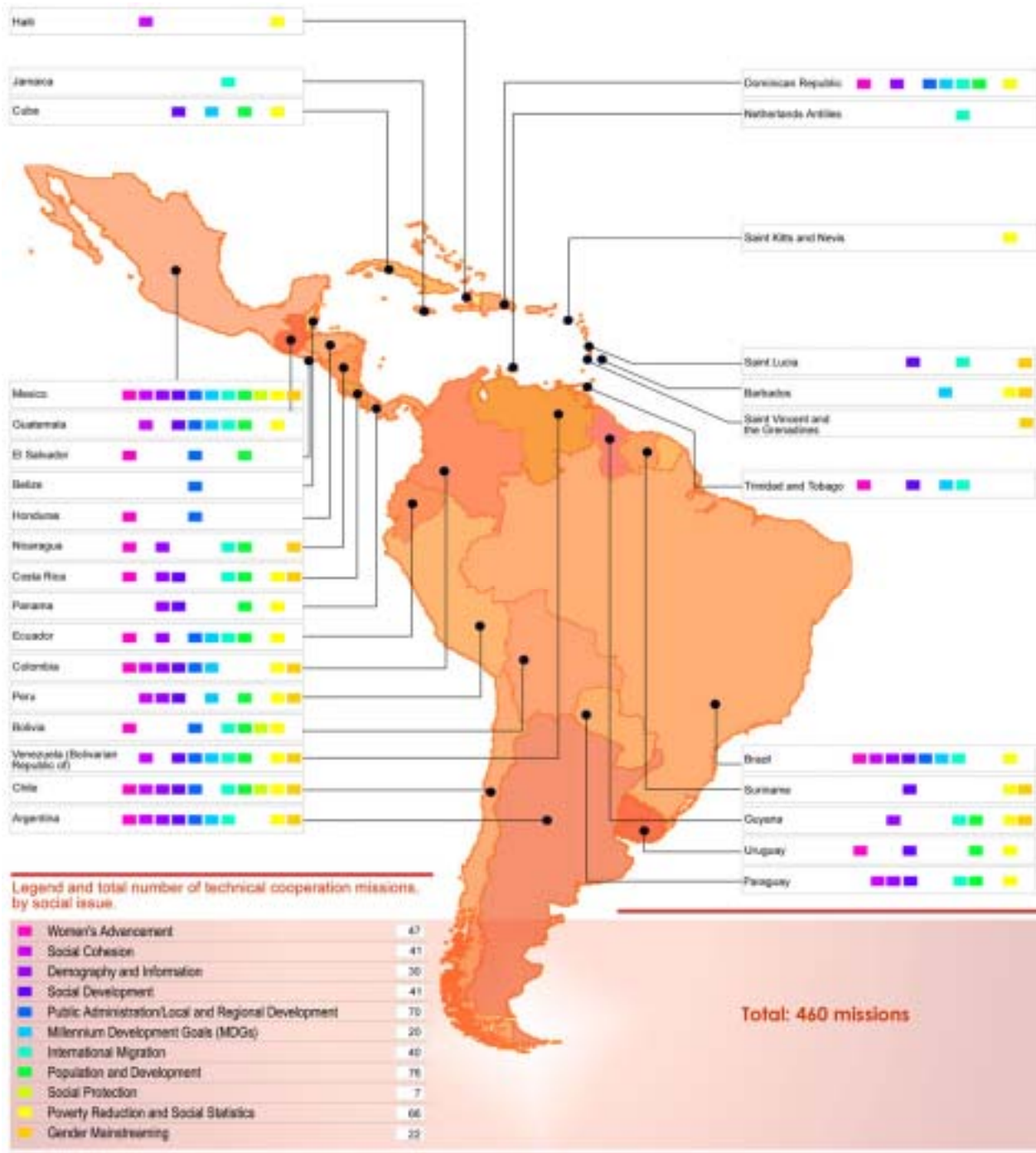
During the 2004-2005 biennium, 460 technical assistance missions were carried out on social issues (see table 7). Of these missions, 16.5% related to population and development and were carried out by officials, experts and consultants from the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC. Most were financed with resources from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The next largest subcategories within social issues were public administration, local and regional development (15.2%) and poverty reduction (14.3%). Significantly, 10.2% of all technical assistance missions on social issues were geared to the advancement of women, and were mainly carried out with the support of BMZ/GTZ and UNFPA (see map 3).

Table 7
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, SOCIAL ISSUES
(By category)

Category	Number of missions	Percentage of total
Social development	41	8.9
Poverty reduction and social statistics	66	14.3
Millennium Development Goals	20	4.3
Social cohesion	41	8.9
Social protection	7	1.5
Gender mainstreaming	22	4.8
Advancement of women	47	10.2
Population and development	76	16.5
Demographics and information	30	6.5
International migration	40	8.7
Public administration, local and regional development	70	15.2
Total	460	100.00

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Map 3
ECLAC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, SOCIAL ISSUES



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

3. Technical assistance missions – environmental and sustainable development issues

In the area of environmental and sustainable development issues, 424 technical assistance missions were carried out (see table 8), 22.4% of which corresponded to the subcategory of natural resources, transport and infrastructure (mainly thanks to contributions from Germany, Italy and Sweden). Germany and Italy also contributed significantly to the 84 technical assistance missions carried out in the field of energy. Other important areas were sustainable development (15.3% of missions), economy and sustainable development (10.8%) and human settlements (9.9%).

The demand for technical assistance in the field of natural disasters increased in the 2004-2005 biennium, especially in 2005 as a result of an extremely intense hurricane season. This is reflected in the fact that the natural disaster assessment team of ECLAC carried out 55 technical assistance missions in response to requests from those countries affected. Another 37 missions were carried out to disseminate the natural disaster assessment methodology developed by the Commission. If direct assessment missions are combined with those aimed at disseminating methodology, almost 6% of technical assistance missions carried out by ECLAC in the 2004-2005 biennium were related to natural disasters (see map 4).

Table 8
**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM, ENVIRONMENTAL
 AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**
(By category)

Category	Number of missions	Percentage of total
Sustainable development	65	15.3
Economy and sustainable development	46	10.8
Human settlements	42	9.9
Natural resources, transport and infrastructure	95	22.4
Energy and energy resources	84	19.8
Natural disaster assessment	55	13.0
Natural disaster assessment methodology	37	8.7
Total	424	100.0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Map 4
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS, 2004-2005 BIENNIUM,
 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mission reporting system, November 2005.

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Annex 1: Regulatory framework of South-South cooperation

1. Regulatory framework in the United Nations system

Within the United Nations system, South-South cooperation (previously known as technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC)) receives its general direction from the biannual meetings of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. During the 2004-2005 biennium, member countries reviewed the United Nations activities carried out in terms of South-South cooperation at the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 31 May to 3 June 2005. At the meeting, the Committee considered: (i) a report on implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning South-South cooperation, including the United Nations Common Results Framework on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries; and (ii) a report on the management and use of the resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation. Participants at the meeting stressed the importance of: (i) using promotion activities to effectively develop South-South cooperation; (ii) supporting initiatives that demonstrate the importance of South-South cooperation and carrying out practical and innovative activities that have a tangible effective on development and that will serve as models for replication in other areas; (iii) taking advantage of the impetus created in developing countries by the creation of regional partnerships for the formulation of programmes in line with, inter alia, regional and subregional development frameworks; and (iv) forging closer links with civil-society and private-sector entities by forming partnerships to take advantage of their resources and experience in devising and implementing programmes that meet the development needs identified in various forums on South-South cooperation.⁶ The High-level Committee also considered that, given the global tendency towards increasing regional integration and the need for greater solidarity among developing regions, the regional commissions of the United Nations were becoming increasingly important in providing an overall framework for South-South cooperation at the regional level.

The annual meetings of the focal points for South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean are held in the context of the Latin American Economic System (SELA). The focal points are located within national divisions or agencies for international cooperation, and their meetings are now the foremost operational mechanism for the exchange of information and ideas and for hearing the views of the countries in the region on sectors and matters of interest in terms of South-South cooperation. The periodicity of these meetings, which are convened once a year by the permanent secretariat of SELA, makes it possible for a useful exchange to take place among the technical agencies that coordinate cooperation at the national level.

During the biennium, the seventeenth Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 2 to 4 May 2005. Participants focused on the analysis of development models in Latin America and the Caribbean and on international cooperation. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Planning

⁶ High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, "Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme", April 2005.

and Development of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in conjunction with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

In his opening speech, the Permanent Secretary of SELA presented the following three proposals: (i) the establishment of structural adjustment funds to compensate for the deficiencies of international institutions in financing the adjustment processes resulting from the opening-up of trade; (ii) the establishment of regional monetary funds, as a financial mechanism to complement that of the International Monetary Fund in order to provide early and unconditional assistance in case of disequilibria in the balances of payments that are not related to inadequate macroeconomic policies (financial contagion); and (iii) the establishment of an organization for cooperation and economic development of emerging markets (an OECD of the South). The participants in the Caracas meeting adopted the following conclusions and recommendations: (i) the National Development Programmes of Latin American and Caribbean countries should include common issues, namely: eradication of poverty and social exclusion and unemployment, defence of human rights (especially those of indigenous populations), environmental protection and generation of sustainable economic growth; (ii) further analyses were needed in order to make use of various modalities of cooperation – particularly decentralized cooperation, which includes local development, triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation and private cooperation; (iii) it is necessary to create and revitalize the National Focal Points of cooperating institutions in the countries lacking a recognized interlocutor and an authorized representation; and (iv) in view of its importance as a regional forum, it is the duty of SELA to continue to promote South-South cooperation in favour of the region's development, to make an assessment of the capabilities for cooperation in the region, and to try to identify and promote the financial sources provided by the various cooperating parties (financial institutions, donor countries, NGOs and the private sector).⁷

2. Regulatory framework of ECLAC

The Commission's legislative mandate to implement South-South activities arises from specific resolutions adopted following the establishment of SELA in 1975, the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978 and the creation of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions as the principal policy-making body of ECLAC in such matters.

The name of this Committee was changed to the Committee on South-South Cooperation by virtue of resolution 611(XXX) in 2004. Given that ECLAC is a part of the United Nations Secretariat, the following are binding for the Commission: General Assembly resolutions and resolutions adopted at sessions of the Commission following their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council. Other meetings, reports and agreements that make up the regulatory framework for ECLAC cooperation activities are listed in annex 2.

At the thirtieth session of the Commission (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 28 June-2 July 2004), the Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted a draft resolution that was later adopted in plenary session as resolution 611 on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions. That resolution, which guided the secretariat's activities during the biennium, refers to various areas in which the ECLAC system can help promote South-South cooperation in the region. These include: (i) modernizing the Commission's strategic approaches with respect to international cooperation for development, including South-South, North-South and multilateral cooperation, in accordance with the new mandates and approaches adopted by the General Assembly; (ii) intensifying activities aimed at incorporating South-South cooperation into the various areas of the programme of work of the secretariat

⁷ Latin American Economic System (SELA), final report of the seventeenth Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean (May 2005).

for the biennium 2006-2007, especially with regard to the formulation and execution of technical cooperation projects financed with extrabudgetary resources from bilateral or multilateral donors; (iii) strengthening strategic partnerships with donor countries and institutions, both within and outside the region, to increase levels of North-South and South-South cooperation; (iv) taking advantage of the ample networking opportunities offered by the Commission's new website on cooperation to widely disseminate projects and activities (both of the Commission and of member countries) that promote and strengthen South-South cooperation; and (v) requesting that the international community support the efforts of Latin American and Caribbean countries to respond effectively to the opportunities and problems associated with globalization so that they can position themselves advantageously in the global economic system, benefit from international trade and investment, strengthen productive development and environmental sustainability and institute appropriate systems of social protection.

The resolution also recommended that the name of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions should be changed to the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in accordance with the new mandates and approaches adopted by the General Assembly.

As indicated in the following section, the cooperation activities carried out by ECLAC during the biennium, including those focusing on South-South cooperation, have been financed both from its regular budget and with extrabudgetary resources obtained through the negotiation of agreements with bilateral and multilateral donors for the execution of cooperation programmes and specific projects. Such negotiations are particularly important in the case of South-South cooperation, as most of the activities conducted by ECLAC in this area are financed with extrabudgetary resources.

Annex 2: Timetable of events relating to ECLAC activities in the area of South-South cooperation

Year	Event	Source of information
1975	Creation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), headquartered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and consisting of 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries, to serve as a regional coordinating body for activities to promote TCDC	Panama Convention
1978	Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	General Assembly resolution 33/134
1979	Establishment of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions as the Commission's principal policy-making body in matters of horizontal cooperation	ECLAC resolution 387(XVIII)
1981	First meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the nineteenth session of ECLAC	E/CEPAL/G.1167
1984	Second meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twentieth session of ECLAC	E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.10
1986	Third meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-first session of ECLAC	LC/G.1401(SES.21/22)
1988	Fourth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-second session of ECLAC	LC/G.1505(SES.22/10)
1990	Fifth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-third session of ECLAC	LC/G.1611(SES.23/12)
1992	Sixth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC	LC/G.1711(SES.24/13)
1993	Establishment of a cooperation programme between the Government of the Netherlands and ECLAC	Agreement
1994	Seventh meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC	LC/G.1809(SES.25/16)
1995	The General Assembly recognizes the importance of the new directions for TCDC adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	General Assembly resolution 50/119
1996	Cooperation agreement between ECLAC and IDB	Agreement
1996	Eighth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC	LC/G.1906(SES.26/11)
1998	Ninth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-seventh session of ECLAC	LC/G.2000(SES.27/14)

Year	Event	Source of information
1999	Establishment of a voluntary contribution for annual programming with the Government of Italy	Exchange of letters
2000	Millennium Declaration	General Assembly resolution 55/2
2000	Tenth meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-eighth session of ECLAC	LC/G.2081(SES.28/13)
2001	Establishment of the programme modality for cooperation with the Government of Germany	Exchange of letters
2002	Fifteenth Meeting of Directors of International Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA	Report of the Rapporteur XV.RDCIALC/DF-02
2002	Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development	A/CONF.198/11 and General Assembly resolution 56/210B
2002	Eleventh meeting of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC	LC/G.2160(SES.29/6), section II.C.(iii)
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa	A/CONF.199/20
2003	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Community and the United Nations	Agreement
2003	Thirteenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, organized by UNDP	TCDC/13/4
2003	Sixteenth Meeting of Directors of International Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA	XVI.RDCIALC/DF
2004	Twelfth session of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions, held during the thirtieth session of ECLAC (in resolution 611 (XXX), the Committee also decided to change its name to the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in accordance with the new mandates and approaches adopted by the General Assembly).	LC/G.2242(SES.30/18)
2005	Fourteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (formerly the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries), organized by UNDP	Report of the Committee GA document A/60/39 (Sup.)
2005	Seventeenth Meeting of Directors of International Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA	Report of the Rapporteur SP/XVII.RDCIALC/DF-05
2005	Second South Summit, Group of 77 (Doha, Qatar)	G-77/SS/2005/1