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**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

The twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Mexico City from 3 to 7 April 2000. In a resolution adopted without a vote at the twenty-seventh session (Oranjestad, Aruba, 11-16 May 1998) and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1998/213, the member States accepted the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the session. The meeting is being held in accordance with the calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 1998-2000.*

The session is the most important meeting of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and for a review of the activities of the Commission.

This session, the first of the twenty-first century, will provide an opportunity for taking stock of the results of the structural reforms and changes in the content and scope of public policies that have been implemented in the region during the 1990s. These measures have been part of a systemic effort to achieve ever-greater international competitiveness, maintain macroeconomic equilibrium, reduce poverty levels and take further steps towards equity. It is therefore considered appropriate to review the problems which the region has faced, the progress made over the past decade, and the difficulties remaining to be overcome.

It is hoped that the Governments of member States will exchange their experiences and views and will reach agreements as to what courses of public action are necessary to deal with the major challenges which lie ahead for the societies of the region on the threshold of the twenty-first century, with emphasis on equity and the public policies required to make it a genuine social asset.

The session also enables the Governments of member States to apprise themselves of the work carried out by ECLAC during the past biennium through an examination of the report on the Commission's activities and the report of the ad hoc working group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) and, through the adoption of the programme of work and the calendar of conferences, to define the mandates that will guide the Commission's work in the future.

In the present document, the secretariat has put forward some suggestions which, if the Governments of the member States should decide to accept them, may facilitate the consideration of the various items on the provisional agenda and help make the best use possible of the time available. As is customary at ECLAC meetings, these suggestions on the organization of work could be considered together with the provisional agenda at the meeting of heads of delegation, scheduled to be held at the

* Resolution 567(XXVII).

beginning of the twenty-eighth session, on 3 April 2000. The secretariat will provide delegations with working and reference documents for the various agenda items.*

A number of changes are being made in the way the work of the twenty-eighth session is organized in order to provide more time for consideration of substantive items and to facilitate participation by Ministers from member States in the corresponding stage of the session. Accordingly, two working meetings will be held on Monday, 3 April, at which Government representatives will discuss substantive items and formulate recommendations thereon to be submitted to the Ministers for their consideration (agenda item 3). On Tuesday, 4 April, and in the morning of Wednesday, 5 April, delegations will meet to analyse the report of the activities of the Commission and the programme of work (agenda items 4 to 7) and consider draft resolutions. In parallel, the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will meet on the afternoon of Monday, 3 April, and Tuesday, 4 April (agenda item 8), and the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions will meet on the morning of Wednesday, 5 April (agenda item 9).

The opening of the ministerial stage of the session will take place on the morning of Thursday, 6 April. The rest of that day and the morning of Friday, 7 April, will be devoted to a substantive seminar to be attended by distinguished experts and scholars from countries within and outside the region and by senior officials from economic and social departments of the Governments of the region and international bodies. The involvement of government experts in this seminar will undoubtedly enrich the analysis of the issues selected for discussion, and the participation of Ministers will give the meeting the necessary stature to ensure that the conclusions reached there will bear the seal of authority needed to put them into effect.

It is suggested that the Ministers should devote the afternoon of Friday, 7 April, to a general debate and to the consideration of the conclusions reached at the first stage of the session, including the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, and the adoption of the corresponding resolutions.

The annotations to the provisional agenda presented below contain background information on the various items and offer suggestions for their consideration within the framework of the session. In this respect, it may be useful to recall Commission resolution 419(PLEN.14), which states that, in order for the session to be fully successful, "government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered".

* See Documents presented at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission (LC/G.2078(SES.28/10)).

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the twenty-eighth session
3. Equity, development and citizenship
4. Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC, including meetings in follow-up to United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations
5. Other activities of the secretariat of the ECLAC system since the twenty-seventh session and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003:
 - (a) ECLAC
 - (b) Ad hoc working group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI)
 - (c) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (d) Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development
 - (e) Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development
 - (f) Follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
 - (g) Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
 - (h) United Nations inter-agency coordination meeting for the Latin American and Caribbean region
6. Calendar of conferences for the period 2000-2002
7. Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which should be brought to the attention of the Commission
8. Follow-up to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development
9. Cooperation among developing countries and regions
10. Other matters
11. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the twenty-eighth session

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules procedure of ECLAC, the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect a chairman, two or more vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. In conformity with the practice established at previous sessions of the Commission, the Chairman shall be the head of the delegation of the host country. It should also be noted that rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides that “the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited”.

Generally speaking, the officers elected to preside over the debates of the technical stage continue in their functions during the ministerial stage, except that the latter stage is presided over by the heads of the respective delegations.

Should the committees proposed by the secretariat be established, they will be presided over by their own officers, in each case a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

It is suggested that the composition of these groups of officers be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 3 April 2000.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the twenty-eighth session

Delegations will have before them, for consideration and adoption, the provisional agenda (LC/G.2069(SES.28/1)), prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. Members may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

The agenda of the session, the organization of work and the establishment of committees will be considered at the meeting of heads of delegations of member States.

3. Equity, development and citizenship

Working document

- Equity, development and citizenship (LC/G.2071(SES.28/3))

Reference documents

- Review of the 1990s (LC/G.2092)
- The fiscal covenant. Strengths, weaknesses, challenges (LC/G.1997/Rev.1)
- The equity gap. Latin America, the Caribbean and the Social Summit (LC/G.1954/Rev.1-P)
- The economic experience of the last fifteen years. Latin America and the Caribbean, 1980-1995 (LC/G.1925/Rev.1-P)
- Strengthening development. The interplay of macro- and microeconomics (LC/G.1898/Rev.1-P)
- Open regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Economic integration as a contribution to changing production patterns with social equity (LC/G.1801/Rev.1-P)
- Population, social equity and changing production patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.2-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.2-Serie E, No. 37)
- Education and knowledge: basic pillars of changing production patterns with social equity (LC/G.1702/Rev.2-P)
- Social equity and changing production patterns: an integrated approach (LC/G.1701/Rev.1-P)
- Sustainable development: changing production patterns, social equity and the environment (LC/G.1648/Rev.2-P)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: policies to improve linkages with the global economy (LC/G.1800/Rev.1-P)
- Changing production patterns with social equity. The prime task of Latin American and Caribbean development in the 1990s (LC/G.1601-P)

In the early 1990s, the ECLAC secretariat offered a general proposal to the region aimed at galvanizing the economic and social development process, entitled *Changing production patterns with social equity*. This proposal was gradually enriched and refined over the years as the Commission proceeded with its analysis of the various aspects of development and the available public policy instruments. The challenge at the time was to create the necessary conditions to enable Latin America and the Caribbean to enter the twenty-first century with a transformed production structure that would allow the region to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the globalization process while maintaining sufficient levels of social equity and democracy to ensure the sustainability of economic growth.

The beginning of a new century, with all the symbolism it holds for humanity, demands that we take a creative approach to those problems that have not yet been resolved, the most important of which, in the opinion of the secretariat, is the issue of social equity. In order to contribute to an appropriate approach to this problem, the secretariat will submit a document entitled “Equity, development and citizenship”, which analyses development challenges in the region from a public policy perspective within the context of the complex and dynamic process of globalization. The approach taken in this document is one in which the value of public policies is defined in terms of their usefulness in meeting the challenges of competitiveness in a world in the midst of a revolution in knowledge and communications and in adapting to the constraints associated with that international context, such as those imposed by new worldwide or regional international trade agreements. The document also proposes instruments and measures for government action at the macro-, meso- and microeconomic levels and for social and environmental policy with a view to achieving greater equity and safeguarding past achievements during periods of crisis. Particular emphasis is placed on issues related to economic volatility, the depth and duration of crises, production linkages, employment, education, social spending,

universality and solidarity in social insurance schemes, competition and consumer protection, social cohesion, intergenerational equity and the relationship between citizenship and equity.

The proposals put forward in the working document are based on an informed analysis of the progress made by the countries of the region in such areas as price stabilization and the resumption of economic growth, regional integration, international linkages and foreign investment and of the problems that persist in terms of poverty, income distribution, the technology gap, unemployment and job quality, low productivity, the fragility of financial systems and the vulnerability of growth in general. This analysis is set forth in one of the reference documents.

4. Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC, including meetings in follow-up to United Nations world conferences: conclusions and recommendations

Working document

- Report on the activities of the Commission since May 1998 (LC/G.2073(SES.28/5))

In order to provide the Governments of member States with information concerning meetings of subsidiary bodies and other regional meetings sponsored by ECLAC, including meetings in follow-up to United Nations world conferences and their conclusions and recommendations the pertinent data are included in the report on the activities of the Commission.

5. Other activities of the secretariat of the ECLAC system since the twenty-seventh session and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

Working documents

- Report on the activities of the Commission since May 1998 (LC/G.2073(SES.28/5))
- Report of the ad hoc working group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) (LC/G.2072(SES.28/4))
- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2002-2003 (LC/G.2075(SES.28/7))
- Programme performance report of ECLAC for the biennium 1998-1999. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2074(SES.28/6))
- Report by the Chairman on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to resolution 553(XXVI) (LC/G.2093(SES.28/17))

Reference documents

- Programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2000-2001 (LC/G.2006(SES.27/10))
- Draft report of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Activities of the ECLAC secretariat relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 September 1997 to 30 August 1999 (LC/L.1261(CRM.8/5))

- Activities at the Caribbean subregional level relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 September 1997 to 30 August 1999 (LC/L.1261(CRM.8/5)/Add.1)
- Information note on the United Nations inter-agency coordination meeting for the Latin American and Caribbean region (LC/R.1917)

In order to enable the Governments of member States to take decisions on the work to be undertaken by the ECLAC system during the biennium 2002-2003, the secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work (LC/G.2075(SES.28/7)), which can be amended in the light of the priorities established at the session.

6. Calendar of conferences for the period 2000-2002

Working document

- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2000-2002. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2076(SES.28/8))

In accordance with the provisions of resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole at the fourteenth session of the Commission, in November 1980, the focal points around which meetings of the Commission are organized are the biennial sessions and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, which are held in years when the Commission does not meet. It was decided in that resolution that sessions should be held in even-numbered years, so as to coincide with the two-year budget programming cycle introduced by the United Nations General Assembly. It was also agreed that at each session, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next regular session should be considered, stipulating where possible the date, duration and location of each meeting.

In compliance with this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table of meetings programmed for the period 2000-2002 (annex 5 to document LC/G.2076(SES.28/8)), in accordance with the mandates approved by the Governments concerning meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

7. Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which should be brought to the attention of the Commission

Working document

Some recent resolutions and decisions adopted by United Nations organs which should be brought to the attention of the Commission. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2077(SES.28/9))

At its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions, held between September 1998 and September 1999 and from September to December 1999 (first part), respectively, the General Assembly adopted various resolutions and decisions which are of special importance to the Commission and which the secretariat is therefore bringing to the attention of member States at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

8. Follow-up to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development

Working documents

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2082(SES.28/14))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2083(SES.28/15))
- Population, youth and development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Summary and conclusions (LC/G.2084(SES.28/16))

Reference documents

- Juventud, población y desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe (LC/L.1339)
- A system of indicators for assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Note by the secretariat (LC/L.1340)
- Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly (A/S-21/5/Add.1)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (LC/DEM/G.184/Rev.1)
- Report of the open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Santiago, Chile, 14-15 December 1998) (LC/DEM/G.185)
- Second report on the follow-up to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2005(SES.27.19))
- Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/G.1920; LC/DEM/G.159)
- Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development (adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993)

The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, the Population Division - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) of ECLAC, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund will report on the formulation of the Regional Plan of Action and its implementation since its adoption and, in particular, since the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, and on regional activities relating to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Pursuant to a decision taken at the twenty-seventh session, the current session will serve as an opportunity to consider the interrelationships among population, youth and development in the region. At the request of member countries, the secretariat has prepared a technical document which is being submitted to the delegations to facilitate their consideration of this issue.

As was agreed at the open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee held in December 1998, a system of indicators is to be designed and implemented to enable appropriate monitoring of progress in the implementation of agreements adopted in international

forums, particularly the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Consideration should also be given to the priorities for future action defined at the opened meeting of the Presiding Officers in December 1998 in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (July 1999). Within that context, member countries are invited to provide information on activities carried out in follow-up to key measures for the continued implementation of the Programme of Action.

9. Cooperation among developing countries and regions

Working documents

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2079(SES.28/11))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2080(SES.28/12))
- Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support technical cooperation among developing countries and regions during the biennium 1998-1999. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2081(SES.28/13))

Reference document

- Report on the activities of the Commission since May 1998 (LC/G.2073(SES.28/5)).

The note to be submitted to the delegations by the secretariat reviews the activities undertaken since the previous meeting of the committee concerned with this issue, held during the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

This document provides an overall analysis of technical cooperation among developing countries and regions (TCDC) during the past biennium and of specific activities which have been directly incorporated into the various technical cooperation projects that ECLAC has executed with extrabudgetary resources. The information is presented in accordance with the models used by the United Nations system, which follow the guidelines adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The document therefore also reviews the activities undertaken for the purpose of identifying opportunities for cooperation of this nature, and those designed to support the sharing of experiences through TCDC arrangements.

The note also covers activities conducted by the ECLAC system in order to improve coordination with other regional agencies and bodies both within and outside the United Nations system which are specifically involved in the field of TCDC.

The sessional Ad Hoc Committee will also examine activities carried out pursuant to resolution 573(XXVII), adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

The secretariat will also put forward suggestions which may serve as guidelines for future ECLAC system activities in support of cooperation among developing countries and regions, taking into account the requirements of globalization, growth with social equity and sustainable development.

In relation to this agenda item, delegations may wish to analyse and propose criteria and guidelines for ECLAC system activities in the field of technical cooperation among developing countries and regions in the near future with a view to ensuring that such activities continue to meet the economic and social development needs of the countries of the region.

In their deliberations, delegations may wish to take account of the suggestions made by the secretariat in its activities report in order to facilitate the work of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee.

10. Other matters

This item covers any other issues which Governments may deem it appropriate to consider.

11. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the twenty-eighth session