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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean



RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED AT
CEPAL 19TH SESSION
(Montevideo, May 1981)

Prepared by
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Director

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

ADMISSION OF THE NETHERLANDS AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF CEPAL

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the desirability of strengthening the economic and cultural relations among all the people of the Caribbean and the Latin American continent,

Recalling the functions of the Commission as approved by the Economic and Social Council at its fifth session, and in particular section a) of article 3, regarding the admission of associate members,

Bearing in mind that the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has communicated to the Commission, through the intermediary of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, its desire that the Netherlands Antilles be admitted as associate member of the Commission,

Accepts with approval the application mentioned from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and

Decides to admit the Netherlands Antilles as associate member, and accepts with satisfaction its participation in the work of the Commission.

PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT SESSION

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of its functions and articles 1 and 2 of its regulation,

Considering that at its nineteenth session the Commission was informed of the interest of Suriname in hosting the next session of CEPAL,

Resolves to authorise the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary consultations with the member States so that at the fifteenth session of the Plenary Committee of CEPAL which will be held in the course of 1982, a decision be adopted with respect to the site of the twentieth session of the Commission.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE I FOR
SUBMISSION AT THE PLENARY MEETINGS OF
THE COMMISSION

Resolution

PHYSICAL INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THE
HYDROGRAPHIC INTERCONNECTION OF THE ORINOCO,
AMAZON AND RIVER PLATE AND THE TRANS-
JUNGLE BORDER HIGHWAY OF THE
BOLIVARIAN NATIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the proposal regarding the physical integration of Latin America through the hydrographic interconnexion of the Orinoco, Amazon and River Plate and the Trans-Jungle Border Highway of the Bolivarian nations put forward at the Meeting of Presidents of the Bolivarian nations held in the city of Santa Marta, Colombia, and subsequently reiterated at the last General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS),

Bearing in mind the desire of the Organization of American States that its Secretary General should help to co-ordinate the efforts of the countries interested in the physical integration of Latin America,

1. Notes with satisfaction the joint initiatives of the countries interested in the objective of the physical integration of Latin America;

2. Decides to support the organization of an international meeting on the interconnexion of the Orinoco, Amazon and River Plate at which the interested countries will present the existing technical reports and the basic data necessary for preparing studies on the integration of the Orinoco, Amazon and River Plate in those parts which correspond to their respective countries;

3. Further decides that, with regard to the Trans-Jungle Border Highway, the interested countries should present the corresponding road construction plans at the above-mentioned meeting in order to make known the dates on which this great highway linking together the continent may be available.

Resolution

DEVELOPMENT OF DEPRESSED AREAS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the Regional Plan of Action for the implementation of the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as arising from the nineteenth session of CEPAL,

Taking into account the need for concrete action to put this Strategy into effect,

Recalling that it is stated in the Strategy that concentrated efforts should be made to develop areas of interest to the economically less developed countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Likewise recalling the tendency to incorporate the interior of the continent into economic activity,

Decides to set up a specialized office of CEPAL in La Paz for the study and analysis of the problems of depressed areas, as Bolivia is at the very centre of the least developed area of the continent;

Requests the CEPAL Secretariat to spare no efforts to launch as rapidly as possible the activities of the programme for the study of the above-mentioned problems in the interim until the necessary extra-budgetary resources have been obtained;

Requests the United Nations Development Programme to assign special priority to this programme in the allocation of UNDP regional funds for the forthcoming biennium;

Calls up the organizations of the international financial system and the regional and subregional banks to associate themselves with the project and lend it their unstinting collaboration.

Resolution

INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking into account that United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/56 proclaiming the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade provides that at the regional level the review and appraisal of the new International Development Strategy will be conducted by the respective regional commissions, which should carry out, as part of their regular activity, periodic reviews of major aspects of development in the evolving development experiences in their regions,

Bearing in mind CEPAL resolution 310(XIV) on the creation of CEGAN and resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission,

Noting that in the section of General Assembly resolution 35/56 dealing with the review and appraisal of the implementation of the new International Development Strategy it is stated that the regional commissions should prepare action programmes to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the Strategy, and that in conjunction with the United Nations specialized agencies and multilateral development institutions they should improve United Nations assistance efforts and enhance their co-ordination in the context of the particular economic and social development needs of each region,

Reaffirming in particular paragraph 20 of resolution 32/197, "Structures for regional and interregional co-operation", which provides that the regional commissions "should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level",

Recognizing that the CEPAL system will bear a great responsibility during the 1980s and must substantially enhance its support for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for regional and sub-regional integration and economic co-operation agencies, with a view to boosting the economic development of the region,

Likewise recognizing the growing breadth and diversity of the activities which the CEPAL system will have to undertake for the proper implementation of the Regional Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that it devolves upon the Commission to appraise the execution of the Regional Plan of Action, taking full account of the prior appraisal work done by CEGAN,

Noting that the Seventh Latin American Council of SELA decided that high-level government experts should meet at least twice yearly to identify co-operation projects of joint interest in priority economic areas,

Considering that at its fifth session the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) recommended to the present session of the Commission that the activities of CEGAN should be strengthened and broadened, as the basic body for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the new Strategy and Regional Programme of Action, for which purpose it should meet at least once a year and discuss other problems in addition to those entrusted to it under resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL.

Taking into account the studies and activities which the CEPAL system has been requested to undertake by the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) at its fifth session,

1. Decides:

(a) That in carrying out its work the CEPAL system should assign top priority to the studies and action referred to in the Regional Programme of Action contained in resolution ...;

(b) That the CEPAL system should strengthen its links with authentically Latin American agencies of regional and sub-regional integration and economic co-operation, lending them its full support;

(c) That CEGAN should meet at least once a year to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to it and to analyse other matters relating to the Regional Programme of Action;

(d) That the CEPAL system should carry out in good time the studies requested by CEGAN and suitably prepare the latter's meetings by means of prior consultations and the preparation of the necessary material concerning progress and obstacles in the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action;

(e) That representatives of the CEPAL Secretariat should meet annually with representatives of the secretariats of authentically Latin American agencies of regional and subregional integration and economic co-operation for the co-ordination of studies, the obtention and use of economic data possessed by those agencies, and the provision of the necessary mutual support;

(f) That the CEPAL system, within the context of the Regional Plan of Action and in the form of the execution of studies, should furnish all necessary and possible support to the meetings of high-level government experts, referred to in Decision 101 of the Latin American Council of SELA, held within the framework of SELA;

2. Calls upon the United Nations system to provide CEPAL with all necessary support to enable the Commission to carry out the studies and responsibilities entrusted to it in the Regional Programme of Action, in resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission and the General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 35/56. In this connexion, it decides to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL in early 1982.

Resolution

ENERGY

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the serious effects which a shortage of certain sources of energy could have on the countries of the region, despite their present efforts to reduce and rationalize their energy consumption and avoid the wastage of non-renewable energy resources,

Further considering that such a shortage is already to be noted in different degrees and forms in many countries of Latin America; that the energy currently available is one of the factors which may significantly condition the development capacity of the societies of Latin America and the Caribbean; and that in addition to the shortage observed, the growing cost of energy could make it difficult to ensure the necessary supply of energy resources, above all in the context of growing world inflation,

Bearing in mind that the Latin American countries, with due respect for the principle of the full and permanent sovereignty of each State over their national resources and all their economic activities, have reiterated their desire to secure the rational utilization of their energy resources,

Taking account of the efforts of some countries of the region, within the limits of their possibilities, to help the less advanced oil-importing countries to obtain stable supplies and financing facilities,

Recognizing that the countries of Latin America are striving to find solutions which will enable them to make a gradual, progressive, integral, orderly and just transition from a system based principally on the use of conventional energy sources to one which includes adequate use of non-conventional sources,

Recalling that the international community entrusted the United Nations General Assembly with the holding of a Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, with the object of formulating measures to promote joint action to make full use of the potential of these energy sources,

Taking account of the results and recommendations of the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (held in Mexico City from 16 to 20 March 1981 under the auspices of CEPAL and OLADE) for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and endorses it;

2. Decides that:

(a) the CEPAL Secretariat, in close co-ordination with OLADE and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system, should continue to provide support to those countries of the region which request it in the identification of measures to relieve problems deriving from the energy shortage and in the formulation of policies and plans in this field;

(b) the CEPAL Secretariat should carry out similarly co-ordinated studies so that the region can have timely and updated information on available energy resources and on regional and world supply and demand in the energy market, especially regarding alternative uses of energy sources as fuels or raw materials, technological and economic aspects, and the need for conservation;

(c) the CEPAL system should give full support to the Secretariat of OLADE in the formulation and execution of the Latin American Energy Co-operation Programme, which should include specific aspects such as financial machinery and other means for its implementation, and whose preparation was entrusted to the Organization by the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers held in March 1981;

(d) the CEPAL system, in close co-ordination and collaboration with the Secretariat of OLADE, should carry out the support studies needed to enable the countries to initiate action to implement the Regional Plan of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the recommendations emerging from the Nairobi Conference, especially as regards ways of minimizing the cost of the changes needed to use new and renewable sources of energy with a view to the future development of the countries of the region;

3. Urges the countries of the region to send representatives of the highest level to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

Resolution

STYLES OF DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing that the member countries of the Commission have declared in General Assembly resolution 35/56 on the International Development Strategy that hunger and malnutrition must be eradicated as rapidly as possible, and by the end of this century at the latest, and that during the decade substantial progress must be made towards the self-reliance and security in food of the developing countries in order to secure an adequate nutritional level for all,

Recognizing also that the developing countries should continue to strengthen the formulation and implementation of development plans in the field of food and agriculture, within the context of national development priorities and programmes,

Further recognizing, that in the Regional Plan of Action for the 1980s emerging from the nineteenth session of CEPAL it is stated that the Latin American countries propose to attain, inter alia, the objective of promoting an equitable distribution of income and eradicating poverty situations as rapidly as possible, and that in particular it is essential to implement an integral strategy to eliminate hunger and malnutrition,

Noting that the Regional Programme of Action has established that agricultural strategies should tackle rural development problems in an integrated manner dealing simultaneously with social aspects and production, marketing, processing, distribution and consumption problems, and that the solution of food problems provides a key economic policy element for solving problems of overall development, unemployment, under-employment, inflation and external disequilibrium,

Also noting the specialized agencies' efforts to tackle within their spheres of competence the problem of food security, and that the fullest use must be made of their experience and expertise,

Further noting national efforts to solve the food problem on a priority basis, and that those efforts at food security should be supplemented by the international agencies in a manner always in keeping with the needs of the region,

Considering:

(a) That there is broad agreement that the achievement of food security should be a priority development objective, understood as regular access by all members of society, whatever their socio-economic status or geographical location, to the necessary food for the full development of their biological potential;

(b) That the achievement of food security is a matter transcending the boundaries of individual sectors and involving the relationship among population, education, health, housing and the processes of primary production, storage, processing, distribution and access to essential consumer goods;

(c) That the task of achieving this objective is set in a context dominated by the need to shift towards the satisfaction of the food needs of the entire population with a higher calorie/protein index;

(d) That the diagnosis and prospective analysis of the relationship between food systems and styles of development provides a new angle from which to study CEPAL efforts in connexion with development problems, with emphasis to the ends of food security and self-reliance;

(e) That this topic may help to define and enhance a major area of intra-regional co-operation;

1. Requests the CEPAL Secretariat to study, as a major topic of the 1980s, the relationship between styles of development and food systems, with particular reference to the problems of modernizing or changing economic structures in the development process, particularly those arising out of the relationships among population, education, health, housing and agriculture and industry, with a view to developing suitable planning methodologies;

2. Instructs the CEPAL system systematically to compile and make use of the various relevant national experiences in the region. In this connexion, it recommends that the Secretariat should make special use of various countries of the region;

3. Decides to make use of the projects in this field in the 1982-1983 programme of activities and those included in the Medium-Term Plan;

4. Instructs the CEPAL system to pursue the efforts begun under the Food System Co-operation Agreement between Mexico and CEPAL in the study of this topic, while exploring the possibility of broader regional co-operation;
5. Invites, for the purpose of this co-operation, the specialized agencies of the United Nations System, particularly FAO and UNIDO, and SELA to participate in their respective spheres of competence in the study of the foregoing problems;
6. Decides that, in order to appraise the results and reorient action towards forms which the countries consider useful, the results of these efforts should be presented either at the annual meeting of CEGAN or, if the funds and facilities available so permit, at a special meeting of CEGAN.

Resolution

AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering

(a) that the region experiences disequilibria in the food supply, with wide sectors of the population which suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and that overall it has lost its traditional position as a net exporter of agricultural products,

(b) that the present situation of the international food trade constitutes one of the factors of distortion for the food-producing developing countries, and that this not only affects growth possibilities but also, in the region's importer countries, has adverse repercussions on their economies, and ultimately on the food situation of their peoples,

(c) that redoubled efforts must be made through international co-operation to develop and take maximum advantage of the region's capacity for producing, processing and distributing basic foodstuffs,

(d) that the efforts made so far as regards regional food security have proved inadequate, and that it is necessary to strengthen the existing machinery and stimulate the formulation of national food policies which will make possible adequate complementarity and co-ordination in a regional food system,

(e) that the machinery for food distribution should be improved and rationalized at the world level so as not to contradict the basic objectives of increasing production,

Resolves:

(a) to urge the governments of the region to study in greater depth the co-ordination of their activities in international forums so as to achieve more favourable conditions for marketing their agricultural products through the elimination by the developed countries of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and the suppression of tariffs on products of interest to Latin America,

(b) to support the operation of regional information machinery on surpluses, shortages and prices which will make it possible to boost the food trade within the region and provide support for related activities, including those already initiated at the level of SELA,

(c) to promote at the level of the specialized regional bodies the necessary studies for achieving food security and measures which will permit its materialization and the participation of those developing countries which are also food producers.

Resolution

PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Convinced that it is necessary to make the fullest possible use of the work of the regional bodies responsible for promoting and supporting economic development,

Stressing the growing need of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to tap a larger amount of financial resources made available on the best possible terms,

Recognizing the need that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as the main regional finance agency, should participate more effectively in supporting efforts for regional integration and economic co-operation,

Taking into account the fact that the member countries of IDB are preparing studies to identify the Bank's role in the 1980's,

Requests the Executive Secretary of CEPAL to present the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America in the 1980s emerging from the nineteenth session of CEPAL to the Inter-American Development Bank so that it may be taken fully into account in the Bank's preparatory work aimed at defining the functions and policies which are to govern IDB's role in the 1980s.

Resolution

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ACCESS TO MARKETS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling that in United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/56 on the International Development Strategy it is recognized that accelerating the rate of production in the developing countries will call for the rapid expansion and diversification of their international trade,

Bearing in mind that in the developed countries there has been a recrudescence of protectionism in recent years in the most diverse forms, significantly affecting Latin American exports, and that the developing countries have given voice to their general dissatisfaction with the results of the Tokyo Round,

Considering that the application of the Regional Plan of Action in the 1980s will demand greater dynamism of the external sector of the Latin American countries, which should be promoted on the one hand by an ever-growing and more diversified flow of exportable goods, and on the other by increasing access to international markets,

Reaffirming what was said in UNCTAD resolution 131(V) regarding protectionism and structural readjustment,

1. Instructs the CEPAL Secretariat to continue with the studies which it is carrying out under the terms of CEPAL resolution 385 (XVIII) and to consider among its priorities the preparation of studies in the field of international trade aimed at:

(a) Determining the cost to the Latin American countries of the protectionism practiced by the developed countries in terms of its impact on the growth targets which the region has set itself for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

(b) Appraising the practical effects on the various Latin American countries of the application of the different schemes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and suggesting courses of action which might constitute effective tools of negotiation for improving the use of these versions;

(c) Carrying out the trade studies provided for in the Biennial Programme of Work 1982-1983 and the Medium-Term Plan 1984-1989, bearing in mind the amendments contained in the final report and the resolutions and decisions adopted at the nineteenth session, and also the studies referred to in the Regional Plan of Action;

2. Recommends to the CEPAL Secretariat that in carrying out the above mentioned studies it should take account of the work done in other international bodies such as UNCTAD and GATT:

3. Also recommends to the CEPAL Secretariat that it should advise Latin American governments, at their request, on the repercussions, utilization and application of the agreements emanating from the international trade negotiations, particularly those from the Tokyo Round, in consultation with GATT and in collaboration with UNCTAD.

Resolution

Latin American Development Decade

REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind resolution 35/56 in which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Third Development Decade and CEPAL resolution 386 (XVIII) on contributions by CEPAL for the formulation of the New International Development Strategy for the 1980s;

Having considered the Regional Programme of Action proposed in the "Report of the fifth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)" (E/CEPAL/G.1155), prepared pursuant to resolution 386 (XVIII), and the contributions included therein at the present (nineteenth) session,

Resolves

1. To reaffirm the common determination of member Governments to work individually and collectively to achieve the integral development to which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean aspire, with the necessary persistence and continuity at the national, regional and international levels to create conditions of stability and well-being for all their peoples, ensuring them a standard of living compatible with human dignity;
2. To proclaim formally the 1980s as the "Latin American Development Decade" and solemnly adopt the Regional Programme of Action for the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade as annexed hereto.

Resolution

LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

The Economic Commission for Latin America

Recalling that the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), originally proposed in CEPAL resolution 199(IX) and established under resolution 220 (AC.52) of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL, was made by resolution 340 (AC.6) into a permanent United Nations body, with a separate identity within the CEPAL system,

Further recalling that ILPES, in accordance with CEPAL resolution 371(XVII), has expanded its responsibilities to cover assistance to planning bodies in operating the System of Co-operation among Planning Bodies,

Stressing the results of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, held in Guatemala in November 1980, which provided further proof of the importance of the machinery to enable Latin American planners to promote mutual co-operation with a view to achieving higher levels of development in the region,

Recognizing that ILPES has fully complied with the guidelines for its activities set forth in paragraph 7 of resolution 397(XVIII),

Stressing the importance of the work of the ILPES Technical Committee and Sub-Committee in orienting the Institute's activities,

Recognizing that in the sphere of economic and social planning ILPES is playing an outstanding role in implementing technical co-operation among developing countries,

1. Notes with satisfaction the Report on the activities of ILPES in the period 1979-1981 and future prospects;^{1/}
2. Takes note of the resolutions of the Second Meeting of Caribbean Planning Experts, held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 29 May to 2 June 1980, and of the tasks that ILPES is carrying out in implementation of the corresponding

1/ E/CEPAL/G.1169.

recommendations, and urges governments and co-operation agencies to provide ILPES with the resources required for stepping up its action in the Caribbean;

3. Takes note with approval of the resolutions adopted at the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City in November 1980;

4. Endorses the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the ILPES Technical Committee, held in Guatemala on 29 November 1980, that:

(a) The important support that UNDP has given ILPES since its establishment should be acknowledged with thanks;

(b) UNDP should be requested to continue its financial support for the Institute so that the latter may continue to carry out its basic programmes;

(c) All necessary efforts should be undertaken at the level of each government of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to consolidate the financing of ILPES;

(d) The Chairman of the Technical Committee should be instructed to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Technical Committee, which should give priority attention to the adoption of such measures as may be required in order to place ILPES on a stable and adequate financial footing;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Technical Committee of ILPES, to arrange with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the support needed for the continuation of the activities of ILPES as from 1 January 1982;

6. Praises and expresses its appreciation for the contributions which some member governments of the Commission have made to the partial financing of the activities of the Institute and invites all Governments to establish regular contributions to sustain and expand the activities of the Institute in line with such suggestions as the Technical Committee may make at its next meeting;

7. Reiterates its special gratitude to the Administrator of UNDP for the solid support made available to ILPES since the time of its establishment and exhorts him to continue providing such support after 1 January 1982;

8. Also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Governments of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany and to the International Development

Research Centre of Canada for the generous voluntary contributions made during the past biennium in support of the training and documentation activities of ILPES and invites them to continue making contributions during the next biennium in order to strengthen some specific priority programmes;

9. Expresses its satisfaction with regard to the co-operation agreements which ILPES is entering into with some governments which have received support from the Inter-American Development Bank and note that this form of operation may eventually be of great significance in financing and expanding the activities of ILPES;

10. Notes with satisfaction the activities for promoting technical co-operation with Africa and recommends that they be intensified in future, using the experience accumulated by ILPES;

11. Recommends that the organization of periodic seminars of experts from planning offices of Latin America and the Caribbean be promoted so as to foster a constructive exchange of the ideas, research, studies and experience which are being developed in the various countries, thereby making it possible at the same time to orient specific aspects of the activities of ILPES related to training, advisory services, research and co-operation among planning bodies.

Resolution

DECENTRALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197 on the structures for regional and interregional co-operation, as well as General Assembly resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979 on the implementation of section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197.

Also bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions,^{1/} which was presented for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session,

Further bearing in mind General Assembly decision 35/440 of 16 December 1980 on the implications of its resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions, in which the General Assembly invited the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 in the light, inter alia, of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary General,^{2/} in particular paragraphs 76 to 79 thereof, and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session,

Recalling its consensus on the future role of CEPAL in the rationalization of the regional structures of the United Nations adopted at its fourteenth session, and its resolution 405 (XVIII) of 26 April 1979 on the decentralization of United Nations activities,

Further recalling that the question of decentralizing the economic and social activities of the United Nations to the regional commission has been

^{1/} Document A/35/546 of 23 August 1980.

^{2/} Ibid.

under consideration in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly since the beginning of the 1960s, and that it has been pointed out in this connexion that many problems connected with economic and social development and co-operation could better be tackled in the geographical areas in which they arise,

Recognizing the need for more vigorous action to implement the provisions of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 so that, as far as CEPAL is concerned, the Commission may fully carry out its function, under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as the main general centre of economic and social development within the United Nations system for its respective region,

Stressing the need to delegate to the CEPAL Secretariat the necessary authority and resources to enable it effectively to carry out the new and additional responsibilities assigned to it by General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202,

Having studied the note of the Secretariat of the Commission entitled "Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations: the new functions of the regional commissions in regional and interregional co-operation"^{3/},

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions,^{4/} particularly paragraphs 13 to 20 and 76 to 79 thereof;

2. Recognizes that the Commission's expanded and strengthened functions pursuant to the relevant provisions set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 include the following:

(a) consultative and policy-making functions with regard to economic and social activities at the regional level under the authority of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council;

^{3/} See document E/CEPAL/G.1174 of 10 April 1981

^{4/} Document A/35/546.

(b) leadership function in the joint efforts of the United Nations system for the development of regional co-operation and co-ordination and priority-setting in the field of economic and social development, in keeping with the functions of the United Nations in this respect and taking due account of the functions of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields;

(c) involvement in decision-making concerning programme requirements and medium-term planning in respect of activities undertaken by the regional commissions and in the definition of objectives covered by the medium-term plan;

(d) the function of executing agency for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects, in accordance with the relevant provisions set forth in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, and for the promotion of co-operation among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;

(e) responsibility for the continuous exchange of information and experience among the various regional commissions, and identification of opportunities for economic co-operation, as a means of promoting interregional co-operation;

3. Urges the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, with due consideration for the observations contained in the report of the Secretary-General^{5/} and in the framework of International Development Strategy for the 1980s, to take appropriate measures, as far as CEPAL is concerned, to enable the Commission to make a regional contribution to the world policy-making process of the competent bodies of the United Nations and to participate fully in the implementation at the regional level of the policy and programme decisions taken by those bodies at the world level, without prejudice to the specific functions incumbent upon them in their respective spheres of competence;

4. Notes that CEPAL is already acting as executing agency for a number of regional projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 33/202;

^{5/} Ibid.

5. Exhorts the competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue and further develop the practice of formalizing inter-agency agreements with CEPAL whereby the Commission may be associated with them not merely in the implementation of certain intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects for which those bodies and organizations have the status of executing agencies in specific economic and social sectors, but also for country projects in specific areas in which the Secretariat of the Commission has great installed technical capacity and an adequate operational structure, in particular for projects in the spheres of economic and social planning and of demography and population;

6. Notes that in 1980 a permanent post in the sphere of social development and a post of water resources expert were redeployed from United Nations headquarters to the Secretariat of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, paragraph 26;

7. Likewise notes the decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session to assign a temporary post to the Secretariat of the Commission in the field of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries;

8. Urges the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to ensure the allocation of sufficient budgetary resources to enable the Secretariat of the Commission to carry out the functions expanded and strengthened in the restructuring process, and, in particular, to approve the temporary post mentioned above on a permanent basis and to redeploy sufficient resources to strengthen the biennial and medium-term planning process of the Commission's Programme of Work;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) in order to expand the co-ordination of activities and avoid duplication of effort in the economic and social sectors, to initiate and continue consultations with the competent organizations of the United Nations system and with organizations such as SELA, OLADE, ALADI, etc. which carry out programmes in the region served by CEPAL, with a view to: (i) identifying areas in which it is necessary to strengthen the co-ordination and harmonization of programmes of interest to the governments of the region; and (ii) examining the possibility of establishing appropriate arrangements;

(b) to work out with the Secretary-General of the United Nations appropriate arrangements for the effective participation of the Commission in the planning of the United Nations medium-term programmes;

(c) likewise to work out with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with the competent bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system appropriate arrangements for: (i) the synchronization of the programming cycles and the harmonization of programme formats between CEPAL, on the one hand, and the United Nations and its system of global organizations, on the other; and (ii) the identification, as rapidly as possible, of ways and means of improving the distribution of the tasks and responsibilities of the Commission and of the competent global organizations of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening those research and analysis functions which can be carried out most effectively at the regional level;

10. Likewise requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at the next session of the Committee of the Whole on the implementation of the measures contained in this resolution, in the light of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council at their forthcoming sessions.

Resolution

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES IN THE CEPAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that General Assembly resolution 31/93 requests the Secretary-General "to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process",

Bearing in mind that the legislative organs of the United Nations system, in the face of the increased responsibilities assigned to the economic and social sector, adopted a series of resolutions and decisions - particularly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system - which decentralize functions to the regional commissions,

Also bearing in mind, that according to resolution 419 (PLEN.14) the holding of the sessions of the Commission in even instead of odd years will allow them to be brought into line with the biennial budget programming cycle introduced by the General Assembly,

Considering that the CEPAL Secretariat has been made responsible for new activities whose implementation is hindered by the present financial restrictions of the Organization, and that these financial restrictions are of a recurrent nature,

Reaffirming that it is a matter of fundamental interest for the governments to take the best possible advantage of the work programmes of the CEPAL system, considered globally,

Considering that the absence of explicit priorities in the implementation of programmes and projects diminishes their efficacy,

Resolves:

(a) to request the Executive Secretary to ensure that the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to be held in 1982 includes among its main agenda items the review of the planning and programming process of CEPAL;

(b) that the annual meetings of CEGAN held to appraise the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action should formulate suggestions regarding priorities for the consideration of the member governments of the Commission when adopting the programme of work.

Resolution

DECENTRALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN
DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE (CELADE)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 571 (XIX), General Assembly resolutions 1838 (XVII), 2211 (XXI) and 2626 (XXV), and resolution 346 (AC.68) of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL, which express the permanent concern of the United Nations with regard to population matters and their connexion with economic and social development, together with CEPAL resolution 400 (XVIII) which describes the general objectives of the Latin American Regional Population Programme and refers to the need for "promotion of the decentralization of these activities to permit proper participation by the subregions",

Also bearing in mind the conclusions and resolution 419 (PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole on rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the CEPAL system, and its resolution 421 (PLEN.14) on financing of the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre,

Considering that the work done by CELADE in the field of population has won the recognition of governments on account of its value and importance for the efforts to promote economic and social development,

Taking account of the concern expressed by the member countries of the Commission as regards the need to ensure that CELADE is provided with stable financing in keeping with the nature and variety of the mandates entrusted to it as part of the Latin American Regional Population Programme,

Acknowledging the generous offer of the Government of Costa Rica to continue to support the CELADE office which operates in the city of San José, Costa Rica;

Acknowledging that the contributions to CELADE provided by UNFPA since 1972 have been the major financial support for the work of the Center and that continued support from the UNFPA will be necessary for the important work of CELADE in the field of demographic analysis.

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements to secure the early strengthening and expansion of the activities carried on in the CELADE office in Costa Rica;
2. Recommends that the new activities undertaken as a result of the receipt of additional funds be implemented primarily in the San José Office of CELADE with the necessary personnel so as to strengthen the presence of the regional commission in Central America and the Caribbean within the context of activities relative to decentralization and consistent with the efficient pursuit of CELADE's work.
3. Recommends that in order to speed up the implementation of the Regional Population Programme in conformity with the mandates and objectives suggested at the First Meeting on Population of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) held in Quito from 12 to 14 March 1979,^{*/} and adopted at the eighteenth session of the Commission, CEGAN should be entrusted with the responsibility of appraising the progress of the Centre's activities and proposing the necessary measures for the better implementation of its programme of work as adopted at the sessions of the Commission.
4. Calls upon the Executive Director of UNFPA to continue to provide CELADE with the necessary financial support, and also requests the member Governments of CEPAL which are in a position to do so to provide CELADE with more resources.

*/ See E/CEPAL/G.1072.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES
OF CEPAL

The Economic Commission for Latin America

Bearing in mind sections 8 and 24 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of CEPAL, together with the relevant mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies in the system,

Recalling resolution 419 (PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL, in which it was decided that at its nineteenth session the Commission should decide on the new calendar of conferences and meetings of the entire CEPAL system with a view to implementing it, duly synchronized with the General Assembly's budget programming cycle, as from 1982 and taking into account the objectives and priorities established in the various work programmes and regional action programmes approved by member governments,

Having considered the draft programme of work for the different areas of activity of the CEPAL system for the period 1982-1983,^{1/} which covers also the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE),

Taking account of the adjustments to the programme proposed by representatives of member governments, as recorded in the final report of the nineteenth session, and the changes deriving from the resolution adopted at that session,

1. Approves the programme of work of the CEPAL system (including the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Latin American Demographic Centre) for the period 1982-1983, with the adjustments reflected in the final report and taking account of the resolutions and decisions and Regional Programme of Action in the form in which they were adopted at the nineteenth session;

^{1/} Document E/CEPAL/G.1162.

2. Recognizes that this programme constitutes the legislative authority of the Commission for the execution of these programmes and projects;
3. Takes note that the allocation of any additional resources which may be necessary for carrying out the activities described in this programme requires the prior approval of the pertinent bodies of the United Nations;
4. Also approves the final calendar of conferences of the CEPAL system as given in annex I of this resolution, with the observations and suggestions reflected in the final report of the nineteenth session;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the pertinent bodies of the United Nations such proposals as may be necessary to enable the programme of work and calendar of conferences thus approved to be carried out;
6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the twentieth session of CEPAL on the fulfilment of this resolution.

Annex I

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR CEPAL FOR 1981 AND PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

Title	1981	1982	1983	1984
<p>CEPAL - Session</p> <p>Sessional committees</p>	<p>Nineteenth session Montevideo, 4-15 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water resources Montevideo, 4-5 May - Human settlements Montevideo, 7-8 May - Co-operation between developing countries and regions Montevideo, 5 May 			<p>Twentieth session</p> <p>Water resources</p> <p>Human Settlements</p> <p>Co-operation between developing countries and regions</p>
<p>CEPAL - Committee of the Whole</p>		<p>Fifteenth session <u>a/</u></p>	<p>Sixteenth session <u>a/</u></p>	
<p>Intergovernmental regional conferences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy Mexico City, 16-20 March - Meeting to Approve the Plan of Action for the Environmental Management of the Wider Caribbean Region Jamaica, 6-8 April - Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World Assembly on Aging San José, December 			

a/ Place and date to be decided.

Title	1981	1982	1983	1984
Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America		Third Conference <u>a/</u>		
Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN)	CEGAN - Fifth session Quito, 9-14 March	CEGAN - Sixth session <u>a/</u>	CEGAN - Seventh session <u>a/</u>	CEGAN - Eighth session <u>a/</u>
Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)	Sixth session Grenada, 5-10 November	Seventh session <u>a/</u>	Eighth session <u>a/</u>	Ninth session <u>a/</u>
Central American Economic Co-operation Committee		Twelfth session <u>a/</u>		

a/ Place and date to be decided.

ACCESS TO SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the efforts of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to obtain efficient and up-to-date economic and trade information in order to be in a position to strengthen their technical infrastructure for decision-making and for participating more effectively in international trade and in international economic negotiations,

Bearing in mind that much of this information exists and is available in the various parts of the CEPAL system and in the United Nations system in general,

Further bearing in mind the mandate of CEPAL to contribute to strengthening the external sector of the developing countries of the region;

1. Thanks the CEPAL Secretariat for the economic and trade information which it provides to member countries through its periodic reports and basic documents;
2. Requests the CEPAL Secretariat to undertake and submit a comprehensive study on the possibilities of broadening the economic and trade information updated for developing countries of the region which so request, in order to enable them to set up or further improve economic and trade information units to facilitate their policy decision-making and their more effective participation in international and bilateral negotiations. The study should cover, inter alia, the following elements:

(i) Operational machinery to provide the countries of the region with rapid and up-to-date economic and trade information;

(ii) Information sources of the CEPAL system;

(iii) Possibilities of using the information available in the United Nations system;

(iv) Possibilities of using the economic and trade information available in existing intergovernmental bodies or institutions within the United Nations system and outside it, including IBRD, IMF, GATT, OECD, OMEA and the EEC, among others;

(v) Possibilities of using information from the main commodity exchanges whose activities cover or include goods or products of the region;

(vi) Mention of other possible information sources which might be relevant;

(vii) Alternative cost estimates for the setting up of the various information systems proposed;

3. Requests the CEPAL Secretariat to submit the results of the study to member countries for discussion at the twentieth session of the Commission, and to submit a preliminary report on the information available from the study to the next session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL.

Draft Medium-Term Plan of the CEPAL system
for the period 1984-1989

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind that General Assembly resolution 31/93: "requests the Secretary-General to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process; urges those organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the Medium-Term Plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure compliance with the planning and programme-budgeting procedure referred to above",

Also bearing in mind that, at its twentieth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, an inter-governmental body that advises the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, requested the Secretariat (A/35/38, paragraph 320) to draw the attention of the intergovernmental sectoral, functional and regional organs to the fact that they must consider the draft Medium-Term Plan before it is transmitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/93,

Having considered the draft Medium-Term Plan of the CEPAL system for the period 1984-1989, which also covers the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE),

Bearing in mind that the Secretariat will make the adjustments to that draft Plan proposed by the representatives of member countries and will incorporate in it the changes stemming from the resolutions adopted at the nineteenth session,

Decides to transmit the draft Medium-Term Plan for the CEPAL system for the period 1984-1989 to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination so that it can be incorporated into the United Nations Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989, to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in 1982,

Resolution

TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN AREA AND
THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind its resolution 365 (XVII) of 5 May 1977 on economic integration and co-operation, which points out that despite the considerable progress made in the integration of the economies of the countries of the region and in linking up their production system, full use has yet to be made of the economic potential of integration,

Also bearing in mind that in its resolution 402 (XVIII) of 26 April 1979 on economic integration, the Secretariat of the Commission is requested to study the integration processes of the region and to strengthen its support to them through the preparation of studies and the provision of advisory services to the governments or Secretariats of the integration processes at their express request,

Taking into account the progress that has been achieved by the subregional integration schemes and the forms of co-operation being worked out in the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Mindful of the need to forge closer links of economic and technical co-operation between the countries and groups of countries of the Caribbean area and the other countries and groups of the region,

1. Urges the developing member countries of the Commission and the Secretariats of the relevant groups of countries of the region to intensify their efforts to identify specific possibilities of technical and economic co-operation which may be undertaken between the countries of the Caribbean and the other Latin American countries with a view to developing new links of co-operation and solidarity among them or strengthening those which already exist;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary:

a) in collaboration with the Caribbean institutions charged with promoting co-operation and integration, to prepare a short, medium and long-term programme

of work, including the undertaking of studies and operational activities designed to promote, at the request of interested governments, projects in specific areas with a view to mobilizing and strengthening technical and economic co-operation between the countries of the Caribbean area and the other countries of the region;

b) that the programme of work and studies be so oriented as to identify the main obstacles to greater co-operation, the potential areas of complementarities, mechanisms to foster trade and assist the process of co-operation among the integration and co-operation organizations and with the Latin American countries of the region not members of those organizations;

c) to take appropriate measures to promote co-operation between the Secretariats of inter-governmental organs of the Caribbean area and the rest of the region to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information, documentation and experience, as well as the identification of projects which can be undertaken jointly in areas of common interest;

d) to collaborate, at the request of the Secretariats of such integration bodies, in the preparation of joint mutual co-operation projects and in their financing when necessary.