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FOR LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



**UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(Habitat)**

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Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference
for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall
review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Santiago, Chile, 25-27 de October 2000

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE
- B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda is being organized in compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 53/180, in which the regional commissions are invited, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening high-level meetings to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to report on the results of their review to the Economic and Social Council.

Accordingly, the purpose of the Regional Preparatory Conference is to review the fulfilment of the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), examine the activities carried out in the countries of the region, foster regional and subregional cooperation, present recommendations to the Governments in the region regarding the fulfilment of those commitments and serve as a forum for the exchange of information with a view to enhancing coordination and mutual support in creating a better habitat in the region.* The Regional Conference will thus serve as the region's preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in June 2001.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The Regional Conference will elect a Chairperson, two or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur to preside over the debates. It is suggested that the designation of these officers should be discussed during the meeting of Heads of Delegations to be held on 25 October 2000.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Regional Conference will have before it the following provisional agenda for adoption or amendment:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda

* The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was held in Santiago, Chile, from 13 to 17 November 1995. The Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean on Human Settlements was adopted on that occasion.

3. Presentation of the document entitled “From rapid urbanization to the consolidation of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean: a territorial perspective”
 4. Presentation of reports of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
 5. Presentation of country reports on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda
 6. Panel discussions on the Global Campaigns provided for in the Habitat Agenda
 - Good Urban Governance
 - Secure tenure
 7. Other matters
 8. Consideration and adoption of the decisions reached at the Conference.
3. Presentation of the document entitled “From rapid urbanization to the consolidation of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean: a territorial perspective”

Working document

- “From rapid urbanization to the consolidation of human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean: a territorial perspective”

The ECLAC secretariat has prepared a document to provide input for the discussions to be held at the Regional Conference. This document reviews various aspects of the land-use, urban and housing situation in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to identifying the main challenges that the region faces in seeking to consolidate the regional sphere as one in which national and local interests and efforts in the field of human settlements can be brought together and made to complement one another. The study begins with a review of the region’s recent experiences with urbanization, which has been and continues to be a powerful force in shaping the regional landscape. It goes on to consider how social processes are reflected in the spatial dimension and what efforts will be required in order for this dimension to become a genuine sphere of social integration. It then discusses the importance of the role that economic forces now play in shaping the regional landscape and the challenges that will be involved in managing these forces in a more balanced way in the near future. A consideration of the subject from an environmental vantage point draws attention to issues that need to be addressed urgently, especially in the cities, if people are to have a better quality of life. In addition, the need to develop a stronger type of citizenship in a region that is in the process of consolidating its democratic foundations entails other tasks that must be addressed within the regional sphere.

The multidimensional approach that the document proposes be used in addressing spatially-defined issues in the region provides some idea of the enormous potential of this sphere for supporting effective, balanced development in Latin America and the Caribbean. For this potential to be realized, habitat policies will have to reconcile and harmonize the numerous challenges associated with each of the facets of the regional landscape examined in the study and will have to provide for joint initiatives to optimize the efforts being made to construct it. The document therefore concludes with a series of proposals regarding joint measures that countries may wish to adopt as they seek to consolidate the region’s spatial dimension.

4. Presentation of reports of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements has prepared a reference document entitled “Review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean”. This document provides a picture of living conditions and trends relating to human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean. A brief outline of the relevant country reports is presented, along with an overview of the indicators available for measuring progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda and of best practice in the governance of human settlements, based on statistics and other available sources.

5. Presentation of country reports on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda

One of the main objectives of the Regional Conference is to conduct an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to exchange experiences. Hence, it is to be hoped that all countries, in addition to taking part in the general discussions concerning the document presented by the ECLAC secretariat, will also report on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

6. Panel discussions on the Global Campaigns provided for in the Habitat Agenda:

- Good Urban Governance
- Secure tenure

In order to enrich the intergovernmental debates, panel discussions will be held on two of the Global Campaigns that serve as pivotal elements in the follow-up to and implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The chief aim of the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance is to turn the idea of an inclusive and participatory city into a reality, while the main goal of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure is, through the regularization of housing and land tenure systems, to integrate the poorest citizens into the urban development process and achieve the full exercise of their rights. Both of these campaigns, which will last at least 10 years, will have specific impacts on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

High-level experts and representatives of international, regional and local organizations and specialized institutions will take part in these panel discussions.

7. Other matters

Under this item, the participants will consider any other issues that the delegations may wish to raise.

8. Consideration and adoption of the decisions reached at the Conference

In the final portion of the Conference, the participants will approve a brief document outlining the progress made in implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) for submission to the Economic and Social Council. This document, which will also set forth the decisions reached by Governments of the region based on

their appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, will be presented at the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be held in June 2001.

Annex

REFERENCE DOCUMENTSECLAC documents:

- Equity, Development and Citizenship (LC/G.2071(SES.28/3))
- Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Human Settlements (LC/G.1912)
- Report on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis (DDR/1)
- *Urban Consensus: Contributions from the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Human Settlements*, Medio ambiente y desarrollo series, No. 21 (LC/L.1330-P)
- *Políticas de viviendas de interés social orientadas al mercado: experiencias recientes con subsidios a la demanda en Chile, Costa Rica y Colombia*, Financiamiento del desarrollo series, No. 96 (LC/L.1382-P)
- *Perfil de déficit y políticas de vivienda de interés social: situación de algunos países de la región en los noventa*, Financiamiento del desarrollo series, No. 103 (LC/L.1471-P)
- *Servicios urbanos y equidad en América Latina: un panorama con base en algunos casos*, Medio ambiente y desarrollo series, No. 26 (LC/L.1320-P)
- *Pobreza en América Latina: nuevos escenarios y desafíos de políticas para el hábitat urbano*, Medio ambiente y desarrollo series, No. 27 (LC/L.1429-P)
- *Informalidad y segregación urbana en América Latina: una aproximación*, Medio ambiente y desarrollo series, No. 28 (LC/L.1430-P)
- Algunos conceptos básicos sobre las causas y soluciones del problema de la congestión de tránsito (LC/R.2004)

Documents of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat):

- Review of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/2)
- Working Hypothesis for a Regional Campaign for Secure Tenure (DDR/3)
- The Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance: "For an inclusive and participatory city" (DDR/4)
- Good Urban Governance: a Normative Framework (HS/C/PC.1/CRP.6)
- Secure Tenure: a Normative Framework (HS/C/PC.1/CRP.8)