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**PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE REGIONAL LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN  
PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN**

1. The United Nations World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974) and the Population World Plan of Action approved in that meeting are significant events in the evolution of population issues at the world level. During the twenty years since then, the region has experienced sweeping changes. The first chapter of this document summarizes the changes in the demographic dynamics of the region. The progress made and the obstacles faced by the countries as they attempt to implement their population policies and to integrate demographic variables into their development policies and programmes are also noted.
2. In view of the economic difficulties of recent years, it is now clear that change is necessary in the areas of production and labour relations, so as to situate the region within the new international context, while simplistic dualities, such as those which oppose growth to equity, industry to agriculture, domestic to foreign markets, planning to market dynamics, or State to private agents are abandoned. Overcoming the last of these dualities is especially important in order to broaden the area for cooperation between governments, private sectors and non-governmental organisms.
3. The crisis of the 1980s exacerbated inequalities in terms of access to the fruits of development and increased the poverty of vast sectors of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean. In that regard, the governments of the region have adopted a series of objectives and goals geared to integrate population issues into the development process, assigning priority to social concerns, while simultaneously caring for environmental sustainability, within a framework of democracy and participation so as to ensure full respect for the rights of persons, including reproductive rights.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In light of the guidelines and mandate established by member governments, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has adopted the concept of changing production patterns with social equity, as the frame of reference and articulating element for its analysis of development. In this regard, see the following texts: ECLAC, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach (LC/G.1701/Rev.1-P), Santiago, Chile, 1992. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.II.G.5; ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37, Santiago, Chile, 1993, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8.

4. The objectives and goals derived from the "Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development", described in the third chapter of this document, constitute a desideratum for the region in terms of the relations between population, development and environment, as well as for progress in human rights and the struggle against the inequality living conditions observed among social and ethnic groups, and geographic zones and in terms of gender.

5. On the premise that greater mutual support among the countries of the region will help achieve more solid progress toward the realization of those objectives and goals, the general proposals of this Plan are intended precisely to facilitate integration and the interchange of national experience in the formulation and application of population policies and programmes, both those of the recent past and current efforts, together with those which will emerge from the implementation of this Plan; to support the design of policies and programmes which will tend to harmonize the rhythm of population growth and territorial distribution within each Latin American and Caribbean country with their strategies for economic and social development; to encourage comprehension of demographic issues and of the usefulness of adopting population policy; to stimulate political, technical and financial support for national efforts in this area; to favour relations between the region and other developing and developed nations; to identify priorities in the area of technical cooperation, with their respective mechanisms for implementation; to facilitate agreements among nations for the joint development of activities which will ensure the institutionalization of population policy and the development of instruments and highly trained professionals to implement them.

## B. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIONS UNDER THE PLAN

6. Chapter four of this document offers a first approximation to those actions which will tend to fulfill the general objectives mentioned above. It must be noted that the regional actions described in chapter four are not intended to fully achieve, by themselves, all the objectives proposed in the third chapter. In fact, most of those objectives are framed at the national level and achieving them will depend on action taken by the corresponding national organisms; thus, regional action can only be considered as complementary to national efforts. Thus, some of the objectives presented in chapter three, the achievement of which will probably be facilitated by joint action among countries, are highlighted and only that type of action is discussed in chapter four.

7. It should be noted that the objectives and recommendations presented in chapter three are framed in terms of national-level activities; they are, basically, recommendations which the countries, united as a region, consider applicable in each country, individually. Naturally, it is understood that each country will adapt them to its own circumstances, when actually implementing them. Those national objectives will be pursued through initiatives which, by definition, are also national. In contrast, regional action, which is dealt with in this Plan and presented in chapter four, will support those national activities. Thus, the common denominator of national objectives, contained in chapter three, will orient regional action.

8. The Regional Plan is concerned with regional activities, geared to support or facilitate national action. The coordination and execution of national plans depends on sovereign decisions made by the respective countries which, in pursuit of their objectives, may have recourse to international technical cooperation. For that reason, this Plan does not include the execution of either national plans or national projects for technical cooperation, among its objectives.

9. Regional initiatives will, in every case, be executed by the most appropriate institution. In some cases, the task may be assigned to a specialized international organism; in others, to a national public organism, a non-governmental organization or a University, ensuring that the entities involved will be capable of organizing activities in benefit of all or of a group of the countries of the region.

10. In order to increase the possibilities of success for this Plan, chapter four, section B, of this document presents mechanisms for adequate follow-up of Plan implementation, allowing for the introduction of changes or new activities for constant Plan renewal. Equally important to improving the possibilities of success will be the provision of funding mechanisms for regional, subregional and bilateral activities. That issue is addressed in chapter four, section C.

### C. BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

11. The general proposals related to population policy and programmes will be addressed within a framework of absolute respect for the following basic principles:

i) The formulation and implementation of policy and programmes is a sovereign right of each nation;

ii) The rights of persons to determine their reproductive behaviour, place of residence and movement within national territories are to be respected integrally, as well as the right to leave and return to their own countries. Strategies to achieve desired demographic change will be based on the free alteration of individual behaviours and will take due account of ethnocultural diversity;

iii) All elements of development strategy affect and are, in turn, affected by demographic dynamics. For that reason, they should be multi-sector in nature and integrated into the national socioeconomic development, at global, sector and regional levels;

iv) The objective will be to reduce the social inequity —and its demographic consequences— which characterizes the region overall and many of its countries, internally;

v) To increase the life expectancy and improve the health of the population, independently of any other demographic consideration will always be a central concern;

vi) Objectives and goals will be coherent with the preservation of national ecosystems and with their improved use;

vii) Programmes and policies will be designed and implemented on the basis of gender equity, so that they tend to improve the social condition of women;

viii) The right of every individual to make free, responsible and informed decisions with respect to the number and spacing of his/her children will be respected, whatever the objectives of each country with regard to population growth may be.

12. Finally, it should be noted here that this Plan is intended to identify actions which will respond to the specific needs of Latin America and the Caribbean, in accord with the global recommendations adopted in the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).





## II. CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SITUATION IN THE AREA OF POPULATION

13. This chapter offers a very brief summary of the population situation in the region and prospects for the future, within the context of economic and social development. A more detailed diagnosis, by subregions and groups of countries, including their emergent specific characteristics, can be found in other ECLAC documents, made available opportunely to the countries.<sup>2</sup>

### A. POPULATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

14. The population of Latin America and the Caribbean nearly tripled between 1950 and 1993, reaching 466 million persons. A sharp decrease in death rates, together with persistent and high birth rates, accelerated growth rates up to the mid-1960s. During that period, the economy of the region, stimulated by the process of substitution industrialization, experienced sustained expansion. Together with changes in the productive spheres and increases in the gross domestic product, social structures were rearticulated, to the benefit of the middle and salaried strata. That social mobility, accompanied by higher levels of education, occurred concomitantly with a very rapid process of urbanization, which involved significant population movement from the countryside to the cities. These factors promoted the transformation of values, including those related to reproductive behaviour. Gradually, the ideal family has grown smaller, an aspiration made possible by access to contraceptives. Lower birth rates have led to a gradual deceleration of average annual demographic growth rates, from 2.7%, between 1950 and 1960, to 2% during the 1980s.

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<sup>2</sup> ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37), Santiago, Chile, 1993, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8; J. Chackiel and M. Villa, Latin America and the Caribbean: The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992; B. Boland, Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean: with special emphasis on adolescent fertility, international migration and population policy and development planning (DDR/2), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.

15. Many of the economic and social advances achieved since the Second World War in Latin America and the Caribbean have been overshadowed by the recession of the 1980s. Although the population grew at lower rates than in earlier decades, the real per capita product, in 1989, had fallen back to the level of 13 years previously. Diverse indicators point to the gravity of this recessive cycle, characterized by severe macroeconomic imbalances and setbacks in the social area. Due to the displacement of investments, institutional deterioration and the lack of alternative models of attention, the quality of essential services —such as health care and education— suffered serious reverses. Meanwhile, the recession meant higher unemployment and increased marginality in labour markets. Measures designed to soften the impact of the crisis had regressive effects on income distribution, their effects being felt most severely by workers and the middle strata. As a result, poverty increased; during the early 1980s, the number of poor persons grew at three times the rate of that of the total population. For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, foreign debt and service payments constitute a heavy burden, inhibiting the allocation of resources for development and, especially, lowering the priority of social programmes to improve the quality of life of the population.

16. Although the demographic increase of the 1980s was less than that of earlier decades, as a result of the transfer of that higher previous growth, the cohorts of women in their fertile years increased and, in spite of lower birth rates, the number of births continued to rise. The demand for social services also continued to rise; due to widespread failure in the supply of those services, service insufficiencies became very great. Analogously, the number of young persons entering their working years grew at higher rates than previously. The effects of demographic inertia, interrelated with recessive economic and social processes, have had negative repercussions on development and will continue to be felt in the coming years.

17. Given the diversity and depth of its impact, that "lost decade" strained the capacity of governments to respond within that context of economic setbacks and their subsequent political difficulties; this relegated traditional planning schemes to secondary levels and weakened the position of the State as an agent of production. The severity of the crisis also exacerbated a series of social and economic imperfections endemic to the region. However, that harsh experience taught a number of lessons and, on that basis, the countries of the region have undertaken the search for new horizons. As part of that process, a strategic proposal for changing production patterns has taken shape, which, together with environmental sustainability, involves achieving greater social equity as an essential element, within a framework of democratic management styles. Population is an essential component of this proposal, both as the fundamental agent of the productive process and as receptor of the fruits of progress.

18. The sustained increase of the competitive capacity of Latin American and Caribbean economies is an essential condition for growth in today's world; this presupposes the systematic incorporation of technical progress into the productive process, creating more jobs and employing environmentally sustainable means. This task is unthinkable without a real investment in human resources; that training will increase the productivity of labour, generate true comparative advantages and increase the aggregate value of production. The qualitative improvement of human resources is a factor which will also help reduce poverty, by both favouring greater economic growth and offering greater opportunities for incorporation into the labour market for all sectors of the population, as long as, simultaneously, social policy to reduce the enduring inequalities in the societies of the region is strengthened. This presupposes assigning priority to quality of life, as well as to the training of human resources, which implies giving preferential treatment to education, health care and social security. In this sense, rapid demographic growth and high levels of poverty constitute disadvantages for countries when they attempt to increase the level of training and productivity of the labour force.

19. A symptom of the social vulnerability imposed by the profound inequalities within countries —and which have impeded the extension of the benefits of development to large sectors of the population— has been the worsening of poverty during the 1980s. From the demographic point of view, those inequalities are reflected in substantial differences in disease-death rates, especially maternal-infant rates, in territorial mobility patterns and birth rates within social sectors, ethnic groups and geographic zones. Particularly striking is the lack of family planning programmes based on principles of equal rights in the areas of sexual health care and reproduction. Undoubtedly, the satisfaction of those demands, and of other social needs, would have a positive impact on the development of human resources. The urgent need to overcome the historical limitations reflected in this type of inequality transforms the issue of equity into one of the central elements of the relationship between population and development. Thus, the principal tasks involve minimizing poverty, developing the talents which potentially exist in all social groups and arbitrating the means to ensure that the concentration of the fruits of progress does not restrict the true liberty of present and future generations. The modalities of population change are inseparable from initiatives to achieve growing social equity; also in line with this proposal are the means to encourage voluntary and informed decisions with regard to family size or place of residence within each country.

## B. DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

20. Thus, the situation and anticipated trends of population dynamics are key elements for all development strategies which seek to integrate changing production patterns and the achievement of greater social equity. As noted above, the marked decrease in birth rates (from 6 to 3.4 children per woman) is one of the most pronounced changes in Latin American and Caribbean demographics in the last 30 years, and lowered the growth rate to 2% during the 1980s; a rate of 1.7% is projected for the 1990s. Progress has also been made with respect to death rates, reflected in increased life expectancy at birth, from 57 to 69 years; meanwhile, infant death rates have fallen from 127 per thousand, in the early 1950s, to 54 per thousand, in the late 1980s. Progress in the area of death rates —associated with interaction between the processes of demographic and epidemiologic transition— should not mask the persistence of certain lags. Thus, maternal death rates have remained high, more than 12 times higher than those of developed countries; the persistence of infectious diseases and the rapid spread of AIDS are also current problems in the region.

21. These demographic trends, especially those related to fertility, are modifying the age structure of the population by accentuating the ageing process, the short-term effects of which mean an increase of the population in the productive and reproductive years, in absolute and relative terms. Currently, the number of persons seeking insertion into the labour force is growing sharply, with special impact on the younger age groups with their high unemployment rates. Age structure changes in many countries also imply new challenges in the areas of health care, employment and social security. The population over 60 years old, some 31 million persons in 1990, will triple by the year 2025, when that group will constitute 14% of the total number of inhabitants of the region; that rapid growth will impose new demands, unknown to date in most countries, especially on health care and social security systems. The impact of the progressively expanding ageing process is especially notable in countries in the later stages of demographic transition, particularly in the Caribbean subregion and other relatively small countries, in which the vegetative demographic process combines with the emigration of the younger population and, in many cases, the return of migrants in their retirement years.

22. Although the region as a whole is in full demographic transition, that generalization is not equally valid for all countries. There are sharp contrasts between those in which women bear an average of nearly six children and others in which they have fewer than two; or where in some, life expectancy is less than 60 years, while in others it is around 75. Those differences mean that in some countries the population grows at rates of around 3% annually, and, in others, the growth rate is less than 1%. Box 1, together with figure 1 and the tables in the annex, illustrate that heterogeneity. Similar and even greater disparities emerge from comparisons among the geographic zones, social or ethnic groups within countries; these are the product of the lack of social equity, which hinders broad and non-discriminatory access to essential services, such as education, health care, housing and social security.

23. The mid- and long-term projections of those trends reveal that the rhythm of growth will continue to decrease. In most countries, the average annual growth rate of around 2% will fall to around 1% by 2010, and will be even lower by 2025. According to these projections, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will increase by 60% between 1990 and 2025, rising to some 700 million persons. As a hypothesis, it has been calculated that the region could arrive at a combination of birth and death rates such that, on average, each woman would have around two children by around 2020, and that, of them, at least one daughter would replace her in her reproductive function; if that happens, the growth rate would be zero and, therefore, the population would be stable and would experience few subsequent changes. However, in light of the region's still young age distribution, that situation may only prevail after 2050, with a regional population of around 800 million persons.

24. As a result of the supposed convergence of birth rates toward replacement levels, relative age distributions should be characterized by a trend toward an ever older population; by the middle of the twenty first century, those younger than 15 years of age will represent around 20% of the total population in most countries, although it is necessary to recall that, at the present time, some countries have populations in which more than 40% of the total are minors. As a result of the expected changes in age structures, the dependence ratio will tend to decrease initially —due to lower percentages of children— only to subsequently rise again —as the percentage of the elderly increases; thus, that indicator will decline from 70 persons in their inactive years for every 100 active persons, in the region as a whole, to around 50% in the year 2010, although some countries will still have ratios similar to current regional averages. As birth rate trends and age structure alterations converge, the current number of births in many countries is reaching historical maximums and will decline in the future, with subsequent effects on the demand for maternal-infant health care and other services related to infancy; however, in countries which have only recently entered into the process of demographic transition, this will only occur in 20 or 30 years. Generally, changes in demographic components, in age structures and other related factors —such as epidemiological profiles—, make it possible to argue that, in the short and mid terms, those demands will coexist with a significant increase in the numbers of children and of persons in their middle years, to which a larger elderly population will be added.

## Box 1

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES  
ACCORDING TO THE STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1985-1990**

The basic characteristics of population dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean can be described in terms of the concept of demographic transition, which refers to the evolution from high to low birth and death rates, through stages. This process occurs at different rhythms and in different modalities in the diverse countries of the region, and in different ways within social groups and spatial units. In order to systematize the effects of the significant trends in gross national birth and death rates within the region, four types of situation have been identified for the 1985-1990 five year period.

The first group of countries, in incipient demographic transition, is characterized by generalized poverty, precarious access to social services and a mainly rural population; in these circumstances, birth and death rates remain high, with a high percentage of children and youth, implying high reproductive potential. Bolivia and Haiti are in this group, with average annual rates of natural growth on the order of 2.5%.

The second group, of moderate transition and still low urbanization, have higher rates of natural growth (around 3%), produced by declining death rates and high and sustained birth rates. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay are in this group. Although these countries have made progress in reducing death rates, making the population younger and increasing dependence ratios, that progress has not reached vast sectors of the rural population nor those below the poverty line; given their high percentages of children and youth, it is likely that, in the short term, their birth rates will continue to be high.

Three fourths of the population of the region lives in predominantly urban countries, in full demographic transition, as can be observed in their declining birth rates and a death rate which, by virtue of health campaigns applied to a young age structure (derived from decreasing birth rates) and less exposed to the risk of death, has declined considerably. Natural average growth is around 2% annually in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Finally, the group in advanced transition is constituted by the most urbanized countries, with average annual rates of demographic growth around 1%, arising from comparatively low birth and moderate or low death rates; some of those countries, in which the decline in birth rates occurred long ago, are characterized by the ageing of their age structures. Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico and Uruguay belong to this group.

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**Source:** J. Chackiel and M. Villa, The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.



25. International population movements, basically among the countries of the hemisphere, are increasing, as a result of the adjustment process occurring within the region and the disparities between developing and developed countries. Apart from the traditional movement of persons with every level of training in search of improved economic conditions, that mobility includes a numerous contingent of refugees and persons displaced by sociopolitical conflict and of those who return to their countries of origin, motivated by current democratization and pacification processes. It has frequently been noted that the situation of migrants is worse than that of those who are native to the destination countries, involving, at times, the violation of the migrants' basic human rights. In this area, the design of measures at the national level are insufficient. Rather, it is necessary to join forces in order to achieve international consensus with respect to appropriate attention for migrants, especially in light of the opportunities created by processes of regional integration. International migration is a cause of particular concern in the Caribbean subregion, because, given that those countries are small in size and have small populations, population interchanges accentuate their vulnerability to external economic factors. In particular, international migration implies negative impact on population sex and age structures and on the environment and, therefore, places the development of those countries in jeopardy.

26. To these trends, it is necessary to add the intense processes of urbanization and metropolization through which the region, still predominately rural in 1950, has currently come to have 70% of its inhabitants living in urban areas, largely due to strong internal migratory currents. By the year 2000, those living in urban areas will represent 75% of the total population. The region, with less than 10% of the total world population, contains four of the ten largest cities in the world. However, that situation is not homogeneous, given that, in some countries, the rural population still represents more than 60% of the total population. At the same time, the growing diversity in internal migratory flows, including those among urban systems and among rural zones, should be noted. It has also been observed that the prevalent models of development have favoured the territorial concentration of economic activities and of population, with subsequent negative impact on integral economic development and social and regional equity. Continually improved training of human resources, the provision of services which tend to improve the quality of life in the diverse regions of countries, together with the decentralization of management processes, should be central components of changing production pattern strategies.

27. Another phenomenon which is emerging with force and is a cause of concern, in some countries of the region, is the mobility of persons displaced for diverse reasons, although the common factor seems to be domestic conflict of one kind or another. The situation of those persons is different from that of refugees, because the fact that they remain within the national territory makes them ineligible for the services of specialized organisms, such as UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). Moreover, their destinations and conditions are extremely heterogeneous and their demands are complex, making them highly vulnerable groups, in both urban and rural contexts.

28. Conflictive situations in the relation between demographic trends, development and the environment—in urban and rural ecosystems— have been observed. Especially important are the problems of the large metropolis, which lacks basic services—water, sewage, waste collection—and suffers water and atmospheric contamination—produced by the lack of technologies to control that contamination and insufficient investment in infrastructure, among other factors. In rural zones, deforestation and soil degradation in areas recently incorporated into agricultural use and in small-plot farm zones—where farmers are obliged to over-exploit their land—are also noteworthy. The relationships between the demographic situation and natural resources in the small island countries of the Caribbean, as well as their capacity to organize and mobilize those resources to face the problems arising from those relationships, merit special attention. In those conditions, a strategy of sustainable development which implies sustained

economic growth based on changing productive patterns, in coherence with social policies (employment, population, health care and education) which will ensure social equity and provide special attention for the protection of the environment, is called for.

29. A particularly unacceptable expression of the lack of equity in the region is that which affects women. From the perspective of population, that situation is most notable in the difficulty women face in the exercise of their reproductive rights, that is, in the lack of access —and of options— with respect to the use of contraceptive methods. The fact of having to assume all responsibility for family planning, and for educating and raising the children and domestic tasks, together with the risk implied by the high illness and death rates associated with pregnancy and childbirth, are excessive burdens. And, given the impact on their future, the situation which affects adolescent women, who lack adequate sex education and access to contraceptives, is especially serious, insofar as they are exposed to unwanted pregnancies, the risks of clandestine abortions and the multiple restrictions which society imposes on the legitimacy of their descendants. Another cause of concern is the prevalence of pregnancies among adolescent women in countries with low birth rates, such as those of the Caribbean. Moreover, the numbers of women fulfilling the role of head of household, often characterized by social vulnerability and precarious economic conditions, is growing. In these so profoundly inequitable conditions, society, as a whole, must move toward adopting measures which will guarantee equal treatment for men and women. Every violation of equity based on sex distinctions in the areas of education and labour must be avoided. Priority must also be given to the solution of the problems faced by displaced and refugee women. Finally, necessary and sufficient measures to eradicate the violence to which women in general are subject must be adopted.

30. The formulation of population policy, integrated into development strategies, has been and will continue to be particularly relevant. In spite of progress in this regard, deficiencies are still evident: the need for greater precision with respect to the articulation and significance of the interaction between demographic variables and those of socioeconomic development; the absence of technical training to include population issues into economic and social policy; the lack of political will and commitment to establish institutional mechanisms for population to be considered as an endogenous component of development strategies; and the imbalance between the objectives of sociodemographic policy and the impact of economic policy, strategies and programmes. The State plays an important role in the harmonization of the relationship between population and development. International cooperation, both financial and technical, has been important in the promotion, study, discussion and execution of population policies and programmes. However, a notable disproportion between needs and available resources persists, a disparity accentuated more pronounced in recent years. Intraregional cooperation is an effective instrument for responding to the common needs of several countries and for complementing and strengthening national activities.

## C. ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBSTACLES IN THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND EXECUTION OF POPULATION POLICY

### Progress and limitations

31. The countries of the region display heterogeneous behaviour with regard to policy definition in the area of population issues. Some have adopted measures geared to affect certain demographic variables and their causes, while others have formulated explicit global policies. However, many of the latter have faced difficulties in their efforts to move beyond the design stage and implement the desired measures. In contrast, certain sector initiatives, even in the absence of global population policy, seem to have been more successful, as is illustrated by the significant force of family planning and reproductive health programmes or in maternal-infant health care (which also include family planning components), usually promoted by the Health Ministries. Moreover, progress has been made in the incorporation of demographic variables into economic and social development policy and programmes.

32. In short, it can be stated that progress has been made in the last 20 years, even though sufficiently grievous deficiencies persist to make population issues a serious challenge for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, this is an area in which the interchange of experiences, training, technical assistance and horizontal cooperation should play a basic role within the region. For this reason, and as a first attempt at a diagnosis, this section identifies some of the many obstacles faced in the effort to design and implement population policy.

33. One of the main difficulties is the persistence, in some countries, of ideological polemics with regard to appropriate measures to be taken in pursuit of population objectives, especially those designed to lower birth rates. Those controversies become more extreme when the meaning of population policy is confused with action limited to control of births. That erroneous perception —the basis of false dilemmas— arises from the misunderstanding of the value of population policies to economic and social development; there is a tendency to not recognize the usefulness of the measures provided for in that policy as supportive elements for achieving specific development goals, especially when those policies are formulated within the broader framework of social policy. Diverse factors explain that incomprehension, although efforts to increase sensitivity to sociodemographic issues in opinion makers, public sector leaders and society, in general, have been deficient.

34. The deficiencies of campaigns geared to generate social awareness of population and development issues have produced a lack of effective political will in this regard. Strictly speaking, technical efforts have been made which, given these restrictions and certain difficulties in articulating the relevant proposals within political discourse, have not taken shape in operational strategies. Thus, it is understandable that, in many cases, it has not been possible to engage diverse social sectors in concerted action in function of shared objectives with regard to population. To the contrary, the risk of facing the adverse reaction of groups with influence on public opinion has frustrated certain initiatives, before they were submitted to open debate.

35. The sociopolitical voids revealed in these experiences also give rise to new difficulties when it comes to establishing mechanisms to implement population policy, the execution of which implies distributing responsibilities among diverse institutions, both in the public and private sectors and in organized civil society. Within that context, it is nearly impossible to implement the necessary strategies of community participation within the instances responsible for the formulation, execution and evaluation



of action. Undoubtedly, when population policy is affected by institutional fragility, it is understandable that finance sources dry up and, for the same reason, that those initiatives remain as relatively abstract announcements of intentions. In the absence of solid institutional commitment and adequate budgets, the vicissitudes of personnel stability lead to the loss of qualified human resources.

36. The still inadequate understanding of the complex relationships between population and development, very evident with regard to the sociocultural dimensions, is another obstacle which merits attention. Given the scant importance assigned to research, the unexplored factors with respect to demographic behaviour and its economic and social repercussions hinder the identification of the relevant intermediary factors. The latter could be the object of conscious interventions geared to produce coherent change with respect to the desired images-objective. Voids in knowledge hinder the identification of effective means and instruments, which could, as well, form part of other economic and social policies. Those voids are even more evident in the face of new trends in the development model being chosen by countries and with regard to which population policy could be highly functional. These observations are particularly relevant with respect to objectives designed to improve the quality of human resources, to increase the productivity of the labour force and advance toward higher levels of social equity. Overcoming these limitations implies fluid communication among researchers and technicians dedicated to planning in demographics and, in the broadest sense, investment in human resources.

37. The execution of policy already formulated also faces obstacles. In some cases, the scant precision of objectives —particularly in terms of their social, temporal and territorial implications— has made their implementation in operational programmes difficult. In this sense, one of the problems faced in the formulation and execution of population policy is the visualization of short- and mid-term demographic scenarios, a task which becomes even more complex when it comes to defining initiatives for specific population groups or with respect to sub-national spaces. While diverse types of social demands are notable for their urgency, the horizons involved in population policy cover relatively long periods of time. That temporal dissonance, often aggravated by the commitments which each government must fulfill during its relatively brief tenure in office, interferes with the necessary continuity of action designed to achieve certain demographic objectives or goals. In the same way, the concerns and interests of the local community have not always been adequately represented in the definition of priorities, generating conflict between the tendency to centralize coordination and the demands of decentralized execution.

38. Many countries have encountered serious limitations in the evaluation of population policy. Political voids, inadequate campaigns to generate sensitivity, personnel mobility, gaps in knowledge, the scarcity of available resources and operational rigidities work together to make evaluation extremely difficult. To this is added the lack of expeditious and adequate instruments and the inability of information sources to supply up-to-date and continuous data.

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### Experience to date

39. In spite of the diversity of the obstacles encountered, the countries of the region have acquired broad experience in terms of institutional arrangements for generating population policy and programmes. Although they have varied over time, those institutional arrangements can be classified in three categories: a) national population councils; b) working groups, especially created to formulate population policy; and c) population units within national Ministries for development planning.

40. Most countries have formed entities of the first type, that is, multi-sector Councils or Commissions, in which representatives of diverse Ministries and public sector entities participate. In spite of their official status, many have functioned only minimally or simply not at all. Others, which functioned normally at first, later lost their inertia and have been reorganized or replaced with some other institutional modality. In contrast, in countries in which national councils had genuine and solid political support from the beginning, they have persisted, not only in their concern for the diverse dimensions of population dynamics, but in the articulation of solid networks of institutional support, which has enabled them to overcome the difficulties inherent to changes in government. Finally, those councils in other countries emerged after some other entity, responsible for research and diagnosis of demographic dynamics or for implementing specific population activities, was assigned higher rank among governmental institutions.

41. The constitution of those population Councils has been diverse from country to country. In some, their members were professionals who, while outstanding in their fields, were relatively far removed from the spheres of political decision and, for that reason, all their recommendations were necessarily consulted with higher authorities in the institutions they represented. On the other extreme were councils which, being constituted by the Ministers themselves or their immediate representatives, were difficult to convoke for working meetings, a restriction even more notable when population dynamics did not figure among the political issues assigned highest priority. A third situation is that of countries in which the councils have functioned only in reaction to certain immediate situations, given that there is no defined and systematic working plan.

42. Among countries which have created ad hoc groups to address population issues, the English speaking countries of the Caribbean are the most notable example. During the 1980s, they established working groups (Population Task Forces), made up of representatives of various Ministries and dedicated to performing diagnostic studies in support of the formulation of population policy and of recommendations for the incorporation of demographic variables into governmental plans and programmes. It should be noted that more than half of those working groups fulfilled their mandates, formulating the required policy measures; the others did not fulfill their objectives and remain inactive.

43. Finally, some countries of the region have assigned the task of formulating population policy to the national organism responsible for development planning. This task has been linked to the activities of certain instances responsible for incorporating demographic variables into development planning at every level (global, regional, by sector). In some cases, it was not possible to create a division to deal with these matters; in others, the decision was taken to create a new division, following on experiments with sector organisms responsible for a specific aspect of population policy or after verifying the poor performance of the interministerial population councils created previously. Some of these instances have performed research and studies of population and its relationship with other aspects of development. Of these, some managed to propose population policy guidelines, while others have developed communications and diffusion mechanisms with regard to population activities.

44. These three categories do not exhaust the range of institutional arrangements within the region; nor are they mutually exclusive. Moreover, given that the task of executing population policy is not always a function of the organism responsible for formulating it, it is highly probable that, at least in theory, that responsibility is lodged in a spectrum of institutions. As well, the fact that a country has developed explicit population policy does not absolve it from constant efforts to incorporate demographic variables into development policy and programmes, a task also faced by countries which do not have that general

policy. As can be observed throughout the region, that last factor is fairly commonplace and merits consideration as a specific issue in this section.

#### The incorporation of demographic variables into policy and programmes

45. The experience of population units within national development planning organisms reveals both progress and limitations. In some cases, the purpose of that incorporation remains vague, given the tendency to consider population as a specific social sector and ignore its essentially multi-sector nature; in others, not limited by that criterion, are operational and methodological problems have arisen. Where large scale demoeconomic models have been employed, results have been scant, due both to the restrictions inherent to that type of approach —such as the inability to establish endogenous relationships between the variables identified, thus hindering analysis of eventual repercussions on different strategic options—, and to external factors (lack of adequate information, of qualified personnel, infrastructural deficiencies for data computation and processing). Most countries have obtained better results with smaller scale models, which focus on specific problems and sectors and lend themselves to the analysis of the effects of demographic trends on the needs of diverse social services at the national and sub-national levels; however, the lack of trained personnel and of timely, reliable, accurate and disaggregated statistics is an obstacle for the optimum exploitation of that type of methodology.

46. In spite of these restrictions, efforts to incorporate demographic variables more effectively into development policy and programmes are a valuable factor in the difficult process of formulating and executing explicit population policy. Progress along those lines will establish more solid foundations for the measures to be implemented both in technical terms and with regard to their sociopolitical legitimacy, making it possible to overcome certain simplistic appreciations with respect to some social problems. The models are also highly functional for resource programming, especially insofar as their application addresses the new challenges and opportunities emerging from the recently developed strategies for focussing and decentralizing public action. For all of these reasons, governments deem it necessary to increase the dissemination and training in the use of instruments which will enable greater integration of population factors into their policies and programmes.

#### Final reflections on institutional mechanisms

47. The examination of the institutional arrangements adopted by countries to deal with population issues reveals that, even with the diversity of their specific modalities, they face common problems which hinder optimum performance. In general, since political authorities assign higher priority to economic policy or specific social measures, demographic dynamics may be relegated to secondary levels of concern, thus eliminating the possibility to employ knowledge of the interrelationships between those dynamics and the mid- and long-term evolution of the economy and society. That short-term perspective has often meant that population policy already formulated has been abandoned, involving the error of believing that population issues are only individual and family concerns, not relevant to society as a whole. That same perspective has also meant that resource allocations to cover the needs of the population organisms created by the governments themselves are neglected. Those same factors hinder effective coordination among the entities responsible for those programmes which could lead to the success of population policy.

48. Some countries have attempted to reformulate their operational modalities, strengthening ties among technical, scientific and political entities, in an effort to overcome the scant institutional development of their national population organisms. Undoubtedly, the success of population policy depends, to a large extent, on the solidity of its scientific and technical base, which implies the constant provision of knowledge to inform decisions, identify operational instruments, design programmes and projects linked to economic and social policy, and to specify follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. To that end, technical population committees —with the rank of inter-Ministerial Commissions, in some cases— and divisions within a Ministry (often the planning Ministry) have been formed. Although several entities have performed demographic research and studies, their operational projection has been slight, with the result that they are usually considered to be of mainly academic interest.

49. In spite of efforts at functional articulation, substantial institutional improvements are not evident. In fact, the deficiencies noted are not only apparent in terms of low budgets —which leads to scarcity and frequent rotation of personnel trained in population and development issues—, but have also affected their true areas of competence. Thus, when the task of formulating population policy has been assigned to national planning organisms, the technical instances have tended to be predominant; given the resulting atmosphere of relative autonomy, their proposals have, in some cases, fallen into a political void. The loss of relative weight which planning systems have suffered since the 1980s has only aggravated the situation. When the responsibility for formulating population policy has been assigned to a multi-sector organism, problems of coordination among institutions have worsened, except when design tasks were assigned to a State secretariat, in which case there is the danger of sector bias. Finally, some countries have attempted to mitigate the lack of institutional articulation by creating parliamentary commissions on population and development, the evaluation of which is, as yet, premature.

50. The adequate articulation of institutional mechanisms is undoubtedly an essential requisite for the success of population policy. The region has accumulated valuable and relatively broad experience and the lessons taught by previous experience constitute a foundation on which it is necessary to continue to build. Progress must also be made on several fronts, including institutional organization as such, modalities for coordination and work methodologies, as well as diverse activities —such as the analysis and interchange of experience, training, and applied research— in order to guarantee solid progress in the future.

#### D. FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

51. The World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) (Bucharest, 1974), revised in Mexico City, in 1984, is the basic antecedent for this Regional Plan of Action. Since then, and in a large number of international conferences and fora, the countries of the region have adopted new agreements and recommendations with regard to population, which are also antecedents of this Regional Plan of Action.<sup>3</sup> This section refers to the agreements most closely related to the issues around which the objectives and goals of this Plan are articulated, and which, in turn, derive basically from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, approved in the Regional Conference on those issues (Mexico City, May

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<sup>3</sup> Only those meetings held since 1984, in which agreements directly related to the issues dealt with in this Regional Plan of Action were adopted, are considered in this section. The references do not attempt to summarize the content of those agreements, but only allude to issues treated in them.

1993). That Consensus, together with the agreements generated by the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) are the basic framework for this Plan.

52. On diverse occasions, the countries of the region have reaffirmed their commitment to give special attention to the *environment* in their efforts to integrate population into the development process systematically. There was consensus in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) that an integrated approach was necessary for the formulation of development policy, plans and programmes, which would take into account the interrelationships among population, resources, the environment and development. That decision was ratified, more recently, in the International Fora on Population Policies and Development Planning (Mexico City, 1987) and on Population in the Twenty-first Century (Amsterdam, 1989), as well as very especially in Programme 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Analogously, matters concerning the institutionalization of social and population policies, the stimulation of training, information and research on issues related to population, development and the environment have been underscored in a series of international meetings, conferences and fora.

53. The *search for gender equity* in population policy emerged as a clear commitment in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, 1985). That principle was ratified in the International Conference on Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning (Nairobi, 1987), and in the International Fora on population policy mentioned above (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). At the regional level, gender equality is a precept of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, approved in 1977, with important subsequent contributions, such as those achieved in the Regional Conference in this regard (Mexico City, 1983) and in the conferences on that issue held every three years. Programme 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) also contains proposals in this regard.

54. Moreover, *international migration* has been considered in many international meetings and recognition of the importance of that issue has grown throughout the region, in light of the impact of economic and social changes and initiatives to integrate markets. The WPPA recommendations, which provide for measures to guarantee the rights of migrants and their families, as well as those of refugees and displaced persons, have been reaffirmed in those meetings. A new Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families should be noted the diverse agreements approved in recent years. In this regard, the conclusions of the Regional Seminar on Migration Policies, Integration and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Challenges and Opportunities of the Present Decade (Punta del Este, 1993), are significant.

55. As for *family health, well being and planning*, the WPPA contains important recommendations, which have been supported in the International Fora on Population Policies (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). A series of goals and commitments to action, approved by governments, is reflected in the strategy of the Pan American Health Organization, which has proposed to ensure health for all by the year 2000. *Infancy*, intimately related to family well being, has been the subject of a number of international agreements, among which the World Summit for Children (New York, 1990) is outstanding. Adolescents also constitute a group which has caused serious concern, above all in light of the need to provide reproductive health care and avoid precocious pregnancies (Amsterdam, 1989).

56. The international community has assigned ever higher priority to the issue of *social development*, as can be observed in the agendas of recent meetings and of those to held in the coming years. The agreements adopted in those meetings will exercise considerable influence on the matters referred to in this Regional Plan of Action. Among those meetings, the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994), the World Summit on Social Development (Denmark, 1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II; Turkey, 1996) should be mentioned.

57. The WPPA contains numerous recommendations with regard to *population age structure*, and its repercussions. Reference to concern for children and adolescents was made above. As a result of the changes produced by demographic transition, the *elderly* population is growing rapidly in many countries of the region, the implications of which are a matter of growing concern. The recommendations approved in consultative meetings (Washington, 1988 and 1992) and in the Consensus on Policies for the Care of the Elderly in Latin America (Santiago, Chile, 1992) should be added to those of the WPPA on the adoption of measures to ensure the well being and security of the elderly, especially women.

58. As well, *population distribution, internal migration and urbanization* have been examined in diverse conferences. Again, the WPPA and the Amsterdam Forum (1989) formulated important recommendations in this regard. Diverse meetings on matters related to the environment have also dealt with these issues.

### III. OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

59. On the basis of the examination of the demographic and socioeconomic changes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the accumulated experience in the application of population policy and programmes over the last 20 years, and the consensus achieved by the countries of the region in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 1993) and the international agreements on those issues, the countries of the region have proposed an interrelated set of objectives which, grouped in seven sections, are presented below.

#### A. POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

60. **General objective:** To harmonize the relationships among population dynamics, the environment and social and economic development.

61. **Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To broaden the consideration of trends in demographic variables in sector and regional public policies and seek coherence among economic and social development strategies, population policies and those related to the environment.

ii) To adopt environmentally sustainable development strategies which assign adequate priority to social programmes and policies, including those related to population and the alleviation of poverty, recognizing that environmental deterioration is rooted in the irrationality of the predominant styles of development, revealed in the use of inappropriate technologies and patterns of consumption, mainly in the industrialized countries and the privileged minorities of developing countries.

iii) To give priority attention to the search for coherence between population policies and those related to the environment, taking into account that, given that the interdependence between population and the environment is endogenous to the process of economic development, demographic growth is not the principal factor in environmental deterioration.

iv) To guarantee that economic development programmes and strategies take into account their impact on the mobility and territorial distribution of the population and to adopt measures to solve present and future problems, particularly those related to the environment.

v) To undertake in-depth studies of the linkages between population and the environment which will serve as the basis for the formulation of development strategies, with special attention to social equity and resource use and taking into account the knowledge of the autochthonous populations with regard to their relationship with nature.

vi) To reinforce and broaden, at all levels, educational and communications programmes on the preservation of the environment and its relationships to productive activities, consumer patterns and population dynamics, through communications and formal and informal educational programmes.

vii) To consider mid- and long-term changes in population age structures in the formulation of social policies (health care and social security, employment, education and housing) in order to guarantee attention for faster growing and more vulnerable age groups.

viii) To organize training and employment programmes which, considering the high rates of incorporation into the active years and the need to promote equality of opportunity, will assign primary importance to youth, in order to guarantee improved work force productivity and authentic competitive capacity for the economies of the region.

ix) To promote social participation and integration and ensure adequate attention, in the areas of health care and social security, for the elderly, whose number and relative weight will increase, given the demographic changes observed in the region.

x) To reinforce the progress made in the incorporation of demographic criteria in health programmes, especially family planning programmes. To advance, as well, in the area of education and other social policies which support the objectives each country adopts with regard to demographic growth.

## B. GENDER EQUITY IN POPULATION POLICIES

62. **General objective:** To contribute to improving women's status in society, promoting favourable changes in the relations between men and women, through the integration of action to that end in the area of population policy and programmes.<sup>4</sup>

63. **Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To guarantee equal job opportunities, combat discrimination against women in the work, social and political areas, promote the recognition and appreciation of women's work in all areas and facilitate women's access to credit and the ownership of goods.

ii) To guarantee adequate working conditions to protect the health of women and their children. To reinforce day care infrastructure to cover self employed and salaried sectors of workers for whom that service is not available.

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<sup>4</sup> This Plan takes as its own the objectives identified in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development of 1977 and the new proposals made in the conferences on that issue held every three years.



- iii) To take the necessary initiatives to promote equity in education, especially those which promote the incorporation and permanence of women in the middle and higher levels of the educational system.
- iv) To contribute to the improvement of health care for women, especially in the area of reproductive health, including sex education, family planning, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, as well as the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. To focus those measures especially on adolescents.
- v) To actively incorporate men into family planning programmes, in order to promote the shared responsibility of men and women in reproduction and contraceptive decisions. Particularly, to promote the development of contraceptive methods for men.
- vi) To promote sex education initiatives from the gender perspective, focused mainly on adolescents, in which parents and teachers will participate.
- vii) To incorporate the gender perspective into the design of study plans for different educational levels, both formal and informal, in order to bring about positive changes in attitudes, values and beliefs about sexuality and the roles to be played by men and women within domestic units.
- viii) To promote educational communication on issues related to gender equity, in order to eliminate social stereotypes which presuppose women's inferiority, promoting shared responsibility between women and men for domestic labour, the education and raising of the children and family planning.
- ix) To develop action geared to generate sensitivity in the owners and producers of the mass media and in opinion leaders, with respect to the representation of masculine and feminine role models, the family, relationships within the couple and sexuality in order to promote gender equity.
- x) To promote and communicate legislative advances to eliminate inequities and discrimination against women with respect to their rights, especially in the areas of reproduction and family life, and to establish adequate mechanisms for the effective exercise of those rights.
- xi) To encourage the active participation of diverse social sectors in the design and implementation of population programmes which take into account the gender perspective and to reinforce or create adequate instances to ensure the continuity and follow-up of those programmes, as well for evaluating their short- and mid-term impact.
- xii) To take into account in the design of social and population policies the modalities of women's migration, as well as its repercussions, and of men's migration on the social condition of women, particularly in the configuration of domestic units and the way in which the woman's role in the development of life strategies is affected by the absence of the man.

### C. HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

**64. General objective:** To improve the health of the population, particularly reproductive health, and guarantee the right of persons to decide, in free and informed fashion, the number and spacing of their children.

**65. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To strengthen the institution of the family, as the fundamental cell of reproduction, protecting its role in the socialization of future generations and ensuring that, within the family itself, shared ethical values are communicated and children are prepared for daily life. To this end, it is necessary to take into account the existence of diverse types of family, as well as the changes which occur in it.

ii) To assign the highest political priority and allocate resources to the search for a more equitable distribution of health care services, especially those related to maternal-infant and reproductive health, in order to respond to the demands of groups which, given their geographical location or social condition, do not yet have access to those services.

iii) To give priority to infant care, reinforcing prevention and primary care services. Resources should be directed, first, to the least protected population.

iv) To incorporate into reproductive health care services, population education and family planning programmes, measures which will help prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS; and to ensure adequate medical attention and non discriminatory treatment for the ill. To study the impact of the increase of HIV/AIDS and of the measures for combatting it on death rates and the sexual and reproductive behaviour of the population.

v) To offer access to services for risk free maternity, particularly those related to sex education, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, and family planning. Those services should offer integral attention, taking into account the sociocultural identity of the users and assigning priority to the most vulnerable population groups.

vi) To lower the incidence of abortions and attendant complications by increasing the coverage and quality of family planning, reproductive health and sex education programmes.

vii) To design and adopt models of integral reproductive health care for adolescents, including educational components on population and family planning, adequate to their sociocultural context. To reexamine regulations which restrict that population segment's access to contraceptives.

viii) To implement programmes which will help reduce the psychosocial consequences of adolescent pregnancy, so as to avoid the interruption of the mothers' educational process and create improved conditions for their insertion into the labour market and society, as a whole.

ix) To develop information, educational and communications strategies in order to achieve the egalitarian participation of men and women in decisions related to family planning and the use of contraceptives. Likewise, to promote the education of men in the area of responsible parenthood and the development of contraceptives which they can use.

x) To improve the quality of family planning services through the following measures: broadening the spectrum of contraceptive options and information about their characteristics, reinforcing the technical competence of those who lend those services, improving the interpersonal relationship with users and perfecting their structures and organization. In particular, to reinforce the advisory mechanisms which inform potential users of sterilization about the existence of other contraceptive methods and about the consequences of opting for a permanent method.

xi) To support research to develop contraceptives which will not affect persons' health and encourage their production locally; to develop more effective procedures to detect the moment of ovulation and seek mechanisms to promote the transmission of relevant knowledge in this regard to population groups which prefer methods based on periodic abstinence.

xii) To promote access to services for the treatment of infertility and those for assisted fertility, within the framework of internationally established ethical principles and norms, so that couples will achieve the family size they desire.

xiii) The Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean proposes that, although for programmatic purposes it may be convenient to establish goals in terms of number of users or of birth rates, that should not interfere with the exercise of individual liberties. The fixing of quotas for the incorporation of contraceptive users into the entities which lend those services should be avoided.

**66. Goals for the year 2000:**<sup>5</sup> The following goals are based on already adopted agreements, as is indicated in each case:

i) To reduce by a third the death rate among children younger than one year old and those under five —or to 50 and 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, if that is a lower rate—, using 1990 values as the point of reference (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

ii) To attain a life expectancy of 70 years or, at least, to gain eight years with respect to the 1990 value. Countries with low death rates should continue efforts to improve health services to reduce death rates even more (UNFPA, Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, 1989; and WHO, Health for all by the year 2000).

iii) To reduce maternal death rates, by at least 50%, with respect to the 1990 value (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

Moreover, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have established the following goals:

i) To reduce, by at least 50%, the unsatisfied demand for contraception, that is, the percentage of women exposed to the risk of pregnancy who do not wish to have more children or wish to postpone pregnancy and do not use any contraceptive method. In particular, to make maximum efforts to reduce the incidence of unplanned adolescent pregnancies.

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<sup>5</sup> Given that the Cairo Conference will probably set goals for the years 2005 and 2015, those announced here will be revised and enriched by the results of that conference.

ii) To reduce, by at least 50%, the differences between infant death rates, maternal death rates and the unsatisfied demand for family planning services, as observed among different places of residence, geographical locations and social groups.

iii) To attain real knowledge about available contraceptive methods, as well as of where to obtain them for all persons in their reproductive years. To increase real access to those methods.

iv) To achieve the incorporation and institutionalization of didactic materials related to population in the study programmes of all basic or primary and middle or secondary educational establishments.

v) To evaluate and revise national laws which may constitute obstacles to the full exercise of reproductive rights.

#### D. TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

**67. General objective:** To promote greater balance in the territorial distribution of the population which, taking into account the changing production patterns of the economy, will promote greater social and spatial equity and guarantee environmental sustainability.

**68. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To consider the significant impact of productive development strategies on migratory flows, so that the former will be designed in accord with a more balanced territorial distribution of the population.

ii) To encourage programmes of regional development within the regions themselves, as such, in an effective process of decentralization, which will include taking the more important public decisions at the local level.

iii) To encourage the diversification of migratory destinations, avoiding population concentrations in large urban nuclei, by developing intermediate cities, on the basis of the examination of their potential.

iv) To improve and extend the basic infrastructure of essential services, particularly in marginal urban zones, and especially those of the large metropolis, without neglecting the needs of rural zones.

v) To reinforce rural development programmes, in support of small and mid-size farmers and enterprises, which will influence both the location of productive activities and the well being of the population.

vi) To promote measures so that the expansion of human settlements into fragile ecosystems will not degrade the environment. These measures should provide for the development of infrastructure and incentives for expansion into preferable zones.

vii) To reinforce programmes to attend persons displaced by sociopolitical conflicts within countries, with special attention to women.

viii) To lend special attention to the situation of indigenous populations and ethnic minorities, in light of the spatial impact of development strategies.

## E. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**69. General objective:** To harmonize international migratory trends with the objectives of development, so that migratory flows will not cause conflict between countries, and to protect the human rights of persons who have migrated.

**70. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To promote surveys and on-going analysis of the diverse modalities and magnitude of migratory flows, taking into account their impact on demographic and economic trends in the countries of the region, especially the smallest countries, the island countries, and those in which the phenomenon is particularly significant, for the purpose of designing international migration policies. To promote the improvement of data sources, the interchange of information and research results, and the elaboration of periodic national and regional reports on international migration, with the support of the relevant international organisms.

ii) To promote international, regional and bilateral agreements and the revision and renewal of national juridical frameworks, in order to normalize the situation of migrants, especially that of undocumented labourers and refugees, and to ensure respect for their basic rights. As well, to execute campaigns to generate public opinion sensitivity so as to mitigate the rejection suffered by migrants for ethnic and social reasons.

iii) To reinforce cooperation and the interchange of information among the countries of the region, and with others, with regard to norms to regulate the entry and residence of persons within national territories, as well as general policies for international migration.

iv) To establish economic and social programmes which will guarantee repatriation and adequate reinsertion for displaced persons and refugees, when the cause of their displacement has ended. To promote measures, in receptor countries, for the satisfaction of the basic needs of refugee groups not incorporated into repatriation processes. Special attention should be given to refugee and displaced women, given that they constitute a particularly vulnerable group.

v) To intensify social and economic development programmes, as well as pacification processes, so as to avoid involuntary movements of persons across international frontiers.

vi) To establish programmes designed to favour the permanence in their countries of origin, or the return and reincorporation, of qualified human resources. Particularly, to encourage scientific and technological cooperation between developed and developing countries, in order to increase the transfer of technology to the latter, in just and favourable conditions, and facilitate its diffusion and use in the latter. To reinforce cooperation among the countries of the region for the same purpose.

vii) To promote agreements with developed countries in order to reduce migratory flows out of the region, by, among other things, encouraging foreign investments, technology transfer, and the transfer of industrial units and by facilitating exports to those countries by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers.

## F. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

**71. General objective:** To develop institutional arrangements, at governmental level, which will make it possible to formulate and execute population policy and programmes, according to the characteristics of individual countries and their overall development strategies; and to broaden social awareness of population issues and their linkage to sustainable development, equity and human rights, through educational and communications programmes.

**72. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To review and renew existing juridical and institutional frameworks to ensure real integration between population policy and programmes and development strategies and programmes. It is particularly important to establish clear intersector and intrasector coordination mechanisms, in order to guarantee the consensus and participation of the different social agents involved.

ii) To motivate Congress persons, local governments, private sector entities, non-governmental organizations, social sectors and ethnic groups so they will participate actively in the development of the necessary institutional frameworks for the design and execution of population policies and programmes. To reinforce awareness raising activities focused on those groups with regard to the importance of taking demographic criteria into account in their diverse areas of competence, as well as the objectives and goals of population programmes, in order to consolidate their commitment to those ends.

iii) To encourage the decentralized execution of population policies and programmes within each country, allowing for adjustment to diverse sociocultural conditions and easier identification of the geographic zones toward which resources should be channelled first.

iv) To promote greater understanding of the demographic reality of the region through school and adult educational processes, which will seek to create awareness of the problems inherent to the growth and the territorial distribution of the population, in order to develop participative, responsible and critical attitudes, in accord with the population policy of each country.

v) To strengthen programmes of population education in order to facilitate free and informed decision making with respect to reproduction and place of residence, considering the objectives of population policy in each country and respecting cultural diversity.

vi) To design contents and methods for education in population, apt for diffusion through formal and informal educational systems and the mass media, on the following issues: population and development, population and the environment, family, sex education and gender. To design mechanisms for the transmission of those contents adequate to the diverse social and ethnic groups of each country.

## G. TRAINING, INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

**73. General objective:** To reinforce and promote the formation of human resources, research and production which will make it possible to formulate, apply and evaluate population policies and programmes, together with the consideration of demographic trends in economic and social development policy and programmes.

**74. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:**

i) To intensify efforts at regional, subregional and national levels to form specialists on population, in order to solve present and future problems. To strengthen subregional and national infrastructure, especially in the Caribbean, for the teaching of demography. All this should be done on the basis of international technical cooperation, taking into account and reinforcing the existing capacity of CELADE and with the collaboration of other organisms which work in that field.

ii) To strengthen national centres dedicated to research and the formation of human resources in the area of population. Especially, to encourage the incorporation of courses on demographic variables in University study programmes, mainly in the social sciences, economics and those related to health and the environment.

iii) To create and implement new, low cost teaching methods in the area of population, which will respond to the broad range of demands of qualified personnel in that area. Training programmes should include up-dating and retraining components, which could be provided by correspondence.

iv) To strengthen national and regional statistical institutions and organisms, improving the quality of censuses, promoting specialized surveys, assigning special attention to vital statistics and other indicators, and encouraging the development of innovative sources and methods for collecting data. The ecological dimension should be included in those information sources, by employing units of analysis based on the existence of ecosystems. Special attention should also be given to the availability of spatially disaggregated information.

v) To ensure and strengthen initiatives with regard to national, subregional and regional networks of bibliographic information and numerical data bases, designed for the interchange of knowledge and experiences useful to the countries of the region. In the same sense, the diffusion of magazines and periodical publications which address issues related to demographic trends and their impact on the development of the countries of the region should be encouraged.

vi) To promote and support the creation of national and regional associations of persons qualified in the area of population and encourage the articulation of data networks on the availability of human resources and specialized institutions in this field.

vii) To reinforce research which will advance the integration of population policy and programmes into development plans and programmes, for which it will be necessary to encourage closer interaction among those responsible for the formulation of that policy and population researchers, at the regional, national and local levels. That research should, among other things, make it possible to:

- Identify and weigh the concrete relationships between environmental and demographic variables, in order to propose their programmatic coherence.
- Explain the relationship between patterns of human settlement, internal migratory flows and economic, social, cultural and political variables, especially with regard to the environment, employment and poverty. The study of those relationships will make it possible to elaborate policies for the spatial distribution of the population, within the framework of overall population policy and development strategies.
- Develop the knowledge required for the formulation, execution and evaluation of economic and social projects at the local level, especially with regard to measures geared to alleviate poverty.
- Determine the basic causes and effects of international mobility, within the context of the political and socioeconomic situation of the countries of the region.
- Identify the sociocultural factors which affect birth rates and the dynamics of contraceptive use, particularly among adolescents, through more intense research which will improve the quality of family planning services and the efficacy of educational and communications programmes on population.
- Verify the magnitude, causes and effects of maternal illness and death rates, including induced abortion, in order to propose more concrete measures in that area.
- Identify changes in population structure, especially those related to the ageing process, to facilitate their incorporation into economic and social development programmes, particularly those related to health care, social security, employment, education and housing.
- Analyse the relationships between demographic variables and poverty levels, so that population policies and programmes will contribute to the reduction of poverty and the basic purpose of reducing social inequity is attained.
- Investigate in greater depth the sociodemographic characteristics of the indigenous populations and diverse ethnic groups, in order to adapt population and development measures to them.
- Research the psychosocial aspects of demographic behaviour, as a tool for the formulation of population educational and communications programmes.
- Incorporate gender issues and the specificities of social stratification in research explicitly, in order to facilitate both the definition and the achievement of the objectives of equity in policy measures.



## IV. REGIONAL ACTION

75. In coherence with its general objectives, this Regional Latin American Plan of Action on Population and Development proposes regional, subregional, multilateral or bilateral initiatives, as the case may be, through which it seeks to realize the objectives and goals which the countries of the region have assumed at the national level. As indicated in the Introduction of this document, coordinated recourse will be had to all relevant organisms in the field of population in the execution of these those tasks.

76. The list of regional actions contained in this Plan—which is not exhaustive—is based on the rich accumulated experience of the region and, for that reason, includes some elements already known and from which valuable lessons have been learned. At any rate, activities of proven efficacy, and not those which have only been attempted asystematically, have been selected. There are, as well, new proposals, the implementation of which will call for especially careful programming. This list of activities, once adjusted in light of the conclusions of the Cairo Conference, will continue to be fed by the initiatives of the countries. Some groupings of activities, of specific interest to a certain subregion, could constitute a subregional chapter.

### A. PROPOSED ACTION

#### 1. Regional, subregional and country group meetings for global analysis

77. A global analysis of the population situation in the region will be undertaken in the biannual meetings of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN). Moreover, meetings by subregion or groupings of countries—characterized by similarities in their population dynamics— may be held to perform a similar analysis, focused on the set of national situations of the participant countries.

#### 2. Seminars for analysis of issues

78. In order to create a forum for the interchange of experiences and knowledge among governmental, non-governmental and academic experts on issues relevant to the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policy and programmes, the technical secretariat, in association with the relevant specialized agencies, will programme and propose to the countries and scientific community, a series of seminars deemed of interest in light of the national realities of the countries of the region.

79. With the consent of the countries, the technical secretariat will organize those seminars in order to socialize the accumulated technical and scientific knowledge with respect to the issue in question, in

such a way that the technical and scientific treatment of the issue will serve as an input for the governments of the region in their programmes and policies.

80. Some initial proposals are the following:

i) A first seminar will be held in 1995 and will address: Social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse forms of the lack of equity (by gender, social groups, geographic zones).

ii) A second seminar will be held in 1996 on: Population information, communications and educational programmes, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health care, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases (such as HIV/AIDS).

iii) A third seminar will be held in 1998 on: The relationships between demographic dynamics and the environment, with emphasis on spatial distribution and internal migration.

### 3. Agreements among countries<sup>6</sup>

81. The Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the collaboration of the technical secretariat and in accord with the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, will promote bilateral or multilateral agreements, for the purpose of achieving the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan of Action more easily.

82. The regional, subregional or country group meetings, mentioned above, will provide an appropriate framework for the consideration of possible agreements among countries. When an agreement among countries from different subregions seems appropriate, the technical secretariat, in consultation with organisms specialized in the topics of the agreement, will promote and collaborate in the realization of those agreements.

83. The first year this Regional Plan is in effect, gestures will be made to promote agreements among countries, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM), with regard to international migration. Those agreements will, among other things, seek to ensure respect for the rights of migrants and their families on the part of receptor countries, as well as non-discrimination in the labour market, in access to social services (education, health care, housing, legal services, social security) and in the enjoyment of the benefits of the liberty and participation proper to all democratic societies.

84. As well, during the first year this Regional Plan is in effect, agreements among countries will be developed to achieve the support of the international community for improved attention in repatriation and resettlement programmes for refugee and displaced person populations, in order to effectively reincorporate them into the economic and social development process. To that end, the technical secretariat will establish the appropriate contacts with IOM and UNHCR.

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<sup>6</sup> The activities presented in this section complement, but do not replace, existing mechanisms.

85. The technical secretariat will encourage agreements among countries for the prevention, follow-up and control of transmissible diseases (cholera, HIV/AIDS, and others), in cooperation with OPS. Cases of those diseases in frontier zones warrant special attention.

#### 4. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region<sup>7</sup>

86. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region may arise on the initiative of the countries or that of the technical secretariat, in consultation with the country which will benefit from the technical cooperation and that which will lend it. The contents, number of actions and execution periods will depend on each specific problem to be addressed and the possibilities of the countries which will be lending that potential cooperation.

87. With no prejudice intended to the issues proposed by the countries concerned, during the first year of this Regional Plan, the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, in coordination with existing organisms, will encourage horizontal cooperation among countries with a view to improving sources of information, data interchange and the communication of the results of research to nurture diagnoses, periodic national and regional reports and the implementation of policy and programmes with regard to population issues integrated into economic and social development. Other high priority areas for horizontal cooperation are the design and execution of population policy; specific policies related to the spatial distribution of the population; the implementation of family planning services; population information, educational and communications programmes; and the institutionalization of population policies.

88. To support this type of cooperation, a directory of professionals specialized in population issues will be maintained and broadened, in consultation and coordination with the Latin American Programme of Population Activities (PROLAP), the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and other national and international entities. Reference data on researchers, technicians and other personnel with experience in the formulation and execution of policy and programmes, in either the public or private sector, will be fed into that directory.

#### 5. Training activities

89. Regional and subregional activities will be organized to respond to country demand for training and formation of human resources, at diverse levels —and ready to perform applied research and operational tasks in the area of population.

90. CELADE and other regional level organisms will continue to offer high level training in population and will continue to consider the formation needs of qualified technical personnel in those disciplines, as expressed by the countries. Special attention will be given to new population and development problems as they emerge in the region. These criteria will guide the acceptance of potential students and the design of study programmes, both of the Post-Graduate Course on Population and Development, given by CELADE, with UNFPA support, and of intensive regional courses on demographic analysis.

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<sup>7</sup> As in the previous section, these activities complement, but do not replace, existing mechanisms.

91. Together with the services offered by diverse national organisms in the field of population, any country of the region which deems it necessary may request technical assistance in organizing and offering courses to form specialists in regional population issues. Special attention will be given to the needs of Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as to other countries in the early phase of demographic transition, for which it seems prudent to offer a programme of courses. The orientation of those courses should be defined, in consultation with those countries, during the first two years this Plan is in effect.

92. Regional training activities will also include short courses, in which specific topics considered important by the countries will be addressed (census and survey programming, use of new technologies to manage sociodemographic information at the sub-national level, among others). As well, other re-training and up-dating modalities will be offered (courses, workshops and seminars) for persons already qualified in the field of population. Finally, attention will be given to the possibility of offering correspondence courses.

93. In order to respond to insufficiencies in training, during the first year this Regional Plan is in effect, the necessary steps will be taken to form a Working Group to collect and prepare support material for courses on population and development. That group will prepare material, taking into account the current demand, supply and existing resources, and —if deemed appropriate— will have recourse to the collaboration of organisms with experience in that activity.

#### 6. Thematic workshops

94. The purpose of these issue-focused and brief workshops will respond to the need to create awareness to population issues and help improve the execution of programmes and policies. During the first three years this Plan is in effect, workshops of this type will be held with regard to the following topics and target groups:

i) Workshops for media reporters and social communicators in the mass media and sub-national newspapers, to promote awareness in those professionals with respect to the social importance of population issues, of the need to integrate them into development and environmental concerns, as well as the possibility of responding to them through programmes and policy, when society becomes aware of those issues and political leadership incorporates them into governmental projects.

ii) Workshops to provide for discussion among administrators of family planning services —especially those responsible for training and supervision—, in order to generate recommendations with regard to improving the organization and operation of those services; to create awareness of the use of diverse forms of contraception, including natural methods and with regard to the participation of men in contraception practice; to encourage the development of forms of counselling, especially those geared for potential users of sterilization, in order to dissipate ignorance with regard to its effects and to advise of the existence of alternatives.

iii) Discussion workshops with authorities of the Executive and Legislative branches and with opinion leaders, including political leaders, on the interrelationships between population dynamics and the development process. Their purpose will be to create awareness in those persons with respect to the importance of decisions with regard to population dynamics, as well as to the advantages of explicitly incorporating demographic variables in the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of economic and social

policies. The idea, in brief, is to show leaders that population issues should form part of the driving concerns of the diverse spheres of government.

## **7. Joint research**

95. The countries of the region will organize and implement research projects at regional and subregional levels, as well as comparative or complementary studies among countries. National governmental and non-governmental institutions competent in the area of population studies, with the methodological and analytical cooperation of specialized international and regional institutions will collaborate in that task. The objective of that research is to broaden and deepen knowledge about key aspects of demographic dynamics, their variables and the socioeconomic and cultural context which cause them, together with research into the relationships between population, the environment and poverty, on the basis of the results of research already performed in the countries of the region.

96. Subject to the acceptance of the countries involved, the following topics are suggested for those joint research projects:

i) To identify and weigh the concrete relationships between environmental and demographic variables, in order to propose a first level of programmatic congruence, especially with regard to ecosystems where regional or frontier integration is being promoted, as well as in the small insular countries.

ii) To explain the relationship between human settlement patterns, internal migratory flows and economic, social, cultural and political variables, especially in terms of the environment, employment and poverty.

iii) To determine the magnitude, modalities and causes and effects of international mobility, within the context of the political and socioeconomic situation of the countries of the region, with special emphasis on the situation in the Caribbean.

iv) To identify the sociocultural factors at play in reproductive behaviour, especially in the use of contraceptives; to intensify operational research from an integrated perspective, in order to improve reproductive health care, especially family planning services and the efficiency of population educational and communications programmes.

v) To identify the causal factors and effects of adolescent fertility, in order to elaborate policies which will favour the reincorporation of adolescent mothers into educational, work and general social activities.

vi) To comprehend in greater depth the sociodemographic characteristics of the indigenous populations and diverse ethnic groups, in order to ensure the adaptation of the measures taken in the areas of population and development to those groups.

vii) To study the magnitude, causes and effects of induced abortion in order to propose more specific action in that regard.

viii) To analyse the socioeconomic trends and effects on the ageing process with a view to suggesting policy measures related, especially, to social security systems and health care.

ix) To research the effects of the processes of structural adjustment on demographic variables and their impact on family functions.

97. Those projects should produce criteria to serve as a basis for governments as they adopt population policies and programmes and, when pertinent, should include the perspective of gender issues in the development of that research.

## **8. Working groups**

98. The formation of working groups will be encouraged to collaborate in the identification of the progress in the different areas and in the evaluation of national needs in those matters. If possible, they should help create methodological instruments for the design and implementation of programmes and policy. Moreover, those working groups will be responsible for contributing to the preparation and implementation of the thematic workshops, foreseen in this Plan, for the interchange of experiences.

99. In accord with the activities contained in those thematic workshops, action will be coordinated to implement, during the first years this Regional Plan is in effect, working groups on the following topics: relationships between demographic dynamics and the environment, within the context of sustainable development, with special emphasis on spatial distribution and migratory flows; migration and the international mobility of population, with special attention given to the processes of economic globalization and the integration of markets; information, communications and educational programmes on population, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases such as AIDS; and social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse expressions of the lack of equity (gender, social groups, geographic areas).

## **9. Data banks and regional information networks**

100. Fulfilment of the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan requires effective mechanisms for communication and information interchange. Thus, it is necessary to reinforce and improve existing mechanisms and move ahead with new initiatives. Some of those activities are:

i) To maintain and strengthen the regional bibliographic data base related to population (Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL)) and ensure its services to the countries and international organisms which support this Plan.

ii) To support the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Population Information Network (IPALCA) between national and regional centres. As well, to encourage interconnections among national, regional and global networks on population issues and the like, such as the Population Information Network, of the United Nations.

iii) To establish a bibliographic data base on population in the Caribbean basin, linked to DOCPAL, in order to recover the documentation produced in the English speaking countries of the region.

iv) To maintain the regional census data bank, managed by CELADE, collecting the 1990s Round of census archives or samples from the countries. In the same way, the organization of a population data bank in ECLAC headquarters in the Caribbean should be promoted and strengthened.\*

v) To continue the programme of Investigation of International Migration in Latin American (IMILA), which consists in gathering the records of those "born abroad" and their characteristics, as numbered in national population censuses. To ensure the delivery of that information, including a basic analysis, to interested countries.\*

vi) To ensure the continuance of the Household Survey Data Banks, managed by the Statistics Division of ECLAC, and the timely delivery of that information.\*

vii) To promote improved access to the existing health and birth rate survey information.

viii) To favour the strengthening of user networks of information systems based on multisector data banks and automatized cartography procedures. To promote the interchange of experience in the use of REDATAM-Plus (recovery of data on small areas by micro-computer) and geographic information systems.

ix) To promote communication between national organisms and specialized organisms, through systems of electronic mail, with direct access between users, in order to ensure and improve the activities called for by this plan, at low cost.

x) To publish a periodic bulletin which will make it possible for the countries of the region to be informed of the activities undertaken within the framework of the Regional Plan for Action.

## B. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW MECHANISMS

101. Biannual CEGAN meetings will serve as mechanisms for the follow-up and review of the actions called for in this Regional Plan. Those meetings should be complemented by an instance which will ensure the continuance of that follow-up and review during the periods between those meetings and will also convoke, organize and support those meetings. That instance will be the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, which will perform the follow-up of the actions of this Regional Plan. ECLAC will act as technical secretariat, through CELADE, for all the effects derived from the fulfilment of that function. As well, when subregional chapters are formed, ad hoc follow-up and evaluation meetings will be held. In the Caribbean, those functions may be provided by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), with ECLAC as technical secretariat.

102. In the biannual CEGAN meetings, a programme item will be included for the analysis of the implementation of the actions provided for in this Regional Plan, on the basis of the following proposed agenda:

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\* In these cases, as has been the custom, the receptor entity will not transfer the information, at the level of microdata, until express instructions have been received from the proper national authorities.

i) Analysis of progress in the execution of the diverse components of the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, such as the interchange of experience, agreements among countries and horizontal cooperation.

ii) Evaluation of the degree of institutionalization of population policies and programmes: main achievements and obstacles to their execution.

iii) Other topics proposed by CEGAN, in consultation with (or at the suggestion of) the countries of the region, arising from the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, or new sociodemographic situations in the region.

103. ECLAC, as technical secretariat will assist CELADE, CDCC, and other subregional instances, in the execution of the activities of the Regional Plan. It will fulfill that function in close cooperation with the international organisms and relevant areas within the United Nations, especially UNFPA.

104. As recommended in the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development (paragraph II.8.4.), the Presiding Officers of the Meeting of Government Experts From Developing Countries, in consultation with the ECLAC secretariat, will explore and investigate new forms and sources of financing to strengthen CELADE in order to benefit countries and meet their needs.

### C. FINANCING OF REGIONAL PLAN ACTIVITIES

105. The countries of the region approved a Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, at the Regional Conference, held in Mexico City, between 29 April and 4 May 1993. That Consensus contains repeated recommendations to increase the contributions of the international community (developed countries, other bilateral donors and multilateral organisms) for population concerns (especially paragraphs II.7.1, II.8.1, II.8.2, II.8.4 and II.8.9).

106. Moreover, on approving the declaration included in that Consensus, "the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean express their commitment to apply its recommendations and, in this context, to take the necessary steps to achieve that end, at the institutional level and in the domestic mobilization of resources" (paragraph II.8.11).

107. To ensure the fulfilment of this Plan, it is necessary to prepare a budget in terms of expense items and both international contributions and those of the countries of the region themselves. That budget will be added to this Regional Plan and will become a part of it. (That budget will be prepared by the Presiding Officers, after a round of four subregional meetings in November-December 1993, once the list of activities to be undertaken has been defined. Consequently, the budget will be presented for discussion in the CEGAN meeting (March 1994).)



**ANNEX**



Diagramme 1  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: COUNTRY SITUATION BY STAGE IN  
DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION 1985-1990

## Birth rate

HIGH			<div>NICARAGUA3.5</div> <div>GUATEMALA3.2</div> <div>HONDURAS3.2</div> <div>EL SALVADOR2.6</div> <div>PARAGUAY2.8</div> <div>II</div>		<div>BOLIVIA2.6</div> <div>HAITI2.3</div> <div>I</div>	
MODERATE	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2.5	ECUADOR	2.5		
	MEXICO	2.4	PERU	2.2		
	COSTA RICA	2.5			III	
	VENEZUELA	2.3				
	SURINAME	2.2				
	PANAMA	2.2				
	COLOMBIA	2.0	BRAZIL	1.9		
	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1.9	GUYANA	1.9		
LOW	JAMAICA	1.7			IV	
	CHILE	1.7				
	BAHAMAS	1.5				
			GUADALOUPE	1.3		
			ARGENTINA	1.3		
	MARTINIQUE	1.2	PUERTO RICO	1.1		
	CUBA	1.1	URUGUAY	0.8		
			BARBADOS	0.7		

## Death rate

	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
Rates per thousand:			
Birth rate:	HIGH: 32 - 45	MODERATE: 24 - 32	LOW: 10 - 24
Death rate:	HIGH: 11 - 16	MODERATE: 7 - 11	LOW: 4 - 7

**Source:** CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

**Note:** Next to each country, the vegetative population growth is expressed as a percentage. Those countries for which the United Nations performs population estimates and projections, that is, those with 200,000 or more inhabitants are included.

Table 1  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL POPULATION, 1950-2000**  
*(In thousands)*

Country or territory	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
<b>Regional total</b>	<b>165 121</b>	<b>216 615</b>	<b>283 204</b>	<b>358 925</b>	<b>441 063</b>	<b>522 961</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>158 812</b>	<b>209 213</b>	<b>274 540</b>	<b>349 200</b>	<b>430 184</b>	<b>510 941</b>
Argentina	17 150	20 616	23 962	28 237	32 322	36 238
Bolivia	2 766	3 428	4 325	5 581	7 171	9 038
Brazil	53 444	72 594	95 847	121 286	149 042	172 777
Colombia	11 946	15 939	21 360	26 525	32 300	37 822
Costa Rica	862	1 236	1 731	2 284	3 034	3 798
Cuba	5 850	6 985	8 520	9 679	10 608	11 504
Chile	6 082	7 614	9 504	11 145	13 173	15 272
Ecuador	3 310	4 413	6 051	8 123	10 547	13 090
El Salvador	1 940	2 570	3 588	4 525	5 172	6 425
Guatemala	2 969	3 964	5 246	6 917	9 197	12 222
Haiti	3 261	3 804	4 520	5 353	6 486	7 959
Honduras	1 401	1 935	2 627	3 662	5 138	6 846
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mexico	27 297	36 530	50 328	67 046	84 486	102 555
Nicaragua	1 109	1 502	2 063	2 802	3 676	5 169
Panama	839	1 105	1 487	1 956	2 418	2 893
Paraguay	1 351	1 774	2 351	3 147	4 277	5 538
Peru	7 632	9 931	13 193	17 295	21 550	26 276
Dominican Republic	2 353	3 231	4 423	5 697	7 170	8 621
Uruguay	2 239	2 538	2 808	2 914	3 094	3 274
Venezuela	5 009	7 502	10 604	15 024	19 321	23 622
<b>The Caribbean</b>	<b>6 309</b>	<b>7 402</b>	<b>8 664</b>	<b>9 725</b>	<b>10 879</b>	<b>12 020</b>
Anguila	5	6	6	7	7	8
Antigua and Barbuda	46	55	66	61	65	70
Netherlands Antilles	116	137	162	171	175	178
Aruba	57	59	61	60	61	63
Bahamas	79	110	170	210	255	295
Barbados	211	231	239	249	257	268
Belize	67	91	120	146	189	229
Dominique	51	60	70	75	72	71
Grenada	76	90	94	89	91	94
Guadeloupe	210	275	320	327	390	437
French Guiana	25	33	49	69	98	130
Guyana	423	569	709	759	796	883
Caiman Islands	6	9	10	17	27	40
British Virgin Islands	6	7	10	12	16	21
United States Virgin Islands	27	33	64	98	107	109
Jamaica	1 403	1 629	1 869	2 133	2 420	2 677
Martinique	222	282	326	326	360	391
Montserrat	14	12	11	12	11	11
Puerto Rico	2 219	2 358	2 718	3 206	3 530	3 853
Saint Kitts and Nevis	44	51	47	44	42	41
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	67	80	87	98	107	117
Saint Lucia	79	86	101	115	133	152
Suriname	215	290	372	352	422	500
Trinidad and Tobago	636	843	971	1 082	1 236	1 365
The Turks and Caicos	5	6	6	7	12	17

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 2  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: GLOBAL BIRTH RATE BY FIVE YEAR PERIODS,  
 BY COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF  
 DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000**

Countries	Five year periods									
	1950- 1955	1955- 1960	1960- 1965	1965- 1970	1970- 1975	1975- 1980	1980- 1985	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	1995- 2000
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>The Caribbean and others<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Group I</b>										
Bolivia	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.1
Haiti	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6
<b>Group II</b>										
El Salvador	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.6
Guatemala	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.4	4.9
Honduras	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.6	6.2	5.6	4.9	4.3
Nicaragua	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.0	4.5
Paraguay	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.4	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.1
<b>Group III</b>										
Brazil	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.4
Colombia	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.5
Costa Rica	6.7	7.1	7.0	5.8	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0
Ecuador	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.2
Guyana	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.1	4.9	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.3
Mexico	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.4	5.0	4.3	3.6	3.2	2.8
Panama	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.9	4.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.7
Peru	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	5.4	4.7	4.0	3.6	3.2
Dominican Republic	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.7	5.6	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.3	3.0
Suriname	6.6	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.3	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.4
Trinidad and Tobago	5.3	5.3	5.0	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.5
Venezuela	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.9	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.9
<b>Group IV</b>										
Argentina	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7
Bahamas	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.9
Barbados	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.9
Cuba	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
Chile	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Guadaloupe	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0
Jamaica	4.2	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.0	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.4	2.1
Martinique	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.1	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9
Puerto Rico	5.0	4.8	4.4	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1
Uruguay	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

<sup>a</sup> Includes Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Caiman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Turks and Caicos.

Table 3  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, BY  
 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES  
 OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000**

Region and countries	Life expectancy			Five year period increase		Life expectancy
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1955	1970-1975	Year 2000
				a 1970-1975	a 1985-1990	
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>69.8</b>
<b>The Caribbean and others<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>70.3</b>
<b>Group I</b>						
Bolivia	40.4	46.7	58.8	1.6	4.0	64.5
Haiti	37.6	48.5	54.7	2.7	2.1	59.4
<b>Group II</b>						
El Salvador	45.3	58.8	62.4	3.4	1.2	69.1
Guatemala	42.1	54.0	62.0	3.0	2.7	68.1
Honduras	42.3	54.0	64.0	2.9	3.3	68.2
Nicaragua	42.3	55.2	62.4	3.2	2.4	69.2
Paraguay	62.6	65.6	66.9	0.7	0.4	67.9
<b>Group III</b>						
Brazil	51.0	59.8	64.9	2.2	1.7	68.0
Colombia	50.6	61.6	68.2	2.8	2.2	70.7
Costa Rica	57.3	68.1	75.3	2.7	2.4	77.1
Ecuador	48.4	58.9	65.4	2.6	2.2	68.2
Guyana	52.3	60.0	63.2	1.9	1.1	67.7
Mexico	50.8	62.9	68.8	3.0	2.0	72.0
Panama	55.3	66.3	72.1	2.8	1.9	73.5
Peru	43.9	55.5	61.4	2.9	2.0	67.9
Dominican Republic	46.0	59.9	65.9	3.5	2.0	69.7
Suriname	56.0	64.0	68.8	2.0	1.6	72.1
Trinidad and Tobago	58.2	65.7	70.1	1.9	1.5	73.1
Venezuela	55.2	66.2	69.7	2.8	1.1	71.3
<b>Group IV</b>						
Argentina	62.7	67.3	70.6	1.1	1.1	72.3
Bahamas	59.8	66.6	71.1	1.7	1.5	73.9
Barbados	57.2	69.4	74.6	3.1	1.7	76.8
Cuba	59.5	71.0	75.2	2.9	1.4	76.3
Chile	53.8	63.6	71.5	2.5	2.6	72.7
Guadeloupe	56.5	67.8	73.6	2.8	1.9	75.9
Jamaica	57.2	68.6	72.5	2.9	1.3	75.1
Martinique	56.5	69.2	75.4	3.2	2.1	77.3
Puerto Rico	64.8	72.5	74.3	1.9	0.6	75.9
Uruguay	66.3	68.8	72.0	0.6	1.1	73.0

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

<sup>a</sup> Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Caiman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Turks and Caicos.

Table 4  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1950-2000**  
*(Percentages)*

Region and countries	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
<b>Regional total</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1.70</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1.72</b>
Argentina	1.84	1.50	1.64	1.35	1.14
Bolivia	2.15	2.32	2.55	2.51	2.31
Brazil	3.06	2.78	2.35	2.06	1.48
Colombia	2.88	2.93	2.17	1.97	1.58
Costa Rica	3.60	3.37	2.77	2.84	2.25
Cuba	1.77	1.99	1.28	0.92	0.81
Chile	2.25	2.22	1.59	1.67	1.48
Ecuador	2.88	3.16	2.94	2.61	2.16
El Salvador	2.81	3.34	2.32	1.34	2.17
Guatemala	2.89	2.80	2.77	2.85	2.84
Haiti	1.54	1.72	1.69	1.92	2.05
Honduras	3.23	3.06	3.32	3.39	2.87
Mexico	2.91	3.20	2.87	2.31	1.94
Nicaragua	3.03	3.17	3.06	2.71	3.41
Panama	2.75	2.97	2.74	2.12	1.79
Paraguay	2.72	2.82	2.92	3.07	2.58
Peru	2.63	2.84	2.71	2.20	1.98
Dominican Republic	3.17	3.14	2.53	2.30	1.84
Uruguay	1.25	1.01	0.37	0.60	0.57
Venezuela	4.04	3.46	3.48	2.52	2.01
<b>The Caribbean and others</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.00</b>
Netherlands Antilles	1.66	1.68	0.54	0.23	0.17
Bahamas	3.31	4.35	2.11	1.94	1.46
Barbados	0.91	0.34	0.41	0.32	0.42
Belize	3.06	2.77	1.96	2.58	1.92
Dominique	1.63	1.54	0.69	-0.41	-0.14
Grenada	1.69	0.43	-0.55	0.22	0.32
Guadaloupe	2.70	1.52	0.22	1.76	1.14
French Guiana	2.78	3.95	3.42	3.51	2.83
Guyana	2.97	2.20	0.68	0.48	1.04
Jamaica	1.49	1.37	1.32	1.26	1.01
Martinique	2.39	1.45	0.00	0.99	0.83
Puerto Rico	0.61	1.42	1.65	0.96	0.88
Saint Lucia	0.85	1.61	1.30	1.45	1.34
Suriname	2.99	2.49	-0.55	1.81	1.70
Trinidad and Tobago	2.82	1.41	1.08	1.33	0.99
Others territories	1.37	1.45	1.22	0.89	0.88
Anguila	1.82	0.00	1.54	0.00	1.34
Antigua and Barbuda	1.79	1.82	-0.79	0.64	0.74
Aruba	0.34	0.33	-0.17	0.17	0.32
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Caiman Islands	4.05	1.05	5.31	4.63	3.93
British Virgin Islands	1.54	3.57	1.82	2.88	2.72
United States Virgin Islands	2.01	6.62	4.26	0.88	0.19
Montserrat	-1.54	-0.87	0.87	-0.87	0.00
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1.48	-0.82	-0.66	-0.47	-0.24
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1.77	0.84	1.19	0.88	0.89
The Turks and Caicos	1.82	0.00	1.54	5.39	3.48

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 5  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INFANT DEATH RATES 1950-1955, 1970-1975,  
 1985-1990 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2000, ANNUAL BIRTHS 1985-1990, BY  
 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO  
 STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION**  
*(Rates per thousand)*

Region and countries	Death rate			Five year period reduction		Rate year 2000	Annual births 1985-90	
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1970	1970-1985		Thousands	Percentage
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11 514</b>	
<b>The Caribbean and others<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>124</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>203</b>	
<b>Total</b>							<b>11 717</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Group I</b>								
Bolivia	176	151	98	6.3	17.7	67	248	
Haiti	220	135	97	21.3	12.7	72	224	
<b>Total</b>							<b>472</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Group II</b>								
El Salvador	151	99	59	13.0	13.3	36	172	
Guatemala	141	95	59	11.5	12.0	37	350	
Honduras	185	94	63	22.8	10.3	45	189	
Nicaragua	167	100	71	16.8	9.7	42	150	
Paraguay	73	55	49	4.5	2.0	44	139	
<b>Total</b>							<b>1 000</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Group III</b>								
Brazil	135	91	63	11.0	9.3	48	3 801	
Colombia	123	73	40	12.5	11.0	33	802	
Costa Rica	94	53	16	10.3	12.3	12	82	
Ecuador	140	95	63	11.3	10.7	49	321	
Guyana	119	79	56	10.0	7.7	39	21	
Mexico	114	68	41	11.5	9.0	28	2 400	
Panama	93	43	23	12.5	6.7	19	62	
Peru	159	110	88	12.3	7.3	63	636	
Dominican Republic	149	94	65	13.8	9.7	46	213	
Suriname	89	49	33	10.0	5.3	22	11	
Trinidad and Tobago	79	42	24	9.3	6.0	15	32	
Venezuela	106	49	36	14.3	4.3	30	519	
<b>Total</b>							<b>8 900</b>	<b>76.0</b>
<b>Group IV</b>								
Argentina	66	49	32	4.3	5.7	25	669	
Bahamas	80	32	26	12.0	2.0	17	...	
Barbados	132	33	12	25.8	7.0	9	4	
Cuba	81	39	15	10.5	8.0	13	182	
Chile	126	70	18	14.0	17.3	15	301	
Guadeloupe	68	42	14	6.5	9.3	11	7	
Jamaica	85	42	17	10.8	8.3	11	57	
Martinique	65	35	11	7.5	8.0	9	6	
Puerto Rico	63	25	14	9.5	3.7	12	65	
Uruguay	57	46	24	2.8	7.3	16	54	
<b>Total</b>							<b>1 345</b>	<b>11.5</b>

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

<sup>a</sup> Includes Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Caiman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Turks and Caicos.



Table 6  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED GLOBAL BIRTH RATE, PERCENTAGE  
 OF WOMEN BETWEEN 15-49 YEARS OLD, CURRENTLY MARRIED, BY KNOWLEDGE AND  
 USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND GLOBAL UNDESIRED BIRTH RATE**

(Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS)

Countries	Year of DHS	GBT 1985- 1990 <sup>a</sup>	Percentage which knows of a modern method <sup>b</sup>	Percentage which currently uses a method	Percentage which currently uses a modern method <sup>b</sup>	Global undesired birth rate <sup>c</sup>
<b>Group I</b>						
Bolivia	1989	5.0	68	30	12	1.8
<b>Group II</b>						
El Salvador	1985	4.5	93	47	45	1.1
Guatemala <sup>d</sup>	1987	5.8	72	23	19	0.7
Paraguay	1990	4.6	96	48	35	1.2
<b>Group III</b>						
Brazil <sup>d</sup>	1986	3.2	100	66	57	0.7
Colombia	1990	2.9	100	66	55	0.7
Ecuador	1987	4.1	90	44	36	0.7
Mexico	1987	3.6	93	53	45	-
Peru	1991	4.0	95	59	33	1.5
Dominican Republic	1991	3.8	100	56	52	0.7
Trinidad and Tobago	1987	3.0	99	53	44	-

Source: Table 2 of the statistical annex; National Reports of the Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS.

<sup>a</sup> Global birth rate. <sup>b</sup> Mechanical and chemical procedures to impede fecundation. <sup>c</sup> Corresponds to the difference between the global birth rate and the global desired birth rate recorded by the surveys. <sup>d</sup> For women between 15-44 years old.

Table 7  
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY  
 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF  
 DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, BY LARGE AGE GROUPS, 1950-2000**  
 (Percentages)

Region and countries	1950			1990			2000		
	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>The Caribbean and others</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Group I</b>									
Bolivia	42.0	54.9	3.1	41.4	55.0	3.6	38.1	57.7	4.2
Haiti	36.8	58.0	5.2	40.2	55.7	4.1	39.9	56.3	3.8
<b>Group II</b>									
El Salvador	42.8	54.2	3.1	43.5	52.7	3.8	38.9	56.7	4.4
Guatemala	44.1	53.4	2.6	45.4	51.4	3.2	42.9	53.3	3.7
Honduras	44.7	53.4	1.9	44.6	52.2	3.3	41.2	55.4	3.5
Nicaragua	44.0	53.0	3.0	47.9	49.1	3.0	43.6	53.2	3.2
Paraguay	42.9	53.9	3.2	40.4	56.1	3.6	38.3	58.2	3.6
<b>Group III</b>									
Brazil	42.0	55.5	2.5	34.7	60.7	4.7	29.1	65.3	5.6
Colombia	42.7	53.7	3.7	35.3	60.5	4.2	30.4	64.9	4.7
Costa Rica	43.3	52.9	3.7	36.5	59.3	4.2	33.1	61.8	5.1
Ecuador	41.9	53.5	4.6	39.3	56.9	3.8	34.8	61.0	4.2
Guyana	48.4	48.3	3.3	33.4	62.8	3.8	29.3	66.4	4.3
Mexico	43.0	52.8	4.2	38.0	58.3	3.7	33.8	61.7	4.5
Panama	41.0	55.1	3.9	35.0	60.3	4.8	31.5	63.1	5.4
Peru	41.6	55.0	3.5	37.6	58.6	3.8	33.6	61.8	4.6
Dominican Republic	44.5	52.3	3.2	37.9	58.7	3.4	33.9	61.9	4.3
Suriname	47.5	48.4	4.1	34.0	61.8	4.2	30.9	64.0	5.1
Trinidad and Tobago	43.0	53.0	4.0	34.0	60.5	5.5	30.5	64.0	5.5
Venezuela	43.6	54.6	1.8	37.2	59.1	3.7	32.4	63.1	4.5
<b>Group IV</b>									
Argentina	30.5	65.3	4.2	29.9	61.0	9.1	27.2	62.9	9.8
Barbados	38.1	55.2	6.7	24.5	63.7	11.8	22.2	66.7	11.1
Cuba	35.8	59.3	4.9	22.7	68.8	8.5	23.4	67.3	9.4
Chile	36.7	59.0	4.3	30.6	63.4	6.0	29.4	63.9	6.7
Guadaloupe	43.1	51.8	5.1	27.0	64.1	8.9	27.4	62.8	9.8
Jamaica	41.7	54.0	4.3	33.2	60.2	6.6	28.6	65.0	6.4
Martinique	42.4	53.1	4.5	24.1	65.9	10.0	25.3	63.4	11.3
Puerto Rico	42.8	52.0	5.2	26.0	63.5	10.5	24.6	64.3	11.1
Uruguay	27.9	63.9	8.2	25.8	62.6	11.6	23.9	63.5	12.7

Source: CELADE, current population projections, and United Nations, *World Population Prospects, 1990* (ST/ESA/SER.A/120), New York, 1991.



