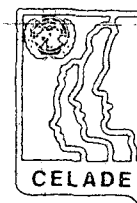


Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía



Conference Documents

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND LATIN AMERICAN MEETING ON POPULATION *

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1

I N D E X

	<u>Page</u>
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	1
A. General	1
B. The values framework of population policies	2
1. The rights and duties of status	2
2. The rights of individuals and the duties of states	3
C. Instruments for population policies	6
D. Inputs for a population policy	8
1. Statistical information	8
2. Research	9
3. Training	10
E. International co-operation	12
F. Objectives and goals of population policy	14
G. Prospects for action	17
1. Critical situations	17
2. Action at the national level	19
3. Action of regional organizations	21
4. Action of other international organizations	24

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS * 1/

A. General

116. Since, at the Latin American Meeting in Costa Rica and at the World Population Conference, the countries of Latin America were able to establish clearly their positions of principle regarding the relationship between population and development, the participants considered it extremely important that the Second Latin American Meeting on Population should make further progress and concentrate on defining and co-ordinating action in the specific field of population, within the general context of the relevant proposals in the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA).

117. It was emphasized that the foregoing recommendation did not mean overlooking the fact that "the basis for an effective solution of population problems is, above all, socio-economic transformation" (WPPA, para. 1),** that "a population policy may have a certain success if it constitutes an integral part of socio-economic development", and that, in its turn, this "development is directly linked to the transformation of international economic relations and to the establishment of a new economic order". (Resolution XVII of the World Population Conference).

* Report of the Second Latin American Meeting on Population, ST/CEPAL/Conf.54/L.9/Rev.1, Chapter III.

1/ The Working Group designated by the plenary of the Meeting concerned itself with preparing a set of conclusions and recommendations for subsequent adoption by the plenary, and with that end in view it examined the documents prepared by the secretariat, in particular ST/CEPAL/Conf.54/L.4 and L.5, and the report of the Advisory Panel convened on the eve of the Meeting by the Executive Secretary of ECLA (ST/CEPAL/Conf.54/L.8). The discussions of the Working Group helped to enhance and broaden the content of those documents. This chapter approximately follows the order of document ST/CEPAL/Conf.54/L.4.

** The figures and letters in parentheses refer to the relevant paragraphs of the World Population Plan of Action.

118. Consequently, in the particular case of Latin America, the formulation of guidelines for action in the specific field of population involves taking into account the nature of the structural origins of under-development and the dynamics of development.

B. The values framework of population policies

119. The Meeting reaffirmed the set of principles set forth in the World Population Plan of Action and in the resolutions adopted by the Bucharest Conference, which constitute the ethical and juridical framework of population policies, and deemed it desirable to draw attention specifically to the following points.

1. The rights and duties of States

120. As regards this subject, emphasis was laid on two complementary and mutually restrictive basic principles. One is that of national sovereignty, which means that "the formulation and implementation of population policies is the sovereign right of each nation" (WPPA, para. 14). The other is the principle of universal solidarity. In this connexion it was held that the sovereign right of each nation to define its own policy should be exercised "taking into account universal solidarity in order to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world" (para. 14). The right of countries to development was declared to be closely bound up with these two principles.

121. International solidarity is applied as a principle in a world, regional and intercountry context characterized by increasing interdependence among nations. This interdependence has in certain cases taken the form of relationships of domination, which were categorically condemned by the WPPA, which reaffirms that "true development cannot take place in the absence of national independence and liberation" (para. 14.b).

122. Relationships of interdependence among nations are part of an international economic order and international juridical order considered by the Meeting, which emphasized the need to implement, with reference to the principles of co-operation in the population and other fields, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and resolution V of the World Population Conference entitled "For a more just world". Bearing in mind that one of the features of growing interdependence is the fact that the social and economic behaviour of a nation and the policy decisions adopted by its Government may have implications for other nations, and even at the world level, the Meeting drew attention to the importance of the principle of international solidarity, from this standpoint, as a criterion for the formulation of national population policies.

123. It was also stated that international solidarity and national sovereignty together form the basis of co-operation among nations, which the WPPA considers "essential for development". Co-operation among nations must accordingly in certain cases be viewed as a right of developing or economically weaker countries which entails duties incumbent on countries at a more advanced stage of development and on the entire community of nations through its international organizations.

2. The rights of individuals and the duties of States

124. The Meeting stressed that population policies, especially as regards their interaction with economic and social development, must be consistent with the guiding purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and, while serving socio-economic objectives, should be consistent with the internationally and nationally recognized human rights of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national, regional and minority groups. It added that these policies should also aim at the full development of the human person, in accordance with the aspirations, needs and rights of the individual, the family and the community.

a) The right to survival

125. The Meeting reiterated the basic principle that "independently of the realization of economic and social objectives, respect for human life is basic to all human societies" (para. 14.e). With regard to mortality and morbidity, this basic right gives rise to the right of every human being to have access to such health services as technological development in medicine makes possible and to such economic and social conditions as will allow him adequate food and reasonable security and health in his home and place of work.

b) The family and reproduction

126. The Meeting reaffirmed that "the family is the basic unit of society and should be protected by appropriate legislation and policy" (para. 14.g and 39.a).

- i) Formation: The Meeting emphasized that marriages should be entered into "only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses" (para. 39.d), but recognized the right of States to fix a minimum age for marriage (para. 32.f).
- ii) Children: The Meeting declared that Governments should ensure that children receive the same juridical and social treatment, regardless of whether they are born in or out of wedlock or are adopted (para. 40.a).
- iii) Reproduction: The Meeting reaffirmed that "all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so; the responsibility of couples and individuals in the exercise of this right takes into account the needs of their living and future children, and their responsibilities towards the community" (para. 14.f). This right places upon States the obligation to respect and ensure "regardless of their overall demographic goals, the right of persons to determine, in a free, informed and responsible manner, the number and spacing of their children" (para. 29.a). In more concrete terms, this duty entails "preparing the social and economic conditions" for exercising this right (para. 28), and ensuring "that family planning, medical and related social services aim not only at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies but also at elimination of involuntary sterility and subfecundity in order that all couples may be permitted to achieve their desired number of children" (para. 29.a). In the case of subfertile women or women suffering from involuntary sterility, this right implies that medical

services must be provided to help them overcome their problem and have the desired number of children (para. 29.c).

127. Governments which proposed to influence the reproductive behaviour of the population should take duly into consideration the human right referred to in the previous paragraph. Those wishing to promote fertility should not limit family planning services or access to means of birth control as a mean of achieving their demographic objectives. Furthermore, those Governments which seek a reduction in fertility should not have recourse to coercive measures or to measures which may impair human rights.^{2/}

c) Integration of women

128. The Meeting stressed the right of women "to complete integration in the development process particularly by means of an equal access to education and equal participation in social, economic, cultural and political life" (para. 14.h).

d) Internal migration

129. The Meeting reaffirmed the right to "freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State as enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments" (para. 46.a).

e) International migration

130. The Meeting emphasized the following rights of migrants:

- i) The right of persons to emigrate and the responsibility of Governments and international organizations to "facilitate voluntary international movement. However, such movements should not be based on racial considerations" (para. 51).
- ii) The right to fair treatment, which means that "countries receiving migrant workers should provide proper treatment and adequate social welfare services for them and their families, and should ensure their physical safety and security in conformity with the provisions of the relevant ILO conventions and recommendations and other international instruments" (para. 55). "Specifically, in the treatment of migrant workers, Governments should work to prevent discrimination in the labour market and in society through lower salaries or other unequal conditions, to preserve

^{2/} See resolution XVI, recommendation a), of the World Population Conference.

their human rights, to combat prejudice against them and to eliminate obstacles to the reunion of their families" (para. 56).

- iii) In so far as migrants from minority groups within the recipient country, they have the right to preserve their culture heritage (para. 56).

C. Instruments for population policies

131. The Meeting emphasized the desirability of moving on from declarations of principle to their effective implementation, as regards both relationships among countries and the relationships of States with their social basic, and to formulate and execute the necessary policies for this purpose. It accordingly, proceeded to analyse the normative proposals relating to institutional instruments in the field of population at the national and international level and suggestions for action.

132. The Meeting stressed that, without prejudice to international solidarity, the countries of Latin America should exercise their sovereignty, and adopt national population policies as an integral part of their economic and social development policies (para. 14).

133. In view of the particular nature of population dynamics and of its interrelationships with socio-economic structures and processes, countries should adopt a long-term approach to their population policies in the context of economic and social development, anticipating future demographic trends and taking appropriate decisions and actions well in advance if these trends are to be modified. They should also give thought to economic and social measures that would not only meet the increasing demands imposed by population growth but also ensure a real and significant improvement in the quality of life of the people, bearing in mind that this is the principal goal of population policies (paras. 13 and 14.a).

134. As regards the establishment of units responsible for population policies, the following recommendation was formulated:

Considering that, at the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the

World Population Conference, the Governments maintained that population policies should be linked with development strategies; that the WPPA recommends that population measures and programmes should be integrated into comprehensive social and economic plans and programmes; that this integration should be reflected in the goals, instrumentalities and organizations for planning within the countries; that, in order to achieve the objective referred to, the WPPA suggests that a unit dealing with population aspects of development should be created and placed at a high level of the national administrative structure; and that such a unit, in addition to formulating population policy, should have the authority to ensure its effective implementation by the competent bodies and to evaluate it periodically.

1. It is recommended that, taking account of their own administrative structures, the countries of the region which have not yet done so should explore the possibility of setting up high-level councils, commissions or other equivalent units, empowered to co-ordinate action in the field of population, which could perform the following functions:
 - a) Formulate comprehensive population policies integrated into the economic and social development strategies and plans and embracing the various components of population dynamics;
 - b) Ensure the timely implementation by the competent bodies of the policy adopted;
 - c) Carry out periodic evaluations of its implementation and results;
 - d) Promote the production of statistical and research data to provide the factual and scientific basis for the formulation implementation and evaluation of population policies, and set up systems of communication with statistical services and national research centres;
 - e) Promote and programme the interdisciplinary training of the personnel necessary for preparing the data and studies referred to and for the efficient implementation of the programmes adopted;
 - f) Establish systems of communication with the competent international agencies so as to ensure the optimum use of their technical and financial assistance capacity.
2. That, in order to perform these functions, the proposed units should have the following characteristics:
 - a) Representatives of the various national bodies involved in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies should be included in their staff;
 - b) The units should have a functional relationship with policy-making bodies with a view to ensuring the integration of population policies into economic and social development strategy and plans;

- c) Their level of operation should be such as to ensure the co-ordinated implementation by the competent bodies of the decisions adopted.
3. That countries which have already set up councils, commissions or other equivalent units should examine their structure and operation in the light of the foregoing considerations and, if necessary, take the action necessary to provide them with an institutional structure and the resources which will enable them to ensure the effective implementation of the objectives defined.
 4. That the competent international agencies, in particular ECLA, ILPES and CELADE, should develop their capacity to provide technical assistance in the establishment and operation of the proposed units, giving priority to:
 - a) The development of methodologies for the purpose of incorporating demographic variables into economic and social analysis and planning and into the formulation and evaluation of population policies, and
 - b) The high-level training of national personnel who could be used to staff the various units and ensure their effective operation and continuity.
 5. That the international organizations should take into account General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX).
 6. That the financial agencies, in particular UNFPA, should give priority to the allocation of funds for ensuring countries effective financial assistance in order to achieve the above-mentioned purposes.

D. Inputs for a population policy

135. When discussing inputs for population policies, the Meeting considered the requirements in terms of statistical information, research and training, which it felt referred to the demographic aspects and to the economic and social factors necessary for integrating these policies effectively into the overall context of development.

1. Statistical information

136. In spite of the desire of the countries and international agencies involved to provide better demographic data in order to formulate population policies, supervise their implementation and evaluate their results,

there is a clear need to improve the quantity, quality, coverage, periodicity and timeliness of the requisite data to be furnished systematically and as judged appropriate by Governments.

137. The Meeting also considered that, to meet this need, efforts should be made to:

- a) Ensure greater continuity in the work of preparing, taking and publishing censuses;
- b) Test new methods for carrying out census operations, including the acquisition of new types of data;
- c) Review existing machinery for the formulation of international recommendations in the carrying out of censuses, with the aim of introducing the necessary changes, so that such recommendations may emerge, account being taken of the different national circumstances and of the need for the data necessary for formulating, implementing and evaluating population policies which would at the same time enable comparative intercountry analyses to be made;
- d) Establish regular channels, as agreed upon by the Governments, for consultation between producers and users in order to ensure that the information provided is suited to the needs of the latter, is being recommended that international and regional agencies should take into account proposals emanating from the Latin American scientific community;
- e) Promote the exchange of experiences in this field between countries.

138. The Meeting underscored the need to improve and develop the periodic intercensal data required as a basis for the formulation of population policies, and in particular for their follow-up and evaluation. It recommended that in addition to continuing their efforts to improve their vital and other current statistics, countries should give particular attention to obtaining such data from population sample surveys.

2. Research

139. In considering research requirements for the formulation and evaluation of population policies in Latin America, the following recommendations were made:

a) Bio-medical research

- i) Research should be promoted with a view to developing means of improving health conditions, and especially of reducing maternal mortality, peri-natal mortality and mortality among children aged 0-4 years;
- ii) Basic biological research on reproduction should be carried out with a view both to evaluating existing contraceptive methods and developing better methods and to improving procedures for the diagnostic and treatment of sterility;
- iii) Operational research should be promoted for purposes of evaluating the efficiency of various ways and means of providing health services for the population, especially in respect of maternal and child health;
- iv) Special emphasis should be placed on strict compliance with ethical norms which protect and respect the rights of individuals in the case of research involving experiments on human beings.

b) Social research

- i) Priority should be given in this field to research aimed at establishing the interrelationship between population and development in specific historical contexts, particularly where this would make it possible to identify the effects produced and to anticipate probable future effects of different modes or patterns of development on population dynamics;
- ii) Social research relevant to the formulation and evaluation of population policies in the relatively less developed countries should be encouraged, and the regional agencies urged to provide technical assistance to such countries as a matter of priority;
- iii) Bearing in mind resolution XV of the World Population Conference, the Latin American countries should urge UNFPA to step up its financial assistance to social research programmes in Latin America.

3. Training

140. In connexion with training, it was deemed advisable that the maximum possible use should be made of the various national institutional resources available in the region. To that end, the international agencies should be urged to play an active role in the acquisition and utilization of these resources. This would make it possible to create better conditions for according priority to training in different fields in Latin America.

141. The Meeting expressed its concern as regards the language barriers to communication within the Latin American family and urged that training programmes should include appropriate measures for surmounting these barriers.

142. It was considered especially important to learn more about the relationships between population and development, for which purpose it is considered essential to train researchers on an interdisciplinary basis.

143. Another aspect discussed was the direction and content of the different modes of training, which should be in keeping with the individual requirements and particular features of the countries. Consequently, the Meeting considered that it was incumbent on Governments to evaluate these requirements and the way in which the personnel trained should be used and fitted into their structures.

144. While appreciating the work done by the Latin American training centres and institutes, the Meeting drew attention to the need to have additional programmes in some fields and to extend activities of this kind to groups of countries where they have hitherto been inadequate. At the same time, the national units responsible for the basic training should modify and expand some interdisciplinary professional training programmes.

145. In the light of the foregoing considerations, the following recommendation was formulated:

- a) That on the basis of the institutional resources existing in the region, a co-ordinated supply of training opportunities should be organized at the country and international agency level; this would make it possible to satisfy certain requirements, preferably within Latin America itself;
- b) That Governments and national academic institutions should attend to the need to train personnel in specific specialized fields and should recognize the role which the new specialists are called on to play within the systems and units connected with the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies;

- c) That Governments and other national institutions should concern themselves with training, the health personnel best suited to national requirements with a view to attaining the objectives of reducing morbidity and mortality;
- d) That the regional agencies, especially CELADE and ILPES, should intensify their action in certain fields, in which there is a lack of suitably skilled personnel, for example:
 - i) in the advanced training of high-level planners in matters connected with the interaction of demographic and economic and social development phenomena;
 - ii) in the training of senior-level professionals in population studies.
- e) That national units, especially universities, should include subjects connected with population, the environment and development in their pregraduate and post-graduate curricula. Similar action should be taken in the secondary-level centres.

E. International co-operation

146. The Meeting reviewed the role of international co-operation in matters connected with the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies and adopted the following recommendation:

Considering that history shows that the region has received meagre international assistance resources and that they have been directed towards specific ends of limited scope;

That the WPPA is a political consensus at the international level and that its main principles are those of national sovereignty and international solidarity;

That the WPPA, the importance of which has been emphasized at the present Second Latin American Meeting on Population, draws attention to the need to associate, link and co-ordinate population policies with those of overall social and economic development;

That international co-operation plays a key role in achieving the principles and objectives of the WPPA and in maintaining a consensus within the context of solidarity.

The Governments therefore:

1. Conclude that international co-operation in matters connected with the study, formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies should be guided by the principles of the WPPA and directed towards giving full effect to the conclusion of this

Meeting that "the basis for an effective solution of population problems is, above all, socio-economic transformation" and that population policies can be successful only if they constitute an integral part of economic and social development.

2. Recommend that financial co-operation in the field of population should be channelled increasingly in the form of multilateral, untied aid, without this implying any restriction on bilateral co-operation.
3. Recommend that the ECLA secretariat should study appropriate means of enabling the Latin American Governments to take more regular, direct and effective action in the field of population and the latter's relationship with economic and social development, and that it should present a report on the subject at the forthcoming session of the Commission.
4. Further recommend that, in accordance with the World Population Plan of Action and with the recommendations of the Bucharest Conference, CELADE should, in the regional context, strengthen and adapt its activities, within its field of competence, in such a way as to consolidate its role as a regional technical agency in the field of population.

147. With regard to the need for a larger volume of financial resources for population programmes in the region, the following recommendation was formulated:

Considering the repeated references by countries to the importance of the principle of international solidarity in their mutual relations, reconfirmed at the World Population Conference;

Further considering the joint efforts being made by the Latin American countries with a view to the best possible utilization of their resources, capacities and experience which is already reflected in the existence of multinational agencies and integration agreements at the regional and sub-regional level, and

Bearing in mind also that it is necessary to ensure adequate financial support for the regional programmes which are being initiated, and the different situations observed in the region as regards levels of economic development and availability of financial resources;

The Group recommends that countries at a relatively more advanced stage of economic development, both within and outside the region, should explore the possibility of providing international governmental agencies such as UNFPA with financial support for the implementation of national or regional programmes in the field of population, thereby benefiting the Latin American countries as a whole and the relatively less developed among them in particular.

148. The Meeting deemed it advisable to urge that, as a manifestation of the principle of international solidarity, steps should be taken to promote greater co-operation among the countries of Latin America, in order to promote better utilization of the experiences gained.

149. Proceeding further with its discussion of matters bearing on the role of international co-operation, the Meeting considered that, moving on from the milestones represented by the conference and meetings at San José, Bucharest and Mexico City, the regional and international institutions - particularly ECLA, CELADE, PAHO and UNICEF - should make a major effort to provide an effective answer to the demands generated in the various countries in respect of population matters.

F. Objectives and goals of population policy

150. In discussing these questions, the Meeting stressed that the establishment of population policy objectives was as important as the specific definition, formulation and use of the necessary ways and means of achieving them, within the context of each country's economic and social development policies.

151. It was recognized that each country should determine the objectives that are compatible with its own population policies. It was nevertheless recommended that countries should consider some minimum objectives designed to solve obvious problems affecting the quality of life, e.g.:

1. A reduction in the present rates of general morbidity and mortality, particularly infant, peri-natal and maternal morbidity and mortality. It was recommended that, in the attainment to those objectives, consideration should be given to the goals laid down in the Ten-Year Health Plan of the Americas.
2. The achievement of the above mentioned overall goals should be based mainly on the reduction, or if possible the elimination of the discrepancies between various sectors of the population, as advocated in the WPPA.

3. Countries should take into account the characteristics of the age structure of the population and fertility levels and trends in order to determine measures that would determine fertility along the lines most consistent with their national policies and economic and social development plans and strategies.
4. These measures should be integrated into maternal and child and general health programmes and duly co-ordinated with educational and social integration programmes and, in any event, they should meet the demands of the population in recognition of the egalitarian right to decide freely, responsibly and in an informed manner the number and spacing of their children.
5. Action to influence the scatter of the population, migratory movements, population spread and excessive urban concentration by means of comprehensive agrarian, regional and urban development programmes, in line with the countries' interests and within the context of their overall economic and social development strategies.
6. In order to attain those general objectives, the following specific objectives were recommended:
 - a) To promote the grouping of the geographically scattered population through the establishment of communities equipped with the basic services necessary for their overall development;
 - b) To adapt population spread to the possibilities and requirements of regional development, on the basis of special human settlement programmes;
 - c) To take action to establish and further develop groups of small and medium-sized towns in order to bring urban trends into balance and to improve the planning of urban and rural population centres so as to ensure the efficient provision of public services;
 - d) To reorient migration movements from the countryside to the towns by eliminating their causes and respecting at all times the right of freedom of movement and residence within the territory of each State;
 - e) The population should be encouraged to remain in its place of origin by means of economic and social incentives conducive to its overall development, such as increased employment opportunities, social organization, the provision of health services, education, housing, social security, leisure facilities, etc.;
 - f) Internal migratory movements should be concorded with the requirements of each country's regional development.

7. The migration of professionals and skilled technicians to more developed countries should be reduced. To achieve this the following measures are recommended: the comprehensive planning of education and human resources; investment in scientific and technical programmes; the adoption of other measures to adapt the training of professionals and technicians to development needs and to facilitate their incorporation in this process; and the establishment of international agreements to protect the interests of the less developed countries affected by the exodus of technicians and professionals.
8. The Governments of the region should establish, through bilateral or multilateral consultations, agreements aimed at regulating the migration of unskilled workers, with provisions specifying the rights to which they are entitled in respect of employment, wages, social welfare and security, etc., in the countries of destination.
9. Governments should bear in mind the humanitarian considerations in the treatment they give to aliens who are staying in their countries, especially workers without documents.
10. All the barriers to the full integration of women in social, economic and political life on an equal basis with men should be removed. To achieve this it is recommended that both the laws and regulations discriminating against them and the factors determining cultural standards and the economic obstacles to their full social integration should be changed.
11. The incidence of malnutrition should be reduced, and as far as possible eliminated, for which purpose the following specific objectives should be established:
 - a) Food education campaigns aimed at shaping consumer patterns should be launched in order to achieve the best use of available foods, which for cultural reasons, are not properly used, to improve the quality of the diet and to avoid excessive consumption so that some do not have too little while others have too much;
 - b) The production of sufficient food should be programmed and encouraged to meet present quantitative and qualitative demands and anticipate future requirements, by improving food production methods and promoting research on and the development of new sources of food;
 - c) Supplementary nutrition programmes designed to satisfy the minimum calorie and protein requirements of the more vulnerable segments of the population, such as infants under 18 months, pregnant women and nursing mothers should be developed;
12. Educational programmes should be expanded so as to reduce or eliminate real and functional illiteracy and ensure that better use

is made of the human and natural resources of the countries of the region. Training should also be promoted in all fields connected with population problems, and educational programmes at the various levels dealing with both the biological and the socio-economic factors that explain and determine demographic phenomena should be carried forward.

13. Programmes of dissemination and information via the mass communication media, aimed at providing support for all the objectives enumerated, should be prepared and executed.
14. The appropriate national and international agencies should be asked to give attention to all the other problems of development affecting the population.

152. The Meeting stressed that in order to carry out to the full the aforesaid objectives, the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should be implemented, with special emphasis on the interaction between population and economic and social development, the efficient allocation of national resources and the adaptation of consumer patterns to the priorities of a type of economic and social development which will benefit the entire population, and the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States regardless of their economic and social systems.

G. Prospects for action

1. Critical situations

153. When considering the countries' prospects for action in population matters and the contribution of the regional organizations, it was deemed necessary to distinguish between critical situations resulting from the interaction of socio-economic, political and demographic structures in the specific situations inherent in each country's mode of development and those deriving from the demand for services generated by population dynamics.

154. As regards the first type of critical situation the Meeting stressed:

- a) urbanization and metropolitanization trends and the imbalance of regional development;
- b) irrational destruction and poor utilization of natural resources;
- c) deterioration in the quality of the environment, particularly in urban areas;
- d) agricultural development trends and their effects on employment living levels, access to services, infant mortality, the factors determining a high fertility rate, and the exodus from the countryside;
- e) insufficient employment opportunities in relation to population growth and urbanization, leading to high levels of underemployment and unemployment;
- f) the exodus of highly skilled personnel and the migration of workers between adjacent countries;
- g) the distortions and anomalies in the structure and patterns of consumption, and those occurring in investment, for example, with respect to technology, employment and non-priority investment in luxury items.

155. With regard to the second type of situation, it was considered necessary to place particular emphasis on the demand for education, health services, housing, and other facilities clearly related to the trends of population growth, distribution and structure.

156. The Meeting considered that both types of situation called for equal attention from Governments, and recommended direct and co-ordinated action in the various fields affecting the individual, the family and the social group and conducive to the satisfaction of their vital needs and full development of their potential.

157. The high density and rapid population growth in Latin America have created critical situations in some countries where rates of economic growth have not kept pace with population growth.

2. Action at the national level

158. The representatives informed the Meeting of their countries' experiences and projects for action in the population field; the projects were designed to influence population dynamics and thus contribute to some extent towards solving the chronic or emerging economic and social problems considered as constituting critical situations in the region.

a) Juridical and institutional instruments

159. It was noted that this included in particular the promulgation of laws and constitutional reforms to guarantee full respect for the rights encompassed in the value framework of the World Plan of Action and the introduction of juridical and institutional instruments for the adoption and execution of national population policies.

b) Instruments for action

160. Most of the policies and measures referred to by the countries are primarily aimed at achieving social and economic objectives, while also affecting the population variables; others have been devised mainly to influence population dynamics and supplement the former.

1) Population spread: urbanization, metropolitanization and scatter

161. As regards this subject, it was pointed out that some countries of the region had adopted the following policies and measures to reduce and orient rural-urban migration, to stimulate the growth of medium-sized cities and to occupy territorial space:

- Regional development policies:
 - administrative regionalization and demarcation of economic zones;
 - promotion of development centres;
 - regional industrialization policy;
 - priority development of the services infrastructure in the less developed zones.
- Rural development and agrarian reform policies:
 - transformation of land tenure structures;

transfer of economic resources to the agricultural sector and promotion of agro-industry;
 financial and technical support for small-scale and medium-scale industry situated in rural areas;
 programmes aimed at concentrating the scattered rural population so as to facilitate its access to services and raise its level of living;
 specialized training programmes for improving the skills of the agricultural labour force;

- Land settlement programmes including the bringing of new land under cultivation.

ii) Mortality

162. Attention was drawn to the importance of rising material levels of living and of achieving the most equitable distribution of the benefits of development so as to comply with the WPPA objective of reducing -and as far as possible eliminating- the differences in morbidity and mortality rates as between social sectors. The more direct measures referred to included:

- the development of preventive medicine;
- the extension of health services to rural areas;
- community organization programmes designed to provide education in health, nutrition and environmental hygiene and to promote the community's active participation in the relevant activities;
- nutrition policies comprising such measures as:
 - the enrichment of food of low nutritive value and iodization of salt;
 - the distribution of milk to mothers and children and the provision of school breakfast and lunches;
- potable water and human waste disposal programmes;
- education in health, nutrition and environmental hygiene through formal education and mass media.

iii) Fertility

163. Attention was drawn to the possible impact on fertility of the attainment of a fundamental development objective, such as the full-scale incorporation of women in economic, social and political activity and, consequently, to the juridical measures and the programmes and actions that are conducive to this end.

164. Stress was also placed on the effect on fertility of higher levels of living, especially improved education. More specifically, attention was drawn to the following forms of action:

- development of maternal and child health services and family planning services;
- training programmes for paramedical personnel with a view to delivering these services;
- inclusion in formal education curricula of instruction in population and development matters, sex education and family life;
- programmes for the dissemination of information on family planning through the mass media;
- measures designed to raise fertility levels, such as special marriage and birth grants;
- specialized medical services which will help to eliminate the causes of sub-fertility and sterility and reduce general and infant mortality.

iv) International migration

165. With regard to migration between neighbouring countries, which has increased in recent years, reference was made to the following measures:

- administrative action designed to regularize the legal status of immigrants;
- action designed to provide access for immigrants to social security systems.

166. In order to slow down or reverse the "brain drain", mention was made of:

- the drafting of legal provisions to facilitate the return of migrants to their country of origin or the admission of highly skilled aliens by granting importing facilities and installation credits;
- creation of opportunities for stable employment at adequate levels of remuneration;
- programmes of advanced training and professional specialization inside the country.

3. Action of regional organizations

167. Turning to the matter of the specific action for which ECLA and CELADE would be responsible and independently of action that may be carried out

by other organizations or specifically requested by the countries, it was recommended that they should give priority to the following:

Studies and research on:

a) Urbanization, metropolitanization and scatter of population particularly:

- i) diagnostic and planning studies on development at the regional level;
- ii) studies on the structure of integrated city systems geared to the economic and social objectives of development strategies;
- iii) diagnostic and planning studies on the development of metropolitan areas, involving an integrated approach to the physical, economic, social and cultural aspects of such development;
- iv) basic studies and proposed alternative measures for decentralizing the metropolitan population or avoiding its excessive centralization in the future;
- v) studies and proposals concerning alternative measures for promoting the economic and social development of scattered population;
- vi) diagnostic and planning studies on agricultural development that bring objectives relating to the production of food and raw materials for internal consumption and export into line with well-being targets for the rural population in terms of income and population objectives.

b) Fertility and mortality, especially:

- i) research into the factors affecting the participation of women in the labour force and the foreseeable effects on fertility of changes in education and the participation of women in the labour force and in the functions assigned to them by society;
- ii) research into the relationships between the family and economic structures of the rural population, their reproduction and mortality and probable effects on reproduction of changes in family structure.

c) International migration, especially:

- i) mechanisms for regulating illegal migration, bearing in mind the mutual benefit for the countries of immigration and emigration;

- ii) types of agreements and procedures for ensuring that the immigrants enjoys working and social insurance conditions consistent with universally recognized human rights;
 - iii) the magnitude, causes, social cost and negative or positive effects of the migration of professionals, technicians and skilled manpower generally;
 - iv) temporary migration of workers (types of bilateral agreements providing for forms of transfer to recipient country and return to the country of origin, working conditions, protection during the stay in the recipient country, etc.);
 - v) incorporation of manpower mobility, policies and measures in regional integration policies.
- d) Integration of population policies into regional development strategies and policies, with special reference to:
- i) analytical and methodological studies for the preparation of models which would include the population variables in the development plans and strategies of the countries of the region;
 - ii) examination of experiences and methods connected in the constitution of national organs for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of population policies;
 - iii) case studies on population change and economic and social development;
 - iv) comparative analysis of population policies in the region.

168. Technical assistance for:

- a) the establishment or -where they exist- the strengthening of national technical organizations incorporated in the government planning systems responsible for matters connected with the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policies. Such assistance should include advisory services on:
 - i) diagnostic studies, of both national and sub-national scope;
 - ii) the development of analytical and planning models including population variables;
 - iii) the formulation of population policies integrated into development strategies;
 - iv) the preparation of normative legal instruments relating to population and the family;
 - v) the execution of pilot projects for implementing policy measures;

- b) Collecting, processing and analysing population data and developing and maintaining statistical systems in respect of services and information;
- c) Periodically evaluating the effects of their population policies (WPPA, para. 107).

169. Training programmes for the purpose of:

- a) the continuation and expansion of regional educational programmes with special attention to the advanced training of planners;
- b) top-level training programmes for professional in population studies in liaison with universities of the region;
- c) assistance to competent national bodies for the inclusion of subjects pertaining to population, the environment and development in the curricula of formal secondary level educational systems and the different university disciplines.

170. The representatives took note of the fact that the Meeting on Science, Technology and Development in Latin America (Mexico City, December 1974) had adopted a resolution on the outflow of skilled personnel from Latin America to the developed countries, requesting the ECLA secretariat to prepare a report on various matters pertaining to this problem. It was deemed appropriate to suggest to the Executive Secretary that the report in question should include a study of possible ways and means of compensating for the loss sustained by countries as a result of this outflow of professionals.

171. The representatives consider it of the utmost importance to ensure that adequate financial support is given for the purpose of fully implementing the proposed programme and for the action which the representatives consider should be taken by other international organizations and which is not referred to in this report.

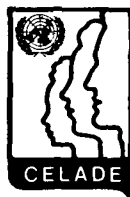
4. Action of other international organizations

172. Although no attempt was made to draw up a complete list of actions to be taken by other international organizations, the following activities

were singled out because of their high priority:

- a) research on the effects of biological and social factors on maternal and peri-natal morbidity and mortality;
- b) provisions of technical and financial assistance for the implementation and evaluation of national action programmes relating to education, employment, health, morbidity, fertility, mortality and migration.

173. The Meeting urged the regional organizations to co-ordinate their activities closely with those of the international organizations operating in the region in the light of the principles established by the World Population Plan of Action, the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World Population Conference and the Second Latin American Meeting on Population.



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