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ACTIVITIES OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM IN PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL  
AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the secretariat



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## I. THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### 1. General considerations

In the permanent search for shared responses and converging paths to achieve their common objectives of economic and social development the countries of the developing world have deployed numerous and sustained efforts to identify common problems and critical situations by broadening the range of possible strategies for dealing with these problems and situations according to their own forms of development. They have also sought to strengthen the links and machinery for understanding and mutual co-operation so as to progress towards a new order of relations, not only among themselves, but also between them and the developed countries.

One of the significant results of these efforts is the perception that the developing countries have nowadays of the strategic importance of mutual technical and economic co-operation as a means of channelling and exchanging resources, experiences and common or supplementary capacities for tackling the needs and problems of their economic and social development. Although co-operation among developing countries is not, of course, a recent phenomenon, there certainly exists today a new approach to it which has been proposed by developing countries themselves, with increasing vigour and clarity, in numerous international forums and meetings.

This new approach was clearly expressed in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires in August and September in 1978, and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 33/134 of 19 December of that year.

It may be said that, as from this event, the international community in general and the developing countries in particular officially accepted the birth certificate of a new conception of technical co-operation among them; essentially this is now conceived of as necessary force for the countries of the developing world to "create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit, and for achieving national collective self-reliance which are essential for their social and economic development".<sup>1/</sup> From this conceptual framework which places the accent on the deliberate nature of the co-operation, some basic operational characteristics of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) emerge and may be summed up by saying that:

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<sup>1/</sup> See the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries, in the report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (A/Conf.79/13/Rev.1).

(i) it involves the deliberate and voluntary action of sharing, pooling and exchanging technical resources, know-how, experiences, capabilities and capacities between two or more developing countries so as to make use of their own means at the national level and also collectively;

(ii) it is initiated and organized in the first place by the developing countries themselves, and may include the participation both of public institutions and private organizations, and is implemented with or without the support of the developed countries, the United Nations development system or other international organs, bodies or organizations;

(iii) it uses in their totality, or as far as possible, the advisory services, research and training resources, and the equipment and supplies of the developing countries themselves;

(iv) covers all sectors and forms of operations, whether bilateral or multilateral, or of a subregional, regional or interregional scope; and

(v) applies innovative approaches, methods and techniques, without excluding the use of existing forms of co-operation.

As regards economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC), it is understood in this new perspective to be an indispensable and main means of strengthening the economic and political independence of the country and of aiming at national and collective reliance on their own efforts, without which it would not be possible to arrive in the establishment of the New International Economic Order. The determination of the developing countries to promote their economies - depending on their own problems and needs and in line with national aspirations and experiences - has come to be the moving principle of ECDC since it was taken up by the United Nations General Assembly when in 1974 it adopted resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) at its Sixth Special Session, containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

In brief, technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and regions, which have to come to be known as horizontal co-operation, does not constitute an end in itself; it is an instrumental process to pursue the economic and social progress which may take place in any environment or place where the interests and desires of two or more developing countries converge, and it is to be found in all the sectors in which problems of economic and social development emerge, and in all the fields of action in which possibilities of solving these problems may be perceived. In conceiving of horizontal co-operation in this way, a broad variety of areas for work and activities opens before it, and may be activated by numerous mechanisms which involve agents of the most varied types.

## 2. Technical co-operation among developing countries in action

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action covered fully the consistent variety of this process and moulded it in the recommendations which it sent to the governments - the primordial agents of horizontal co-operation and the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations development system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the non-governmental organizations and the developed countries. In order to ensure that these recommendations could be implemented, the Plan of Action provided that the intergovernmental review of the progress achieved in the work of TCDC entrusted to the United Nations development system should take place at a high-level meeting, attended by all the governments which are part of UNDP, which the Administrator of the Programme would convene in 1980 and 1981, and subsequently every two years.<sup>2/</sup>

The first high-level meeting responsible for reviewing technical co-operation among developing countries took place in Geneva, from 26 May to 2 June 1980. The regional commissions, also represented at this meeting, gave an account of the activities to promote TCDC which they carried out in 1979 in the report submitted to the meeting by the Administrator of UNDP, and also in a joint document of the regional commissions themselves.

In reviewing the general progress of the tasks connected with technical co-operation among developing countries within the United Nations development system, the meeting recognized that in order for the Plan of Action to be successful the governments and organizations of this system would have to devote special attention and pooled efforts to certain co-operation activities. It therefore urged these organizations to consider carefully the programming and implementation of such activities using, as far as possible, the countries' own languages, particularly in the training programmes. At the same time, it invited the governments of developing countries to adopt measures to establish focal points for TCDC in the countries, to avoid the brain drain of highly skilled personnel, to disseminate relevant information, and to promote the support of non-governmental and private sector bodies in general for the co-operation activities of the governments.<sup>3/</sup>

The meeting also reviewed the progress of TCDC in fields such as transport and communications among developing countries, the participation of women in development, the creation and strengthening of national research and training centres of a multinational scope and urbanization and poverty. In some of these, the organizations of the United Nations development system - including the regional commissions - were the recipients of the decisions listed below.

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<sup>2/</sup> See the "Buenos Aires Plan of Action ...", op. cit., recommendation 37, pp. 19-20.

<sup>3/</sup> See United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the High-Level Meeting in the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Geneva, 26 May-6 June 1980), document A/35/39, Decision I/80/1.

As regards transport and communications, the participants urged the above organizations to "mobilize their efforts on a continuing and intensive basis both in their respective fields of competence and in multidisciplinary joint action to increase significantly the development of projects and activities of TCDC".<sup>4/</sup> As regards the national research and training centres of multinational scope, the same organizations were requested to give "necessary support to the strengthening of the activities of such centres".<sup>5/</sup> Lastly, in the field of urbanization and poverty, these organizations were called upon "to provide, if so requested, the financial and technical support necessary to facilitate and promote the initiatives which can be taken by developing countries to solve their common problems",<sup>6/</sup> and they were recommended to take up "studies on a regional, subregional and interregional basis at the request of and in consultation with the countries interested and in keeping with the TCDC modalities".<sup>7/</sup>

### 3. The role of CEPAL

The role of CEPAL, as one of the agents of the United Nations development system in this field of horizontal co-operation, is totally part of the conceptual and normative framework which inspires the new approach of this co-operation. This role is in keeping with the guidelines and mandates which the Governments members of the Commission give to the CEPAL secretariat and takes its strength from the long working history during which CEPAL has moulded its vocation of thinking for service.

The Governments members of the Commission have taken an active part in the generation and development of this new form of understanding and implementing co-operation among developing countries and regions. An example of this is the special attention that the Commission has given to this object in its recent sessions, which has been reflected in successive resolutions. In 1973, the Commission adopted resolution 316 (XV) on co-operation among developing countries of different geographical areas; in 1975 resolution 354 (XVI) on technical co-operation among developing countries; in 1977 resolution 363 (XVII) on co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas and in 1979 resolution 387 (XVIII) on co-operation among developing countries and among developing regions of different geographical areas.

Operative paragraph 4 of this last-mentioned resolution requests the Executive Secretary of CEPAL:

"(e) To establish in the secretariat appropriate servicing machinery directly responsible for promotion, information and co-ordination activities related to technical and economic co-operation among developing countries;

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<sup>4/</sup> Ibidem, Decision I/80/2, operative paragraph 4.

<sup>5/</sup> Ibidem, Decision I/80/4, operative paragraph 5.

<sup>6/</sup> Ibidem, Decision I/80/5, operative paragraph 3.

<sup>7/</sup> Ibidem, Decision I/80/5, operative paragraph 4.



"(f) To include the subject of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in the research work of the secretariat and the agendas of the intergovernmental and specialized meetings convened by the secretariat, whenever the subject of the research or of the meeting permits".

The secretariat has drafted an operational programme intended to outline and expedite as far as possible forms and modes of work so that the CEPAL system <sup>8/</sup> can mobilize its own capacities in its field of competence, in order to generate, promote and support projects and activities of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries which may offer new feasible responses with a solid substantive base to the needs of the developing countries and groups of such countries. This programme anticipates activities both within the secretariat and in those spheres towards which it is projected as a catalyst and mediator.

Internally, the activities programmed are aimed at co-ordinating more closely the numerous substantive and operational elements which must be mobilized "from within" to respond to the growing dynamism of horizontal co-operation. The aim is to promote when appropriate the incorporation of horizontal co-operation in the secretariat's studies and research, and in the intergovernmental and technical meetings sponsored by the CEPAL system; to supply the organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and the region with periodic information on CEPAL's activities in this regard; to take active part in conferences, meetings and working groups on horizontal co-operation, if necessary with the contribution of statements or basic documents; to maintain permanent and close collaboration with the special units for horizontal co-operation of the developing countries and groups of countries, of the subregional and regional bodies and organizations and those of United Nations system, and non-governmental bodies; and to establish through these links and collaboration, an informal network of contact among the various present or potential agents of the horizontal co-operation process.

At the same time, CEPAL's operational programme seeks to project its action at the national and regional level through specific activities, such as the identification of Latin American countries or groups of countries with which it is possible to collaborate in order to implement horizontal co-operation activities in matters of common interest; the identification of capacities and needs for technical, economic and intellectual co-operation in the region in the fields of competence of CEPAL; collaboration with the countries, at their request, to boost and promote the use of such capacities;

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<sup>8/</sup> The CEPAL system includes the secretariat proper, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), in addition to special centres, units and programmes, such as those for economic and social documentation (CLADES) projections, transnational corporations, science and technology, education and development, human settlements and habitat, environment, integration of women into development, critical poverty and others.

the preparation of methodologies and criteria for the formulation of horizontal co-operation projects; support to the countries and to intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations in the preparation of studies and projects for mutual co-operation; the collection and dissemination of information on horizontal co-operation activities in the region; the promotion and organization of meetings in which the special horizontal co-operation units of developing countries and groups of countries can exchange experiences and knowledge, or programme activities for mutual co-operation.

At the interregional level, the programmed activities of CEPAL include activities to strengthen co-operation, consultation and co-ordination links with the other regional commissions; to promote, in co-ordination with the relevant regional commission, the initiation or strengthening of links between subregional and regional organizations of different geographical areas; to identify possible areas of co-operation among countries and groups of countries in Latin America and developing countries from other geographical regions; and to facilitate the organization of meetings and study tours with the participation of experts from two or more regions, so as to share experiences, exchange knowledge and promote possible interregional projects for mutual co-operation.

#### 4. Interinstitutional co-operation

CEPAL's operational programme for horizontal co-operation is also projected to the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, the subregional and regional bodies of Latin America, and the non-governmental bodies, so as to maintain with all of them a close and permanent working link, and to arrive at special arrangements for participation in projects and programmes of mutual interregional and intra-regional co-operation.

Within the United Nations development system, UNDP and the United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD), in keeping with their respective responsibilities as regards economic and technical co-operation, established a programme in 1979 to support horizontal co-operation. This was the first step in a joint task to which the collaboration of the bodies of the United Nations development system was then added.

The UNDP/UNCTAD programme is centred on support to horizontal co-operation in the spheres of trade and development, and in related matters, including monetary and fiscal co-operation, the strengthening of regional and interregional integration and collaboration in important sectors (technology, goods, shipping, insurance, etc.). In addition, it lays special stress on the use of instruments and forms of technical co-operation to facilitate the exchange of technical resources and capacities among the countries in question, so as to intensify economic co-operation among them. All the regional commissions have expressed their desire and their decision to participate fully and in conjunction in the implementation of this programme, in view of the multisectoral nature of their own work programmes and the fact that they are carrying out many of the activities included in the UNDP/UNCTAD programme.

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In the context of the joint programme on economic co-operation which CEPAL has drawn up with the Latin American Economic System (SELA), it was agreed to collaborate with the countries of the region in matters concerning the negotiation of a global system of trade preferences among developing countries (GSTP), and in work relating to the meeting of bodies and secretariats for economic integration among developing countries, planned for July 1981. As regards technical co-operation, the secretariats of CEPAL and SELA agreed that it was desirable to bring their respective programmes into line so as to include the relative information in the documentation which the secretariat of SELA will prepare for Latin American consultative meeting anticipated in Decision 54 (article 9) of the Latin American Economic System.

## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE CEPAL SYSTEM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT HORIZONTAL CO-OPERATION: A QUALITATIVE BALANCE

The operational programme of CEPAL in this field is a mere instrument for integrating, within a general operational framework, those elements which will make it possible to identify and develop on a continuing basis the potential for horizontal co-operation which actually underlies the projects and activities of the entire CEPAL system. Basically, the idea is that the spirit of horizontal co-operation should be widely disseminated so that all the components of the CEPAL system will play an active role in promoting and catalyzing this co-operation. This is therefore a programme which is constructed on the basis of the numerous specific activities of support and promotion with which the CEPAL system contributes to producing a multiplier effect and giving a new trend to these activities.

### 1. Activities at the internal level

The internal mobilization of the CEPAL system in pursuit of the objectives of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and regions has been expressed in various of the secretariat's initiatives. The first step was to centralize the functions promoting horizontal co-operation in the division of the secretariat in charge of the operational activities of the CEPAL system, and give it the support of the technical units of the secretariat, ILPES and CELADE.

The real multiplication and foreseeable growth of horizontal co-operation activities have brought the secretariat to create a mechanism for the co-ordination of the technical sectors of CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE, so that the activities they carry out will give rise to ideas and projects which will promote or stimulate co-operation among developing countries, both at the interregional and intra-regional levels. A multidisciplinary consultative group of an informal nature has recently been created for TCDC and ECDC, the functions of which include advising the Executive Secretary in all technical or operational tasks required in order to contribute

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to formulating, pinpointing, co-ordinating and appraising suitable methodologies and procedures for a timely and efficient implementation of the programme of activities of the CEPAL system in the sphere of horizontal co-operation.

Another internal activity is the collection and dissemination of information on horizontal co-operation. The publication of PLANINDEX 9/ has as its basic objective to spread systematically the information collected from the national planning offices, as a means of facilitating activities of reciprocal co-operation and knowledge in the region.

Lastly, CEPAL recently began publication of a periodic bulletin to report on technical and economic co-operation in the region, aimed at a wide range of agents who may be able to contribute significantly to promoting and implementing horizontal co-operation among the Latin American countries.

## 2. Activities at the regional level

The activities of CEPAL directly aimed at promoting and supporting horizontal co-operation have numerous specific expressions at the regional level. The inclusion of horizontal co-operation in all activities which CEPAL carries out in the region is increasingly explicit. At the regional level, in 1979 and 1980 the secretariat caused to materialize much of its potential for encouraging horizontal co-operation in specific activities which as whole go to make up an encouraging picture.

### (a) Transport and communications

This sector is of growing interest to the developing countries, since the goods, human resources and know-how tend to be channelled along the established economic and commercial ways and routes, which normally converge on the developed world. This pattern does not always respond to the needs of the developing countries and usually constitutes a serious structural limitation on the possibilities and even more on the desire of these countries to initiate or intensify trade for mutual benefit. These considerations weigh heavily among CEPAL's preoccupations, and have led it to give a decided boost to horizontal co-operation in the sector.

With the collaboration of the World Bank and the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF) CEPAL has started to carry out a project on rail transport which has made possible the materialization of technical co-operation activities. The Empresa de Ferrocarriles del Estado Argentino (EFEA) in co-operation with CEPAL and ALAF, organized and held in Buenos Aires,

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9/ PLANINDEX is a publication prepared by the Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) of CEPAL. The first issue of PLANINDEX appeared in February 1980; in November of that year a special issue was published on the occasion of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, held in Guatemala City, from 26-29 November 1980.

from 14-24 May 1979, a demonstration course on costs of railway workshops, attended by representatives of various railway bodies in Latin America. As a result of this course, the Empresa Nacional de Ferrocarriles del Perú requested technical co-operation from the Empresas de Ferrocarriles del Estado Argentino in order to apply in Peru a similar system of workshop costs. The two missions of Argentinian experts through which this co-operation materialized were organized with the help of CEPAL and received financial support from the World Bank.<sup>10/</sup>

Another example of CEPAL's action as an intermediary in specific technical co-operation activities was the visit which officials of the Empresa de Ferrocarriles del Estado de Chile made in São Paulo to Ferrocarriles Paulistas Sociedad Anónima (FEPASA), in November 1980, so as to study the experience acquired by this enterprise in the application of a system of operational information and control to the management of rail transport.

Also as part of the CEPAL/World Bank/ALAF project, CEPAL organized a demonstration course on information systems for the operation and management of rail freight terminals (Mexico City, 6-24 June 1980), attended by ten representatives of Latin American countries, as well as participants from the host country. This course was organized in view of the interest shown by several railway enterprises in Latin America in the possible application of the information system prepared by Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México.

CEPAL and ALAF are also implementing a technical co-operation project among the railways of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, the objective of which is to facilitate not only international transport in the Asunción-Atlantic corridor, but also Paraguay's external trade. For this purpose a diagnosis of the present situation was prepared and it was resolved during the sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of ALAF in 1980 to hold a meeting of these railway systems in 1981 to analyse this diagnosis and outline a specific transport facilitation programme which would be implemented by the different railway bodies, co-operating with each other with the intermediation of CEPAL and ALAF.

As regards customs and the facilitation of the transport of goods, a technical co-operation project begun in 1980 with the support of the government of the Netherlands is in progress among countries of the region, the objective of which is to give some countries of the region access to the experience of countries which are more advanced in valuation, nomenclature and passage through customs. The first phase of this project consists of a series of workshops on customs valuations and nomenclature, with the collaboration of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the general customs authorities of Argentina and México. As regards

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<sup>10/</sup> The first mission took place in April 1980 and gave the Peruvian officials a thorough knowledge of the system for implementation in the railway networks of central and southern Peru. The second mission lasted from 20 October to 14 November 1980.

passage through customs, CEPAL is preparing a handbook for the modernization of transit systems, based on the information collected as part of the project.

The Meeting of Ministers of Public Works and Transport of the countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America, which is a forum for subregional co-operation in transport, requested collaboration from CEPAL to study the conditions in which it would be advisable to apply the customs agreement on the international transport of goods under the agreement on international road transport (TIR Convention). The TIR Convention is by nature an instrument of co-operation among customs, and in its implementation the countries of the Southern Cone have begun, with the intermediation of CEPAL, a process of reciprocal technical co-operation in order to analyse and subsequently implement it.<sup>11/</sup>

The rapid development of modern technology has led to deepseated changes in the transport systems. An illustrative example is the increasingly frequent use of containers which has brought about innovations throughout the chain of transport of goods, particularly maritime transport (port infrastructure, storage, documentation, etc.). On account of their nature, these questions present challenges which require new responses in terms of horizontal co-operation, particularly as regards the creation of a critical mass of capacities, equipment and institutions which would enable the developing countries to participate increasingly in the operation of the new implements and systems of transport.

CEPAL is encouraging a technical co-operation project among Latin American countries to set up multinational enterprises for the maintenance and repair of containers, so as to transfer to the interested countries of the region the most advanced experiences of other regions in the installation and operation of this type of enterprises. An instruction document is being prepared for this purpose for use in various subregional seminars to review the feasibility of such enterprises. This project is being implemented thanks to a contribution from the government of the Netherlands.

The facilitation of transport and trade have also aroused the interest of CEPAL in its capacity as a catalyzing agent of horizontal co-operation. As is known, the aim of this facilitation is to minimize, simplify, and harmonize the procedures, formalities and requirements both of governmental and purely commercial origin, which regulate the movement of merchandise, services and persons across frontiers.

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<sup>11/</sup> At the Meeting of Ministers of Public Works and Transport of the Countries of the Southern Cone (Brasilia, 13-17 October 1980), two documents prepared by CEPAL were submitted: El Convenio TIR: una respuesta al creciente desarrollo industrial de los países de América Latina (E/CEPAL/G.1134), and Los regímenes internacionales de tránsito aduanero como instrumento de facilitación del comercio exterior (E/CEPAL/L.216).

The strengthening of the institutions which operate in the field of international transport is a subject in which technical and economic co-operation among developing countries is of decisive importance, particularly at the regional and subregional levels. In connexion with the last mentioned, and in response to express mandates of the Countries members of the Commission,<sup>12/</sup> CEPAL, together with the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), sponsored a meeting of experts on transport facilitation which was held in Guatemala City from 5-8 August 1980. The objectives of this meeting were: to identify problems which significantly affect the facilitation of trade and the development of transport institutions in the subregion, and to establish priorities and measures to deal with them, including action programmes with elements of horizontal co-operation.<sup>13/</sup>

As a result of this meeting, CEPAL and SIECA, in collaboration with UNCTAD and the European Economic Community (EEC), are promoting an economic co-operation project among Central American countries for institutional development in the field of the transport and facilitation of international trade within the subregion.

(b) Environment and development

The relations between the environment and styles of development are a relatively recent area of work in CEPAL; in this sphere, on the basis of work which was characteristically technical to begin with, projects have originated which include horizontal co-operation in their formulation and objectives.

Together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a horizontal co-operation project is being implemented on styles of development and environment, with recommendations from the Regional Seminar on Styles of Development and Environment in Latin America which CEPAL and UNEP organized in 1979 at the headquarters of CEPAL in Santiago. The objective of this project is to prepare guidelines and methodological criteria to enable environmental aspects to be included in national development policies, and to promote co-operation in this regard among the region's specialized bodies. At the same time, the project aims at establishing networks of contacts among these bodies in order to make possible or facilitate mutual co-operation in order to increase the options for strategies, policies and activities which will have a positive effect on the relations between the environment and development.

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<sup>12/</sup> See resolution 390 (XVIII) adopted by CEPAL at its eighteenth session (La Paz, 18-28 April 1979).

<sup>13/</sup> See CEPAL, Report of the Meeting of Experts from the Central American Countries, Mexico and Panama on Trade and International Transport Facilitation, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 5-8 August 1980 (E/CEPAL/G.1127).

As promising topics of study within this project some processes of particular significance and interest owing to their environmental implications have been selected: metropolitanization and marginality, environmental management in major infrastructure works, expansion of the agricultural frontier, and peasant survival in fragile high altitude ecosystems.

With the direct participation of research centres and institutions in the countries, case studies are being carried out or planned in the topics referred to. As regards the first, a study of metropolitanization and marginality in Santiago, Chile is being completed. As regards environmental management in major infrastructure works, studies have been made on three projects for the use of water:<sup>14/</sup> Salto Grande (Argentina-Uruguay), Tinajones (Peru) and Guanare-Masparro (Venezuela). The process of pushing back the agricultural frontier is being tackled in the form of global studies on the region and monographs. Among the latter special importance has been given to the study of the experience of Brazil in incorporating virgin land into production.

(c) Natural resources

The use of natural resources in a generously endowed region like Latin America is a field of great interest for CEPAL, where horizontal co-operation can and should find a wide margin of application. CEPAL, with the support of the government of the Netherlands, is implementing a horizontal co-operation project among the countries of the region so as to take advantage of their mining resources. This project aims at promoting co-operation among those Latin American countries which have possibilities of making a better use of their natural resources through a better knowledge of Latin America's mining potential, of determining investment needs and identifying new sources of financing and minimizing the risk of investments through the integration into industry of the sector's output. The activities of this project include the preparation of basic documents for two seminars which will be held in the near future in Mexico and Santiago.

A co-operation project is also in progress among the countries of Latin America in connexion with the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade which also has the support of the government of the Netherlands. The aim of this project is to set up lines of co-operation in order to programme the financing of projects in this regard; its activities are aimed at promoting a preliminary dialogue between Latin American experts on the subject so as to review and discuss possibilities of co-operation in the economic and social aspects involved and also to study appropriate machinery for the materialization of this co-operation among the countries of the region.

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<sup>14/</sup> As regards water resources, these case studies have immediate information from environment projects previously implemented by CEPAL: for example, the project on water, development and environment implemented between 1974 and 1978, and the UNEP project on environmental implications of the water power development of Salto Grande.



(d) Transnational corporations

In the vast field of economic development which constitutes the fundamental task of CEPAL, there are activities which offer a fertile field for horizontal co-operation. This is the case, for example, of the area of the transnational corporations. In this connexion and on the bases of case studies which have already been completed, CEPAL is organizing a seminar on different possibilities of negotiation for the Latin American countries with foreign investors and transnational corporations in the copper and tin industries. The objective of this seminar, which has been programmed for mid-1981, is to permit the exchange of national experiences in the formulation and implementation of policies and lines of negotiation vis-à-vis foreign investment and the transnational corporations in the industries mentioned, so as to arrive at a better understanding of the positions upheld by the governments and private enterprises in the sector and also so as to establish a common position of the countries of the region vis-à-vis foreign investment.

(e) Economic and social planning

The planning of economic and social development is a field in which CEPAL, with the support of UNDP, has maintained a wide-ranging and fruitful activity through ILPES, both as regards research and training, technical co-operation and specialized publications. ILPES also gives its support to co-operation activities among planning ministries and offices in the Latin American countries, closely linked with the System of Co-operation and Co-ordination among Planning Bodies of Latin America, set up at the first Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America (Caracas, 13-16 April 1977). This task of ILPES aims at fomenting in the region the exchange of experiences among planning bodies, and joint activities to promote integration; in the context of this programme, ILPES promotes the visits of officials from national planning offices to similar offices in other countries of the region.

The intermediation of ILPES led in 1979 to a mission of officials from the Planning Office of Costa Rica to the Ministry of Planning of Brazil, in order to familiarize themselves with the systems of monitoring of projects used by this office. Also in 1979 ILPES organized the visit of the Director of Planning of the Dominican Republic to the Planning Office of Chile, so as to collect and give information and exchange experiences regarding the planning of economic development.

ILPES has also given impetus to the institutionalization of a horizontal system of co-operation for planning aimed at organically linking activities in this area. The bases of this system, which were submitted by the Institute at the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America (Guatemala City, 26-29 November 1980),<sup>15/</sup> cover the adoption

<sup>15/</sup> See the document Coordinación y cooperación horizontal para la planificación en la década del 80, E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.21, 7 November 1980.

of machinery to obtain, register and update continuously information on needs for and supply of technical co-operation among the region's planning bodies, specific activities to relate the demand and supply of the corresponding bodies, the allocation of resources to finance horizontal co-operation activities in economic and social planning, and the appraisal of the results of this co-operation.

With the support of ILPES, the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean organized the Second Meeting of Planning Officials in the Caribbean which was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 29 May-2 June 1980. The topic of horizontal co-operation in this field received special attention at this meeting, which resolved to set up working groups to promote horizontal co-operation in some specific points of the work programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), including agriculture, energy, physical and regional planning, transport, human resources and planning methodology. The working groups will make it possible to bring together officials and experts from governments, universities and subregional and multinational organizations of the Caribbean, as an additional means of activating horizontal co-operation in the subregion. These groups will act in co-ordination with the CEPAL Office for the Caribbean which acts as secretariat for the CDCC, and will receive technical support from ILPES.

(f) Economic and social documentation

One of the requisites to facilitate the promotion of horizontal co-operation is to have reliable, timely and up-to-date information on the numerous elements which are part of it (including needs, capacities, programmes and activities) and on the agents and resources for this co-operation. The work carried out in CEPAL by the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) - the preparation of national directories for the existing information units for development and for the institutions which work in these sectors or topics, and the creation and adaptation of controlled languages (thesauri) - seeks to promote and facilitate co-operation among the countries of the region. Another contribution along the same lines is the Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL), implemented within CEPAL by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Great progress has also been made in preparing an information system in the field of the planning of economic and social development (INFOPLAN) - an indispensable tool for supporting co-operation among the planning bodies of Latin America. In the context of this project, which also receives financial support from IDRC, a meeting was organized on the state of information in Central America, held in San José, Costa Rica, in April 1980, with the participation of 20 representatives of information and documentation centres of Central American countries. This meeting made it possible to review activities in the field of information and set up machinery to promote mutual co-operation and formulate joint and standardized activities.

/As part

As part of the same project a training seminar course was also held, attended by 25 Latin American government planning officials, at the headquarters of CEPAL in Santiago, from 14 July-1 August 1980.

In the Caribbean, the Governments members of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) show that they are increasingly aware that information is an indispensable resource for development, and that access to it and the degree to which it is used in taking decisions will largely determine the pace of the economic and social development of the subregion. They also know that the lack of any real dissemination of information on the region, and the underutilization of the knowledge and experts existing in the Caribbean has been an obstacle to effective co-operation. Taking this into account, the CDCC has recommended that CEPAL should help to expedite the process of exchange of information and eliminate the shortfalls in the communication, collection and dissemination of data, and that it should establish a regional system for the collection of technological information, based as far as possible on close links with the universities and existing research institutes.

With the collaboration of UNESCO and IDRC, CEPAL set up a Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) in its Caribbean Office as a first step towards carrying out the important mission which had been entrusted to it.

The CDC provides the governments of the subregion, some of which still do not have their own well-stocked libraries, with the possibility of access to a large collection of reports and technical documents for dissemination which CEPAL has collected throughout the years and which come from the Caribbean governments, from specialized international agencies acting in the subregion, and from Caribbean integration organizations.

The Caribbean Information System also provides advisory services to the governments which request it and offers some training courses and occasional seminars. Although the focus of the activities of the System is the Caribbean, information is also exchanged with other regions, for example through INFOPLAN.

The Caribbean Information System, in promoting knowledge and understanding between neighbouring countries, makes an important contribution to real horizontal co-operation. Despite the linguistic, cultural and historical variety of the Caribbean subregion, the CDC is helping to promote co-operation among Caribbean countries and ultimately their development.

(g) Industrial development

At the fifth session of the CDCC, held in June 1980, the secretariat stressed various activities aimed at promoting industrial development in the Caribbean and disseminating the experiences of the different Caribbean countries in the formulation, implementation and appraisal of an industrial development strategy. One of these activities was a study of the industrial strategies in force in the Caribbean countries and their contribution to achieving global social and economic objectives.

/Many of

Many of the Caribbean countries in the 1970s attempted to formulate and implement economic development strategies which contained objectives and goals for the industrial sector. However, in the majority of cases the implementation of these strategies was not satisfactory, and the proposed objectives and goals were thus not achieved.

In the developing countries, particularly in small economies very dependent on the exterior, the lack of an industrial development strategy, the formulation of an unrealistic strategy, or the absence of political will to implement the planned strategy and of economic policies for doing so, led to irregular growth and the appearance of some serious problems such as uncontrollable inflation, deficits on the balance of payments, increasingly weaker possibilities of self-supply, the increasing internationalization of industrial activity, unemployment and the deterioration of living conditions of large sectors of the population. For these reasons it is very much to be desired that the Caribbean countries should improve the processes they use to establish economic strategies, and the machinery for implementing them and appraising their results.

In this regard it is very useful to review what happened in various Caribbean countries and endeavour to draw up global and sectoral strategies based on mutual collaboration among countries with common strategic objectives. Moreover, in the majority of the Caribbean countries the social goals increasingly predominate over present goals of economic growth, and the majority of the governments seem to favour structural changes aimed at building up a fairer, rather than a wealthier society; they do, however, recognize that without an acceptable rate of growth, social goals will be very difficult to achieve. The structural changes and the objectives implicit in them can only be achieved through the formulation and implementation of a strategy which defines goals and policies and indicates which institutions will be responsible for carrying them out.

Since the end of 1980 CEPAL has been preparing country monographs which will serve as a basis for a subregional study on industrial development strategies adopted by the Caribbean countries, which will be made in 1981. The countries for which monographs are being prepared are Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The complete study will then be presented to the appropriate government officials for consideration and possible use in facing up to the challenges of the 1980s.

#### (h) Statistics

CEPAL has directed TCDC in this field towards meeting the specific needs of some national statistical services which may be satisfied with the collaboration of the countries of the region which are relatively more advanced in this regard.

On the initiative of CEPAL, and through its intermediation, experts from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago collaborated in 1979 with the General Statistical Office of Haiti in improving its external trade statistical

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services. Also during 1979, CEPAL collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia in preparing a project on co-operation with the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina; the aim of the project is to develop Bolivia's capacity for planning and carrying out sampling research on the living conditions of the population, and training Bolivian professionals and technicians to prepare income and expenditure surveys.

(i) Economic co-operation

CEPAL is collaborating with the Instituto de Planejamento Econômico e Social (IPEA) of Brazil in the preparation of studies and analyses which will contribute to identifying possibilities and forms of economic co-operation between Brazil and the countries of the Andean Group. These studies and analyses will serve as a basis when the time comes for the adoption of measures to increase economic relations between Brazil and the rest of the Latin American countries in a context of mutual benefits and interests.

In order to achieve this objective an analysis of a general nature is being made so as to identify possible areas of co-operation or complementarity, and the forms and machinery most suited to the characteristics and specific realities of Brazil and the countries of the Andean Group. As a starting point the history of the evolution of the economic co-operation of both geographical areas with each other and with other areas of similar development is being considered, and the factors which have conditioned it, taking account of external trade, transport, joint investment and trade policy, inter alia.

So as better to pinpoint possibilities for co-operation and complementarity, specific industrial activities and services are being studied in which certain forms of co-operation could exist - already identified in the general analysis - and other feasible specific forms are being explored.

Lastly, as the result of these studies, an attempt is being made to draw up a range of options to increase economic co-operation between Brazil and the countries of the Andean Group. This will come under the objectives of the project which will cover the following activities:

(i) Retrospective analysis of trade and economic co-operation between Brazil and the countries of the Andean Group in the recent past;

(ii) Studies on some branches of manufacturing - fertilizers, petrochemicals, iron and steel, machine tools, mining machinery, agricultural machinery, electrical engines and equipment and telecommunications equipment, road-building machinery and parts and components for motor vehicles - and on possibilities of complementarity in the short- and medium-term;

(iii) Possibilities of co-operation in advisory and engineering services;

/(iv) Study

(iv) Study of the general characteristics of the transport operations, and identification of other options in the medium- and long-term and of the difficulties which restrict or limit the efficiency of this sector;

(v) Formulation of proposals on suitable forms and machinery for economic co-operation between Brazil and the countries of the Andean Group.

(j) Academic co-operation

With the support of UNDP, CEPAL is promoting a programme of research on Latin America's international relations with the collaboration of a group of research centres connected with the Programme of Joint Studies on Latin America's International Relations (RIAL).

The general objective is to promote the international economic relations of the countries of the region, by strengthening the Latin American teaching and research centres through a programme of co-operation among these centres, and by intensifying their links with the national and international bodies responsible for conducting these relations.<sup>16/</sup>

The specific objectives include, inter alia:

(i) contribution to the identification of the interests of Latin America in the different aspects of its international economic relations, and very particularly, vis-à-vis the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the establishment of a New International Economic Order;

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<sup>16/</sup> RIAL is an association of Latin American academic centres interested in promoting the study of the international relations of the countries of the region by means of research and teaching activities, meetings and seminars, publications and dissemination. At the present time it is made up of the Colegio de México, the Centro de Estudios Económicos y Sociales del Tercer Mundo, the Instituto de Estudios Transnacionales, the Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Heredia (Costa Rica), the Instituto de Altos Estudios de América Latina of the Universidad Simón Bolívar, the Conjunto Universitario Cândido Méndes, the Universidade de Brasília, the Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (Montevideo), the Instituto Torcuato di Tella, the Universidad de Belgrano, the Instituto de Estudios Internacionales of the Universidad de Chile, the Corporación de Investigaciones Económicas Latinoamericanas, the Grupo de Análisis de Desarrollo (Lima) and the Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo Andino (CINDA), which groups around twenty universities of the subregion.

The RIAL Programme has to date set up mechanisms for association with the Consejo Brasileño de Relaciones Internacionales and other similar bodies recently set up in the region, such as the Asociación Latinoamericana de Escuelas de Relaciones Internacionales, the Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios Regionales and the Comisión de Trabajo of the Latin American Council for the Social Sciences (CLACSO) on International Relations.

(ii) extension of co-operation among Latin American countries in the field of external economic policies, through a closer collaboration among the above-mentioned scientific centres;

(iii) assistance in consolidating a regional system of research and teaching centres, furnished with a solid capacity for analysing the external economic relations of the Latin American countries, so as to permit the accumulation of experiences, knowledge and information and the exchange between these centres and between them and the bodies responsible for conducting these relations;

(iv) creation of academic links with research centres in other developing regions in order to promote horizontal co-operation in the study of the international academic, commercial, scientific and technical problems.

In the context of this programme, CEPAL, in co-operation with UNDP, organized a meeting on the prospects of academic, scientific and technical co-operation among Latin American countries at its headquarters in Santiago on 22 and 23 January 1981. It was attended by academics involved in the most relevant and varied innovative experiences in the field of scientific and technological research, associations of social research centres (such as the Latin American Council for the Social Sciences, (CLACSO), joint study programmes in specific disciplines (such as ECIEL and RIAL), subregional associations of universities (such as CSUCA), academic and research centres (such as FEDESARROLLO and CIEPLAN), and national technological institutes (like that of the Dominican Republic)).

The aim of the meeting was to analyse factors which have determined the emergence of new forms of scientific and technical action and co-operation in the academic field, and to review, from a comparative standpoint, the main forms of work, experiences and advantages of the Latin American academic centres. An effort was made to arrive at recommendations which would guide future action in the region and mutual co-operation and possibilities of co-ordination, using existing machinery of co-operation.

During the discussions it was recognized that in the contemporary world development depends increasingly on knowledge, i.e., on the capacity of each country to absorb, adapt or create its own technologies, and to improve the skills of its human resources. It was also observed that a country's intellectual scientific and technological capacity should be appraised not only in terms of its efficiency to contribute to growth, but also of its capability of conserving and enriching its own style of development. It was observed that in the last few years, as a consequence of very complex social, economic and political processes, many institutions have emerged in countries of the region which have organized their academic work in keeping with new forms, either within the universities or outside them, and have made an earnest search for machinery for exchange, co-ordination and co-operation; institutional networks have thus been set up to increase scientific communication among Latin American academics, to identify fields

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in which the economic community can make an effective contribution to economic and social development, to interchange the results of studies and research, and to tackle those tasks which may better be dealt with through co-operative efforts. The participants considered that these mechanisms had contributed very efficiently to promoting academic, scientific and technological activities in some sectors, linking them more closely with the problems of development and generating knowledge, diagnoses and solutions more in keeping with the Latin American styles of development.

Of the recommendations adopted at the meeting the following should be mentioned: (i) to review the possibility of setting up an informal mechanism suitable for co-ordinating, strengthening and consolidating the regional institutional networks, promoting co-operation and the exchange of information among them, by ensuring the continuity of the dialogue and serving as a forum, and (ii) to use this forum to promote agreements between research centres in Latin America.

### 3. The strengthening of interregional co-operation

#### (a) Co-operation between Latin America and Africa

At its seventeenth session, held in Guatemala City in 1977, the Commission had given special importance to interregional technical and economic co-operation, requesting the Executive Secretary to adopt the necessary measures to develop and intensify mutual co-operation with the secretariats of other regional commissions.<sup>17/</sup> This subject was also stressed in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action which devoted a special paragraph to interregional co-operation and the role which the regional commissions are called on to play in the development and strengthening of this form of co-operation among regions.<sup>18/</sup>

In resolution 387 (XVII) adopted by the Commission at its eighteenth session, the Executive Secretary was requested, inter alia, in order to implement the recommendations to the regional commissions in the Plan of Action and the resolutions adopted in Buenos Aires, "to draw up ... formal co-operation or other agreements with the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies, organizations and agencies, both subregional and regional, and those of the United Nations development system, taking due account of their respective spheres of competence and mandates".<sup>19/</sup>

The importance that the Commission gives to interregional co-operation was also expressed in its recognition on the same occasion of the "decision of the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and CEPAL to carry out interregional technical and economic co-operation

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<sup>17/</sup> See resolution 363 (XVII).

<sup>18/</sup> See Buenos Aires Plan of Action ..., op. cit., paragraph 44.

<sup>19/</sup> CEPAL resolution 387 (XVII), operative paragraph 4 (a).



activities between Africa and Latin America in the areas of trade, training and science and technology".<sup>20/</sup> Respecting this spirit, CEPAL and ECA have not only maintained the initial impetus in these matters, but have also extended it to other fields successfully bringing about the materialization of co-operation agreements which are being put into practice.

CEPAL and ECA recently initiated, with financing from the United Nations Development Programme, a project for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between the two regions. This project aims at reviewing the possibilities of mutual co-operation in the areas mentioned - trade, science and technology for the development and training of human resources. Also included in the context of this project and in the same areas are the collection of information on bilateral and multilateral technical and economic co-operation agreements existing between countries of Africa and Latin America, so as to review the extent to which these agreements have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. This review will make it possible to identify obstacles and adopt solutions and possibilities for new bilateral and multilateral co-operative arrangements in these areas.

The project covers an extensive and detailed programme of activities which includes missions in the field by Latin American and African experts, the preparation of reports and action proposals, and the holding of joint working meetings and technical seminars. It will last until the end of 1981 and should result in proposals of specific projects on the basis of those selected by government experts; these proposals will be presented to multilateral or regional financing bodies, or to government organizations and foundations of co-operation for international development.

As regards the training of human resources, expressly included in the project in question, CEPAL, on consultation with ECA and sponsored by the government of Brazil, promoted the convening of a technical seminar which was held in Brasilia between 24 and 28 November 1980. In order to hold this seminar contributions were received from UNDP and UNESCO. At this meeting the trends of change or inertia in the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Latin American and African countries were analysed. Government officials and specialists from the above-mentioned countries with experience in the planning and management of education systems were invited to this seminar, as well as researchers and intellectuals dedicated to the study of this topic. The objective was to facilitate the exchange of opinions and information between those taking part in the formulation of the education policies of their governments and between them and academics belonging to different disciplines of social sciences in general and education in particular.

The holding of this technical seminar made it possible to bring together specialists from developing countries in two geographical regions with qualitatively different problems, but with the common link of their common

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<sup>20/</sup> Idem, operative paragraph 5.

Hispanic cultural and linguistic roots, and to obtain a comprehensive picture of the relations between education and development in both regions, and observe the interest existing in the countries taking part 21/ in increasing the exchange of information on the characteristics of their respective education systems, and make comparative analyses in this field.

CEPAL and ECA, with the contribution of the government of the Netherlands, are going ahead with various activities and initiatives aimed at formulating a joint project by which possibilities for mutual co-operation in the fields of agriculture and nutrition can be identified between Latin American and African countries. This co-operation would have as its object to put forward possible common solutions to similar problems in both regions, both as regards the production and marketing of hot climate (wet and dry) and temperate climate products, and the formulation and implementation of agricultural development policies. The secretariats of the two regional commissions agreed to concentrate the activities of this project mainly on tropical food products, wheat and cereals in general, stockbreeding, the handling of forestry resources and intermediate mechanization of the fisheries. The joint programme covers the promotion, organization and visits of representatives of African countries to Latin American countries taking part in the project.

CEPAL has given special importance to studies on Latin American trade with Africa, and its problems and possible solutions. As part of the Programme of Action adopted by the Group of 77 in Mexico (September 1976) and subsequently integrated into the Strategy for Collective Self-Reliance adopted in Arusha (February 1979) and in keeping with the mandates from the legislative organs of the respective commissions, CEPAL and ECA have agreed to make a joint study of the present situation and potential of trade between Latin America and Africa.

The review of present trade flows between the two regions shows that although interregional trade grew energetically during the first half of the 1970s, it is still at a relatively modest level and is limited to a small number of countries and items (mainly oil, foodstuffs and some manufactures). Factors such as the traditional orientation towards the markets of the developed countries (particularly the former metropolitan powers), difficulties in transport and communications, and tariff barriers of various types have certainly prevented a broader and more diversified trade exchange between Africa and Latin America. It is thus necessary to propose a consistent strategy to increase and invigorate this trade which could bring benefits to the countries of both regions.

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21/ Africa was represented by Cape Verde, Ecuatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Santo Tomé and Príncipe. Angola communicated that it would not attend and Guinea-Bissau communicated at the last minute that it was unable to attend. Latin America was represented by Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

It is obvious that a strategy to strengthen and increase this trade includes measures which perhaps can only fully be implemented in the long-term. However, something can be done in the short- and medium-term; for example, it would be possible to adopt measures to establish joint shipping systems using the services of merchant vessels from Latin American and African countries, improve banking services, progress in the negotiations on bilateral tariff preference agreements, increase information on international trade using the chambers of commerce and the different regional or subregional economic groupings in both continents, and progress in the negotiation of agreements between state trade organizations.

Co-operation between Latin America and Africa has also been extended to other fields, such as the training of experts in demography. In this regard, ECA received from the Third Conference of African Demographers (Dakar, February 1979) and the Council of Ministers of ECA (Rabat, 1979) the mandate to explore specific possibilities for training in demography for the Portuguese-speaking countries members of that Commission. In the course of these meetings, several representatives expressed their interest in taking advantage of the experience of Latin America, which in their opinion could be transferred to their own countries without major difficulties.

For this purpose, in April 1980 ECA organized a mission to Angola and Mozambique to observe in the field the real needs for personnel trained in demography and the possibilities of establishing training programmes for these countries. A staff member of CELADE took part in this mission.

Among the recommendations for immediate action formulated by the ECA/CELADE mission it was suggested that advantage should be taken by the interested countries of the training opportunities offered by CELADE, particularly by sending fellowship holders from Portuguese-speaking countries to the intensive regional course on demography, given at the CELADE office in San José, Costa Rica, from August to December each year. This suggestion was favourably welcomed by the government of the People's Republic of Angola, which sent three students to the course, using resources made available by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for regional programmes in Africa.

(b) Co-operation between Latin America and Asia and the Pacific

So as to extend progressively the geographic context of horizontal co-operation, CEPAL has carried out preparatory activities for the implementation of an interregional project with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (CESPAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with the support of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. This project will aim at reinforcing the bargaining power of the countries with the transnational corporations which operate in them in the export of commodities. A group of commodities was identified, including mineral products (tin, bauxite and copper), food products (sugarcane, tea, coffee and bananas) and non-food products (cotton, tobacco and hard tropical timber).

/Latin America

Latin America for its part includes the following countries and products in this project: Bolivia (tin), Brazil (sugarcane), Colombia (coffee), Chile (copper), Honduras (bananas), Jamaica (bauxite), Mexico (cotton), Panama (bananas) and Peru (copper).

The work of CEPAL to promote and support horizontal co-operation has not been limited to setting up collaboration links with other regional commissions. There has also been a constant concern to establish conditions which will permit understandings and co-operation agreements between Latin American countries and countries and national bodies from other regions have expressed an interest in horizontal co-operation in certain fields. In this regard, it should be pointed out that CEPAL has played an active role in the promotion of contacts and possible technical co-operation agreements between India and the countries of Latin America.

The first steps in this connexion were taken with the holding of a consultative meeting organized by the government of India with the collaboration of CEPAL and ESCAP, which was held in New Delhi from 5-7 June 1979. CEPAL prepared a document on the situation of some economic and social sectors in Latin America, which also included country reports on the experiences, capacities and needs for horizontal co-operation, originally prepared by the member Governments of CEPAL in 1978 for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

The consultative meeting was attended by delegates from 13 Latin American countries, and by invitation of the Government of India, representatives of UNCTAD and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Various recommendations to promote horizontal co-operation in the following fields were adopted:22/

- (i) measures to promote trade and methods to rectify the information deficit;
- (ii) joint marketing of commodities;
- (iii) shipping;
- (iv) possibilities of participation in industrial development and other types of programmes and joint participation in third countries;
- (v) collaboration in advisory services;
- (vi) aspects of research and development of the transfer of technology;

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22/ Identification of opportunities for interregional economic and technical co-operation. Report of the Consultative Meeting between India and the countries of Latin America (New Delhi, India, 5-7 June 1979), chapter II.

(vii) establishment of links between research and training institutions in India and Latin America.

So as to implement these recommendations the meeting adopted a plan of action to promote and establish co-operation between India and the countries of Latin America, which proposes tasks for the respective governments, and for the secretariats of CEPAL and ESCAP.<sup>23/</sup>

As a result of the consultative meeting in New Delhi, a meeting was held from 4-6 August 1980 between representatives of the engineering industries of Latin America and India; this meeting took place at the headquarters of CEPAL in Santiago and was organized jointly by UNIDO and CEPAL, with the collaboration of the Association of the Engineering Industry of India, with the following objectives:

(i) to promote the exchange of ideas and co-operation between industrial associations in the engineering sector of Latin America and India;

(ii) to promote direct co-operation between industrial enterprises in the engineering sector of Latin America and India;

(iii) to review appropriate machinery for setting up joint enterprises which will enable a better use to be made of the capacities of production in specific branches of engineering and permit co-operation between producers in India and Latin America as regards technological exchange, technical advisory services, consultative services, training, promotion of reciprocal trade, organization of industrial fairs, exchange of personnel and joint projects in third countries.

The participants adopted various recommendations aimed at smoothing the way for an efficient development of the co-operation links and machinery between the countries of the two regions. In addition to the recommendations both to the associations of engineering industries and to the governments of the countries involved, other recommendations were formulated to UNIDO and CEPAL, requesting their collaboration in creating or reinforcing associations of engineering industries, depending on the case; facilitating the training and exchange of the experts required for co-operation between the associations of engineering industries, and stimulating the creation of federations of such associations.<sup>24/</sup>

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<sup>23/</sup> Ibidem, chapter III.

<sup>24/</sup> See document E/CEPAL/R.236, August 1980.

### III. HORIZONTAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT

Horizontal co-operation is a dynamic process of convergence of the desires of the countries themselves and of specific activities to overcome the limitations of different kinds which stand in the way of their full economic and social development. Consequently, it is a form of co-operation between countries with similar needs which come up against similar obstacles in the search for well-being which they pursue according to their own styles of development.

The evident heterogeneity of the developing countries is manifested in many and very different aspects. The cultural heritage, historical experience and technical capacity on the one hand, and the potential and resources which can be mobilized to achieve the objectives of economic and social development on the other, are different not only in the different regions of the developing world, but among countries which belong to the same geographical region. However, the most critical problems of development, such as the persistent poverty which affects broad sectors of the population, the weakness of national structures of production, the difficult and insecure participation in the main flows of world trade, precarious financing, technological backwardness and the difficulties of negotiation with the developed world, constitute common challenges which require shared strategic proposals. This is thus the broad perspective of economic and social development which contains the ultimate raison d'être of horizontal co-operation.

Co-operation among developing countries has been recognized and authorized as one of the essential components of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; on the one hand it should be projected and expanded towards the major areas of action, and on the other it should not and cannot remain at the level of the elementary forms of co-operation, however necessary they may be in the initial stages of the process. In the broadest perspective of development - the "what for?" of co-operation - what ultimately counts tends to be rather the quality of the co-operation than the quantity of activities it involves.

CEPAL's role as an intermediary and promotor of horizontal co-operation among developing countries aims inter alia at indicating the way towards forms of co-operation - the "how" of co-operation - which will be increasingly efficient in the search of answers to the main challenges of development and suitably in keeping with regional co-operation in general and with the development strategies of the different countries of the region.

In this context, the implementation of horizontal co-operation as an instrumental process for the aims of development depends, finally, on the disposition of these countries to increase their capacity for pooled action. As a starting point the countries of the region have already expressed the need of strengthening the links and machinery of mutual co-operation in a wide range of subjects covering the most varied aspects of economic and social development.

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However, in order to maintain and increase the initial impulse of reciprocal co-operation, it must take the form of formal and informal machinery which will make it possible to organize the numerous factors which are part of it. To organize horizontal co-operation is not to render it inflexible, since flexibility of action is essential if it is to be expeditious, timely and in keeping with the needs identified as such by the countries themselves. Horizontal co-operation cannot therefore be envisaged only as a short-term or a merely conjunctural answer.

The basic level of organization for an adequate mobilization of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries devolves on the countries themselves, particularly as regards the formulation of explicit horizontal co-operation policies, integrated into their own development programmes, plans, strategies, policies or objectives, and the installation of this activity at focal points conveniently situated within the national political and administrative structures. Support for the formulation of these policies and the establishment or strengthening of these focal points - required in order to set horizontal co-operation in motion - has and should continue to have maximum priority for CEPAL in its role as the agent promoting technical and economic co-operation among the countries of the region.

In CEPAL's inherent regional perspective, the horizontal co-operation requirements stemming from the characteristics of certain countries of the region are of special importance: the small, landlocked and island countries, and in general the countries which are economically relatively less developed. All of them face special challenges in their pursuit of full economic and social development; increasingly active reciprocal technical and economic co-operation could help them to face up to these challenges with better prospects of success.

Similarly, the situations shared by subregional groups in specific geographical contexts give rise to common interests which provide real opportunities for setting in motion or intensifying forms of horizontal co-operation within the groups. Support for the machinery and instruments of subregional co-operation is also a task to which CEPAL should continue to give special attention in order to consolidate through its subregional offices the initial advances already made.

Lastly, CEPAL has considerable experience and tradition as the centre of convergence of the Latin American countries in the search for consistent thinking and possible solutions to the region's problems of economic and social development. It also has a role which it cannot disclaim in the field of horizontal co-operation and in the strengthening of the links and machinery of interregional co-operation.





ANNEXES

- I. Recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action
- II. Measures for ECDC adopted at the Conference on ECDC, Mexico, 1976
- III. First short and medium-term action plan for global priorities on economic co-operation among developing countries  
Arusha - Ministerial Recommendations



# ANNEX I

## Recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

Number and title <u>a/</u>	Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations	United Nations system	Regional Commissions	UNDP
4. The strengthening of national information systems for technical co-operation among developing countries.	To obtain from the governments the information required for TCDC and disseminate it to other developing countries.	Support to the countries for their work of collection, processing and dissemination of information for TCDC.	Support to the countries for their work of collecting, processing and dissemination of information for TCDC.	Support to the Information Referral System (INRES)/UNDP.
16. The identification, development and implementation of initiatives for technical co-operation among developing countries.	At the request of the governments, to collaborate in the identification of the needs and capacities for technical co-operation in the respective regions and subregions in order to support TCDC activities.	At the request of the governments, to collaborate in the identification of the needs and capacities for technical co-operation in the respective regions and subregions in order to support TCDC activities	At the request of the governments, to collaborate in the identification of the needs and capacities for technical co-operation in the respective regions and subregions in order to support TCDC activities.	
7. The enhancement of contributions by professional and technical organizations.	Suitable studies for the support of these organizations to TCDC activities at the request of the countries.	Suitable studies for the support of these organizations for TCDC activities at the request of the countries.	Suitable activities for the support of these organizations for TCDC activities at the request of the countries.	
18. The creation of new links for technical co-operation among developing countries in important substantive areas.	To develop TCDC activities and formulate programmes and projects at the request of the governments.		To carry out TCDC activities and formulate programmes and projects at the request of the governments.	

a/ The original names and numbering have been conserved.

Annex I (cont.1)

Number and title <u>a/</u>	Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations	United Nations system	Regional Commissions	UNDP
20. The improvement of regional information for technical co-operation among developing countries.	To contribute to the improvement of all the aspects relating to the INRES and other United Nations information systems and all activities as regards information on TCDC at the request of the interested countries.	Support for this type of activities.	To contribute to the improvement of all the aspects relating to the INRES and other United Nations information systems and all activities as regards information on TCDC at the request of the interested countries.	Support for this type of activities
21. Support to national research and training centres with multi-national scope.	At the request of the countries, to promote support for the national research and training centres to carry out TCDC activities.	At the request of the countries, to promote support for the national research and training centres to carry out TCDC activities		
22. The development and strengthening of inter-regional co-operation.	Support for all types of activities which reinforce interregional assistance as regards TCDC	Support for all types of activities in this regard.	Support for all types of activities which reinforce interregional assistance with a TCDC aspect.	
24. The exchange of development experience		To provide assistance in the preparation of programmes and projects which enable experience to be shared between developing countries.		
25. The fostering of global technical collaboration		To promote links between technical and interregional organizations working in the same field.		

Annex I (cont.2)

Number and title a/	Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations	United Nations system	Regional Commissions	UNDP
27. Control of the "brain drain" from developing countries.		At the request of the governments to implement measures which will permit selective migration, where it benefits national development.		
28. Measures in favour of economically or geographically disadvantaged developing countries.		To implement the measures needed to develop the TCDC capacity of these countries, earmarking technical and financial resources and projects for it.		
29. Measures in favour of newly independent countries.		To support TCDC activities for these countries.		
30. The strengthening of transport and communications among developing countries.		To support efficiently the implementation of the programmes of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.	To support efficiently the implementation of the programmes of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.	
32. Activities for technical co-operation among developing countries by the organizations of the United Nations development system in their respective fields.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To include aspects of TCDC as solutions for development problems, including aspects of TCDC in international meetings.</li> <li>- To apply TCDC approaches in their programmes.</li> <li>- To support, on request, the preparation of TCDC projects.</li> </ul>		

## Annex 1 (cont.3)

Number and title <u>a/</u>	Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations	United Nations system	Regional Commissions	UNDP
32. (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To develop, strengthen and reorientate information systems on TCDC.</li> <li>- To organize and facilitate the support of public opinion for TCDC.</li> </ul>		
34. Strengthening the capacity of the UNDP for the promotion and support of TCDC.		To collaborate with UNDP in all activities concerning TCDC.	To collaborate with UNDP in all activities concerning TCDC.	<p>The Administrator should reorient activities in close collaboration with the regional commissions and others of the TCDC system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To strengthen the special dependence of TCDC in order to assist the Administrator.</li> <li>- Together with the relevant bodies and organizations, to initiate TCDC programmes and activities.</li> <li>- Together with the relevant organizations and the regional commissions to carry out studies and analyses for TCDC.</li> <li>- To expand, strengthen and promote the efficient use of the INRES and its links with other information systems.</li> </ul>

Annex I (concl.)

Number and title a/	Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations	United Nations system	Regional Commissions	UNDP
34. (cont.)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase the capacity of the TCDC programme, in accordance with the norms of the General Assembly and the Governing Council.</li> <li>- With the other members of the system, to prepare information on the progress of the Plan of Action, formulating suggestions for speeding up its progress.</li> </ul>
38. Financial arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To make special financial efforts to finance TCDC projects.</li> <li>- To make special efforts to strengthen the least advanced landlocked, island and most seriously affected countries in TCDC activities and projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To explore new additional sources of financing for TCDC projects.</li> <li>- To allocate an increasing share of resources to TCDC activities and projects.</li> <li>- To make special efforts to strengthen the least developed landlocked, island and most seriously affected developing countries in TCDC activities and projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assign an increasing share of their resources to TCDC activities and projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To use in the best form possible the regional indicative planning figures for TCDC.</li> <li>- A large part of the inter-regional and world indicative figure should be used for TCDC.</li> </ul>

## ANNEX II

Measures for ECDC adopted at the Conference on ECDC held in Mexico from 13-22 September 1976

Topics <u>a/</u>	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD	Organizations of the United Nations system
II. TRADE AND RELATED MEASURES			
A. Establishment of a global system of trade preferences among developing countries.	To co-operate in the UNCTAD study on this topic.	To make a detailed study of all the different aspects of the global system of trade preference.	
B. Measures for trade co-operation.	To make studies of: - multinational marketing enterprises.  - establishment of commodity stock markets located in developing countries.	- establishment of commodity stock markets located in developing countries	
III. MEASURES IN THE FIELDS OF PRODUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES			
A. Co-operation in the field of production.			
2. Industrialization	To collaborate in the co-ordination of the preparation of studies and make recommendations on all the industrial topics which will be studied by the appropriate body of the Group of 77.		To collaborate in the co-ordination of the preparation of studies and make recommendations on all the industrial topics which will be studied by the appropriate body of the Group of 77.

a/ The original names and numbers have been conserved.



## Annex II(cont.1)

Topics <u>a/</u>	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD	Organizations of the United Nations system
B. Co-operation and infrastructure.			
1. Transport	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Preparation of a study on the trade and development aspects of the problems of transport and transit in developing and island countries and the unification of efforts between coastal and landlocked countries in implementing joint transport projects.  Support as necessary for all the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Support as necessary for all the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.
2. Telecommunications	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Support as necessary for all the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.
C. Co-operation in services			
1. Insurance	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.	Support as necessary for the activities which the Group of 77 will undertake in this regard.
2. Tourism	To assist in the establishment of commissions on subregional and interregional bases so as to co-ordinate national policies for the development of the tourist industries in developing countries.		To assist in the establishment of commissions on subregional and interregional bases so as to co-ordinate national policies for the development of the tourist industry in developing countries.

Annex II (concl.)

Topics a/	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD	Organizations of the United Nations system
V. MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION			
A. Measures of co-operation in science and technology			
2. Technology centres	To assist the Group of 77 where necessary in studies relating to Technology Centres.	To assist the Group of 77 where necessary in studies relating to Technology Centres.	To assist the Group of 77 where necessary in studies relating to Technology Centres.  To assist the Group of 77 in studies relating to data banks and information on technology at the national, sub-regional, regional and interregional levels.
3. Policy measures among developing countries	To assist the technology centres in the development of policies which permit the transfer and development of technology among developing countries.		To assist the technology centres in the development of policies which permit the transfer and development of technology among developing countries.
B. Measures in the field of training, education and human resources and employment.	To assist in the establishment of joint supporting programmes.		To assist in the establishment of joint supporting programmes.
C. Technical co-operation among developing countries.	Support to the specialized body of the Group of 77 in joint activities for participation in the consultative services of the developing countries.	Support to the specialized body of the Group of 77 in joint activities for participation in the consultative services of the developing countries.	Support to the specialized body of the Group of 77 in joint activities for participation in the consultative services of the developing countries.

### ANNEX III

#### First short and medium-term Action Plan for global priorities on economic co-operation among developing countries Arusha - Ministerial Recommendations

Topics <u>a/</u>	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD
B. Co-operation among State-trading organizations (STOs)	-To co-operate with the international centres of public enterprises of developing countries.	-To co-operate with the international centres of public enterprises of developing countries.  -To establish a directory of STOs to date.
C. Establishment of multinational marketing enterprises (MMEs)	-To support the efforts made as regards the creation of MMEs.	-To support the efforts made as regards the creation of MMEs.  -To expand the research programme on the topic.
E. Co-operation in the transfer and development of technology	-To support the exchange and joint reservations of workers trained in specific topics and all the efforts made for co-operation and transfer in the development of technology.	-To support the exchange and joint reservations of workers trained in specific topics and all the efforts made for co-operation and transfer in the development of technology.
H. Subregional, regional and interregional insurance and re-insurance schemes among developing countries	(At a general level.) To promote machinery and the acquisition of knowledge in keeping with the present needs and requirements of developing countries.	-To intensify its work programme on the subject by reporting the results to the Invisible Trade Commission and trade-related financing.
I. Monetary and financial co-operation		
(1) Multilateral payments and credit arrangements	Support to UNCTAD as Technical Secretariat of the Committee.	-To play an important role as Technical Secretariat of the Committee.

a/ The original names and numbers have been conserved.

Topics a/	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD
J. Multinational production enterprises among developing countries (MPEs)	<p>Support to the efforts of developing countries for the establishment of multinational production enterprises.</p> <p>-Formulation and appraisal of sectoral studies which will make it possible to determine and select multinational projects between developing countries.</p> <p>-To serve as a forum for inter-governmental agreements for the preparation of trade and similar reciprocal measures.</p> <p>-Preparation of sectoral studies in basic industries, fundamentally in fertilizers, rubber products, paper and paper pulp. Stimulus for all levels of the growth and development of trade through the constitution of multinational production enterprises among developing countries and the linking of these multinational marketing enterprises, semi-public enterprises, integration agreements and financial institutions.</p>	<p>Support to the efforts of developing countries for the establishment of multinational production enterprises.</p> <p>-Formulation and appraisal of sectoral studies which will make it possible to determine and select multinational projects between developing countries.</p> <p>-To serve as a forum for inter-governmental agreements for the preparation of trade and similar reciprocal measures.</p> <p>-Preparation of sectoral studies in basic industries, fundamentally in fertilizers, rubber products, paper and paper pulp. Stimulus for all levels of the growth and development of trade through the constitution of multinational production enterprises among developing countries and the linking of these multinational marketing enterprises, semi-public enterprises, integration agreements and financial institutions.</p>
L. Support measures	<p>-To reinforce and increase their assistance to ECDC.</p> <p>-To play a vital role in the implementation and promotion of subregional, regional and inter-regional co-operation among developing countries.</p>	<p>-To reinforce the function of the ECDC Commission, so that it will constitute a forum where the developed countries will negotiate measures of support to developing countries.</p> <p>-That at the request of the developing countries and their subregional and interregional groupings, it will give assistance in the preparation of specific requests for support measures.</p>

Annex III (concl.)

Topics <u>a</u> /	Regional Commissions	UNCTAD
L. (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-That this assistance should supplement that already being provided.</li><li>-That the secretariat should act in close consultation and co-operation with the regional economic commissions in activities concerning ECDC, in view of the important role of the commissions in the processes of economic co-operation.</li></ul>
M. Institutional matters		
Periodic meetings of the Group of 77	To support the Group of 77 so that it can carry out the studies entrusted to it by the Ministerial Meeting.	To support the Group of 77 so that it can carry out the studies entrusted to it by the Ministerial Meeting.