

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

**BIENNIAL REPORT
(28 April 1994 – 20 April 1996)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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**UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile, 1996**

553(XXVI) REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Commission resolutions 520(XXIV) and 541(XXV) on the role and functions of ECLAC and the consequences for it of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 48/162 and decision 49/411 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres and other questions relating thereto, and resolution 48/218 and decision 49/461 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind also the guidelines emanating from the open-ended high-level working group established by General Assembly resolution 49/252 with a mandate to undertake a thorough review of the revitalization, strengthening and reform of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the content of the Declaration issued by the States Members and observers of the United Nations on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and, in particular, of the proposal for ensuring that the United Nations enters the twenty-first century equipped, financed and structured to serve effectively the peoples in whose name it was established,

Reaffirming its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106 (VI) retain their full validity in the light of the present circumstances and the foreseeable future of the Latin American and Caribbean countries,

Having before it the note by the secretariat entitled "Reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC" (LC/G.1899(SES.26/4)), of 22 January 1996,

Convinced that, as a new century dawns, sustainable development should occupy an important place in the agenda of the United Nations,

Convinced further that it is essential for the United Nations, in carrying out activities in the economic and social fields, to take account of the regional dimension and the decentralization of tasks in accordance with the comparative advantages of Headquarters and the subsidiary organs located in the developing regions,

1. Affirms that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106 (VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations;

2. Declares, therefore, that ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination;

3. Declares further that, in order to play a relevant role with greater effectiveness and efficiency, ECLAC will need to adapt to the evolving development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations;

4. Recommends that the institutional structure and pattern of conferences of the ECLAC system, including the practice of holding biennial sessions of the main forum, should continue to serve as the foundation in maintaining the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of the Commission;

5. Recommends further that ECLAC should pursue its efforts to improve its performance, productivity, impact, efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account, where appropriate, ongoing processes pertaining to the United Nations as a whole;

6. Instructs the Executive Secretary, therefore, to:

- a) Pursue and strengthen the institutional development and management upgrading activities aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities which ECLAC carries out in fulfilment of the mandates conferred on it by member States;
- b) Improve the indicators for evaluating the activities of the Commission in terms of performance, productivity and impact;
- c) Intensify consultation and strengthen cooperation and coordination with other United Nations organs, agencies and programmes, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, taking special care to avoid duplication of activities;
- d) Strengthen existing cooperation and coordination with other multilateral organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, the Latin American Economic System and other Latin American and Caribbean institutions pursuing similar objectives in the region, again taking care to avoid duplication of activities;

7. Decides to establish an ad hoc working group open to all ECLAC member countries, to be headed by the Chairman of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, which group, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, is empowered to define priorities for the work programme and recommend to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities, taking into account the development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as budgetary considerations. The first meeting of this ad hoc working group will be held within 90 days at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, and any subsequent meetings will be held preferably at either of the subregional headquarters of ECLAC or at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

8. Entrusts the ad hoc working group with preparing a progress report to be transmitted through the Executive Secretary to the resumed substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for consideration at the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly and with transmitting its proposals regarding the priorities for the 1998-1999 work programme through the appropriate channels to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Further entrusts the ad hoc working group with submitting a final report on the review of priorities for the programme of work of ECLAC to the next session of the Commission.