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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

LATIN AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE (CELADE)

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference
on Population and Development

Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Nature and purpose

This regional conference is intended to serve as an intergovernmental forum for the examination and discussion of the region's situation in terms of population and development, with a view to the eventual adoption of resolutions and recommendations. The results of the conference will constitute inputs for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994.

Opening of the conference

The conference will be opened by officials of the Government of Mexico.

1. Election of officers

In accordance with the established practice of ECLAC, officers (a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur) will be elected at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Delegations will consider and adopt the agenda prepared by the secretariat and submitted for their consideration. In accordance with the regulations in force, delegations will have an opportunity to comment on the provisional agenda and to suggest any changes they deem appropriate.

3. Population, social equity and changing production patterns

The participants at this regional conference will consider the topic of population and development in the context of the proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, in terms of the sub-items set forth below. To facilitate the debates, the secretariat of the conference will provide delegations with the document Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns, whose content covers all of the items on the provisional agenda. In addition, the report and recommendations of the Meeting of Government Experts, held in Saint Lucia from 6 to 9 October 1992 in preparation for the present conference, will also be available.

Delegations will also receive, as reference documents, the seven thematic studies discussed at the Saint Lucia meeting, updated to include the results of that discussion, and the document "Experiences in Population in Latin America and the Caribbean", prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In addition, they will be given complementary information, including the conclusions and recommendations adopted at previous regional and international conferences.

3.1 Population growth and structure in Latin America and the Caribbean: trends and socio-economic implications

Participants will analyse the current demographic situation and its relationship to the most important recent changes. The concept of demographic transition, as manifested in various groups of countries, may be useful in this connection. On that basis, participants will consider population projections for each country, by sex and age group, and the changes they imply in the demand for social services, such as health and education, in the supply of jobs and in the conditions of social security for the elderly.

3.2 Population growth and distribution: their relationship to development and the environment

The effort to change production patterns with social equity in a context of environmental sustainability requires due consideration of the influence of population dynamics on this process, and vice versa. Outstanding in this regard is the need to improve the quality of human resources—a requirement for changing production patterns—and to determine how the policies most directly affecting the population's living conditions can promote greater social equity. Moreover, the relationship between population variables and natural resources and the environment in the context of changing production patterns warrants special attention, with emphasis on territorial occupation and the population's geographical distribution as one of the most important expressions of that relationship.

3.3 Women and population dynamics

One crucial aspect of the interrelationship between population and development is the criterion of gender equity. In particular, the link between lack of equity in the status of women and its expression in terms of reproductive behaviour should be considered. To this end, participants may examine how access to education and to maternal and child health programmes is related to fertility according to age group (with emphasis on teenage pregnancy and the problems of maternal mortality).

3.4 Population policies and programmes

Under this item, participants will consider how the aforementioned set of interactions helps to determine the objectives, features and limitations of public action in the population field. Of particular interest are individual rights and the harmonization of their effective exercise with the objectives of sustainable development. Consideration will be given not only to the conceptual aspects of such public action, but also to the most effective institutional contexts and the characteristics of concrete programmes of action. Special attention will be devoted to the topic of local and community participation in the discussion and implementation of policies and programmes.

3.5 Family planning and family health and well-being

Family planning programmes deserve careful consideration, given their vital importance to population policy as a whole, and will therefore be discussed under a separate agenda item. Participants will examine the region's current situation with regard to the coverage and quality of the services made available to the public, and possible spheres of action to improve both aspects, in the context of each country's population policy. Special attention will be given to the situation of the most vulnerable groups, particularly teenagers, and to the relationship between family planning programmes and public action in the fields of health and protection of family well-being.

3.6 International migration

This topic will be discussed as one of the aspects of population dynamics offering the greatest opportunity for regional and international cooperation. Participants may begin by examining current trends in external migration, its immediate determinants and its consequences for economic and social development in the countries of both origin and destination. They may then analyse possible guidelines for improving bilateral and multilateral agreements so that the latter will duly consider the individual's right to geographical mobility while respecting each State's authority to regulate the movements of foreigners in its territory and minimizing conflicts associated with the phenomenon of international migration. The topic of international technical and financial cooperation in general could also be discussed.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

As a result of the deliberations on the third agenda item, the regional conference will probably issue one or more documents, prepared by the Governments themselves, which contain guidelines both for national and regional cooperation activities and for the position of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the process of preparing for the International Conference on Population and Development.

5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

Following the Rapporteur's presentation of the draft report, the representatives of member countries will discuss and adopt the final report.