

E C L A C
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Meeting of the Group of Experts on the implementation of Agenda 21
with respect to integrated water resources management in
Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC and the
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Santiago, Chile, 12-14 December 1995

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the members of the Group of Experts will elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The experts may adopt the provisional agenda in the form in which it has been presented or decide to change it as they deem appropriate. They must also establish the organization of work of the meeting. It is proposed that plenary sessions be held and working groups be set up to consider agenda items 3 and 4.

3. Progress achieved by the countries of the region in the pursuance of the recommendations made in chapter 18 of Agenda 21 on integrated water resources management

The progress achieved by the countries of the region in the pursuance of the recommendations contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21 and in the Dublin Statement on integrated water resources management will be reviewed in the plenary sessions. The Secretariat will present the document "*Agenda 21 and integrated water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean*" evaluating the current situation on the basis of studies of a selected group of countries. The participating experts are invited to present reports on the progress made in their respective countries. If possible, such reports should be no more than 10 pages in length and their presentation should take a maximum of 15 minutes.

4. Integrated management alternatives for the development and sustainable use of water resources at the national level

In chapter 18 of Agenda 21, "*Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: Application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources*", seven programme areas are proposed:

- a) Integrated water resources development and management;
- b) Water resources assessment;
- c) Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems;
- d) Drinking-water supply and sanitation;
- e) Water and sustainable urban development;
- f) Water for sustainable food production and rural development;
- g) Impacts of climate change on water resources.

The Dublin Statement contains a programme of action with similar recommendations.

On the basis of the proposals made both at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and at the International Conference on Water and the Environment, the experts may propose priority actions for creating appropriate institutional structures and legal instruments to ensure the achievement by the Latin American and Caribbean countries of the goals set for the year 2000 in chapter 18 of Agenda 21.

In discussing this agenda item, the experts may draw up recommendations for their Governments on programmes of activities to improve integrated water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Special emphasis may be placed on activities to achieve the four main objectives established under programme area A, "*Integrated water resources development and management*", which appears in chapter 18 of Agenda 21:

- a) To promote a dynamic, interactive, iterative and multisectoral approach to water resources management, including the identification and protection of potential sources of freshwater supply, that integrates technological, socio-economic, environmental and human health considerations;
- b) To plan for the sustainable and rational utilization, protection, conservation and management of water resources based on community needs and priorities within the framework of national economic development policy;

- c) To design, implement and evaluate projects and programmes that are both economically efficient and socially appropriate within clearly defined strategies, based on an approach of full public participation, including that of women, youth, indigenous people and local communities in water management policy-making and decision-making;
- d) To identify and strengthen or develop, as required, in particular in developing countries, the appropriate institutional, legal and financial mechanisms to ensure that water policy and its implementation are a catalyst for sustainable social progress and economic growth.

5. Regional support programmes for government measures to implement the recommendations contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21

In discussing this agenda item, the experts may put forward recommendations on ways of promoting cooperation in:

- a) The introduction at the regional level of mechanisms for the follow-up and evaluation of the progress made towards achieving the goals laid down in chapter 18 of Agenda 21;
- b) The development and improvement of water resources management capacity to achieve integrated multisectoral management.

Under this item, the experts may also present their views and make recommendations on future studies by ECLAC, UNEP and other regional and international organizations involved in activities related to water resources in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the experts may consider other relevant matters within the scope and intent of the meeting.

7. Adoption of the report

The report to be adopted will essentially reflect the opinions and recommendations of the experts for submission to Governments at the next ECLAC session.