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Agenda item 10*

Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-second session, held in Santo Domingo, from 9 to 13 June 2008.

* E/2008/100.



I. Matters calling for action by the Council

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its thirty-second session, held in Santo Domingo from 9 to 13 June 2008, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

Venue of the thirty-third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Federative Republic of Brazil to host the thirty-third session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Brazil for its generous invitation;
2. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of this invitation with pleasure;
3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold the thirty-third session in Brazil in 2010.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

2. At its thirty-second session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) adopted several resolutions which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Santo Domingo resolution

3. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the comprehensive approach to development that had marked the thinking of ECLAC since its inception, as reflected in the Commission document entitled “*Structural Change and Productivity Growth — 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities*”; recognized the relevance of the issues examined and supported the general tenor of the conclusions set out in the document. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to conduct studies and formulate public policy and scientific and technological policy proposals, with a view to building national productive development and innovation capacities; promote regional cooperation in productive development and innovation policies; identify successful public-private innovation and productive development initiatives in the region that can be applied

and adapted to other national or regional contexts as best practices; and devote special efforts to considering the challenges faced by the countries and subregions as a result of the current global energy and food crisis. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region.

Priorities and programme of work of the Economic Commission for the biennium 2010-2011

4. The Commission endorsed the proposed priorities for the work of the Commission for the biennium 2010-2011 as set forth by the Executive Secretary, which encompassed the consolidation of the advances achieved in the area of macroeconomic stability and the subsequent promotion of policies to reduce vulnerability, an increase in the region's production potential and a reduction in productivity gaps, an improvement in the region's position in the international economy and the promotion of long-term production development strategies involving appropriate forms of public and private-sector cooperation and participation, the promotion of a broad social agreement to strengthen social cohesion, to reduce social risks and to strengthen gender mainstreaming in public policies, the refinement of sustainable development policies and an examination of the socio-economic implications of climate change, the strengthening of public management, and the improvement and consolidation of institutions relating to the management of global issues at the regional level. The Commission urged the Executive Secretary to make a special effort to examine the challenges faced by the region in connection with the current global energy and food crisis and related issues by undertaking specialized studies that would permit the provision of technical advisory services and the formulation of public policy options for dealing with such challenges.

5. The Commission approved the programme of work for the system of the Commission for the biennium 2010-2011, which included the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and which, with the guidance provided by the resolutions adopted at the thirty-second session of the Commission, would become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities and for the production of recurrent publications identified therein. The Commission noted that the allocation of the necessary resources for implementing the activities described in the programme of work should be submitted to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration before being carried out. The Commission encouraged the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission in order to strengthen and broaden the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant; and requested the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing the resolution at the thirty-third session of the Commission.

Follow-up to the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

6. The Commission requested the secretariat, within available resources, to provide support to the countries of the region, especially in the formulation of national strategies, for the fulfilment of the goals of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which were derived directly from the commitments undertaken at the World Summit on the Information Society, by furnishing technical cooperation, carrying out studies and collaborating in the organization of meetings to the extent of its capabilities and competence; provide technical support for the Regional Follow-up Mechanism for the Plan of Action through studies, statistics and substantive reports on the information society and associated public policies, the preparation of newsletters, the maintenance and expansion of a collaborative virtual forum, and its cooperation in organizing technical meetings, the conference to be held to evaluate the Plan of Action and its preparatory process; provide technical support to the presiding officers of the Regional Follow-up Mechanism of the Plan of Action so that synergies may be sought with initiatives of international agencies that may contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the Plan of Action; the presiding officers would consult with member States regarding any such initiatives; and provide technical support for the organization of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Peru.

Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

7. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to cooperate with the countries of the region in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including that of the 2005 World Summit; and also requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate the preparation of annual regional inter-agency reports on the progress made towards reaching the Millennium Development Goal targets on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

Admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

8. The Commission approved the admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of the Commission.

South-South cooperation

9. The Commission took note with satisfaction of the report on activities to support such cooperation, which noted that there had been a large increase in extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation activities of the Commission that

included a major South-South cooperation component;¹ urged the Executive Secretary to continue the efforts that had yielded positive results in terms of increasing the secretariat's provision of technical cooperation to the countries of the region; and requested the secretariat, in collaboration with other regional institutions, to support the preparatory activities of the High-level Conference on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, in particular the envisaged regional preparatory consultation.

Other resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-second session

10. The Commission also adopted the following resolutions: 634 (XXXII), entitled "ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2008-2010"; 636 (XXXII), entitled "Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning"; 638 (XXXII), entitled, "Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean"; 641 (XXXII), entitled "Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee"; 644 (XXXII), entitled "Population and development: priority activities for the period 2008-2010"; and 645 (XXXII), entitled "Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean".

¹ See *Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2006-2007. Note by the Secretariat* (LC/G.2371 (SES.32/7)).