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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM  
IN THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC  
SYSTEM IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 21 July 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of  
the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Latin American Group for the month of July, I have the honour to request, on behalf of the 26 States of the Latin American Group which are members of the Latin American Economic System, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Latin American Economic System in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to this letter.

(Signed) Peter SIMMONS  
Chairman of the  
Latin American Group

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Latin American Economic System (Sistema Económico Latinoamericano - SELA) was constituted by the Panama Convention <sup>a/</sup> signed on 17 October 1975. In the terms of the Convention, SELA is a permanent regional body for consultation, co-ordination and joint economic and social promotion, with its own international juridical personality. SELA has its headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela. It is composed of 26 sovereign Latin American States: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. One of the fundamental objectives of SELA is to provide a permanent system of consultation and co-ordination for the adoption of common positions and strategies on economic and social matters in international bodies and forums as well as before third countries and groups of countries.

3. In addition to the objectives in the field of regional co-operation, it should be noted that SELA is empowered:

(a) To design and strengthen mechanisms and forms of association which will enable member States to obtain adequate prices, ensure stable markets for the export of their commodities and manufactures and increase their bargaining power, without prejudice to the support necessary to the systems and mechanisms of co-ordination and protection of raw material prices to which the countries of the area may already belong;

(b) To study and propose measures which will ensure that the activities of transnational enterprises comply with the development objectives of the region and with the national interests of the member States, and to exchange information on the activities of those enterprises;

(c) To act as a mechanism for consultation and co-ordination within Latin America for the purpose of formulating common positions and strategies on economic and social matters before third countries, groups of countries and in international organizations and forums;

(d) To promote, within the context of the objectives of SELA relating to intraregional co-operation, means to ensure preferential treatment for the relatively less developed countries, and special measures for countries within limited markets and for those whose land-locked condition affects their development, taking into account the economic situation of each of the member States.

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<sup>a/</sup> See International Legal Materials, vol. 15, 1976, p. 1080 et seq.

4. Pursuant to Article 57 of the United Nations Charter, SELA complies with basic qualifications to establish relationships with United Nations organizations. Moreover, Article 63 of the same instrument sets forth the procedures for concluding an agreement to enable SELA to participate as a permanent intergovernmental observer in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions. Rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Council states the terms for said participation on matters within the scope of activities of SELA.

5. It should likewise be noted that SELA enjoys the same status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development since 1977 and has participated in other conferences of the United Nations such as the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Conference of the Negotiation of an International Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology, as well as in meetings held by the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council, such as the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

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