



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

### Fifty-second session

4-29 June 2012

Agenda item 7

### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

## Addendum

## Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3(b))

### Programme 18

### Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 18)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

### Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), particularly the work of its Committee of the Whole, convened at United Nations Headquarters on 28 March 2012, which considered and endorsed the proposal contained in A/67/6 (Prog. 18). It was observed that the revisions to the proposed strategic framework of programme 18 (E/AC.51/2012/CRP.1) had been submitted by the Commission on the basis of a request made by ECLAC member States.



4. Support was expressed for the incorporation of a new subprogramme, Support to regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, into programme 18 (see E/AC.51/2012/CRP.1).
5. It was observed that all States members of ECLAC continue to have great appreciation for the work of the Commission, remaining at the vanguard in the economic and social development of countries of the region.
6. Good relationships between ECLAC and integration mechanisms of the region were welcomed, particularly as they promote social and economic development of countries of the region.
7. Attention was drawn to ECLAC efforts to support the preparations for the Rio+20 Conference being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. Appreciation was expressed for ECLAC input provided in the form of a publication entitled *"Sustainable Development 20 Years on from the Earth Summit: Progress, gaps and strategic guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean"*.
8. The relevance of two current multidisciplinary regional mechanisms was observed, particularly the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of South American Nations, which would greatly benefit from increased support by ECLAC in the area of technical capacity.
9. The possibility of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development becoming a regional conference on population and development was observed, particularly in view of the growing impact of population and development in the region. In this connection, the question was raised concerning the projection of the Secretariat and whether that would be reflected in the ECLAC programme of work for the period 2014-2015.
10. Clarification was sought regarding the use of the concept of environmentally sustainable development, as reflected in paragraph 18.1 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 18)).
11. Clarification was also sought regarding the role of ECLAC as facilitator in building regional consensus, contained in paragraph 18.4 of the proposed strategic framework. In this respect, queries were raised about what issues were envisioned and at what levels those efforts would be carried out.
12. Due note was taken of the expected accomplishments contained in subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation, and the corresponding indicators of achievement. Further, it was observed that, ideally, an additional indicator of achievement might be required to take into account progress achieved by various countries of the region.
13. The view was expressed that the visibility of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, mentioned in paragraph 18.93 of the proposal, could be converted into an expected accomplishment.
14. The relevance of the work of the Commission in the area of gender mainstreaming was highlighted and appreciation was expressed for the proposal under subprogramme 6, Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development.

15. Queries were raised about whether it was necessary to list all applicable legislative mandates in the proposal, or whether there was a different way of simply indicating the new mandates for the upcoming period.

16. The view was expressed that given that South Africa had recently joined Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China (the so-called BRIC countries), it should be listed in paragraph 18.22 (d).

17. It was observed that international cooperation for development is important. In this connection, queries were raised on what mechanism exists in ECLAC to expand the framework to other areas such as legislative and operational activities.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

**Add a new subprogramme as follows:**

#### **“Subprogramme 14**

**“Support to regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations**

**“Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional and subregional integration processes, their convergence and the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in interregional and global political dialogues**

<b>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) <b>Improved capacity of regional and subregional mechanisms to deepen their integration processes and promote their convergence</b>	<p>(a) (i) <b>Increased number of times in which ECLAC technical and substantive inputs are used to facilitate regional debate and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues at the request of regional and subregional mechanisms</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Increased number of joint activities or initiatives in which various regional and subregional schemes and mechanisms participate to share knowledge and experiences, with technical and logistical support from ECLAC</b></p>
(b) <b>Enhanced political dialogue of regional and subregional schemes with third parties and extraregional actors</b>	(b) (i) <b>Increased number of times in which ECLAC technical and substantive inputs are used to facilitate regional dialogue with third parties, including extraregional partners or mechanisms, on social, economic and sustainable development issues at the request of regional and subregional mechanisms</b>

(ii) Increased number of times in which regionally agreed positions are presented in global forums or summits, with technical support from ECLAC”

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**“Strategy**

**“1. Responsibility for the implementation of the subprogramme rests with the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission, in close coordination with the rest of the ECLAC substantive divisions, and its subregional and national offices, given its multidisciplinary approach.**

**“2. The strategy applied under the subprogramme will focus on providing technical and logistical support to the Latin American and Caribbean integration and cooperation organizations, mechanisms and coordination schemes, in support of their own agendas, in their convergence efforts and initiatives, and in the external interactions with third parties.**

**“3. The main characteristic of the subprogramme is the dynamic demand of the actors to whom services are provided, upon request, in the areas of data, statistics, indicators, analytical and normative work through conference and position papers, development of methodologies for various purposes and logistical support. In comparison with subprogramme 1, which focuses on trade policies and the negotiation of agreements within the framework of the issues under the purview of the World Trade Organization, this subprogramme focuses on strengthening the political action of subregional and regional integration mechanisms and platforms in their internal as well as external agendas.**

**“4. The subprogramme is oriented towards strengthening Latin American and Caribbean regional and subregional groups and schemes by providing technical support, updated, timely and relevant cutting-edge information, statistics and indicators, analytical work and logistical support to meetings and summits. Through analysis and the preparation of recommendations, it will help those organizations to build consensus to face new challenges in regional integration and cooperation in areas related to the social, economic and sustainable development of the region and in further enhancing their political dialogue with third parties. Assistance will also be provided to strengthen the follow-up of agreements and their respective implementation mechanisms. Furthermore, the subprogramme will provide advisory and technical cooperation services to support those regional and subregional mechanisms in improving regional integration and cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation modalities.**

**“5. The subprogramme will work closely with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community, the Latin American Integration Association, the Southern Common Market, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and the Central American Integration System. Collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners will also be enhanced to provide additional resources to the subprogramme to strengthen the implementation of its programme of work and maximize its impact in beneficiary countries.**

“6. Collaboration with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States was specifically requested by Heads of State and Government of Latin American and Caribbean countries through the 2012 Caracas Action Plan, whereby they requested the cooperation of ECLAC in activities envisaged to address the international financial crisis and the new financial architecture. In that document, they also requested that ECLAC provide support in the area of complementarity and cooperation between regional and subregional integration mechanisms by facilitating the discussion and the exchange of experiences on regional economic policies.

“7. The main beneficiaries of this subprogramme will be the Governments of the region, officials involved with all the integration processes in the economic, social and political spheres and other stakeholders of the business and civil society sectors concerned with all relevant aspects of integration and the associated political dialogue.

“8. The outputs of the subprogramme include the publication of several documents and technical materials, the organization of and participation in meetings and summits and the provision of technical cooperation services to relevant stakeholders in cooperation with other programmes, agencies and funds of the United Nations and other international organizations.

“9. Lastly, the subprogramme will seek to ensure the visibility of its work and major achievements through a dynamic programme of outreach, including active engagement with member States, the wide dissemination of publications and findings at international events and relevant conferences and participation in key forums involving relevant policymakers, academia and other stakeholders both within and outside the region.”

#### *Legislative mandates*

Add the following to the list of legislative mandates:

#### **Subprogramme 14**

**Support to regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

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| 62/208 | Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 63/12  | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System                  |
| 63/222 | Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence      |
| 64/210 | Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence      |
| 64/222 | Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation              |

- 65/168      Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence**
- 65/177      Operational activities for development of the United Nations system**
- 65/242      Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community**
- 66/210      Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence**
- 66/223      Towards global partnerships**

***Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions***

- 608 (XXX)      Promotion of coordination in studies and activities concerning South America**
  - 625 (XXXI)      Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals**
  - 633 (XXXII)      Santo Domingo resolution**
  - 639 (XXXII)      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**
  - 642 (XXXII)      South-South cooperation**
  - 647 (XXXIII)      South-South cooperation**
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