



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/232
5 September 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifty-second session

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY
IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 28 August 1997 from the representatives of
Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-second session of an additional item of an important and urgent character entitled "Observer status for the Andean Community in the General Assembly".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this request is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and the corresponding draft resolution (annex II).

(Signed) Marco Antonio VIDAURRE
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Permanent Mission of Bolivia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Julio Londoño PAREDES
Permanent Representative of
Colombia to the United Nations

(Signed) Fernando GUILLÉN
Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Oscar GARCÍA
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(Signed) Luis Valencia RODRÍGUEZ
Permanent Representative of Ecuador
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Annex I

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Andean Community

On 26 May 1969, the Plenipotentiaries of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, signed the Andean Subregional Integration Agreement, in response to the quest for a solution to the existing imbalance among the contracting parties of the Latin American Free Trade Association. Venezuela became a member on 13 February 1973, and Chile withdrew from the Cartagena Agreement in 1976.

In October 1992, the Andean Free Trade Area was formed, and in January 1995 the Andean Customs Union was established with the entry into force of the Common External Tariff.

To make it possible to achieve their objectives and fully comply with their guidelines and mandates, the Presidents, at the seventh meeting of the Andean Presidential Council, held in Quito on 5 September 1995, decided to restructure the executive and administrative bodies of the Andean process, which resulted in the establishment of the Andean Integration System.

Accordingly, the Andean Community is today a free trade area without any kind of tariff or para-tariff restriction, into which members are incorporated gradually and automatically; it also has a common external tariff, in which four of its five members participate. It has begun to deregulate services by adopting air transport policies, such as decisions concerning open skies, carriage of persons and goods by roadway and maritime and multimodal transport, and will soon adopt an agreement on the deregulation of services.

In addition, the Community is engaged in negotiations with the Southern Common Market for the purpose of combining the two integration processes into a free trade area within 10 years. It has also opened negotiations with Panama and with the Caribbean Community for the same purpose, and it plans to hold talks with Central American countries to that end as well.

For 20 years, the Andean Community has had a relationship of cooperation with the European Union, legally enshrined in a "third-generation agreement" which, beyond the limits of technical assistance and economic cooperation, promotes the flow of investments and technology transfer.

Four of the Andean Community countries have preferential trade agreements with the United States of America, and five Andean countries have such agreements with the European Community for the purpose of facilitating access to their markets on the basis of the need to provide cooperation and incentives to the Andean countries in their campaign against drug trafficking.

Objectives

- To promote the balanced and harmonious development of the member countries on the basis of equity, through economic and social integration and cooperation; to speed up growth and job creation; to encourage participation in regional integration, with a view to the gradual formation of a Latin American common market.
- In addition, to help reduce external vulnerability and improve the member countries' position in international trade; to strengthen subregional solidarity; and to reduce existing developmental differences among the member countries.

The attainment of these objectives should bring about a steady improvement in the standard of living of the inhabitants of the subregion.

Moreover, balanced and harmonious development should lead to an equitable distribution of the benefits of integration to the member countries, thereby reducing existing differences among them. The results of this process should be periodically evaluated, taking into account, among other factors, the impact on each country in respect of the expansion of its global exports, the behaviour of its trade balance with the subregion, the evolution of its gross territorial product, the creation of new jobs and the formation of capital.

Mechanisms

To attain the above-mentioned objectives, the following mechanisms and means will be used, among others:

- (a) The gradual harmonization of economic and social policies and of national legislation on relevant matters;
- (b) The execution of industrial programmes and other modalities of industrial integration;
- (c) A programme aimed at total trade decontrol;
- (d) A common external tariff;
- (e) Programmes to accelerate the development of the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors;
- (f) The channelling of domestic and external resources to the subregion to provide financing for the investments needed in the integration process;
- (g) Physical integration;
- (h) Preferential treatment for Bolivia and Ecuador.

As a complement to the above mechanisms, Community programmes and actions exist in the following areas:

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- (a) External relations;
- (b) Scientific and technological development;
- (c) Border integration and tourism;
- (d) Development and conservation of natural resources and the environment;
- (e) Deregulation of services;
- (f) Social development;
- (g) Social communication.

Institution-building

The Andean Community is composed of the sovereign States of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, and of the organs and institutions of the Andean Integration System, established by the Cartagena Agreement.

The Andean Integration System is composed of the following organs and institutions:

- (a) Principal organs
 - (i) The Andean Presidential Council;
 - (ii) The Andean Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs;
 - (iii) The Commission of the Andean Community;
 - (iv) The General Secretariat of the Andean Community;
 - (v) The Court of Justice of the Andean Community;
 - (vi) The Andean Parliament;
- (b) Advisory bodies
 - (i) The Business Advisory Council;
 - (ii) The Labour Advisory Council;
- (c) Financial institutions
 - (i) The Andean Development Corporation;
 - (ii) The Latin American Reserve Fund;
- (d) Cultural institutions

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- (i) The Simón Rodríguez Agreement, the social agreements connected with the Andean Integration System and others established under the same framework;
- (ii) The Andean Simón Bolívar University.

Annex II

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Observer status for the Andean Community in
the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the Andean Community in the promotion of the balanced and harmonious development of the member countries on the basis of equity, through economic and social integration and cooperation, with a view to the gradual formation of a Latin American common market,

Considering also the need, frequently noted by the United Nations, to promote and support the economic development of the member countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Andean Community,

1. Decides to invite the Andean Community to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement this resolution.
