



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/45/6 (Prog. 33)
12 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTProgramme 33. Regional co-operation for development in
Latin America and the Caribbean

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* The present document contains programme 33 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 33. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A. Programme

1. General orientation

33.1 The general mandate for the present programme derives from Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Charter of the United Nations; Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI); and from the Terms of Reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

33.2 The overall orientation of the programme focuses on the achievement of sustained economic growth with equity of the Latin American and Caribbean region in order to ensure the social cohesion and political stability which is the foundation for all development.

33.3 The objectives of the programme are based on a prospective analysis of the projected situation in the countries of the region in the 1990s. The analysis begins with a brief examination of the status of the region's economies at the end of a decade marked by major setbacks in Latin America and the Caribbean, which, as the 1980s drew to a close, were characterized by a serious slowdown in their economic growth, sharp external and internal macro-economic imbalances and a severe deterioration in the living conditions of vast segments of the population.

33.4 Within this context, the main development challenges that will be facing Latin America and the Caribbean in the coming decade appear to be the following: expansion or resumption of economic growth based on a redoubled domestic savings effort; implementation of policies to ensure an efficient use and allocation of new investments; transformation of the region's production structures, together with the achievement of higher levels of productivity; progress towards greater equity and social cohesion, which must include a marked reduction in extreme poverty within the region; control of inflation, which would remove one of the main obstacles to the formulation and systematic application of policies designed to promote sustained and equitable economic development; achievement of a reasonable degree of external balance and the mitigation of the problems caused by the servicing of the external debt through the diversification of exports and efficient import substitution; the region's adaptation to new and changing circumstances in the international situation; full utilization of the potential represented by intraregional co-operation; and consolidation and improvement of democratic processes with a view to promoting stronger pluralistic and participatory societies which will foster an effective form of interaction between social and economic agents.

33.5 In order to meet these challenges, the countries' domestic economic and social policies will have to fulfil at least three basic requirements: adjustment, efficiency and equity. If these three conditions are to be met simultaneously, the public sector will have to be reformed and rationalized, both as regards the activities and functions of the central Government and in respect of the performance and the role played by public enterprises.

2. Overall strategy

33.6 The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the organizational unit responsible for the elaboration and implementation of this programme, was created on 25 February 1948. Its terms of reference were established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) and were amended at its ninth, thirteenth, twenty-eighth and forty-seventh sessions and at its second regular sessions of 1979 and 1984.

33.7 In the framework of the overall orientation and objectives, the present programme provides for the servicing of sessions of ECLAC policy-making organs and their subsidiary committees, and regional intergovernmental conferences; support to Member States for negotiations in international forums; as well as activities in four main areas: technical co-operation, sectoral and multidisciplinary applied research, training, and the dissemination of information through the production of technical documentation and specialized periodicals.

33.8 In addition, the programme contemplates advisory assistance activities, the implementation of which calls for the formulation and execution of operational projects. It also provides for activities designed to support the organization and strengthening of entrepreneurial associations and to assist small and medium-scale industrial, agricultural and agro-industrial enterprises on the basis of horizontal co-operation and institutional technical assistance mechanisms.

33.9 It is anticipated that some of the above activities will require voluntary contributions and other extrabudgetary resources.

33.10 In implementing the programme, ECLAC will continue to maintain appropriate liaison and co-operation with the other United Nations regional commissions and with the pertinent substantive organs, departments or divisions of the United Nations Secretariat, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It will also co-ordinate its activities with the relevant specialized agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In order to avoid duplication of efforts, ECLAC has established several joint programmes and units of long standing, namely: the Joint ECLAC/FAO Agriculture Division; the Joint ECLAC/UNIDO Industry and Technology Division; the Joint ECLAC/CTC Unit on Transnational Corporations; the Joint ECLAC/UNEP Development and Environment Unit; and the Joint ECLAC/UNCHS Unit on Human Settlements. Close co-ordination will also be maintained with the institutions concerned with the economic integration of the region and with the subregional and regional organizations working in fields related to this programme.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

33.11 The present programme consists of the following subprogrammes:

1. Food and agriculture
2. Economic development
3. Economic and social planning
4. Industrial, scientific and technological development
5. International trade and development finance
6. Natural resources and energy
7. Environment and human settlements
8. Population
9. Social development
10. Statistics and economic projections
11. Transport
12. Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America
13. Subregional activities in the Caribbean

33.12 The programme proposes new subprogrammes 12 and 13, which cover the activities conducted by the subregional headquarters in Mexico and in the Caribbean in keeping with the importance attached by the Member States to the activities of the Commission in these subregions.

33.13 Subprogramme 2 (Economic development) is designated highest priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(a) Objectives

33.14 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 458 (XX), paragraph 3; the Declaration of Recife adopted by the Twentieth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, paragraphs 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15.

33.15 The negative repercussions and effects of the crisis and the adjustment process associated with the external debt have severely affected those who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Since 1982, regional agricultural production has grown only slightly, and has not kept up with the growth of the population. Farmers have had to face a depressed demand for agricultural products and higher non-wage production costs; the two factors together have caused instability and in many cases a deterioration in agricultural profitability.

33.16 Programmes designed to promote agricultural growth and combat rural poverty, nutritional deficiency and rapid environmental degradation in the ecologically fragile rain forest areas have been severely affected by cuts in government

funding. Also affected have been public agricultural institutions, whose operation has been jeopardized owing to budgetary cuts, which have been quite severe in many cases.

33.17 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To support the countries of the region in directing their economic and social policies towards a better balance between rural and urban areas and in adopting, by many of them, a concept of rural development understood not only as agricultural progress but as progress in the other forms of economic and social activity, including infrastructure, industries and commerce in the urban areas which provide services to the rural populations;

(b) To assist Governments of the region in giving preferential treatment to small-scale farmers and peasants with respect to growth, technology transfer, incentive and investment policies and access to land and water. With regard to modern agriculture, which has already acquired considerable capacity to achieve sustained expansion, policy measures will be proposed to encourage the further development of their productive capacity, thereby lessening the uncertainty of the economic environment (for instance as regards exchange rates) and other limitations on the efficiency of policies which provide incentives to production, productivity and exports;

(c) To co-operate with the Governments of the region in increasing their export earnings, which in view of the current external debt circumstances has become a critical imperative. Priority attention will be given to the export of agricultural products, in which the countries can be competitive in the long run. Support will be provided for specific measures aimed at the replacement of extra-regional imports by a greater volume of intra-regional agricultural trade;

(d) To support national initiatives in order to make greater use of existing technological innovations and to democratize productive modernization processes, making those available to small-scale farmers and peasants and helping them to raise their productivity.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.18 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Investigation and analysis of economic and social topics concerning food, agriculture and rural development of regional scope and importance, based on case studies;

(b) Technical support to Governments in their concrete agricultural and rural development efforts, including direct contributions to the formulation and application of agricultural and rural development policies, programmes and projects;

(c) Co-operation with the secretariats of the subregional and regional co-operation and integration schemes and agreements, in matters of mutual concern involving activities relating to food and agriculture.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

33.19 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 437 (XIX), 458 (XX), 477 and 478 (XXI).

33.20 Owing to the debt crisis and structural factors, the 1980s have been a very difficult decade for the States Members of the region. The challenge of the 1990s will be to reinitiate development with equity, while at the same time overcoming the many structural obstacles of the past and the severe macro-economic imbalances resulting from this crisis.

33.21 Since both restrictions limit the range of possible options, the policy-makers will need timely, complete and systematic information about national, regional and international trends, in order to anticipate turning points, deal with new problems and take advantage of opportunities that may arise, and thus to procure the design and execution of appropriate policies.

33.22 At the same time, as a result of the crisis, the difficulty of generating foreign exchange and effectively channelling savings into reproductive investments, together with financial weakness, have become key obstacles to development. In this situation, it is of paramount importance to strengthen and develop a broad export base and make an extensive and sound series of investments to ensure the modernization and corresponding change of the productive structures.

33.23 The activities under the subprogramme will concentrate on the following objectives:

(a) To ascertain annually the overall economic trends in the region and the economic policies and events in all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of a common statistical and analytical framework;

(b) To provide comparative analyses of the prevailing development strategies in order to assess their effectiveness in overcoming the debt burden and macro-economic imbalances.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.24 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under this subprogramme:

(a) Gather information and publish reports on trends in the economies of the region; provide annual previews of trends in the economies and a preliminary overview of the situation of each country based on the first nine months of the year, in December of each year;

(b) Conduct cyclical studies of the decisive links between short-run equilibria and medium- and long-term development goals and of public policies for harmonizing macro-economic stability, equity and structural change;

(c) Provide, upon request, technical assistance in the design and execution of economic policies;

(d) Organize seminars and meetings of ad hoc experts to consider the conclusions of the cyclical studies.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

(a) Objectives

33.25 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from resolution 220 (AC.52) of the ninth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, which established the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

33.26 Because of the serious structural problems of the region that have been aggravated by the current crisis, the planning and co-ordination of public policies must be strengthened in order to achieve higher levels of development. There is need, in particular, to establish the technical bases for the process of social concertation of medium- and long-term development policies.

33.27 The present subprogramme will have the following objectives:

- (a) To develop methods and techniques to improve the process of formulating economic and social development strategies;
- (b) To assist in strengthening the systems and processes for the planning and co-ordination of public policies;
- (c) To promote the exchange of experiences and mutual co-operation among the planning agencies of the region;
- (d) To disseminate planning methods and techniques.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.28 The course of action for the subprogramme will be:

- (a) Research and analysis of methods and techniques to improve the process of formulation of economic and social development strategies, including the publication and dissemination of the corresponding technical documents;
- (b) Organization of meetings, seminars and workshops to share experiences and to promote contacts and co-operation among the planning agencies of the region;
- (c) Providing support to Member States of the region through technical assistance missions and through training courses on planning and public policies.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

33.29 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 42/193 and 43/182; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 357 (XVI), 386 (XVIII), 389 (XVIII) and 498 (XXII).

33.30 The process of industrialization undertaken by the countries of the region, despite obvious national differences, shares a number of important features of which note should be taken, namely:

- (a) Low international competitiveness of industrial production;
- (b) Insufficient linkages with the sectors of natural resources;
- (c) Insufficient capacity for absorption and technological innovation in Latin American industrial enterprises.

33.31 Consequently, Member States need support in designing institutional strategies, policies and modifications aimed at overcoming those serious deficiencies.

33.32 The objectives of the subprogramme, therefore, are:

- (a) To collaborate with the Governments of the region in the development of institutions and in the adoption of measures aimed at enhancing the international competitiveness of local industrial production;
- (b) To promote increasing linkages between the industrial sector, on the one hand, and the sectors of natural resources and educational and science and technology intensive services, on the other;
- (c) To promote the training of specialized personnel in the area of the design of industrial, scientific and technological strategies and policies;
- (d) To support national initiatives aimed at the technological strengthening of industrial activities, particularly those undertaken by small- and medium-sized enterprises, in order to have greater flexibility in taking advantage of new international market opportunities;
- (e) To promote the various modalities of collaboration and co-ordination between Governments and the industrial sectors.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.33 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

- (a) Research and analysis of the performance of the industrial sector in Latin America and its relations with the sectors of natural resources, with emphasis on the formulation and evaluation of industrial, scientific and technological policies and their impact on international competitiveness and on the incorporation of technological progress;
- (b) Follow-up on the evolution of international trends and on the experiences of countries outside the region in transforming their productive structures that would be useful for the elaboration of strategies and policies, with emphasis on case studies in the Scandinavian, Mediterranean and Asian countries;
- (c) Undertaking of sectoral studies at the international level in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),

aimed at identifying opportunities for international specialization for the entrepreneurial sector in Latin America;

(d) Provision of technical assistance at the national and sectoral levels, as well as co-operation with subregional and regional integration agencies, in the area of industrial and technological policies and strategies;

(e) Development of training mechanisms for the benefit of senior public and private sector policy makers in industry, taking advantage of the documentation that will result from the implementation of the activities described above;

(f) Dissemination of information on industrial, scientific and technological development through a periodic bulletin.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

(a) Objectives

33.34 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 368 (XVII), 375 (XVII), 385 (XVIII), 386 (XVIII), 430 (XIX), 438 (XIX), 439 (XIX), 458 (XX), 476 (XXI), 486 (XXI) and 497 (XXII) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 159 (VI).

33.35 The consequences of the heavy burden of external debt servicing and the shortage of new external capital have had numerous restrictions on economic and social development of the countries of the region. In particular, development financing - both external and internal - has been severely affected by the events in the world economy since 1982. Sources of external public and private financing have suffered a severe contraction. The condition of foreign lenders is not likely to change in the near future. However, the region is confronted by the urgent need to make structural changes in order to maintain sustained economic growth rates.

33.36 That situation has coincided with serious problems that affect Latin America's position in the world economy, especially owing to the trade protectionism of the industrialized countries, the deterioration of commodity prices and the growing impact of services on international trade; and it has prevented the expansion of Latin American and Caribbean foreign trade, which would have allowed for a gradual reduction in the debt/export ratio. Special attention needs to be given to the future development of the situation, and the need to agree on Latin American positions in the various world negotiating forums with respect to these matters.

33.37 Moreover, if Latin America and the Caribbean were in a better economic and political position, the process of regional integration and co-operation could be accelerated.

33.38 The subprogramme will have the following objectives:

(a) In the area of international trade:

(i) To support Member States in designing policies and measures to expand trade flows - of traditional products and manufactures, services and new products - to gain effective access to markets outside the region beyond

tariffs and protectionist restrictions and, in this context, to attenuate or overcome the current vulnerability of relations with developed countries;

- (ii) To provide Member States with analytical information and policy recommendations on options to diversify Latin America's trade and financial relations, with special reference to the developing countries and those with centrally planned economies;
- (iii) To provide support to Member States in formulating positions to be taken by the region as a whole in the various multilateral negotiation forums in which they participate;
- (iv) To promote the full use of the multilateral or bilateral co-operation machinery contained in the regional integration and co-operation schemes, with a view to recovering and reactivating intra-regional trade;
- (b) In the area of development finance:
 - (i) To help Member States formulate international and regional strategies to solve the problems stemming from external indebtedness, with an emphasis on improving the terms and conditions of this indebtedness;
 - (ii) To support the elaboration and design of policies aimed at strengthening the capacity to generate domestic financial resources for development, and the efficient channelling of these resources into investment by the national financial systems;
 - (iii) To provide advisory assistance to the countries with respect to financial integration, helping them especially to develop institutions to facilitate the allocation of available investment resources in the region.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.39 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

- (a) In the area of international trade:
 - (i) Publication of technical studies on changes in the world trade system with respect to structural adjustment in the developed countries and relations between the region and the rest of the world, paying particular attention to prospects for exporting commodities, manufactures and services;
 - (ii) Analytical studies on the opportunities for greater geographical diversification in trade relations, and possibilities for gradually reducing or eliminating all types of obstacles to the development of the region's trade flows;
 - (iii) Technical assistance in reviewing the main policies and practices of international trade negotiations with respect to protectionism and the impact of technological progress, and the role of services in the

development process. Similar activities will be carried out in the fields of regional integration and co-operation and South-South co-operation;

(b) In the area of development finance:

- (i) Carrying out and dissemination of case studies on domestic savings, particularly institutional savings, and on the efficiency of national financial systems, especially concerning the problem of monitoring and regulating the commercial banking system;
- (ii) Preparation of proposals designed to improve the terms and conditions of the external indebtedness of the countries of the region, and advisory assistance, through technical assistance missions to the countries of the region that request such assistance, and through regional and international technical seminars on the subject;
- (iii) Prospective analysis of regional financial co-operation to support economic integration and alleviate the countries' need for external resources.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

(a) Objectives

33.40 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from the following:

(a) In the area of mineral resources: General Assembly resolutions 32/176 and 33/194; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/71, 1979/72, 1985/48 and 1985/50; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 379 (XVII) and 388 (XVIII);

(b) In the area of water resources: General Assembly resolutions 32/158, 35/18 and 40/171; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/70, 1981/80, 1981/81, 1983/57, 1984/73, 1985/49 and 1985/167; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 409 (XVIII), 411 (XVIII), 442 (XIX), 443 (XIX), 461 (XX) and 484 (XXI);

(c) In the area of marine resources: General Assembly resolutions 37/66, 38/59 A, 39/73, 40/63, 41/34, 42/20 and 43/18; Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/48; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 387 (XVIII) and 396 (XVIII);

(d) In the area of energy: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 388 (XVIII), 408 (XVIII), 413 (XVIII) and 426 (XIX).

33.41 The current development strategy for the mining resources of Latin America is based on the exploitation of the eight metallic minerals in highest demand on the international market. The changes that are occurring in the consumption and production structures of the developed countries are resulting in a fall in the volume and price levels of these products, which in principle will lead to a reorientation of their destination.

33.42 One of the new markets that might absorb the surplus output is the Latin American market itself, considered as a whole and not as a series of national markets. The dynamic bases of the regional market may be found in both the expansion of per capita consumption - industrial utilization - and in the import substitution of mining and metallurgical products, together with manufactures using mining inputs, which in total represent approximately 40 per cent of imports from outside the region.

33.43 The growing demand for water resources and the traditionally high rate of investment in water management infrastructures mean that there is an urgent need in the region to improve the efficiency of the use of these resources and infrastructures and the management of high mountain water basins, without neglecting environmental protection. This requires support, both nationally and regionally, for specific training activities in water resource management, together with other measures such as the wide dissemination of information on technological advances in water management; and substantive support of efforts to assess the social and economic implications of the use and management of water and river basins.

33.44 The legislative and institutional aspects of marine resources have been less well developed in the region than other fields of economic activity. This situation has often resulted in fragmentary approaches, which have made it difficult to carry out any proper assessment of the management of these resources. It is therefore essential to have a reference system for legal or institutional consultations.

33.45 The countries of the region need to have background and timely and reliable information in order to formulate plans for the energy sector. They also need access to methodological and analytical instruments for their market evaluation and prospective studies. However, because of the shortage of resources, many national bodies in the region concerned with planning this sector need advisory assistance and substantive support in these matters.

33.46 The objectives of the subprogramme are as follows:

(a) In the area of mineral resources: to assist the Governments of the region in implementing the new development strategy for mining resources; to promote systems to facilitate the intra-regional trade of mining products and machinery and inputs for this sector; to promote activities which contribute to the vertical integration of mining, metallurgical and industrial production and the diversification of production and export structures;

(b) In the area of water resources: to support the Governments of the Member States in formulating policies and strategies for the full and integral development and use of water resources, through better co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and other organizations in the framework of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; to promote and support an intra-regional training network for officials in charge of managing water resources, so that the plan will be fully operative by 1995; to promote intergovernmental co-operation for better management of water resources, especially in less developed and relatively poor regions and in the high mountain water basins;

(c) In the area of marine resources: to support Governments in implementing international and national instruments designed to strengthen the development of marine resources; to provide technical support to the groups of Latin American countries (GRULAS) in the various world negotiating forums; to promote co-operation among developing countries for activities of mutual benefit;

(d) In the area of energy: to advise Member States of the region in the design and application of energy plans and policies; to support them in prospective studies of the energy sector.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.47 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities:

(a) In the area of mineral resources: preparation of studies identifying lacunae in the mining and industrial production structure; support for the establishment of a Latin American geological and mining research service and a small- and medium-scale mining enterprise system; promotion of South-South agreements and production of new mineral-based compounds; organization of meetings in the context of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Latin American Mining Organization (OLAMI) to spread integrated technologies applicable especially to medium- and small-scale enterprises;

(b) In the area of water resources: publication of periodical reports on trends in the use of water resources and areas related to the monitoring of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, with particular attention to drinking water supply and sanitation; promotion of horizontal co-operation activities between the institutions belonging to the network for the development and management of high mountain water basins, through the preparation of manuals and training materials; and technical assistance to Member States through training courses and advisory assistance missions;

(c) In the area of marine resources: preparation of technical documents and reports for the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and for intergovernmental bodies or mechanisms in other subregions; organization of seminars and ad hoc groups of experts to explore research topics relating to the development of ocean potential; and promotion of technical co-operation opportunities with extrabudgetary funding, mainly from donor countries with extensive experience in the matter;

(d) In the area of energy: research and preparation of studies on the interrelationships among energy, economic growth and development and the environment; dissemination of these studies and reports; and gathering and publication of statistics on the energy sector.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

33.48 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from the following:

(a) In the area of environment: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 481 (XXI) and 496 (XXII);

(b) In the area of human settlements: General Assembly resolution 37/221 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and General Assembly resolution 43/181 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 485 (XXI).

33.49 The countries of the region have gone a long way in recognizing the close link between the capacity for development and for a better quality of life, on the one hand, and the capacity of the environment, on the other. This has led to efforts aimed at establishing an appropriate legal framework as well as specialized institutions. The incorporation of the environmental dimension is also reflected in national and regional development plans.

33.50 Notwithstanding the above, the countries require technical assistance in formulating environmental programmes and policies and in designing operational systems for environmental management; they also need support in acquiring experience in the management of specific instruments that would contribute to the achievement of environmental objectives.

33.51 The countries of the region in their efforts to promote harmonious economic and social development are constrained by the steady growth of their urban populations. In a situation of scarce resources, central Governments need to take advantage of the assistance which may be forthcoming from local governments and non-governmental community organizations in upgrading precarious settlements in the metropolitan centres. They also require analytical information for the planning and management of urban centres and systems of settlement.

33.52 At the same time, it is essential for them to have bases for establishing effective criteria for the selection of technology and the application of standards in the planning and design of housing. Moreover, they require a proper evaluation of both formal and informal construction activity, as well as of the latter's potential contribution to the creation of employment and to national development.

33.53 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the area of environment: to support the efforts of Governments aimed at creating the operational structures for achieving the environmental objectives set out in development plans and programmes; to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of the legislative instruments and institutional mechanisms for the protection of the environment at the national level; to assist in organizing training programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity to implement environmental policies and programmes; and to promote horizontal co-operation among the countries of the region in the struggle against desertification and the deterioration of land ecosystems, the marine environment and related ecosystems, and for the co-ordination of activities aimed at strengthening institutions and improving the management of the environment;

(b) In the area of human settlements: to support local governments in the operation, management and development of the urban centres of the region; to contribute to the achievement of patterns of spatial distribution of the population and of productive activities in harmony with the economic and social development strategies of the countries; to promote employment and the mobilization of savings in the housing and the construction sectors; and to increase and disseminate know-how and the application of technologies and norms that are suited to the realities of the region for the supply, improvement and maintenance of housing, infrastructure and services, particularly in precarious settlements.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.54 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) In the area of environment: research and studies for dissemination among professional groups and concerned authorities and institutions on the formulation of environmental policies and the adaptation of the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of policies; development of specific instruments of environmental management such as land use management, environmental impact assessments, information and accounting systems for natural resources, inter alia, for the benefit of the various professional groups, public and academic institutions involved in environmental management; providing substantive support to Governments through technical assistance missions; organization of meetings, seminars and workshops to broaden knowledge, share experiences and promote contacts and co-operation among countries; and training activities aimed at strengthening institutions and disseminating information on the instruments of environmental management;

(b) In the area of human settlements: undertaking of studies and publications on conditions and trends of human settlements; publication of studies on the management, planning and maintenance of urban systems; undertaking studies and providing technical assistance on the selection and application of appropriate technologies and norms for improving living conditions and the standards of precarious settlements; providing technical assistance for the conduct of training programmes in local management; and consolidating the operation of training programmes and co-ordinating mechanisms established in previous years.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. POPULATION

(a) Objectives

33.55 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from resolution 346 (AC.68) of the tenth extraordinary session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Committee of the Whole and the "Regional population programme" (E/CEPAL/G.1002) of the fourteenth session of the Commission.

33.56 Considerable progress has been made in most of the countries in the areas of data collection and the preparation of basic demographic estimates, although, given the heterogeneity of the region, there are still some countries which require assistance in this regard. Progress has been much slower, however, as regards the clarification of the interrelationships between population dynamics and social, cultural and economic development, despite the fact that demographic change frequently both lessens the effectiveness of development policies and adds to the deterioration of the ecosystem. In spite of the consensus which exists concerning the need to incorporate population variables into development plans and policies, very few countries have established national population policies.

33.57 In order for sustained development to be achieved, a concerted effort will have to be made in many different spheres at the national and subnational levels. Many of the national institutions that use population information are not concerned with demographics as such, but instead are engaged in multidisciplinary activities encompassing a number of different fields. Thus, their population information

requirements range from those associated with work in the field of population proper and in related fields, such as family planning to those of activities in which such data play a secondary role, as is the case of planning in the fields of education, housing, investment banking and marketing. In addition, the availability of such information and the capability for utilizing it vary substantially from one country to another in the region and within the individual countries.

33.58 In recent years, the countries of the region have shown a marked tendency to decentralize administrative functions and, consequently, planning, which means that demographic activities will have to be adapted to the needs of subnational and local planning. This trend, in combination with the fact that population variables are increasingly being included in development policies, will create a large demand for the training of national officials at various administrative levels in respect of both general population issues and specific demographic subjects. By the same token, the multiplier effect of teaching activities will have to be increased and new training modalities will have to be explored in order to meet the countries' needs in this area.

33.59 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide assistance to Member States in compiling up-to-date information on population dynamics, their causes and consequences, and in analysing specific subpopulations for policy-making purposes;

(b) To assist the countries in incorporating population variables into public policies, in evaluating the impacts of alternative demographic trends on specific public programmes and vice versa, and in utilizing population/development models for planning purposes;

(c) To furnish assistance to the countries in the utilization of population variables in areas of special interest as regards development, including subnational and local planning, health issues, the status of women, the social and economic situation of the aged, family planning programmes and environmental impact analyses;

(d) To assist the countries in increasing their national institutions' capabilities for organizing, retrieving and utilizing population information within a multidisciplinary context, expedite the flow of information on population and facilitate access to the relevant technology;

(e) To train national personnel to conduct population studies and to incorporate demographic factors into development programmes and policies by means of short-term training on specific areas and applied long-term training, as well as increase the teaching of population studies within the region's universities and promote national training activities.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.60 Although efforts will continue at the national level to sensitize decision-makers and to provide planners with tools for incorporating population variables into development planning, special attention will be devoted to increasing the capabilities of sectoral ministries and regional and local authorities to generate, obtain and utilize the population inputs required for

their work, especially those relating to the basic needs of the most disadvantaged groups. Advisory services will be provided to the countries in order to help them obtain an up-to-date picture of their population dynamics, particularly those of the sectors most seriously affected by the crisis of the 1980s, and to utilize economic/demographic models for planning and policy-making, especially in the areas of health, education, housing, social security, employment and other social sectors. At the same time, priority will be given to specific subsectors, such as women, the aged and young people, and technical co-operation will be furnished in connection with the formulation, execution, follow-up and evaluation of plans and policies aimed at meeting the basic needs of these subgroups.

33.61 A wider range of users in various fields will be provided with greater access to population information and the utilization of such data will be facilitated at both the national and subnational levels. To those ends, technology will be developed and adapted for the creation and use of population and multidisciplinary data bases which will augment national information resources and capacities. In particular, assistance and training will be provided in the creation and utilization of multidisciplinary REDATAM-Plus 1990 data bases in the countries, in the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to the analysis of spatial population and related data, and in the development or adaptation of software which will facilitate the utilization of population information by secondary users.

33.62 Using the CELADE/DOCPAL data base, regional bibliographic information services will be furnished in order to decentralize data-retrieval operations, with the help of CD-ROM and other new technologies, to the country level. Within the framework of the IPALCA network, advisory assistance and training in these technologies will be given to national personnel, thereby facilitating the exchange of population information and making such data more accessible to a greater variety of users.

33.63 While postgraduate teaching activities will continue to be conducted, emphasis will be placed on short-term training tailored to the specific needs of target groups. In this connection, practical workshops will be organized at the regional level that will deal directly with sectoral development policies and plans in such fields as education, health, labour, housing and agriculture. Initially, the subprogramme will design and conduct those workshops; towards the end of the period, however, the responsibility for those activities will be transferred to the countries, which will carry them out in collaboration with professionals having postgraduate training in the field of population and development and with the advisory assistance of the subprogramme.

33.64 In order to increase the countries' self-reliance in the field of population, special attention will be devoted to the teaching of population studies in the universities at the undergraduate level in relevant disciplines and to postgraduate training in selected universities within the region. To this end, technical assistance and teaching materials will be provided in a wide range of development-related fields in which population variables are a factor.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

33.65 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 2542 (XXIV), 31/133, 31/136, 40/105 and 40/108 (Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women); and the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/46 and 1986/65; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 321 (XV), 328 (XV), 381 (XVII), 386 (XVIII), 388 (XVIII), 401 (XVIII), 457 (XX), 465 (XX), 481 (XXI) and 497 (XXII).

33.66 In most of the countries of the region, the pre-crisis strategy of gradually incorporating the new labour force into more productive work and into modern sectors no longer appears to be effective as a mechanism for increasing social justice and reducing poverty at a fast enough rate.

33.67 In the context of the medium-term economic projections for the region, there is urgent need to complement the traditional measures to stimulate job creation and improve social welfare services by adopting more ambitious and integrated policies, aimed at making a positive impact on the social structures themselves, and at reorienting the processes of social change that are under way towards a democratically determined goal of more desirable social systems. With respect to women, while some progress was achieved during the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, a number of obstacles still remain to the achievement of their equality with men and their effective integration into the process of development, as well as their full participation at all levels of decision-making.

33.68 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist the Governments of the region in formulating strategies, policies and new approaches for achieving the participation of the different social groups in the process of development;

(b) To make recommendations on alternative styles of development, taking into consideration the trends in the processes of social change against the background of situations of crisis and post-crisis;

(c) To provide technical assistance to Member States in establishing the institutional mechanisms to ensure the full collaboration and participation of women in the main aspects of economic, political and social development.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.69 The Secretariat will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Research aimed at formulating policies and publishing technical studies on alternative styles of development, processes of social change, participation of the various social groups in development, and on social policies in crisis and post-crisis situations;

(b) Organization of intergovernmental and expert meetings to promote the exchange of views and experiences on the above-mentioned issues;

(c) Interdisciplinary and multisectoral research on the role of women in the different aspects of development, which, within the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - particularly in respect of the chapter on international and regional co-operation - will include specific recommendations for actions;

(d) The promotion of mechanisms to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable groups of women are satisfied in the context of the general approach outlined above;

(e) The provision of technical assistance in development planning and in the training of women in non-traditional areas. National, subregional and regional institutions working in the area of research and planning will receive special attention to enable them to strengthen their capacity, particularly to satisfy the needs of women belonging to a specific socio-economic group.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

(a) Objectives

33.70 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 43/182, 43/194, 43/195 and 43/198; and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 476 (XXI), 477 (XXI), 478 (XXI), 481 (XXI), 486 (XXI), 491 (XXII), 497 (XXII), 498 (XXII) and 499 (XXII).

33.71 The countries of the region need to have access to a series of homogeneous and comparable statistics - and relevant data concerning countries outside the region - to help them make a correct assessment of the problems they share. However, the prevailing statistical systems in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are very heterogeneous in both the coverage and the processing and organization of their statistical data.

33.72 Despite the progress already made, there remains a great deal of room for making satisfactory use of the rapid advances in statistical methods and computational techniques developed in recent years. Although the use of computerized data banks has been expanding considerably, problems still exist concerning the timeliness and reliability of the figures. In addition, the gap between the potential offered by modern technology and its concrete use has widened in the region, which makes it difficult for most countries to have access to the quantitative information required for the formulation of their development policies.

33.73 Furthermore, the difficult situation in which the Latin American and Caribbean developing countries find themselves and the urgency with which the Governments need to resolve current and short-term problems do not usually allow them to give enough priority to prospective medium-term and long-term studies. Such studies have particular relevance in the context of the implementation of the forthcoming international development strategy at the regional level.

33.74 With regard to statistics and quantitative analysis, the objective of the subprogramme is to promote the improvement and harmonization of regional statistics through the adoption of international statistical classifications and the acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

33.75 With regard to economic projections, the objective of the subprogramme is to help the countries of the region to define appropriate strategies for achieving sustained economic growth with equity.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.76 The achievement of the subprogramme's objectives in the area of statistics and quantitative analysis will be based on the following ongoing activities:

(a) Gathering, organizing, evaluating and disseminating, in an easily understandable and timely form, reliable and comparable statistics for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and for the region as a whole, concerning the following topical areas: national accounts, foreign trade and external financing, prices, industry, energy, agriculture, services, public and private sectors and social and demographic development. The statistics on external debt, industry, agriculture, mining, population, employment and income distribution will have been considerably expanded. Moreover, particular attention will be given to the Household Survey Data Bank, so that the main homogeneous variables will be available on line;

(b) Promotion of the transfer of those computational technologies that are most consistent with the technical and financial capacity of the countries;

(c) Wide dissemination of the recommendations and decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission. An attempt will be made to reach the greatest number of external users, providing them at the same time with an updated view of the available statistical methods and computational technology, so that by using the information for prospective studies and the formulation of policies they will help support government initiatives aimed at modernizing national statistical systems;

(d) Substantive support for the countries to make maximum use of the potential for co-operation in the field of statistical development.

33.77 In the field of economic projections, the Secretariat will undertake the following activities:

(a) Investigation and analysis of the socio-economic trends in the region by examining the national, subregional, regional and international studies emanating from the various bodies and forums; development of economic and social projections that will serve as a quantitative basis for the required prospective studies;

(b) Technical support to groups of Latin American representatives to international organizations, and continued representation of ECLAC in the Committee for Development Planning and the working teams on medium-term and long-term objectives of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

(c) Provision of services as technical secretariat to the meetings of the ECLAC Committee of High-level Government Experts;

(d) Development of new methodological tools and reformulation of the analytical schemes on which the existing models are based, and dissemination of these through technical assistance missions or publication of technical documents to be distributed to the corresponding national bodies;

(e) Advisory assistance to Member States at their request in the formulation of national policies, plans, programmes and projections;

(f) Support to the substantive divisions and units of the Secretariat in periodic evaluations of the forthcoming international development strategy.

SUBPROGRAMME 11. TRANSPORT

(a) Objectives

33.78 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 356 (XVI) and the joint resolution of the executive heads of the regional commissions, adopted at their session held at Santiago, from 27 to 28 April 1989, and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/114.

33.79 In the past, Governments of the region have tended to meet the demands placed on their transport systems through investment in new infrastructure and in the rehabilitation of existing facilities. However, international trade has undergone profound changes that have had far-reaching effects on the structure of transport services. Moreover, changes in transport technologies are also occurring at an ever-increasing pace. These changes frequently favour vertical integration of services on a scale that - in the case of maritime and land transport - may be difficult to carry out without the co-operation of neighbouring countries.

33.80 At the strictly national level, a great number of countries will need to improve the efficiency of existing facilities in order to increase the capacity of urban transport services, problems which need to be dealt with through co-operation and the exchange of experience and technologies with other cities of the region. In addition, the experiences of other countries may be especially relevant when they incorporate technological solutions that can be adapted to conditions that are peculiar to the region.

33.81 Moreover, the crisis of the 1980s has made it apparent that the Governments of the region should reorient their focus in planning and managing the transport sector in order to emphasize improved organization and operation of the transport function from an overall systems point of view, and hence should adopt methodologies successfully used by the private sector to augment the productivity of transport enterprises.

33.82 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To support the countries of the region in their efforts to increase the overall efficiency of the infrastructure and productivity of their transport systems by improving their management and strengthening their institutional infrastructure;

(b) To foster legislation and policies that favour the introduction of new technologies and intermodal services, and to seek to apply innovative techniques in policy formation and planning;

(c) To provide support to the regional and subregional integration schemes, by identifying innovations and trends in transport markets, services, technologies and legal environments - including international agreements - aimed at facilitating intra-regional or subregional transport services;

(d) To promote co-operative efforts among the countries of the region in order for them to obtain the greatest possible benefits from such trends and innovations;

(e) To promote technical co-operation among cities in the region with a view to their applying socially acceptable methods for regulating urban transport demand, thereby minimizing the need for large investments in infrastructure.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.83 The Secretariat will carry out the following activities:

(a) Studies on trends relating to structural changes in transport services, both international and regional, which will be useful in making policy recommendations to Governments and public and private enterprises that provide services as part of the distribution chain;

(b) Technical assistance in those areas, with an emphasis on an approach that considers the overall efficiency of transport infrastructure and services for passengers and cargo in the context of the physical distribution chain at the national and international levels;

(c) Promotion of international agreements that will facilitate the provision of such services;

(d) Investigation and analysis of corridors of intermodal transport in the region, together with other mechanisms relating to transport, and of the opportunities they offer to promote regional integration;

(e) Support, through technical assistance missions, for the dissemination of measures to alleviate congestion in urban transport without increasing investment in infrastructure.

SUBPROGRAMME 12. SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

(a) Objectives

33.84 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/1 and 43/210; Economic and Social Council resolution 2090 (LXIII); and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 30 (IV), 386 (XVIII), 401 (XVIII), 404 (XVIII), 422 (XIX), 440 (XIX), 469 (XX), 470 (XX), 477 (XXI) and 486 (XXI).

33.85 During the 1980s the countries of the subregion have undergone a crisis which, although it has taken on different characteristics in Mexico than in the relatively smaller economies of Central America and Panama, has been of a length and severity unmatched by any other in the past 50 years.

33.86 In most of the Central American countries, production declined and per capita income fell to the levels recorded more than a decade earlier. Both public and private investments decreased sharply just when they were essential for the restructuring of the productive apparatus. The possibility of using external savings to finance growth was exhausted and the debt became one of the greatest obstacles to the economic progress of the subregion. Sharp fiscal imbalances

reduced the manoeuvring room of the Governments, and their ability to provide economic and social services declined accordingly.

33.87 Mexico, whose economy was battered by the debt crisis that erupted in 1982 and by the subsequent drop in oil prices (which have remained low), has been plagued with structural lags that continue to demand the attention of the Government. However, the Government is now meeting with success in its attempts to reverse the negative trends in inflation, the public deficit, non-petroleum exports and the external debt service which have been affecting the economy.

33.88 In some Central American countries, social and political tensions arose that led to armed confrontations. The serious economic and social consequences of those conflicts resulted in the displacement of a considerable segment of the population and sparked the flight of both skilled human resources and capital from the subregion. The number of poor people increased, income became further concentrated, and the countries fell farther behind in terms of social well-being, technology and productivity.

33.89 The situations described above, which have differed as a function of the specific circumstances in each of the countries, call for new development paths that will allow the countries to meet the challenges presented by the crisis and to adapt to new trends in the world economy. The goal is to achieve sustained and equitable growth based on a transformation of the countries' production structures that will permit them to draw upon their three sources of economic dynamism: the changing international economy, a more fully articulated domestic market, and subregional and regional integration.

33.90 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To support the countries within the area served by the ECLAC Subregional Office in Mexico in the formulation of policies and programmes designed to create macro-economic conditions that will be conducive to economic and social development by increasing capital formation and promoting the recovery of production capacity and to permit these countries to achieve a long-term structural adjustment without adversely affecting social conditions;

(b) To provide systematic annual analyses of the overall economic trends and the policies of the countries in the subregion on the basis of a consistent statistical and analytical framework;

(c) To supply periodic analyses of the Central American integration process and to propose possible means of overcoming the constraints that hold back its intensification;

(d) To furnish assistance in the design of social development plans and policies tailored to the individual countries' characteristics, which will help to improve the quality of life of the population by means of, *inter alia*, an increase in the volume of production and the productivity of the poor, especially in rural areas; the integration of women into the development process; and greater participation by the population in the formulation of social and economic development plans;

(e) To assist Member States of the subregion to formulate economic and social policy measures and strategies in respect of agricultural and industrial sectors which, taking the specific features of the individual countries into consideration, will promote the development of traditional and non-traditional agricultural export activities and the restoration of industrial productivity;

(f) To promote co-operation among the countries of the subregion in areas related to economic and social development, as well as in connection with the search for new sources of energy and the development of energy resources in general and the electricity sector in particular;

(g) To foster technical co-operation between the countries of the subregion and the rest of the region in regard to economic and social matters of mutual interest.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.91 The following activities will be carried out by the Secretariat under the subprogramme:

(a) Research and the publication of studies on macro-economic policies and strategies in respect of priority sectors or activities in selected countries;

(b) The compilation of information and the publication of annual studies on economic trends in the countries of the subregion and an analysis of the evolution of the Central American integration process. The development of timely indicators and the preparation of an annual report on the economic outlook for the Mexican economy. Periodic monitoring of the trends and perspectives of the agricultural, manufacturing and energy sectors;

(c) The preparation of studies on the process of transforming the productive apparatus in a manner that promotes social equity, including, inter alia, studies on possibilities for expanding both traditional and new agricultural and agro-industrial exports; policies aimed at raising the production, productivity and income of small-scale producers; and the development of the manufacturing sector with a view to augmenting its external competitiveness and identifying specific means of promoting it;

(d) The analysis of the demand and supply of energy from various sources (hydrocarbons, wood, hydroelectricity) and co-operation with the countries in the formulation of energy-generation programmes and studies aimed at strengthening the integration of electricity and hydrocarbons systems;

(e) The preparation of studies with a view to the intensification of Central American integration in specific areas of trade, financing and the adoption of technologies; these studies will include analyses of specific integration mechanisms relating to technology, investment and trade between Central America and the other countries of the region;

(f) The design of national social strategies for dealing with the problem of poverty. Work will continue on the analysis of migratory movements and the utilization of external remittances, as well as on the formulation of proposals for integrating the initiatives taken independently by poor groups on the basis of these groups' own forms of organization.

SUBPROGRAMME 13. SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

(a) Objectives

33.92 The legislative authority for the present subprogramme derives from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 358 (XVI) and various resolutions adopted by the the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC).

33.93 Owing to structural factors and to the consequences of the economic crisis stemming from the heavy burden borne by the countries in respect of the servicing of their external debt, the countries of the subregion require assistance in the formulation of policies aimed at diversifying their economies and raising their productivity, as well as at making them more adaptable to rapid technological change while, at the same time, improving their population's quality of life. They also need to strengthen their economic and social information systems so that they may fill the gaps which exist in this respect and will be able to derive greater benefit from the activities of the United Nations system. In addition, they require technical support as they seek solutions to the environmental problems of the subregion and need assistance in promoting greater participation by women in the development process. They also require advisory services in connection with the creation of institutional modalities and mechanisms, which will permit them to establish co-operative links with other developing countries both within and outside the subregion.

33.94 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide advisory assistance to the Governments of the subregion in connection with the implementation of development activities in areas recommended by the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee;

(b) To furnish support to the countries of the subregion for the formulation of policies and programmes designed to achieve long-term structural adjustment without causing social conditions to deteriorate;

(c) To promote co-operation among the Caribbean countries in spheres relating to economic and social development and to natural resources and the environment;

(d) To foster technical co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the rest of the region in respect of economic and social issues of mutual interest;

(e) To assist Member States in the subregion in formulating policies aimed at promoting: (i) social development and the integration of women into the development process; (ii) an optimum utilization of the resources available for the economic and social development of those countries; (iii) the incorporation of population variables into the design of social and economic development plans; and (iv) the incorporation of environmental aspects into the development process of the region;

(f) To facilitate the access of the countries of the subregion to existing economic and social development data bases and to promote their use.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.95 The following activities will be carried out by the Secretariat under the subprogramme:

(a) Research and publication of studies on social and economic problems of the subregion, including the formulation of policies concerning the integration of women into development;

(b) Establishment of institutional ties and mechanisms, in conjunction with the Governments and international bodies, for the creation or reinforcement of co-operation networks relating to various development activities at the national and subregional levels, including environmental protection;

(c) Publication of policy papers concerning the restructuring of the subregion's economies and the social consequences thereof;

(d) Promotion of increased economic co-operation among the member countries of the CDCC and between them and the rest of the region;

(e) Publication and dissemination of bibliographic and statistical material concerning economic and social development;

(f) Provision of technical assistance, including advisory services and training, upon request in areas within the framework of the subprogramme's objectives;

(g) Promotion of technical co-operation among the developing countries of the subregion.
