



CHAPTER SEVEN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean:

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This year's simulation will include one the Economic and Social Commission's regional commissions, the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Participation in ECLAC includes one or two representatives for the countries that are currently represented on the Commission, as

well as one or two member-delegations to represent the Associate Members (see list above). ECLAC will meet all four days of the Conference, and will report to a combined ECOSOC plenary session on Tuesday afternoon.

About ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin American (ECLAC) is one of five regional ECOSOC commissions. ECLAC, which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, works to promote both economic and social development in the regions. Much of ECLAC's work is focused on the review and analysis of its member's development processes and progress that includes the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of polices and technical support as needed.

Purview of the Committee

The Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the Economic and Social Commission and represents countries in both Latin American and the Caribbean. ECLAC supports the economic development of its member states by reinforcing economic relationships among its members and other nations of the world. It does so by promoting developmental cooperative activities and projects of regional and subregional scope, bringing a regional perspective to global problems and translating global concerns at the regional and subregional levels. ECLAC also has as one of its primary objectives the promotion of the region's social development.

Website: www.eclac.cl/default.asp?idioma=IN

SUBPROGRAMME 3: MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND GROWTH

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was established to encourage economic cooperation amongst its Member States. A portion of this mandate has been to assist Member States in creating, implementing, and regulating their macroeconomic policies to promote regional economic growth and stability. Historically, political oscillation and external influences have hampered this effort. Many of the agreements to support growth have focused on bilateral macroeconomic relationships of a disproportionate nature. Throughout the 1990s, an increased concentration on strengthening regional ties emerged. During the same period, the international community began discussions for what would become the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals. These eight goals have redefined the debate on how macroeconomic policy should be approached at the national, regional, and international levels.

National and regional institutions are at the heart of the debate on macroeconomic reforms in Latin America. Previous decades of

regime-induced abuse of economic and social policies which siphoned off revenues for personal gain have left many Member States in a weakened condition that prevents forward momentum towards growth and sustainability. ECLAC has focused vast amounts of time and discussion on how the Commission might best support Member States in their rebuilding efforts. ECLAC has provided a necessary forum for States to share and analyze all policies, successful and not, as well as the statistical support to measure the possibilities of regional translation for States interested in replicating successful policies. Among these successes are the expansion of information systems for decision-making, both public and private; an increased spotlight on hemispheric integration; addressing economic disparities through evolving social policies; and the evolving links between economic and environmental sustainability.

Beginning with the Draft Programme for 2006-2007 there was a shift in evaluation for ECLAC's activities. Previous drafts had focused on broader themes and proposals as well as noting what the body's output would be for each subprogramme in terms of documents and reports. The more recent drafts and Conference reports have shifted attention to quantifiable and qualitative measures for the

achievements during each year's sessions. For Subprogramme 3, the proposed outcomes are: increased knowledge among Latin American and Caribbean policymakers on the important issues that should be taken into account in the design and implementation of short-term policies that will promote long-term economic growth, increased understanding among Latin American and Caribbean countries on the opportunities for reconciling growth with long-term development, and increased knowledge of economic trends and forecasts by public-, private- and academic-sector representatives.

There has been a theme of awareness to these objectives: awareness of policy makers as to what available resources can create short-term policies which will have long-term, positive effects, awareness of national governments to balance economic policies within their broader political agendas, awareness of the need to increase and strengthen regional cooperation, and raising awareness of the general public by educating on how policy translates to everyday life. This awareness is intended to be measured against the usefulness of ECLAC's range of publications toward attaining these goals.

The region faces several major challenges in its efforts to promote economic growth. Countries throughout the region need to deepen their financial systems develop institutional capacity in order to implement policies that will ensure macroeconomic stability. Countries will also need to explore ways to boost domestic savings in order to reduce dependence on external savings, reduce their vulnerability to fluctuating international goods and capital markets, and reduce debt burden. These issues must be addressed by countries before rapid economic growth can be achieved. The strategy of the Subprogramme is based on the notion that macroeconomic growth is best achieved through international economic integration. As such, ECLAC will work to promote economic coordination the analysis and dissemination of policy recommendations to strengthen economic capacity within its member states.

Latin America and the Caribbean have grown 5.4% in 2007 and will grow 4.5% in 2008, according to ECLAC estimates. The region was subjected to the same volatility that global economies suffered and the region is balanced on a tentative period of nominal economic growth. It will be up to the Member States to mold the dialogue in order to tip this balance to a growing and constructive example for the rest of the global community.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What is ECLAC's role in assisting member states develop economic institutional capacity? What role does analysis and dissemination have in promoting capacity building?
- What is the role of ECLAC's economic development policy within the larger context of the UN development agenda?
- The current measure for the expected outputs of ECLAC's publications is their "usefulness." Is this a quantifiable concept? If so, how would it be accomplished? If not, is there another measure that would capture the same concept and goals?

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- A/RES/55/2
E/2007/15
E/2006/16
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LC/G.2296(SES.31/5)
LC/G.2293(SES.31/2)
LC/G.2238(SES.30/6)
LC/G.2162(SES.29/8)

Additional Web Resources:

- www.eclac.cl/de - ECLAC Division for Economic Development
- www.iadb.org - Inter-American Development Bank
- www.iic.int/home.asp - Inter-American Investment Corporation
- www.worldbank.org/laceconomicpolicy - World Bank LAC Economic Policy
- www.weforum.org/en/index.htm - World Economic Forum

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Regional Conference on Women is one of seven standing bodies established by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to serve as a forum for regional debate on issues that affect women and gender equality. The first Conference was held in Havana, Cuba in 1977, though the focus on women and gender in the region dates back to 1973. In preparation for meetings to support the Year of the Woman (1975), ECLAC compiled its first baseline studies on the situation of women in the region. In addition to international recommendations like those from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, these studies provided the framework for the first regional action plan for the integration of women into development plans. That regional action plan was ratified at the first Regional Conference. The work of the Regional Conference has echoed the international community's work on integrating women into economic and social policy over the past three decades. The Regional Conference has assisted Member States

in establishing more gender-focused policies. The Conference has also worked with the statistical division of ECLAC to improve and develop the information gathered to measure the region's progress on women's issues.

The majority of the Conference's focus during the 1980s and 1990s was to increase overall regional awareness of the impact of policies on women and to provide Member States with the tools to adjust policies for more constructive outcomes for women. The Conference also provided the opportunity for Member States to establish their regional positions in preparation for international Conferences on women. With the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, ECLAC shifted focus toward meeting the benchmarks of the Millennium Development Goals and assisting Member States in creating national policies to meet their individual goals. The two most recent consensus documents from the Regional Conference reflect this transition of purpose.

The Mexico City Consensus, adopted in 2004, recapped the two most recent agreements (Santiago in 1997 and Lima in 2000) and noted that progress should continue on the 2001 Regional Action Programme. The Mexico City Consensus asked Member States to take gender and ethnicity into account when developing and considering policies and to encourage job creation for women, recognizing both paid and unpaid work. It also asked Member States to revisit policies for parental obligations and to strengthen enforcement mechanisms when obligations are not met and to provide equal and quality education for all people. The Consensus also extended to areas such as access to healthcare and reproductive rights, strengthening the role of women in sustainable development, revising land ownership legislation, and increasing women's access to communication technologies. Member States were encouraged to include gender and ethnic demographic information when disaggregating data to be considered for policy making and to increase women's participation in decision-making processes. Member States were asked to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol if they had not already done so.

For its tenth meeting in Quito, the Regional Conference chose to focus the group's work on two specific areas affecting women in the region: political participation and gender parity, and the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, especially in relation to unpaid work. A major challenge the region faces in fully integrating women into the economy is the continued inequality of income distribution. While women's participation in the workforce continues to rise, a significant wage gap between men and women continues to exist. Moreover, the continued division of labor by gender continues to be a structural factor that contributes inequality in the region.

In the area of political representation, Member States were encouraged to adopt affirmative action measures to increase representation in policy making and to broaden and strengthen women's domestic and international voices in participatory government and democracy. Promoting opportunities for education on the political process and developing electoral policies that encourage the participation and inclusion of women as well as punish and discourage the prevention of participation were suggested as methods for increasing women's capacity to participate in the political process. Member States were also encouraged to evaluate the media's representation of women in political processes and to eradicate discriminatory practices.

On the topic of women's economic contributions, legislative and institutional reforms were proposed to encourage women's economic participation including: creating universal social security systems with universal access; creating policies that allow respectable paid work to women without their own income so that they are ensured economic voices; abolishing discriminatory labor practices against women; creating policies which encourage equitable division of household responsibilities between men and women; eliminating income gaps with equitable pay policies; developing functional measures for unpaid work so that it can be given due respect in overall determinations of women's work loads, among other suggestions. Through the Quito Consensus, the Conference pledged to foster regional and international cooperation in order to advance gender parity. The Quito Consensus also requests that ECLAC and the UN assist Member States in carrying out these agreements and that ECLAC will monitor progress in these areas until the 2010 Conference through yearly evaluations.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Where does your nation fall in the spectrum of the topics of political parity and economic contribution and how will your national policies reflect or be affected by these agreements?
- What actions can be taken at the regional level that would contribute to the full integration of women in the economy?
- Within the issue of economic contribution, how do statistics need to be reconsidered to more accurately track progress regarding women and development?
- Does your nation have any existing policies that might be effective on a regional level, and if so, how will these need to be adjusted or implemented for regional success in these areas?

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A/RES/60/210
A/RES/58/142
LC/L.2114(CRM.9/3)
LC/L.2783(CRM.10/3)
Beijing Platform for Action

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
(CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol
Mexico City Consensus. Ninth Regional Conference on Women.
Quito Consensus, Tenth Regional Conference on Women
UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights
UN Millennium Declaration

Additional Web Resources:

www.eclac.cl/mujer - ECLAC Division for Women and Development
www.ipu.org - Inter-Parliamentary Union
www.quotaproject.org - The Quota Project: A Global Database of
Quotas for Women
www.ilo.org - International Labour Organization
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm - Beijing +5
webpage

