

**1997/54. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 553 (XXVI) on reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission<sup>220</sup> and, in particular, its decision to establish an ad hoc working group open to all its member countries, which group was empowered, *inter alia*, to recommend to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities in the context of the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations,

*Taking note* of the discussions at the second meeting of the ad hoc working group established pursuant to Commission resolution 553 (XXVI), held in New York on 5 June 1997,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996 and General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, which refer to the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and call for a review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action- and policy-oriented bodies,

*Bearing in mind also* its request that the regional commissions should continue to undertake their own assessments, as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/227, and should report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997,

*Taking note* of the notes of 15 and 21 April 1997 by the secretariat of the Commission entitled "Review of recent reforms adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean"<sup>221</sup> and "Management pilot scheme",<sup>222</sup>

*Reaffirming* that the initiative on the management pilot scheme presented by the Commission secretariat is aimed at strengthening the role of the organization as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services and training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

*Convinced* that it is essential for the United Nations, in carrying out activities in the economic, social and related fields, to take account of the regional dimension and the decentralization of tasks in accordance with the comparative advantages of its subsidiary bodies located in the developing regions,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in fulfilling the instructions of the Commission, as expressed in its resolution 553 (XXVI), in particular with regard to institutional matters and management improvement and the coordination of activities with other organizations, in order to maintain its validity and relevance in the face of evolving circumstances that affect not only Latin American and Caribbean development, but also the United Nations;

2. *Also notes with satisfaction* the work carried out by the ad hoc working group established pursuant to Commission resolution 553 (XXVI) in defining priorities for all elements of the programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1998-1999<sup>223</sup> and the progress achieved in formulating additional strategic directions;

3. *Urges* the ad hoc working group, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to ensure that, notwithstanding the changing internal and external

circumstances affecting the implementation of the programme of work, the activities carried out by the secretariat of the Commission are based on the priorities established and the guidelines contained in the progress report of the ad hoc working group;

4. *Supports* the general thrust of the management pilot scheme,<sup>222</sup> which will be developed and described in detail and submitted for consideration and approval by the States members of the Commission before its implementation, taking into account the statements made by the members of the ad hoc working group during its second meeting, held in New York on 5 June 1997;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to keep members informed during the implementation phase of the management pilot scheme, through the ad hoc working group, with the aim of monitoring its effectiveness and impact on the work of the Commission;

6. *Concurs* with the general thrust of the strategic proposal by the secretariat of the Commission on deployment of human resources contained in the document on reform measures,<sup>221</sup> with a view to generating, while ensuring the optimum utilization of expertise available within the Commission and the United Nations system, more effective results, in accordance with the needs and requirements of the countries of the region, for a given amount of resources by adequately altering the mix of in-house staff and outsourced expertise and services, and welcomes further consultation between the secretariat and member States on the details of such a plan prior to implementation;

7. *Recommends* that, as reform of the United Nations proceeds in the economic, social and related areas, a clear division of responsibilities should be established with regard to regional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean between the Commission, on the one hand, and the programmes, agencies and funds of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations, on the other, with a view to achieving appropriate coordination and mutual reinforcement in their respective activities;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to intensify, in the general context of the reform process of the United Nations in the economic, social and related areas, the reform measures referred to in the present resolution and in Commission resolution 553 (XXVI) and to report thereon to the Commission at its next session, to be held in Aruba in April 1998.

*39th plenary meeting  
23 July 1997*

<sup>221</sup> LC/G.1962.

<sup>222</sup> LC/G.1964.

<sup>223</sup> LC/G.1901(SES.26/6).

<sup>220</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 17 (E/1996/37)*, chap. III, sect. F.