

As written

## **ECLAC REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Statement by Mr. Daniel S. Blanchard, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE), March 1999

### **Monitoring of population trends and policies**

During 1998-W CELADE assigned particular importance to monitoring fertility, mortality and migration trends in the region. This involved close and active cooperation with national statistical offices and other relevant institutions for the production of new estimates and projections at the country level. These estimates and projections were then transmitted to the UN Population Division and also published in the semi-annual Demographic Bulletin. In response to specific requests, CELADE assisted member countries in obtaining population projections and estimates by calendar years, single ages, sub-national areas and economically active population. In preparation for the year 2000 round of censuses, CELADE with financial support from the UNFPA, organized two meetings of government experts to exchange views and experiences on methodological and technical improvements. The first, for countries of Latin America, was held in Santiago in October 1998; while the second meeting, for the Caribbean countries, was held jointly with CARICOM at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain in November 1998. CELADE is actively seeking sources of financing which countries could use to finance their census. As regards the monitoring of urbanization and spatial distribution trends, a census-based data bank is kept updated and made available to institutions upon request. Besides providing inputs for studies on the socio-demographic dynamics of the different tiers of the urban hierarchies in the region, this data bank will be used in conjunction with GIS technology to produce cartographic representations of the spatial distribution of the population.

CELADE has been closely monitoring trends in the rapid aging process taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean. Analytical studies on the socioeconomic conditions of the elderly are being prepared for some countries of the region, paying special attention to problems of social vulnerability. Moreover, in the context of the International Year of Older Persons, ECLAC entrusted CELADE with the organization of a three-day Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on Older Persons, to be held next September in Santiago. This meeting will serve to both increase understanding of aging trends and their socio-economic consequences and to promote awareness of the need to design appropriate policies and programs to improve the quality of life for older persons. Ministers, government experts and representatives of NGOs and international agencies will participate.

### **International migration**

CELADE placed continued high importance on its cooperation with the Regional Conference on Migration, an intergovernmental mechanism for consultation and collaboration among sending, receiving and transit countries of North and Central America (Group of Puebla). At its request, in 1998 CELADE and the IOM jointly prepared a background document for a technical seminar on the linkages between international migration and development. During 1999 ECLAC/CELADE will collaborate in three activities on migration in Central America: a workshop on reconstruction/development projects for areas devastated by hurricane Mitch, a report on the utilization of remittances sent by migrants to their places of origin and a proposal for an integrated information system on international migration. In recent months CELADE and IOM assisted the countries of the Andean Community in implementing a similar integrated information system. A workshop conducted to analyze special tabulations derived from census data bases led to five country reports and one consolidated publication for the whole of the Community.

CELADE regularly updates the IMILA data bank (**Investigación de Migración Internacional** de Latinoamericanos), which classifies data on Latin Americans by country of birth as enumerated in each national census of the region and in censuses of some other countries of destination. This allows for the construction of a double entry table showing, for each country of origin, where their nationals migrate. The data bank thus generated is complemented by a standard set of tabulations suitable for characterizing migrants in terms of their demographic and socioeconomic features broken down by age and sex. Hence, by means of a truly cooperative effort among the countries concerned, IMILA makes it possible to obtain a wide vision of international migration that would otherwise be unobtainable for any single country of the region.

Following the *orientations* of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, CELADE is preparing a study on the impact of open regionalism (i.e. market integration in **the** context of globalization) on international migration. Along the same line, a study on the causes and consequences of migration of skilled personnel in MERCOSUR countries is presently under consideration. This would involve participation of the Government of Argentina, IOM and the IDB. CELADE has also contributed to a UNESCO initiative aimed at the establishment of a regional network of Latin American professionals performing research on international migration.

### **Population and development**

Last May, CELADE presented a document on population, reproductive health and poverty to the second meeting of the ECLAC Ad-hoc Committee on Population and Development. The document provides empirical evidence on the existence of a demographic pattern associated with poverty, which acts as yet another obstacle among the many that impede the poor escaping **from** their marginal condition. Given the general consensus among the countries of the region that **reproductive** rights must be respected, the document concludes that reproductive health care must form part of any strategy that aims simultaneously to improve people's living conditions, raise the quality of human resources and reduce socioeconomic inequalities.

To contribute to the understanding of the complex links between population and development in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, CELADE is preparing two conceptual reports. The first, which forms part of the UNFPA regional project, deals with the interactions between population dynamics, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, paying special attention to the issues highlighted in Chapter III of the Program **of** Action of the **International** Conference on Population and Development. The second report, to be published as a chapter of a book commemorating the SO\* anniversary of **ECLAC**, explores the main challenges for the transformation of productive patterns with social equity and sustainability posed by current demographic trends.

The second **IDB/CELADE** project, geared to the integration of population considerations in **IDB**-financed investment projects is fully operational. During 1998 this collaborative venture supported the preparation of health, poverty alleviation and social information systems projects in Bolivia, Nicaragua and Surinam. Work on the use of demographic analysis of pension systems **will** be presented in two seminars currently being organized by the Bank and ECLACKELADE. At the request of the Planning and Coordination Ministry of Chile, CELADE played a major role in a workshop on the integration of socio-demographic trends in long-run strategic development planning. The Government of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina is organizing a similar exercise with CELADE support. **The** Center also contributed to the **Conference** on Statistics for Economic

and Social Development, organized by the National Institute of Statistics (**INEGI**) of Mexico, presenting a report on demographic trends and the equitable provision of health services.

### **Training and information on population**

CELADE has continued upgrading **WINR+** (REDATAM for Windows), a specialized software package for the analysis of geographically disaggregated data. Especially tailored for the targeting of resources in the area of social policies and programs, this package facilitates the handling of large databases from different sources and interfacing with GIS. During 1998 **several** regional workshops devoted to the utilization of **WINR+** and of related tools, such as ZONPLAN took place at ECLAC Headquarters. One of these workshops was dedicated to the focusing of reproductive health services on socially vulnerable groups. CELADE has received increasing requests **from** Governments (mostly the ministries of health, education, housing and planning but also from municipalities) who are interested not only in obtaining the **software** but also in the training workshops. To cite only one example, the Government of Chile, with CELADE technical support, carried out an intensive application of **WINR+** using various data to locate and describe slum dwellers; results are being used for a large project aimed at improving living conditions of the poor. This experience contributed to the development of a methodology that could readily be replicated in other countries.

In 1998, the **21<sup>st</sup>** Regional Intensive CELADE Course on Demographic Analysis for Development was given, this time for the benefit of **18** professionals from 13 countries of Latin America and Africa. In association with the University of Chile, CELADE also makes a significant contribution to the Spanish language course of the UNFPA sponsored Global Training Program in Population and Sustainable Development. Moreover, collaboration is given to national institutions, universities and **NGOs** engaged in training activities in the field of population and development. **CELADE's** documentation system (DOCPAL) **—now** fully integrated into **ECLAC's** library- received the active support of **POPIN** for the reinvigoration of the Latin American and Caribbean Information Network (IPALCA). To foster the worldwide dissemination throughout the web of information produced in the region, three workshops with the participation of 30 national institutions working in the field of population were held in the last months.

### **Regional Cooperation and ICPD+5**

The ECLAC Ad-hoc Committee on Population and Development, the regional body for coordination and collaboration on population issues celebrated its second meeting in May 1998, in Aruba, in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of ECLAC. Delegations **from** 30 countries and representatives of international agencies and **NGOs** not only analyzed reproductive health and poverty, but also agreed on a program to prepare for the region's contribution to **ICPD+5**. CELADE, in cooperation with UNFPA, was entrusted with the task of **drafting** a report on the results achieved and the problems encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Cairo Conference. Last December, the Committee met to transform this draft report into a final document to be presented to the various stages of the **ICPD+5** process. The report describes the demographic and **socio-economic** regional context, analyzes the progress made and the obstacles faced by the countries in complying with the commitments undertaken at the ICPD, and identifies six priority areas to move towards the full realization of the objectives contained in the Program of Action.

### **Other priority activities for 1999-2000**

Based on recommendations of member Governments and assuming that some extrabudgetary **resources** become available, in the coming months CELADE will concentrate on six major areas of endeavour. The first involves follow-up to the **ICPD+5** process, and in particular on developing a series of progress indicators, which would be applicable throughout the region. The second involves the analysis of aging and its so&-economic implications, **which will be the** subject of the above mentioned Symposium. The third aims at continuing support to the countries of the region in their efforts to successfully organize, finance and carry out the year 2000 round of censuses. The fourth involves preparation of an in depth analysis and policy guidance paper on population, youth and development, to be presented to the ECLAC Ad-hoc Committee on Population and Development (Mexico 1999). **The fifth** subject is the examination of international migration trends in order to improve knowledge of its repercussion and provide inputs for the enhancement of regional cooperation on the regulatory **frameworks** governing flows and their harmonization with development objectives. The **final** subject concerns the identification and characterization of socially vulnerable groups that should become targets for social policies, including reproductive health. In closing, let me state the importance CELADE attaches to the widest possible dissemination of its production, through the **Website (eclac.cl)** and hard copy publications including the Demographic Bulletin and **Notas de Población**.