

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Good practice

Through its gender indicators activity that started in ECLAC's Women and Development Unit, a collaborative process has begun, involving ECLAC's Population and Statistical Divisions, and various ECLAC specialists. The activities around the Millennium Goals Declaration have also allowed the mainstreaming of gender into operational activities at country level, the internal discussion to harmonize concepts of poverty from a gender perspective, and the methodological approaches to measure poverty and other social issues. Mainstreaming is also furthered by the recent adoption by ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas of a new element on Statistics on gender equity in its work programme for 2003-2005, that aims to contribute to the processes of collection, processing, analysis and use of gender statistics for the formulation of equity policies, and to strengthen the links between producers and users of these statistics in the region.

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Recent policy statements

At its 29th session in Brasilia in May 2002, ECLAC focused its deliberations on the issue of globalization and development and the integration of a gender perspective in the global outlook of its policy document. The 29th session also adopted several resolutions which integrated gender perspectives into its policies.

In its resolution on globalization and development, the secretariat is called upon to pursue its examination of the development strategies of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the globalization process based on an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental issues which also incorporates gender analysis and to identify measures for adoption at the national, regional and international levels.

In another resolution on population and development, countries of the region are encouraged to make every effort to allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the incorporation of population programmes, including reproductive health programmes, in public policies. This should be done with a view to including poverty reduction among their objectives, linking population and reproductive health issues more closely to social, environmental and cultural policies, viewed from a gender and age-based perspective, and promoting the inclusion of population and reproductive health issues in reforms carried out in the education and health-care sectors.

Programme objectives

Gender perspectives have been incorporated into programmes on international trade, population, statistics, pension reform, and training activities. Currently, the International Trade section is participating in joint training on gender and economic policy hosted by ILPES. The ECLAC Population Division has mainstreamed gender in the areas of aging, migration and vulnerability studies. ECLAC's Statistical Division is actively involved in the gender indicators system, and the Unit for Special Studies is integrating gender perspectives in the analysis of pension funds.

Other recent activities

ECLAC, UNDP, IDB and the World Bank have committed themselves to work together to coordinate activities in support of the region's countries as they evaluate and monitor compliance with the Millennium Development Goals agreed upon by UN member nations in the Millennium Declaration. A central component includes gender indicators.

Collaboration is taking place between the Gender and Governance Project and the Urban and Poverty Project and other UN agencies including gender theme groups at country level. In the Democratic Governance and Gender Equality project, four participating countries so far have initiated activities to link gender to their process of State reform and Governance policies.

Implementation of the second phase of the project "Institutionalization of gender policies within ECLAC and sectoral ministries" is starting in the second half

of 2003 to guaranty the sustainability of the process initiated in some countries of the region and to extend it to others, as well as to other economic sectors. In addition to the analysis - from a gender perspective - of the sectoral labour markets, which will serve as an input for policy-making, and the intersectoral and inter-agency collaboration activities that are a characteristic of the project, there are plans to organize national and regional seminars and publish a training manual.

Initiation of the project "Productive Development and Gender Equity in Latin America" to address the need to identify policies and best practices in the area of productive development by mapping policies and programs in the region and selecting case studies. The resulting information will be part of the position paper to be presented by ECLAC at its 2004 period of sessions. ■