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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Report on the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), conducted through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC in follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

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ECLAC, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC, is closely following up the agreements adopted at the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The activities already begun and those planned for 2007 concern mainly:

- 1.

for the representatives of the countries to consider at the Committee's meeting during the thirty-first session of the Commission, held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The documentation presented, entitled "*International migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean: summary and conclusions*",¹ was based mainly on a series of works carried out by CELADE in recent years. This text offers guidance to the region's governments in facing the most important challenges and opportunities that migration raises with respect to development, from a cross-cutting perspective of the human rights of migrants and their families. The prior work benefited from the participation of CELADE in numerous meetings, workshops and seminars involving governments, academics, civil society and experts and from the conclusions reached at those gatherings. It also drew on many of the studies reported in CELADE publications, as well as the intensive efforts the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Popula

2. Sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government

The central theme of the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Uruguay in November 2006, was “migration and shared development”, further to the commitments undertaken at the Iberoamerican Encounter on International Migration and Development, which took place in Madrid, in July 2006.

The Ibero-American Summit was attended by some 700 people, including government representatives from the 22 Ibero-American States and guest countries, experts, and representatives of civil society, agen

Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), regional development institutions (development banks, regional bodies), regional and international NGOs working in the field of migration and national and regional research centres. In each region, a research centre will be designated to carry out specific research activities. ECLAC will be responsible for the project's coordination.

The project will benefit from existing initiatives on migration information systems, as well as recent studies conducted by the respective regional commissions with the purpose of strengthening and creating networks of information on migration.

The objective is to strengthen national capacities to build international migration issues into national development strategies, in order to maximize the contribution of international migration to development while minimizing its negative impact. This is to be achieved by improving data quality and availability on international migration, highlighting female migration, increasing institutional and human capacities to design and implement policies and programmes, and promoting cooperation through an effective intra- and inter-regional network for the exchange of information, studies, policies, experiences and good practices among countries and regions.