

**Meeting of the
Interim Intergovernmental
Regional Committee
for the Major Project
in the Field of Education
in Latin America
and the Caribbean**

Saint Lucia, 12-17 July 1982



Final Report

Unesco

PART V

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE CONCERNING A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MAJOR PROJECT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Interim Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Major Project in the Field of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 12 to 17 July 1982,

Considering:

1. That the Mexico City Declaration, formulated by the Regional Conference of Ministers of Education and Those Responsible for Economic Planning of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean (December 1979) called on Unesco to take the initiative of putting forward a Major Project and indicated the needs to be met and the fundamental objectives of the Project,
2. That, in response to that request, the General Conference of Unesco, at its twenty-first session (Belgrade, September-October 1980), authorized the Director-General to convene the Intergovernmental Regional Meeting (Quito, April 1981) which, in the Quito Recommendation, unanimously adopted, defined the specific objectives of the Major Project--to ensure that, by 1999 at the latest, all children of school age receive schooling and are provided with a minimum of eight to ten years' general education, to eradicate illiteracy before the end of the century and to develop and extend education services for adults, and to improve the quality and efficiency of educational systems by carrying out the necessary reforms--and the strategies and means of action for achieving those objectives,
3. That the Quito Recommendation established an initial planning phase for the Project, during which each Member State of the region, within the framework of the objectives of the Project, was invited to draw up, in such form as it considered appropriate, a national plan of action covering its own priorities, targets, strategies and programmes, and requested the Director-General of Unesco to convene during 1982 a regional meeting to study those plans and, in the light of them, to consider the priorities and procedures for horizontal and international co-operation, to determine the programme and timetable of work of the Major Project for the initial stage of its operational phase, and to approve Draft Statutes for the Intergovernmental Regional Committee,
4. That, in response to that request, the Executive Board of Unesco, by a decision adopted at its 113th session, established the Interim Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Major Project, with the participation of all the Member States and the Associate Member of Unesco in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and of the territory of the Netherlands Antilles, which met in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 12 to 17 July 1982,

Considering:

5. The national plans of action or equivalent documents prepared by the majority of the Member States of the region and presented by their representatives, and the synthesis and analysis of those plans contained in the meeting's working document (PROMEDLAC/4),
6. The conclusions of the present meeting on national objectives, targets and strategies in the context of the Major Project, on the programme and timetable of activities for the first operational phase of the Project, and on the offers of and requests for co-operation contained in the national plans of action or equivalent documents,
7. That, at the Saint Lucia Meeting, the governments of the region reaffirmed their political will, already expressed in the Mexico City Declaration and in the Quito Recommendation, with respect to the adoption and execution of the Major Project, it being now necessary to establish a Regional Plan of Action for the first stage of its operational phase,
8. The Interim Intergovernmental Regional Committee approves the following guidelines for a Regional Plan of Action as follows:

- (i) to set a period of four years (1983-1986) for the first stage of the operational phase at the regional and subregional levels, partially overlapping with Unesco's Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989) while expressing the hope that some of the 'Major Programmes' will be in line with the objectives of the Major Project,
- (ii) to base the Regional Plan of Action on the national strategies already defined for the attainment of each of the objectives of the Major Project (Annex I to the Recommendation) and on the system of 'offers' of and 'requests' for co-operation whereby the volume of resources required for the execution of those strategies may be increased and supplemented (Annex II),
- (iii) to carry out the Plan through a system of subregional, regional and international co-operative activities conducive to bilateral or multilateral relations among the countries of the region, with the participation of other members and national, subregional, regional and international bodies, both public and private,
- (iv) to focus the subregional and regional activities of the Major Project on those aspects identified as priorities during the consideration of the national plans of action or equivalent documents in the context of the Major Project, including:
 - (a) exchange of information and experience relating to innovative activities, models and results of strategies applied for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Project and the identification and strengthening of the information and exchange networks already existing at the regional and subregional levels,
 - (b) technical co-operation through the exchange of specialists in priority areas envisaged in the national plans of action or equivalent documents,
 - (c) co-operative or joint projects for the training of key personnel for programming and carrying out activities under the Project: planners and administrators, curriculum and educational technology specialists, teacher educators for both formal and non-formal education,
 - (d) co-operative projects in educational research, particularly concerned with the more exact and functional identification of the situation and educational needs of the target populations for the Project, more especially the less privileged groups, and the devising of alternative methods of action to meet those needs,
 - (e) co-operative projects for the preparation and exchange of prototype curricula and educational materials for both formal and non-formal education,
 - (f) systematic co-operative activities for the publicizing and pooling of advances in the promotion of literacy and adult education through meetings and the exchange of persons and experience,
 - (g) co-operation in order to enhance efforts to provide for all the needs of pre-school age children,

9. The action and measures taken to give effect to national strategies should be innovative, constantly exploring unconventional alternatives that may assist in the attainment of the objectives of the Major Project within the time-limit set by the Quito Recommendation,

Requests Member States:

- 10. To finalize or bring up to date their national plans of action or equivalent documents as regards both their strategies and their offers' of and 'requests' for co-operation and to send information, observations and corrections concerning the two annexes to this Recommendation to the Unesco Secretariat before the end of 1982;
- 11. To identify, establish or strengthen the national machinery that they consider to be most appropriate for the co-ordination of the Major Project as provided in paragraph 20 of the Quito Recommendation;
- 12. To put into effect systematic supervision and evaluation procedures which will make it possible, through feedback, to redirect the strategies and means of action employed according to the needs of changing situations;

Requests the Director-General:

- 13. To submit the Draft Statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Major Project to the General Conference at its twenty-second ordinary session and, if approved, to convene a meeting of the Committee about the middle of 1984;
- 14. To assemble and analyse updated information on the national and regional development of the Project in time for the Committee's session;
- 15. To start arrangements for identifying countries desirous of pooling their experience and resources;

16. To facilitate contacts between countries desirous of offering their experience and resources and those wishing to take advantage thereof, and contacts with subregional, regional and international bodies;
17. To ask the General Conference at its twenty-second ordinary session to include in the Organization's biennial programme and budget such activities and resources as will make it possible to carry out the necessary consultations and interchange operations and to hold the necessary meetings, including the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee and other activities to satisfy the requirements of the first stage in the operational phase of the Major Project, in particular, provision should be made in the Organization's programme and budget for the necessary allocations for the operational and activities of the Support Unit of the Major Project with headquarters in Quito, Ecuador;
18. To take the necessary measures for the establishment of a special voluntary fund to supplement national expenditure by the participating countries on the system of interchange described in subparagraph 8 (iv). Other countries not belonging to the region, national and international bodies and international financing institutions may be participants in this fund;
19. To promote and make use of, in the context of horizontal co-operation, participation by such subregional mechanisms for educational and cultural integration as the Andrés Bello Convention and the Central American Educational Co-ordination System, reinforcing Unesco's collaboration with those bodies by means of concerted practical action under the Major Project;
20. To give the Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development (CARNEID) a key role in activities under the Major Project in the countries covered by the Network, and to provide it with resources which will enable it to overcome the language barriers that hamper more and better interchange of information and pooling of experience within the group of countries covered by the Network and with other Latin American countries and to carry out activities relating to the Major Project more effectively;
21. To include in Unesco's co-operation with Member States contributions by national centres serving the region such as CEDEFT, CONESCAL, CREFAL, ICASE, ILCE and others that Member States may set up in specific areas of activity connected with the objectives of the Major Project;
22. To continue on more practical lines the negotiations started with OAS with a view to co-operation between the two organizations in activities to support Member States belonging to the region in carrying out their national plans of action for the achievement of the objectives of the Major Project;
23. For this purpose, to request such institutions and others whose activities have a bearing on the Project's objectives to provide relevant information which may make it possible to enlarge the system of horizontal and international co-operation (Annex II);
24. To promote, under Unesco's agreements with other United Nations bodies and international nongovernmental organizations, in line with the interdisciplinary and intersectoral character of the Project, specific forms of co-operative action to support the efforts of the countries of the region for the attainment of the Project's objectives;
25. To carry out, in collaboration with UNDP, a study of the possibility of the financing of activities related to the Regional Plan of Action by national, subregional, regional or international organizations, both public and private, for the purpose of:

including in Annex II a list of such organizations, specifying their areas of activity with a bearing on the Project's objectives and the criteria they apply for allocating resources to education;

considering the desirability of promoting a meeting among such organizations and representatives of Member States belonging to the region to decide on the possibilities and means of collaboration for carrying out the Major Project in general and for constituting the fund referred to in paragraph 18 of this Recommendation;
26. Lastly, the Committee recommends that, in projects already under way or to be agreed upon in the future between the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean and organizations and programmes for technical and financial co-operation such as UNDP, IBRD, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, WHO, UNFPA, UNEP, IDB, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the Caribbean Development Bank, priority be given to items and activities that will assist in achieving the objectives and targets that governments have established in their national plans of action or equivalent documents.