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Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) -
Canadian Membership

The Honourable Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Canada is now a member of the United Nations regional Economic Commission for Latin America. The Canadian Government's intention to seek membership was announced in the House of Commons on September 11. Today's announcement marked the completion of the necessary arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat in New York and the Commission in Santiago, Chile.

Essentially, ECLA is a centre of economic studies for Latin America. It forms part of the system of regional economic commissions established by the United Nations and was created on February 25, 1948, with the purpose of providing advice and a forum for discussions on raising the level of economic activity in the Latin American area, on strengthening economic relations between countries of the region and other countries of the world, and on technical assistance programmes in that region. The Commission does not itself provide capital or technical aid directly.

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Membership in the Commission is open to countries in North and South America. In addition, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are members of the Commission, and the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras have associate member status.