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**PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN
CHAPTER 18 OF AGENDA 21 ON INTEGRATED
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present information on the progress achieved by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the implementation, within the context of their water policies, of the recommendations made in chapter 18 of Agenda 21. This report, the second prepared for this purpose, is complementary to a previous report, entitled **Agenda 21 and integrated water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean** (ECLAC, LC/G.1830, 7 September 1994).

The bulk of this report consists of case studies on six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela. Although the situation in these countries is not the same as in all the other countries of the region, their experiences are representative of the efforts being made by governments to improve the management of their water resources in the light of Agenda 21. Brief overviews are provided of the progress made in five other countries —Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Lucia— based on the papers presented at the regional meeting.

In general, it may be said that the agencies responsible for water resources management are definitely interested in adopting a set of standards aimed at ensuring sustainable and integrated management, as envisaged in Agenda 21. Most of the countries, however, do not have a clear idea of the procedures to be followed in policy making, institutional coordination, adoption of suitable planning mechanisms and project execution.

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