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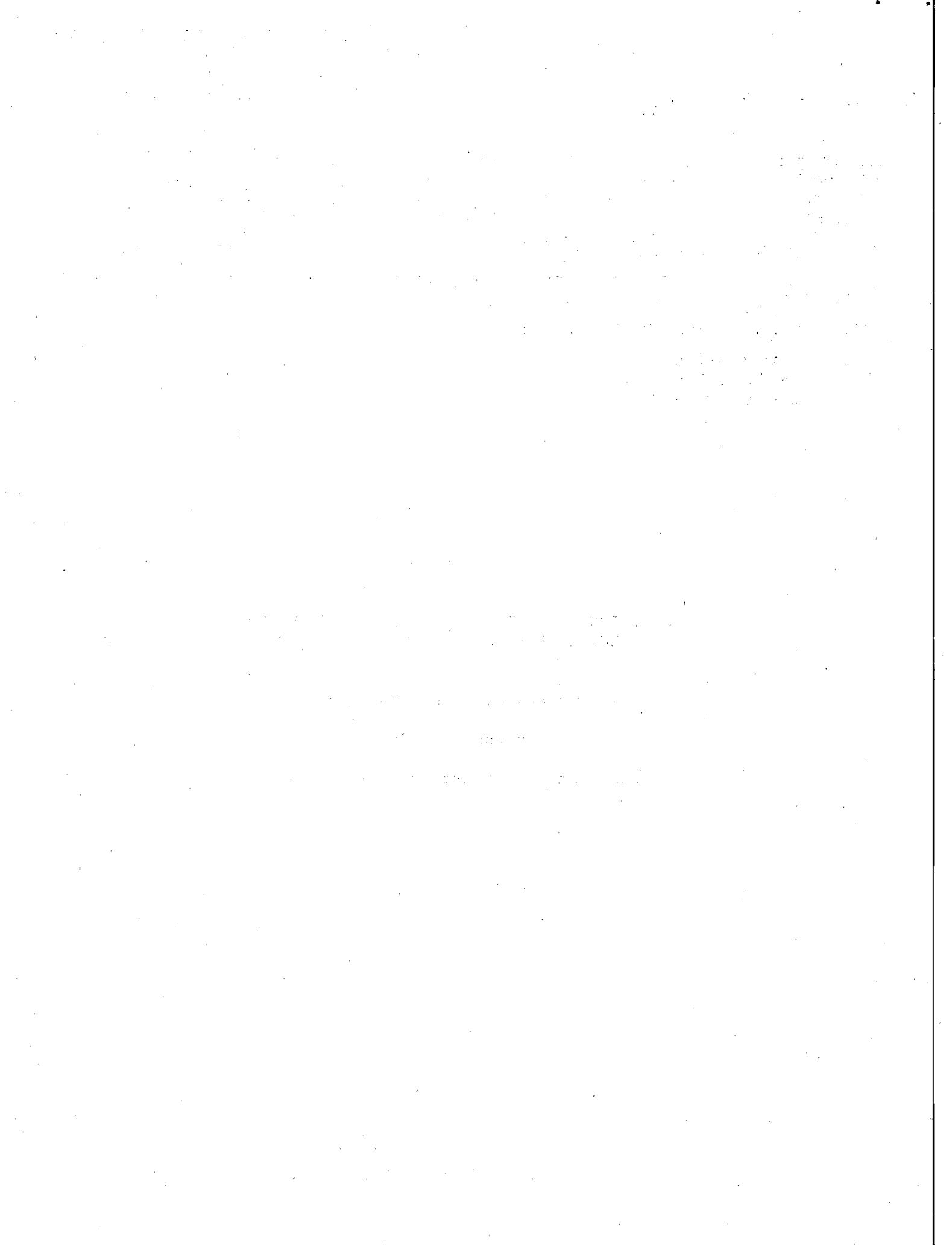
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Seventeenth session
Guatemala City, Guatemala
25 April - 5 May 1977

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

- I. Organization of the meeting
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Annotated provisional agenda

77-3-0541



I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The Member States of CEPAL are meeting in Guatemala at a time of special importance for Latin America, since the region is faced with complex economic and social problems, some of them caused by trends in the international economy and others by factors peculiar to the development of the region.

The main item on the agenda of the session is the appraisal of the Latin American economy and the establishment of a new international economic order. The results of this examination could form a basis for Latin America's action within the ambit of the United Nations.

The first stage of the attached provisional agenda calls for the formation of two committees at the technical level, which will meet from 25 to 29 April following a prior meeting of Heads of Delegations.

Committee I will deal with the agenda items on the appraisal of the Latin American economy and economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and regions (agenda items 3 and 4).

Committee II will deal with the items on the recent and future activities and programme of work of CEPAL and on the activities and work programmes of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Latin American Demographic Centre (agenda items 5, 6 and 7).

The second stage of the work of the Commission, which will take place at the level of Ministers or Heads of Delegations, will be carried out in plenary and will last from 2 to 5 May. Its initiation will be preceded by an opening ceremony, followed by the election of the Officers.

The meetings at the level of Ministers or Heads of Delegations will consider the conclusions reached at the technical level, adopt the appropriate resolutions, and approve the report to be submitted by the Commission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

In the course of the early meetings the secretariat will submit a schedule of meetings for approval by delegates.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Officers of Committees I and II
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy and the establishment of a new international economic order
 - (a) Third Regional Appraisal
 - (b) Specific aspects of Latin America's external economic relations
4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions
 - (a) Participation by Latin America
 - (b) Action by CEPAL
5. Activities of CEPAL
 - (a) Activities carried out in the period 1975-1977
 - (b) Programme of work of the Commission for the period 1977-1979
 - (c) Institutional aspects
6. Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
 - (a) Activities carried out by ILPES in the period 1975-1977
 - (b) Future activities of ILPES
7. Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
 - (a) Activities carried out by CELADE in the period 1975-1977
 - (b) Regional Population Programme
 - (c) Institutional aspects
8. Place and date of the eighteenth session of the Commission
9. Consideration of the annual report of the Commission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

III. ANNOTATED

III. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of the Officers of the Committees

At the commencement of their sessions, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Committees I and II shall elect their respective Officers, consisting in each case of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Representatives can either adopt the provisional agenda as it stands or make such observations as they may deem appropriate regarding it. The following paragraphs contain some comments on the various agenda items.

3. Regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy and the establishment of a new international economic order

(a) Third Regional Appraisal

(b) Specific aspects of Latin America's external economic relations

Documents:

- The economic and social development and external relations of Latin America (E/CEPAL/1024)
- Report of the third meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts to Appraise the International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/1025)
- Economic Survey of Latin America, 1976 (E/CEPAL/1026)

Reference documents:

- Regional appraisals of the International Development Strategy: Quito, 1973 and Chaguaramas, 1975 (Cuadernos de la CEPAL, No 2)
- Long-term trends and projections of the economic development of Latin America (E/CEPAL/1027)
- Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/CEPAL/1028)

Pursuant to the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, CEPAL has so far carried out two appraisals of the IDS as it concerns Latin America, namely,

/the "Quito

the "Quito Appraisal" in 1973 and the "Chaguaramas Appraisal" in 1975. A third appraisal is therefore to be carried out at the present session.

The CEPAL Committee of High-Level Government Experts, set up in accordance with resolution 310 (XIV) of the Commission, will meet in the city of Santo Domingo from 9 to 15 March 1977 to consider this third appraisal of the International Development Strategy (IDS). Its report will be submitted for the consideration of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission together with the documents prepared by the secretariat, which consist basically of "The economic and social development and external relations of Latin America" (E/CEPAL/1024), and the "Economic Survey of Latin America, 1976" (E/CEPAL/1025).

Part One of the first of these documents examines the salient features of the economic and social process in the light of the evolution recorded in the Latin American countries in the last 25 years and identifies the nature and scope of the economic and social changes, the structure of the distribution of property and income, the problems of employment and the situations of critical poverty which exist in the countries of the region. The contradictions which have emerged in recent changes in Latin American societies are briefly reviewed, and the problem of the real significance and concept of unified development provided for in the IDS and the Quito and Chaguaramas Appraisals of CEPAL is set forth, as is the question of the determination and viability of the changes and policies that would be required to promote its practical realization. The technological aspects of Latin American development are also dealt with, and a set of proposals are formulated regarding policy in this field. Background information and appraisals by the secretariat are thus provided for use in the discussions that will take place at this session regarding the appraisal of the Latin American economic and social process.

Economic growth in the period 1970-1976 is studied in relation to the rate and structure of economic growth; savings and investment; the inflationary process; and the evolution of and changes in foreign

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trade, the balance of payments, and the accumulated external debt. Trends in agricultural and industrial production and the situations obtaining in the countries of the region as regards the production and supply of energy are dealt with separately. Special attention is given to the evolution of the Latin American economy, in its internal and external economic and financial aspects, which has manifested itself in successive periods of boom and slump in economic growth, with a tendency towards a recovery of the growth rate during the past year. The information and analyses needed to appraise the economic process of the present decade with respect to the goals and objectives laid down in the IDS are thus assembled and presented for use at the session.

Part Two of the document is devoted to the analysis of the external relations of Latin America. It has three main themes: (i) Latin America's place in the world economy; (ii) trade relations with the main geographic areas, and (iii) regional integration.

The most significant aspects of Latin America's new place in the world economy are considered in the light of the changes which have taken place in the world setting, in the industrial centres, in the Latin American countries themselves, and in their external relations. Within this context, the magnitude and nature of the economic, financial and technological co-operation required by Latin America at this stage of its development are defined. Particular attention is paid to the region's relations with the United States, the European Economic Community, and other areas (Japan and the socialist countries), and the various problems and obstacles encountered in trade and in other aspects of economic and financial relations with these areas are identified. The progress and prospects of Latin American economic integration are appraised in a special chapter. Finally, the conclusions are summarized and a set of ideas are formulated regarding the action which should be taken by Latin America on the trade in manufactures, semimanufactures and basic commodities; relations with the various areas; external financing and problems of indebtedness; direct private investment and transnational corporations; technology, and regional economic integration.

The "Economic Survey of Latin America, 1976", for its part, offers in Part One an interpretative recapitulation of the trends and changes observed in the Latin American economy in the last quarter of a century, with the aim of giving a realistic view of the bases and features of the regional economic system in the new stages which are opening up at the world level.

The Survey also gives a systematic analysis of the economic evolution of the countries of the region in 1976 and a study of the main trends discernible for the Latin American economy as a whole as regards growth, foreign trade, external financing and inflation.

4. Co-operation among developing countries and regions

(a) Participation by Latin America

(b) Action by CEPAL

Document:

- Note by the Secretariat on co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas

(E/CEPAL/1029)

The United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council have given the regional economic commissions various mandates regarding the action they should take in the field of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas. Furthermore, in the final report of the Conference of the Group of 77 on Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries (Mexico City, 13-22 September 1976) the regional economic commissions were asked to help to put appropriate measures into practice.

Consequently, the Commission will have before it at this session the document which contains the secretariat's proposals on this matter.

5. Activities of CEPAL

(a) Activities carried out in the period 1975-1977

(b) Programme of work of the Commission for the period 1977-1979

(c) Institutional aspects

/Documents:

Documents:

- Draft Annual Report. Activities of the Commission from 7 May 1976 (E/CEPAL/1030).
- Report by the Executive Secretary on the Publications Programme (E/CEPAL/1038)
- Conclusions and recommendations of CEPAL meetings held in the period 1975-1977 (E/CEPAL/1031)
- Programme of Work of the Commission, 1977-1979 (E/CEPAL/1032)

Reference document:

- Annual Report of the Commission, 7 May 1975 to 6 May 1976 (E/5784 - E/CEPAL/1016).

Sub-item (a) comprises the general report on the substantive and operational activities of the Commission and on those carried out within the framework of two of its subsidiary organs: the Central American Economic Integration Committee and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. It also includes a brief account of the work of the Publication Programme.

The results of governmental and expert meetings held under the auspices or with the advisory assistance of the Commission will also be reviewed under this item. The subjects of the meetings were agriculture, water, human settlements, integration of women in economic and social development, employment, desertification and transport.

The main sectoral meetings were:

- the CEPAL/FAO Latin American Conference on Agriculture;
- the Regional Preparatory Conference of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Water Conference;
- two regional meetings on human settlements;
- a regional governmental meeting and an expert meeting on the integration of women in economic and social development;
- the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ILO World Employment Conference;
- the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas for the United Nations Conference on Desertification;

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8. Panama City, 11-23 May 1959
 9. Santiago, Chile, 4-15 May 1961
 10. Mar del Plata, 6-18 May 1963
 11. Mexico City, 6-18 May 1965
 12. Caracas, 2-13 May 1967
 13. Lima, 14-23 April 1969
 14. Santiago, Chile, 27 April-8 May 1971
 15. Quito, 23-30 March 1973
 16. Port of Spain, 6-14 May 1975.
9. Consideration of the report of the Commission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council

