

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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30 August 1955
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sixth Session
Bogotá, Colombia
29 August 1955

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Bogotá on Tuesday,
30 August, 1955 at 4.15 p.m.

CONTENTS:

Election of Officers of Committees

Statement by the Deputy Director of the Technical Assistance
Administration.

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VILLAVECES	Colombia
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GEORGES-PIOT	France
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PEREZ VILLAMIL	Argentina
	Mr. ARCE	Bolivia
	Mr. DE ANDRADE-LYRA	Brazil
	Mr. ARCHILA MONROY	Colombia
	Mr. FERNANDEZ DURAN	Costa Rica
	Mr. LOPEZ ISA	Cuba
	Mr. DEL PEDREGAL	Chile
	Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ	Dominican Republic
	Mr. PONCE ENRIQUEZ	Ecuador

/Mr. RAMIREZ

Mr. RAMIREZ	El Salvador
Mr. YDIGORAS FUENTES	Guatemala
Mr. HUDICOURT	Haiti
Mr. BUESO ARIAS	Honduras
Mr. ZAMORA	Mexico
Mr. NEWTON	Netherlands
Mr. GUERRERO	Nicaragua
Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
Mr. GALEANO	Paraguay
Mr. BAKULA PATIÑO	Peru
Sir KEITH JOPSON	United Kingdom
Mr. RANDALL	United States of America
Mr. LACARTE MURO	Uruguay
Mr. MULLER	Venezuela

/Also present:

Also present:

Observers from Member States:

Mr. ALMASY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. KOT	Poland

Observers from non-Member States:

Mr. FIORIOLI DELLA LENA	Italy
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Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. BOERMA) Mr. SACO)	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. RUIZ	World Health Organization
Mr. ROBINSON	International Children's Emergency Fund
Mr. ROYER	General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mr. AMADOR	Inter-American Economic and Social Council
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Representative of a non-governmental organization:

<u>Category A:</u>	Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions
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<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary
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Mr. SWENSON	Deputy Director
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Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary to the Conference
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF COMMITTEES

The CHAIRMAN called upon members to elect the Officers of Committees

Committee I

Committee I

Mr. MULLER (Venezuela) proposed Mr. De Andrade (Brazil) as Chairman of Committee I.

Mr. DE ANDRADE (Brazil) was elected Chairman of Committee I by acclamation.

Mr. PEREZ VILLAMIL (Argentina) proposed Mr. Ginebra Henriquez (Dominican Republic) as Rapporteur of Committee I.

Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ (Dominican Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Committee II

Mr. ARCHILA MONROY (Colombia) proposed Mr. Muller (Venezuela) as Chairman of Committee II.

Mr. MULLER (Venezuela) was elected Chairman of Committee II by acclamation.

Mr. MULLER (Venezuela) proposed Mr. Guerrero (Nicaragua) as Rapporteur of Committee II.

Mr. GUERRERO (Nicaragua) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Committee III

Mr. FERNANDEZ DURAN (Costa Rica) proposed Mr. Ponce Enriquez (Ecuador) as Chairman of Committee III.

Mr. PONCE ENRIQUEZ (Ecuador) was elected Chairman of Committee III by acclamation.

Mr. PONCE ENRIQUEZ (Ecuador) proposed Mr. Lacarte Muró (Uruguay) as Rapporteur of Committee III.

Mr. LACARTE MURÓ (Uruguay) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

/ Committee IV

Committee IV

Mr. PEREZ VILLAMIL (Argentina) proposed Mr. Del Pedregal (Chile) as Chairman of Committee IV.

Mr. DEL PEDREGAL (Chile) was elected Chairman of Committee IV by acclamation.

Mr. DE ANDRADE (Brazil) proposed Mr. McCullough (Panama) as Rapporteur of Committee IV.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Panama) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Committee V

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Panama) proposed Mr. Zamora (Mexico) as Chairman of Committee V.

Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) was elected Chairman of Committee V by acclamation.

Mr. PEREZ VILLAMIL (Argentina) proposed Mr. Bakula Patiño (Peru) as Rapporteur of Committee V.

Mr. BAKULA PATIÑO (Peru) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Committee VI

Mr. DEL PEDREGAL (Chile) proposed Mr. Lopez Isa (Cuba) as Chairman of Committee VI.

Mr. LOPEZ ISA (Cuba) was elected Chairman of Committee VI by acclamation.

Mr. DE ANDRADE (Brazil) proposed Mr. Galeano (Paraguay) as Rapporteur of Committee VI.

Mr. GALEANO (Paraguay) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. Martínez Cabañas, Deputy Director of the Technical Assistance Administration, to address the meeting.

/Mr. Martínez Cabañas

Mr. MARTINEZ-CABAÑAS (Technical Assistance Administration) drew attention to documents E/CN.12/371, 372 and Add.1, and 376, which gave account of Technical Assistance activities in Latin America for the year 1954 under the Expanded Programme and up to June 1955, for the activities of the Technical Assistance Administration alone.

The Commission's essential task was to study the economic development problem of Latin America, with which the work of the Technical Assistance Administration was also intimately concerned. The comments made by delegations in the light of their five years' experience of Technical Assistance would therefore be of the greatest value.

The Technical Assistance Administration was not primarily concerned with the problem of financing, but no discussion of technical assistance would be complete without consideration of that factor.

Considerable experience had been gained in the operation of technical assistance programmes since their inception, and Governments were now more aware of the possibilities and better able to make use of the facilities at their disposal. It was for Governments to decide what assistance they required and to submit projects to the Agencies participating in the Expanded Programme. In the past requests for assistance had been far beyond the resources available, but there was now hope that, with the decrease of international tension and the consequent liberation of funds hitherto earmarked for defence, larger resources would become available for economic development.

/The possibility

The possibility of an increase in funds held out real prospects of such an expansion, which would result in a programme more in accordance with the needs for assistance.

One subject that he would like to see discussed with the Commission's customary frankness was the view held in some quarters that certain underdeveloped countries had already reached saturation point as far as technical assistance was concerned. His Administration did not share that view and considered that it had hardly done more than touch upon the potentialities of technical assistance.

In view of the possibility of achieving adequate resources for the Programme, steps should be taken now to help governments to prepare projects for economic development to be executed in the future. International action is a slow process which requires great deal of preparation. For instance, the recommendations of ECLA in its present session would go to the ECOSOC first, and then to the General Assembly of the United Nations. If action would be taken, it would require at least a year to materialize.

The most important event in this procedure is the Pledging Conference for Technical Assistance held customarily between October or November each year. Therefore, the expectation of having immediate results in this year's Pledging Conference are very remote and for that reason, the action of Governments will be more positive in 1957, a year which for various reasons, would be a decisive one in technical assistance.

It would be the Commission's task to explore the various possible courses and indicate new lines of action by member governments for future

/years. Provision

years. Provision of more adequate funds would greatly assist the Commission's work. If projects had not always been carried out in the past, it had not been through any lack of ideas or initiative, but merely for lack of funds. The Commission had nevertheless achieved a great deal in the last three years, and had been largely instrumental in establishing good and sound regional projects like the Economic Development Training Centre in Santiago, the Central American Economic Integration Programme, the Iron and Steel Seminar and the recent Pulp and Paper Conference. All the same, given effective and practical planning, Latin America alone was quite capable of making good use of all the funds at present available for United Nations technical assistance throughout the world. Indeed, the sum of 5 million dollars at present made available to the region by the Expanded Programme was small in comparison with the sums spent on technical and financial assistance in a single country under bilateral programmes sponsored by the United States.

The Commission should not judge TAA's achievements by the list of projects given in its report. TAA was not the only body responsible for technical assistance and its work must be viewed in the light of other programmes which it supplements. In Colombia, for instance, there were not only a United Nations and a bilateral technical assistance programme but a national programme as well.

TAA would like countries' requests to be more in accord with their national plans for economic and social development. Moreover, now that programming is in the hands of governments, it was vital for them to make

/full use

full use of all United Nations services either ECLA's secretariat or TAA and Specialized Agencies in conducting surveys, studies, conferences, and seminars. Which particular service was used was not of great significance. What was important was that technical assistance efforts should be coordinated at the national level and in line with the plans of governments.

He proposed to deal with detailed aspects of the programme and answer any questions that members might raise, at the meetings of Committee II.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Deputy Director of TAA for his statement.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.