

United Nations**Nations Unies****ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.12/81/Add.1
22 April 1949
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

SECOND SESSION

NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Havana, Cuba, 29 May 1949.

1. Opening Addresses.

This is a Session of an organ of the United Nations and will therefore be opened by the Chairman, who will call upon the representative or representatives of the Cuban Government to deliver the address or addresses of welcome to the Commission. This will be followed by addresses by the Chairman, the representative of the Secretary-General, and the Executive Secretary.

2. Election of Officers.

The rules of procedure provide for the election of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. Upon his election, the Chairman will at once take over the conduct of the Session and upon completion of his remarks the First Meeting will probably be adjourned. The election of the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur would then be the first order of business at the Second Meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda. (Doc.E/CN.12/81)

The agenda has been prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman. During the discussion on the adoption of the agenda the Chairman may wish to submit his report on credentials.

4. Economic Situation and Prospects in Latin America.

Preliminary Draft of the Economic Survey of Latin America
(Document E/CN.12/82).

This Survey has been prepared by the Executive Secretary

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in accordance with the Resolution on Economic Survey of Latin America (E/CN.12/59) and related resolutions on World Economic Rehabilitation (E/CN.12/65), Immigration (E/CN.12/66), Free Ports and Zones (E/CN.12/68), Agricultural Prices and Crop Insurance (E/CN.12/69), Inflation (E/CN.12/70), Import and Export Prices (E/CN.12/71), Basic Raw Materials (E/CN.12/73), Transport and Communications (E/CN.12/77), adopted at the First Session of the Commission.

The Survey will be presented in the form of a mimeographed document. It will be considered as a "preliminary" document until it has been noted by the Second Session, when it will be printed.

The Survey presents the principal elements of the current economic situation and emphasizes the characteristic patterns of economic development in the Latin American countries and the changes which have occurred as a result of the war. There are chapters on Economic Development and Basic Problems of Latin America, Population, Food and Agriculture, Mining, Industry, Trade (including terms of trade), Balance of Payments, Inflation, Transportation, and Latin America in the World Economy.

Report of the Executive Secretary on Prospects for Trade Expansion (Document E/CN.12/85).

This report which the Executive Secretary presents on his own initiative, discusses the possibilities of increasing production and exports of certain commodities, especially to Europe, and of increasing imports of farm machinery, transport and electric-power equipment, diesel motors, irrigation-power equipment, and durable consumer goods, which Europe might be able to supply to Latin America during the next four or five years. It emphasizes the necessity not only of stimulating world trade but also of restoring the historic trade patterns of Latin America with Europe, if these two continents are to be on a self-sustaining trade basis when the European Recovery Programme is terminated. The possibilities of such an expansion of trade have been discussed at some length with the Executive

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Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Executive Secretary suggests that the Commission may wish to set up a permanent Committee on Trade, which would coordinate its efforts with the Committee on Trade of the Economic Commission for Europe.

5. Development of Agriculture and Expansion of Food Production.

Joint ECLA/FAO Working Party Report (Document E/CN.12/83).

This report has been prepared in response to the Resolution on "Establishment of a Joint Working Party Constituted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization" (E/CN.12/60) and the Resolution on "Coordinated Action to Meet the Continuing World Food Crisis" (103 (VI)) of the Economic and Social Council. Pursuant to an agreement reached by the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Director General of FAO, the Working Party was organized in Mexico City during the latter part of October 1948. Members of the Working Party have visited all Latin American countries investigating agricultural production facilities and gathering information for the report, which analyses the most important factors affecting food production and the supply shortages, enumerated in Resolution (E/CN.12/60), that are now impeding food production in Latin America. It also suggests measures that might be taken within the near future to increase the use of farm machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, improved seed, etc., for the purpose of increasing food production.

Report of the Executive Secretary on Prospects for Agricultural Development (Document E/CN.12/86).

The report stresses the need of coordinating agricultural development with that of industry, power, transport and communications, etc. It is felt that only through systematic planning can modernization of agricultural production be achieved.

The recommendations of the ECLA/FAO Joint Working Party are analyzed briefly with a view to aiding the deliberations of the Commission in determining what measures should be taken to carry out

/these recommendations

these recommendations. The efforts of the Commission should be coordinated with those of the Food and Agriculture Organization and, insofar as possible, directed towards specific projects for increased production of agricultural products.

6. Report of the International Monetary Fund on "Multilateral Compensation of International Payments". (Document E/CN.12/67).

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Resolution on "Multilateral Compensation of Payments" (E/CN.12/72).

7. Needs for Technical Assistance in Latin America and Regional Resources Available (Document E/CN.12/84)

This is a preliminary study prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with Resolution on Technical Assistance (E/CN.12/75). The needs for technical assistance and training programmes in Latin America are discussed in general terms. This is followed by a description of the United Nations programme, which has been organized pursuant to the Third General Resolution on "Technical Assistance for Economic Development" (200(III)), adopted on 4 December 1948, which appropriated 288,000 dollars for this purpose for the year 1949.

Specific projects for which technical assistance is now required are analyzed in detail. The description of these projects is intended to satisfy in part the request made in Economic and Social Council Resolution on "Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries (E/1215) and Resolution on "Technical Assistance for Economic Development (E/1216), March 4, 1949.

8. Consideration of the Proposed Economic Conference of the Amazon Basin Countries (Document E/CN.12/68).

The objectives of the proposed conference are set forth as originally presented by the Government of Peru to the Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Council; it presents certain factual data regarding the Amazon Basin, and estimates the financial implications of the proposal.

9. Report of the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council.

10. Date and Place of the Third Session.