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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sixth Session
29 August 1955
Bogota, Colombia.

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening addresses

As soon as the sixth session has been officially inaugurated, the representative of the Colombian Government will be invited to deliver an address. He will be followed by speakers whose names will be announced in the order of the day for the opening meeting, which will be distributed beforehand.

2. Election of officers

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the sixth session will elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The election will be effected by secret ballot, as laid down in rule 40 of the rules of procedure.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission will proceed to adopt an agenda for the sixth session, which will be based on the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

4. Current economic situation and prospects

The following subjects have been grouped under this heading: a) production trends and the rate of economic growth; b) factors affecting the rate of development; c) inflation and anti-inflationary policy; and d) import and export trends. These points have been dealt with by the secretariat in the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1954. This document, which was published

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in July 1955, is divided into two main parts. The first deals with current developments and trends in the economy of Latin America as a whole and outlines the changes which have taken place in the rate of economic growth over the past two years. An analysis is made of per capita income, shifts in investment and the effects of inflation upon the economy. The capacity to import is examined, together with foreign trade, the balance of payments, price relations and the influence of some external factors such as prices and markets. Special attention is devoted to production in agriculture, mining, industry and energy. The second part of the Survey deals with the present situation and the problems affecting individual Latin American countries.

5. General problems of economic development and methods of programming

This item covers the consideration of theoretical and practical problems of economic development in Latin America. The secretariat, with the collaboration of Member Governments, has continued its work on analyses and projections of economic growth in selected countries of Latin America. The secretariat presents for the consideration of the Commission the preliminary studies which have been made on the economic development of Brazil and Colombia.

Another study to be presented to the Commission is a completely revised version of the Introduction to the Technique of Programming, which was published in printed form during July 1955. This document contains elaborated methods of analysis and projection which are being applied to the studies on economic development.

An analysis of foreign investment in Latin America is brought to the attention of the sixth session. This document was published in February 1955.

Finally, the Commission's attention is drawn to progress reports on two studies: the first dealing with the availability and utilization of manpower in different sectors of the economy and the second on the social aspects of economic development.

6. Economic development and integration of Central America

This item deals with the progress achieved under the Central American Economic Integration Programme. A report is submitted by the Central Committee for Economic Co-operation which, jointly with the Central American
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Governments and the ECLA Secretariat, and with the collaboration of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Office and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is responsible for carrying out this Programme. An examination is made of the status of the different projects, which include: research and training institutes; electric energy; forest products, pulp and paper; livestock and dairy products; foreign trade and customs nomenclature; the financing of economic development; and the co-ordination of statistics. At the third regular meeting of the Committee, to be held at Managua, Nicaragua in November 1955, the secretariat will present a practical evaluation of the original priorities established under the Programme, taking into account the recent changes which have taken place in the Central American economy.

7. Technical assistance for economic development

As the problems relating to the economic development of Latin America are progressively examined and diagnosed, the essential role of technical assistance becomes increasingly evident. Under this item on the agenda the Commission will have an opportunity to examine the work carried out in Latin America by the United Nations technical assistance programmes. Reports by the Technical Assistance Board and the Technical Assistance Administration, covering the recent period, will be presented for consideration by the Commission.

The Commission's attention is also drawn to a report on the work carried out under the Joint ECLA/TAA Economic Development Training Programme in 1954-55 and a note on the special training course for economists to be given in Colombia during the last quarter of 1955.

8. Problems of energy and industrial development

In accordance with the work programme approved by the Commission, the secretariat presents for consideration at this session a preliminary report on problems affecting existing and potential energy resources, production and consumption, beginning with an appraisal of the energy situation in Latin America as a whole. Various other aspects are also

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examined, such as the effect upon demand of the structure of industry and its increasing complexity, the financing of new sources of energy and the effect upon the balance of payments of an increase in the imports of capital goods.

The secretariat has continued with its study of the structure, characteristics and prospects of the iron and steel transforming industries, and their role in the regional economy. A paper is presented to this session dealing with the over-all economic aspects of the industry in selected countries, based on a survey of individual plants in Brazil, Chile and Colombia. Preparations are being made to hold a Latin American meeting of experts in the steel transforming industries during 1956, under the joint sponsorship of ECLA and TAA.

The Commission will also be asked to consider the report of the Latin American Meeting of Experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry, held at Buenos Aires in October-November 1954 under the joint auspices of ECLA, FAO and TAA. This report, which has been completely revised, includes annexes with a summary of the papers contributed by outside experts on different aspects of the industry.

A section of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1954, concerned with industrial development, brings out the fact that Latin American industry which had previously been concentrated almost exclusively on the manufacture of consumer goods, has in recent years been dedicating greater effort to the production of capital goods. This section deals with production trends in the following industries: steel; iron and steel transforming industries; cement; chemical industries; textiles and rubber; fertilizers; pulp and paper; and mining, including copper, tin, zinc and lead.

9. Economic problems of agriculture (in co-operation with FAO)

This item on the agenda will give the delegations an opportunity to discuss problems connected with agricultural production. In accordance with a special agreement signed between ECLA and FAO in 1954, work is in progress on the economic problems of agriculture under an ECLA/FAO Joint Programme. A preliminary study dealing with policies for the selective expansion of production and consumption in agriculture is presented to this session with the aim of raising the standard of living in Latin America. This study also
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analyses the relation between agricultural development and economic development in general.

Individually, FAO will present a document on the present situation of agricultural products, with particular reference to the problem of surpluses and the activities of the organization in this respect.

In 1954, ECLA and FAO began a joint study of coffee production and trade in relation to economic development in selected coffee-producing countries. A progress report on the work accomplished to date will be presented to the sixth session.

Chapter IV of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1954, begins with the economic aspects of agriculture and analyses production trends, imports and exports of foodstuffs, the utilization of land and manpower, and the current situation with reference to the principal agricultural products.

10. International trade

The over-all problems of Latin American foreign trade and the appropriate measures for increasing it will be considered under this item. As a continuation and amplification of the preliminary study on trade between the southern countries of Latin America presented to the fifth session, the secretariat has made a more complete study of inter-Latin-American trade.

The document presented at this session contains a review of the characteristics and structure of trade between the countries of the region and an analysis of Latin America's position in world commerce. Trade policies are studied, including the effects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade upon inter-Latin-American trade. The flow of trade is broken down by products and the disparities are shown between the trade of exporting countries and those importing raw materials and foodstuffs.

As in other years, the Economic Survey for Latin America, 1954, deals with current problems of trade and the balance of payments, including monetary reserves, foreign investment in Latin America, the volume and prices affecting foreign trade, markets and the tendency towards a liberalization of trade.

11. Work programme and priorities 1955-56

In accordance with General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the secretariat presents for consideration at its sixth session a note on the work programme and priorities to be followed in 1955-56.

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Allowance has been made in this document for the observations raised at the Fourth Committee of the Whole which met at Santiago in May 1955.

During the present session, the Executive Secretary will make a statement on the different projects being carried out and about to be undertaken, giving due consideration to the financial implications involved.

12. Co-ordination with the Inter-American Economic and Social Council

Co-ordination between the work of ECLA and the IA-ECOSOC has been maintained and strengthened. The secretariat has prepared a note dealing with collaboration between the two bodies.

13. Adoption of the report of the sixth session of the Commission

The Seventh Annual Report of the Commission was approved on 10 May 1955 by the Fourth Committee of the Whole. The Report now to be adopted corresponds to the sixth session only, and will become an integral part of the next annual report of the Commission to be submitted to the Twenty-second Session of the Economic and Social Council.

14. Date and place of the seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with paragraph 15 of its terms of reference and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure, the Commission will fix the date and place for its next session in accordance with the principle that the Latin American countries shall be chosen in rotation. To date, the following countries have acted as host for the sessions of the Commission: Chile, Cuba, Uruguay, Mexico and Brazil.