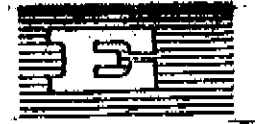


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
FOURTH SESSION
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
28 May 1951

MEASURES TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES
OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
MATERIALS IN LATIN AMERICA

Progress Report by the
Executive Secretary

/The Commission
E/CN.12/230

The Commission at its Fourth Session passed a resolution (document E/CN.12/204) dealing with collaboration with UNESCO. This resolution contained clauses stating that the Commission fully supported the efforts of UNESCO to increase the available supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials in the territory of ECLA, and to obtain the abolition of trade and other barriers which prevent their free circulation; recommended that member governments cooperate with UNESCO, supporting its efforts in this field of action, including the consideration of ways and means to obtain or make available all possible sources of these materials; and requested the Executive Secretary, within the means at his disposal and in collaboration with the Director General of UNESCO, to take the necessary action to convene a meeting at ECLA headquarters of a small working group, made up of members of the two Secretariats and experts and including representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations, which should collaborate closely with other organizations of the United Nations, for instance, with the Economic Commission for Europe in order to:

- a) Study conditions concerning the production, distribution and dissemination of educational, scientific and cultural materials in Latin America;
- b) draw up, in collaboration with the member governments, lists of the requirements of these materials, according to their urgency;
- c) investigate to what extent these requirements could be met by the materials of domestic or regional origin, and at the same time to study ways of increasing the production of such materials in the

/region

region and to what extent it would be necessary to import from countries outside the region;

- d) investigate, in the case of imported materials, possible sources of supply;
- e) recommend to the governments of the region the source of supply of these materials, whether domestic, regional or other countries;

In implementation of this resolution the Executive Secretary, in agreement with the Director General of UNESCO, sent to governments of the region, in December 1950, a questionnaire^{1/} designed to ascertain their import needs and export availabilities for a specific list of educational and scientific materials.

In the opinion of both the Director General of UNESCO and ECLA's Executive Secretary it is desirable that the meeting of the working group envisaged in the Resolution should take place after a substantial number of answers have been received from governments in order to provide the necessary background for discussion. To date no answers have been received from governments, and it has accordingly not yet been possible to convene the meeting.

^{1/} See annex