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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
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Caracas, May 1961

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION



In this Note the attention of the Economic Commission for Latin America is drawn to a number of resolutions, or excerpts from resolutions, relating to the Commission's work that were adopted by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session or by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions,<sup>1/</sup> after 29 March 1960, the closing date of the eighth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA. The Note is in two parts, the first dealing with those resolutions of the above-mentioned bodies that clearly concern the Commission, and may call for some action on its part, and the second with resolutions of possible interest to the Commission and about which it may wish to be informed.

## I

RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION  
FOR ITS CONSIDERATIONA. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

1508 (XV): Low-cost housing and related community facilities (943rd plenary meeting, 12 December 1960)

In operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the General Assembly requests Member States "to review their housing requirements, policies and programmes as well as the extent of investment in this field from all sources in their countries, and to indicate to the United Nations the areas in which outside assistance is most needed".

The Economic and Social Council at its resumed thirtieth session approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that this resolution should be transmitted to the regional economic commissions.

1515 (XV): Concerted action for economic development of economically less developed countries (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

This resolution sets forth broad aims and specific objectives for concerted action by the International community to promote economic development. The Commission's attention is drawn to this resolution

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<sup>1/</sup> The text of these resolutions is reproduced in Information document No. 1.

because of its importance, although no immediate action is called for.

1517 (XV): Projections (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

In operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the General Assembly endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 777 (XXX) on projections; in operative paragraph 2 it requests the Council "to intensify its work in the field of economic and social projections"; in operative paragraph 3 it recommends "that the regional economic commissions continue and intensify their activities in this field"; in operative paragraph 5 it requests the Secretary-General "to prepare in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in co-operation with the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, a study containing tentative medium and long-term projections of the prospective international demand for, and supply of, selected major primary commodities at present exported by the under-developed countries".

The Economic and Social Council at its resumed thirtieth session approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that this resolution should be transmitted to the regional economic commissions.

1518 (XV): Decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960).

This important resolution, adopted unanimously both in the Second Committee and at the plenary meeting, provides for the strengthening of the regional economic commissions and the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the Organization. The regional economic commissions are expected to give their views on this matter to the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council.

In the preamble the General Assembly, inter alia, expresses its satisfaction "that the Economic and Social Council recognized the value of regional co-operation"; recognizes "that the regional economic commissions are not limited under their terms of reference to studies and deliberations and are actually performing various operational functions through

/their secretariats",

their secretariats", and reaffirms its resolution 1158 (XII). The preamble also recalls a number of resolutions adopted by the regional economic commissions, including ECLA resolutions 153 (VIII), 155 (VIII), 172 (AC.45) and 173(AC.45), and welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 795 (XXX).

In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the Committee on Programme Appraisal concerning the work of the regional economic commissions (paragraph 318 of the Consolidated Report); in operative paragraph 2 it invites all Member States to increase their active support of the activities of the commissions and to take further advantage of the facilities and services which could be made available by or through their secretariats"; in operative paragraph 3 it urges the regional economic commissions, "with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, to strengthen co-operation among themselves and among their executive secretaries"; in operative paragraph 4 it requests the Secretary-General "to make every effort to strengthen the secretariats of the regional economic commissions", and in the last operative paragraph it requests the Secretary-General "to consult the regional economic commissions at their next annual sessions and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session on the steps taken in implementation of Council resolution 793 (XXX) regarding the decentralization of activities and operations and the increased utilization of the services of the regional economic commissions".

1519 (XV); Strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

In operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution the General Assembly requests, inter alia, that the regional economic commissions "continue to study" questions relating to "substantial fluctuations, whether in volume or prices, of exports of the economically less developed countries" and present their views on these matters to the thirty-second session of Economic and Social Council, and that all the regional economic /commissions should

commissions should "elaborate further appropriate measures to promote intra-regional trade co-operation".

The Economic and Social Council is requested "to discuss at its thirty-second session, after a preliminary exchange of views among the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Chairman of the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the findings of the studies recommended together with the report being prepared under General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV) on ways and means of promoting wider trade co-operation among States, in order to submit those studies together with the Council's comments to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session".

The Economic and Social Council at its resumed thirtieth session approved the Secretary-General's recommendations to transmit the resolution to the regional economic commissions, to arrange the preliminary exchange of views among the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Chairman of the Commission on International Commodity Trade and to inform the Council of the results, and to include this question in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the Council.

1524 (XV): Financing of economic development of less developed countries through long-term loans and in other advantageous ways and ensuring an increasing share in world trade for their products (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

In operative paragraph 1 the Assembly recommends all Member States "to encourage, on a bilateral and a multilateral basis, the extension as appropriate of long-term loans, grants, or credits on favourable terms as well as the influx of other forms of foreign capital and assistance"; to avoid "reliance on the practices of restricting economic aid to particular sources of supply", and to co-operate in financing various development projects in the less developed countries. In operative paragraph 2 Governments of Member States are called upon "to encourage the development and the diversification of the economies of the less developed countries", and in operative paragraph 3 the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions are called upon "to continue

/to study

to study this important question".

The Council, at its resumed thirtieth session, approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that this resolution should be transmitted to the regional economic commissions.

1526 (XV): Land reform (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly recommends "that the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the executive heads of the other specialized agencies concerned, should continue to study the progress achieved by countries which have carried out or are carrying out programmes for the transformation of their agrarian structure, at their request, and should submit for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council a comprehensive analytical survey every three years - the first of which would be presented in 1962".

In operative paragraph 3 the Secretary-General is invited to consider the possibility of "undertaking studies with a view to ascertaining the demographic, legal, social, economic or other principal factors which may impede or expedite structural changes in the system of land tenure" and of "evaluating the role of co-operatives and credit agencies in facilitating programmes for the transformation of the agrarian structure".

1527 (XV): Assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

This resolution follows upon reports and debates dealing with aid to the newly independent States, but the reference is now to "the newly independent and emerging States". The resolution was adopted in the light of the earlier adoption of resolution 1518 (XV) and should be considered with this fact in mind.

In operative paragraph 4 the Economic and Social Council is invited to "facilitate the provision through the appropriate international organs - including the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund - in co-operation with and, wherever appropriate, through the Economic Commission

/for Africa

for Africa and other regional economic commissions, of assistance requested by Governments" in four fields of activity covering natural resources surveys, industrial surveys, the establishment of "advisory groups of experts to assist in the preparation of economic development programmes", and accelerated training programmes. The detailed enumeration in this paragraph is of importance because it indicates the views of Member States as to the ways in which assistance for economic development should be rendered.

In the last operative paragraph the Secretary-General is requested to lend the Economic and Social Council and the regional economic commissions concerned his assistance in the execution of the tasks mentioned in the resolution.

The Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirtieth session, approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that the resolution should be transmitted to the regional economic commissions, and included the question on its agenda of the thirty-second session.

1535 (XV): Progress achieved in Non-Self-Governing Territories (948th plenary meeting)

Operative paragraph 10 of this resolution requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the regional economic commissions, for necessary action, the progress report and the observations and conclusions prepared by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

1537 (XV): Report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

The report referred to is that prepared in 1960 by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Operative paragraph 2 invites the Secretary-General to communicate this report<sup>2/</sup> to the regional economic commissions for their consideration.

1539 (XV): Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)



In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly expresses the view "that the direct participation of the indigenous peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the appropriate organs of the United Nations is in the interest of the peoples of those Territories and can do much to accelerate the process of their emancipation". In operative paragraph 2 and 3 the General Assembly in effect invites members of the regional economic commission that have not already done so to apply for associate membership for any Non-Self-Governing Territories for which they are responsible.

1557 (XV): Organization and work of the Secretariat (954th plenary meeting, 18 December 1960)

In operative paragraph 3 of this resolution the General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Committee of Experts<sup>3/</sup> that, pending examination of its final report by the General Assembly, United Nations organs should not, save in cases of real urgency, propose the initiation of studies or other projects involving additions to the budget or to the permanent establishment of the Secretariat".

The Commission should bear this resolution in mind when it considers its work programme.

B. Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions

751 (XXIX): Establishment of a Committee for Industrial Development (1105th plenary meeting, 12 April 1960)

The Committee for Industrial Development established by this resolution is a standing committee which, according to the terms of reference given in operative paragraph 1, has advisory powers in "the matters related to the acceleration by less industrialized countries of their industrial development". The Committee is to "exercise its functions without prejudice to the activities of the regional economic commissions" (operative paragraph 3), and furthermore, it is to "assist the Economic

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and Social Council to maintain the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of industrialization of the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies working in the same field, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation in their work" (operative paragraph 7).

752 (XXIX): Study of opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of former Trust Territories and other newly independent States (1107th plenary meeting, 14 April 1960)

Operative paragraph 2 recognizes that "special efforts need to be made in support of the newly emerging States of Africa and elsewhere to provide without delay effective assistance within the framework of existing programmes of the United Nations and through the specialized agencies". In view of the report on this subject requested of the Secretary-General in the resolution, the Economic and Social Council subsequently adopted resolution 768 (XXX), to which ECLA's attention is also drawn.

763 C (XXX): Annual report of the Regional Economic Commission for Latin America (1115th plenary meeting, 8 July 1960)

In this resolution the Council takes note of ECLA's annual report covering the period from 24 May 1959 to 29 March 1960 and endorses the programme of work and priorities contained therein.

766 (XXX): Measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquakes in Chile (1116th plenary meeting, 8 July 1960)

This resolution is based on the report of the Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA in June 1960. In it the Council takes note of the emergency programme of technical assistance of the Government of Chile which calls for an amount of 2.2 million dollars, and requests the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to bear Chile's needs in mind when determining their technical assistance programmes. The Commission's annual report will include an account of the measures taken by ECLA as a result of the earthquakes.

777 (XXX): Projections (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

The preamble of this resolution refers to the "considerable expertise" that is available in the regional economic commissions, among other bodies, and notes that much work on projections in economic and social fields continues to be performed in the commissions.

Operative paragraph 4 is addressed entirely to the regional economic commissions and recommends that they should "continue their activities in this field in particular by encouraging and facilitating the preparation and supply by their member Governments of information relating to projections, and by arranging for appropriate technical advice and the collation of data".

782 (XXX): Meetings at the ministerial level (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

In this resolution the Council recognizes that "meetings at the ministerial level from time to time, under appropriate conditions and circumstances, may contribute to the advancement of the objectives of the Council".

In operative paragraphs 3 and 4 the Secretary-General is requested on the basis of the views expressed by Governments with respect to a further meeting at the ministerial level, and of any other consultations he may wish to undertake, "to report to the Council not later than the thirty-second session his findings and recommendations".

Operative paragraph 5 expresses the hope that "the regional economic commissions and their executive secretaries will make an appropriate contribution to any such meeting".

791 (XXX): Programme appraisal in the economic, social and human rights fields (1132nd plenary session, 3 August 1960)

This is the basic resolution resulting from the Consolidated Report by the Committee on Programme Appraisals.<sup>4/</sup> In operative paragraph 5 the

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<sup>4/</sup> Five-year Perspective, 1960-1964 (E/3347/Rev.1; United Nations publication, Sales N° 60.IV.14). Consolidated Report on the appraisals of the scope, trend, and costs of the programmes in the economic, social and human rights fields of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

regional commissions are invited to examine the Consolidated Report (which has been circulated as part of the documentation for the present session of the Commission) and to transmit to the Council at its thirty-second session any comments they may wish to make. Paragraphs 130, 138, 147, 153, 156, 161, 176, 185, 191, 201, 203, 209, 213, 251, 277, 295, 313, 318, 337 and 340 of the Consolidated Report will be of special interest to the Commission, and the Commission will also wish to bear in mind the contents of the document Preparation for programme appraisal for 1959-1964 submitted by the Executive Secretary at the Commission's eighth session.<sup>5/</sup>

793 (XX): Decentralization of activities and operations (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

This resolution is of considerable importance to the work of the regional economic commissions. In the preamble it refers to Section C, Part III, of the Consolidated Report of the Committee on Programme Appraisals. This section contains only two paragraphs, one of which deals mainly with the regional economic commissions. In the operative paragraphs the Council, in addition to drawing the attention of Governments to "the advantage of fully using the facilities and services of the regional economic commissions", requests the Secretary-General "to draw, as fully as possible, on the services of the regional economic commissions, especially in the planning and execution of programmes for advancing regional development", and to "encourage and intensify co-operation of the regional economic commissions through their Secretariats".

It should be noted that although the use of the word "of" in the last phrase does not seem to be altogether apt, and robs the paragraph of some meaning, the original draft resolution used the word "among", and it should therefore be assumed that the Council wished co-operation among the

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5/ E/CN.12/500; reproduced as Annex VII in the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America to the Economic and Social Council, for the period from 9 April 1958 to 23 May 1959 inclusive (E/3246/Rev.2) pp. 61-73.

regional economic commissions to be encouraged and intensified. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

797 (XXX): Administrative and technical training (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

In this resolution the Council emphasizes the need for "the rapid formation of adequately trained cadres, particularly in the administrative and technical fields". In operative paragraph 1 the Council recommends that "the competent organs of the United Nations", inter alia, should "give a high priority in their future work to these objectives".

## II

### RESOLUTIONS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION

#### A. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

- 1496 (XV): Provision of food surpluses to food-deficient peoples through the United Nations system (908th plenary meeting, 27 October 1960)
- 1507 (XV): United Nations Children's Fund (943rd plenary meeting, 12 December 1960).
- 1512 (XV): Main trends of inquiry in the natural sciences, dissemination of scientific knowledge and application of such knowledge for peaceful ends (943rd plenary meeting, 12 December 1960)
- 1514 (XV): Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (947th plenary meeting, 14 December 1960)
- 1516 (XV): Economic and social consequences of disarmament (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1520 (XV): Improvement of the terms of trade between the industrial and the under-developed countries (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1521 (XV): Establishment of a United Nations capital development fund (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1522 (XV): Accelerated flow of capital and technical assistance to the developing countries (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1523 (XV): International credit insurance (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

/1525 (XV):

- 1525 (XV): Activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1529 (XV): Contributions to the Special Fund and to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1530 (XV): United Nations assistance in public administration: provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1532 (XV): United Nations programmes of technical assistance: arrangements to facilitate the prompt supply of technical assistance personnel (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1534 (XV): Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)
- 1540 (XV): Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (948th plenary meeting, 15 December 1960)

B. Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions

- 757 (XXIX): Economic development of under-developed countries: industrialization (1111th plenary meeting, 21 April 1960)

In this resolution the Council approves the Secretary-General's proposals for the work programme on industrialization and requests him to submit proposals for a longer-range and expanded work programme for consideration by the Committee for Industrial Development and subsequently by the Council at its thirty-first session.

- 758 (XXIX): Economic development of under-developed countries: petroleum resources (1111th plenary meeting, 21 April 1960)

In this resolution the Council notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on petroleum resources and the assistance provided in solving problems relating thereto; it also notes that the "regional economic commissions have, where appropriate and at the request of their members, included the study of such problems in their past and future work programmes". It invites the Secretary-General and the Technical Assistance

Board to continue to provide assistance and "to organize seminars on the techniques of petroleum development with the co-operation of the specialized agencies", and expresses the hope that "competent non-governmental and private organizations will be invited to participate in such seminars".

- 759 (XXIX): Economic development of under-developed countries: water resources (1111th plenary meeting, 21 April 1960)
- 760 (XXIX): Economic development of under-developed countries: Co-operatives (1111th plenary meeting, 21 April 1960)
- 762 (XXIX): International flow of private capital (1111th plenary meeting 21 April 1960)
- 767 (XXX): International co-operation in the field of seismological research (1116th plenary meeting, 8 July 1960)
- 768 (XXX): Opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of newly independent countries (1127th plenary meeting, 21 July 1960)
- 776 (XXX): Short-term appraisals of the world economic situation (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 778 (XXX): Strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 780 (XXX): International flow of capital (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 783 (XXX): International commodity problems (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

In operative paragraph 4 the Council draws the attention of the Commission on International Commodity Trade to "the work on commodities done by the regional economic commissions and by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and invites it to take that work into consideration in the studies it is carrying out on a world-wide scale".

- 785 (XXX): Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance: implementation of two-year programming for 1961-1962 (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

/786 (XXX):

- 786 (XXX): Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance: country programming procedures (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 787 (XXX): Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance: local cost arrangement (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 788 (XXX): Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance: increase in the level of contingency authorizations for 1960 (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 790 (XXX): Technical assistance in public administration: provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)

In this resolution the Council, considering particularly the needs of newly independent countries, recommends to the General Assembly that the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX) "should be placed on a continuing basis".

- 792 (XXX): Concerted action programmes (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 795 (XXX): Co-ordination in the field (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 798 (XXX): Establishment of an ad hoc working group (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 801 (XXX): Concentration of activities of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields (1132nd plenary meeting, 3 August 1960)
- 807 (XXX): Agreement between the United Nations and the International Development Association (1132nd plenary meeting, 22 December 1960)