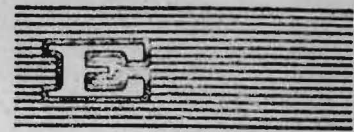


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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL  
E/CN.12/AC.56/SR.2  
15 May 1963  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
**CATALOGADO**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Tenth Session  
Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6 to 18 May 1963

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL QUESTIONS  
PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING  
Held at Mar del Plata, Argentina  
on Wednesday, 15 May 1963, at 10 a.m.

CONTENTS:

- United Nations Building in Santiago, Chile
- Activities in the field of technical assistance  
(continued)
- Approval of draft resolutions
- Other questions

Note: Delegations wishing to submit corrigenda to their statements in this summary record for inclusion in the final version are requested to make their corrections on a mimeographed copy of the record. The corrected copy should reach Miss Juanita Eyzaguirre (Conference Officer), Room 102, not later than forty-eight hours after distribution.

## PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LISETTE	(France)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. URTUBEY	Argentina
	Mr. GANDARILLAS	Bolivia
	Mr. DE ANDRADE MELLO	Brazil
	Mr. BARBOSA DE OLIVEIRA	Brazil
	Mr. SUMMERS	Canada
	Mr. MIDWINTER	Canada
	Mr. GOMEZ	Colombia
	Mr. INCHAUSTEGUI	Cuba
	Mr. MARCHAN	Ecuador
	Mr. TRECA	France
	Mr. CALIX MONCADA	Honduras
	Mr. RENDON	Honduras
	Mr. CALDERON	Mexico
	Mr. FEIN	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Mr. GAITAN	Nicaragua
	Mr. GONZALEZ OVIEDO	Paraguay
	Mr. IBARRA	Peru
	Mr. TAYLOR )	United Kingdom of
	Mr. ATKINSON)	Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Miss JESTER	United States of America
	Mr. PITTALUGA	Uruguay
	Mr. EIRIS-VILLEGAS	Venezuela

/ALSO PRESENT:

## ALSO PRESENT:

Observers from States  
Members of the United Nations  
not members of the Commission:

Mr. SCHWALD	Austria
Mr. PRUES	Belgium
Mr. BEHMKE	Denmark
Mr. MURANEN	Finland
Mr. JOZSA	Hungary
Mr. TOPPANI	Italy
Mr. MATSUOKA	Japan

Observers from States  
not Members of the  
United Nations:

Mr. BERTHOUD	Switzerland
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Representatives of  
specialized agencies:

Miss JAMES	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
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Representatives of inter-  
governmental organizations:

Mr. DELONS	Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration
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Secretariat:

Mr. HOO	Commissioner for Technical Assistance
Mr. A. SANTA CRUZ	Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission
Mr. VITERI	Chief, ECLA Information Service
Mr. VALDES	Secretary of the Commission
Mr. ARDITI	Secretary of the Committee

UNITED NATIONS BUILDING AT SANTIAGO, CHILE (E/CN.12/675,  
E/CN.12/676)

Mr. VITERI DE LA HUERTA (Secretariat) said that at the end of 1959, when the General Assembly had accepted the offer of the Government of Chile to provide a site for a United Nations building in Santiago, a budget of approximately 1.5 million dollars had been approved. A competition had resulted in the contract being awarded to the Chilean architect Emilio Duhart and the final plans had been drawn up in 1961. In the meantime expansion of the activities of ECLA and the other agencies concerned, and the decentralization of economic and social activities, especially technical assistance, had made it necessary to adjust the plans. When bids for the construction of the building were opened towards the end of 1962 it became evident that the total cost of building would exceed the approved budget by some 500,000 dollars, because of the increases in construction costs as well as the expansion of the facilities.

The Chilean Government, in addition to providing the site, had offered to make an extraordinary contribution of 465,000 escudos, then representing about 200,000 dollars, which would considerably reduce the deficit. The General Assembly had decided at the end of 1962 that the building should proceed on the basis of the adjusted plans, in the hope that the deficit could be totally absorbed by a programme of gifts in kind and in cash. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Gift Programme established by the Committee of the Whole at its eighth session had accordingly asked member Governments

/of ECLA

of ECLA to indicate what gifts they would be able to make, with a view to discussing the question at the present session, and a sub-committee had been established which in March 1963 had visited a number of countries to discuss gifts. The results of those enquiries were given in document E/CN.12/676.

Work on the building had begun on 18 January 1963, and was proceeding satisfactorily, although certain technical problems, relating to underground waters, had made slight modifications necessary. Despite the generous gift by the Government of Chile, the present deficit stood at over 250,000 dollars. It was hoped that member Governments would be able to make gifts in kind or in cash that would make it possible to complete the construction adequately.

Mr. CISTERNAS (Chile) said that in November 1962 Chile had announced its decision to set aside in its budget for 1964 the sum of 465,000 escudos as a special contribution to the building. That sum, together with what had already been spent on access roads, etc., would bring Chile's total contribution to about three-quarters of a million dollars.

Mr. TRECA (France) said that his Government would study ways of making a contribution, in due course, to the building.

Mr. CALDERON (Mexico) said that his Government had received an encouraging response from private industry for gifts in kind, and would discuss the matter with the ECLA secretariat and the architect of the building.

Mr. INCHAUSTEGUI (Cuba) said that Cuba would make a contribution the value of which would be communicated to the secretariat.

/Mr. FEIN

Mr. FEIN (Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that his Government would make a contribution in kind to the value of 15,000 dollars. The contribution of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles would represent about 2,500 dollars each, and the Netherlands contribution, representing about 10,000 dollars, would be a parquet floor for a large hall or conference room, made of high-grade wood from Surinam, to the value of approximately 5,000 dollars including freight, plus other functional gifts to be decided on in consultation with the secretariat.

Mr. EIRIS-VILLEGAS (Venezuela) said that he hoped that all member countries would help to meet the deficit. The Venezuelan Government would contribute cement for the building, and possibly other donations in kind, after consultation with the secretariat and with the firms concerned in Venezuela.

Mr. BARBOSA DE OLIVEIRA (Brazil) said that his country had decided to include a special appropriation in its 1964 budget to cover its gift, and that the amount would be communicated to the secretariat later.

Mr. VITERI DE LA HUERTA (Secretariat) explained, in reply to a question from the representative of Paraguay, that gifts in kind would help to reduce the deficit by reducing the amount that would have to be spent in buying materials, etc. The functional gifts now requested would be used in the construction of the building, and in the finish work, but at a later stage decorative gifts could be accepted.

/Mr. GOMEZ

Mr. GOMEZ (Colombia) said that the Colombian Government was endeavouring to enlist the co-operation of private industry as regards the gift programme, and would inform the secretariat of the results achieved.

Miss JESTER (United States of America) said that although no financial appropriation was available to her Government at the moment to permit a cash contribution towards meeting the deficit, it was hoped that contacts with private organizations would make possible gifts either in cash or, more probably, in kind.

Mr. MARCHAN (Ecuador) was confident that his country would soon forward its contribution towards the gift programme, since the matter was one of interest to all Latin American countries.

Mr. VITERI DE LA HUERTA (Secretariat) said that a communication had been received from the Dominican Republic stating that it would make a contribution to the value of 5,000 dollars.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission) thanked the Governments on behalf of the Secretary-General, for their interest in the building, and in particular for the contributions that had been announced at the present meeting.

#### ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (continued)

Mr. HOO (United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance), speaking on the question of decentralization, said that in the course of the past two years appreciable progress had been made in the transfer of substantive and administrative authority from United Nations Headquarters to the ECLA secretariat with respect to the programming and execution of regional projects.

The Executive Secretary of ECLA and Headquarters staff were co-operating in the adoption of the measures required to give practical effect to the policy of decentralization, subject to the regulations and procedures governing technical assistance administration in general. The arrangements were aimed at ensuring a sufficient measure of flexibility leading to more rapid execution of projects relating to the delegation of authority in the matter of travel, the granting of fellowships and the holding of meetings of experts and seminars. Measures were also being adopted to delegate to the Executive Secretary broader authority with respect to technical assistance experts and the administration of funds allocated to regional projects, subject to financial supervision by a central authority and taking into account the decisions of the relevant United Nations organs. Thus, arrangements were being made to authorize the Executive Director to transfer funds within a specific project, in accordance with the requirements arising from the execution of the project. However, decisions on transfer of funds from one project to another would remain the responsibility of a central authority.

Apart from the measures being taken with respect to decentralized projects, it was to be hoped that the ECLA secretariat would play an increasing part in activities relating to the programming of technical co-operation on a national scale, particularly in the matter of development programming, in which it had broad experience. That might reduce the number and scope of projects which Headquarters was at present better equipped to administer.



In view of the growth, both in number and importance, of United Nations responsibility in the field of technical co-operation, it was encouraging to note that the increasing participation of the ECLA secretariat was contributing to the more effective use in Latin America of the limited funds at the Secretary-General's disposal.

Mr. FEIN (Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that his country was a member both of the Technical Assistance Committee and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Fund. It contributed both funds and services to the technical assistance programmes, providing experts and receiving United Nations fellowship holders in the Netherlands. Moreover young Netherlands graduates in various fields were made available to the specialized agencies as associate experts, at the expense of the Netherlands, at the rate of thirty-five a year. In addition young volunteers provided various forms of assistance to developing countries, and bilateral programmes were being established. In terms of finance, the Netherlands contribution to the Expanded Programme in 1963 represented an increase of 20 per cent, from 1.5 million to 1.8 million dollars, and the contribution to the Special Fund 50 per cent, amounting to nearly 4 million dollars. The foregoing applied to the European part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while it was hoped that the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam would receive continued attention from the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the promotion of economic and social development. He referred to document E/CN.12/635, and noted with approval the absolute increase in technical assistance to the ECLA region, and the

/emphasis on

emphasis on closer co-operation between the regional economic commissions and the Technical Assistance Board.

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) said that his country was taking an increasing interest in the provision of technical assistance in Latin America, although its participation had not begun until the end of 1962. A tropical agriculture mission had already been sent to Bolivia, and arrangements were being made to provide technical assistance to Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela during 1963. In 1964 Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay would be added to the list. Plans were in hand to co-operate with OAS in providing training in the United Kingdom in certain fields, and the first trainees were expected to arrive in 1963.

Mr. GOMEZ (Colombia) thanked the secretariat for implementing the recommendation adopted at the ninth session of the Commission with respect to the establishment of an ECLA Office at Bogota, a recommendation subsequently ratified by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

He was confident that as soon as the conversations between the ECLA secretariat and the Government of Colombia on the signing of a basic agreement were concluded, the Office would be established immediately, since the advice it would provide in the field of development planning to the countries within its purview was of major importance.

/APPROVAL OF

## APPROVAL OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (Conference Room Paper No. 12/Rev.1)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution on decentralization.

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) proposed that the words "expert technical assistance staff" in the penultimate paragraph of the preamble and in operative paragraph 3 should be amended to read "technical assistance experts".

It was so agreed.

Mr. GONZALEZ OVIEDO (Paraguay), whose delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, observed that in the French and Spanish versions the final clause of operative paragraph 2 should be transferred to the end of operative paragraph 3. The English text was not affected.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the word "regional" at the end of operative paragraph 2, as amended, had been omitted from the French and Spanish texts. It would therefore be inserted.

Mr. GONZALEZ OVIEDO (Paraguay) said that he had no objections to any of the drafting changes made.

Mr. PITTALUGA (Uruguay) proposed the deletion of the words "especially as regards the planning of economic and social development" at the end of operative paragraph 4. It was not intended that technical assistance requirements in respect of the planning of economic and social development should receive priority, as it would appear from the present text.

/Mr. EIRIS-VILLEGAS

Mr. EIRIS-VILLEGAS (Venezuela) supported the proposal. At the same time he proposed the deletion of the words "del Director Principal a cargo" at the beginning of the same operative paragraph. The English text was not affected.

The proposals were accepted.

The paragraphs of the preamble, as amended, were adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 2, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 5 was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Demography (Conference Room Paper No. 13)

The CHAIRMAN said that no amendments had been introduced to the draft resolution on demography.

The draft resolution was adopted by 18 votes to none, with one abstention.

Mr. Alfonso SANTA CRUZ (Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission) thanked the Committee for the resolution adopted on the question of decentralization, which he considered an expression of confidence in the ECLA secretariat.

At the same time, he expressed the secretariat's appreciation of the statement made by the representative of Colombia, and of the support received from the Netherlands in the field of technical assistance, as described by the Netherlands representative. The facilities offered by the Netherlands were

/being availed

being availed of both at ECLA Headquarters and by the Mexico Office.

#### OTHER QUESTIONS

Mr. TRECA (France) thanked the secretariat for the effort it had made to provide French translations of the documents produced at the session. However, many of the documents distributed before the session had not been made available in French.

Mr. Alfonso SANTA CRUZ (Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission) said that in spite of the secretariat's efforts funds had not been made available for the setting up of a French language unit in ECLA's editorial services, which at present consisted of an English and a Spanish section only. If the necessary funds were forthcoming, a French unit could be set up and all documents could then be made available in French.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

