

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL
E/ CEPAL/980/Rev.1
6 April 1975
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Sixteenth session

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6 to 15 May 1975

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF
THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF ECLA

Note by the secretariat

- I. Objectives and scope of the Port-of-Spain session
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Annotated provisional agenda

I. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PORT-OF-SPAIN SESSION

The States Members of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) will be meeting at Port-of-Spain at a time of exceptional importance for Latin America, in view of the turn taken by the international situation and the complex readjustments which have been incubating in the region itself. Since the last session of the Commission, held at Quito in March 1973, the atmosphere of insecurity has intensified at all levels, and many countries of the region are already feeling the impact of the unfavourable international situation which is jeopardizing their endeavour to speed up their economic and social development. The opportunity afforded by the Port-of-Spain session for all the Member Governments of ECLA to discuss international and regional problems on a collective basis therefore acquires a constructive scope and potential which demands special attention.

Moreover, the first half of the United Nations Second Development Decade is under way, and the regional commissions are called upon to appraise economic and social development and the application of the International Development Strategy (IDS) during the past four years. It will therefore fall to the Port-of-Spain session to make this review and appraisal in respect of Latin America, dealing both with the countries' own internal efforts and with international and regional co-operation: and all this with a view to introducing whatever amendments may be deemed appropriate in the targets, the objectives and the policies and measures envisaged in the IDS. This responsibility incumbent upon ECLA is of vital importance because of the changes that have been taking place in certain basic aspects and fundamental premises underlying the formulation of the IDS, and because of the effects and repercussions on the Latin American economy produced by the evolution of the world economic situation. It will therefore be necessary to examine, in a context of sharp contrasts, the development prospects of the Latin American countries and the serious immediate problems arising, particularly those connected with the critical situation in respect of balance-of-payments deficits and supplies of /essential goods

essential goods. Comprehensive discussion of these subjects in our own environment will make for better mutual understanding of the problems concerned and for the adoption of concerted positions with respect to the revision of the IDS and the establishment of a new international economic order.

It should be recalled that, in conformity with the Declaration and Programme of Action on the establishment of a new international economic order adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth special session, as well as in compliance with the relevant resolutions subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council, ECLA - like the other regional economic commissions - will now also have to undertake the preparatory work in its own region for the special session of the General Assembly which is to be held next September for the purpose of discussing international economic co-operation and development, the aim being to facilitate the establishment of a new international economic order that will enable the world to emerge successfully from the crisis through which it is passing. Similarly, under the terms of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, ECLA and its secretariat, like the other members of the United Nations system, are required to take early measures to apply, in their respective spheres of competence, the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the establishment of a new international economic order, reorienting and adapting their work programmes in order to facilitate as much as possible the performance of this task.

Account will also have to be taken of other resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, for example, those relating to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, decentralization of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), multilateral trade negotiations, and the reform of the international monetary system.

/All these

All these considerations have convinced the ECLA secretariat that in present circumstances Latin American development problems in relation to the appraisal of the IDS and the establishment of a new international economic order (item 4 of the provisional agenda) are likely to be the key topic of discussion at the Port-of-Spain meetings. This forthcoming session of the Commission may thus be expected to assist in clarifying the guiding principles and the main features of the practical action that the Latin American governments should take, through their national policies and at the international and regional levels, to solve the immediate problems and attain longer-term economic and social development objectives. It may likewise be hoped that the results of the session will constitute a useful and constructive contribution on the region's part to the discussions and decision-making process in the economic and social field which are taking place in the United Nations. None of this, of course, is intended to detract from the importance of the other topics bearing on ECLA's action at the regional level in respect of the items on the provisional agenda and the annotations appended below.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Latin America, the International Development Strategy and a new international economic order:
 - (a) Latin America and the international economic situation
 - (b) Second regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy
5. Activities of ECLA in relation to international co-operation:
 - (a) Co-operation at the international level:
 - (i) Population
 - (ii) Industrial development

/(iii) Food

- (iii) Food
 - (iv) Energy
 - (v) Transport and transport facilitation
 - (vi) Science and technology
 - (vii) Multilateral trade negotiations
 - (viii) Technical co-operation among developing countries
 - (ix) Participation of women in development
 - (x) Human settlements
 - (b) Co-operation at the regional level:
 - (i) Economic integration
 - (ii) Action in the event of natural disasters in the region
 - (iii) Environment
 - (c) Other activities of the Commission
6. Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES):
- (a) Activities of the Institute, 1973-1974
 - (b) Future activities of the Institute
7. Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE):
- (a) Report on activities carried out and programmed
 - (b) Future activities of CELADE
8. Regional structures and co-ordination with the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):
- (a) Regional structures of the United Nations
 - (b) Decentralization of UNDP activities
9. Programme of work, budget and order of priorities:
- (a) Programme of work and order of priorities, 1975-1977
 - (b) Other business of the Commission
10. Place and date of the next session
11. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

III. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening addresses

The programme for the opening meeting, which will be held on the morning of 6 May, will be announced in the order of the day.

2. Election of officers

Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure provides that "the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election".

3. Adoption of the agenda

The representatives can either adopt the provisional agenda as it stands in section II of the present note, or suggest any amendments which they may deem appropriate. The following paragraphs contain comments on the various agenda items.

4. Latin America, the International Development Strategy and a new international economic order

(a) Latin America and the international economic situation

(b) Second regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy

- Documents
- Latin America and the international economic situation: Second appraisal of the International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/981)
 - Economic Survey of Latin America, 1974 (E/CEPAL/982)
 - Report on the second review and appraisal by the Committee of High-Level Government Experts of the International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/983)
 - Guidelines for action related to the International Development Strategy. Note by the secretariat (E/CEPAL/984)
 - Note by the secretariat on the status of economic and social appraisal tasks in Latin America (E/CEPAL/985)

/In accordance

In accordance with the procedures laid down in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), ECLA, at its last session (March 1973), approved the Quito Appraisal on the implementation of the International Development Strategy (IDS) - in respect of Latin America - during its first two years of existence. It is now the task of ECLA to make a second government study and appraisal of the IDS with reference to the first half of the Second Development Decade. Furthermore, under the terms of resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, and resolutions 1896 and 1911 (LVII) of the Economic and Social Council, questions relating to the Declaration and Programme of Action for a new international economic order should also be discussed in close connexion with the appraisal of the IDS.

For the information of governments, and with a view to assisting the Commission in the foregoing task, the document entitled "Latin American development and the international economic situation" is presented. It comprises the technical analyses and studies prepared by the secretariat to provide the basic data used for the review and appraisal of Latin America's economic and social development in the past four years and the most significant conclusions reached, with due regard to the impact and repercussions of the international economic situation. These studies are divided into three parts. The first considers human development and economic growth in the region in overall terms, trends and problems in the agricultural and industrial sectors and, lastly, natural resources, with particular reference to petroleum and energy. The second part relates to Latin America's external economic relations - the impact of the international economic situation on the external sector and on Latin American development, international trade, the monetary system and external financing -, concluding with an analysis of regional economic integration. In the third part will be found a systematic compilation of a wide range of indicators and statistics representing a substantial proportion of the principal data used in the study.

The Economic Survey of Latin America, 1974, consists of two important separate parts. The first is a special study on world inflation and its repercussions on Latin America, and contains six national case studies (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay). The second furnishes the main data on trends in the countries of the region during 1974.

Before the Port-of-Spain session, the Member Governments will also have access to the Report of the Second Meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts on the appraisal of the IDS (Bogotá, 11-15 March 1975). This Committee is composed of experts from the developing countries members of ECLA, in compliance with resolution 310 (XIV) adopted by the Commission. Like the Commission to which it will present its report and recommendations, the Committee will be called upon to make its appraisal of the IDS in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, and to include questions relating to the establishment of a new international economic order.

Since this is the key topic for the sixteenth session of the Commission, the results of the appraisal to be made at Port-of-Spain could be the subject matter of a resolution, as was the case at the Quito session. This and any other resolutions which may be approved at Port-of-Spain will be included in the report which the Commission has to present to the Economic and Social Council, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

It should be mentioned that the third document presented by the secretariat (E/CEPAL/984) as a corollary to the appraisal exercise suggests in condensed form guidelines for action at the international, regional and national levels, to which governments may like to give consideration when defining their positions in this respect.

A report is also being presented on the results of four sub-regional technical seminars held in 1974 (Buenos Aires, 9-14 September; Santiago, 30 September-5 October; Mexico, 14-19 October and Port-of-Spain, 28 October-1 November) on Review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy: the organizational problems raised by this task in the countries of Latin America.

- Reference documents - The Quito Appraisal: A review of the first two years of the International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/987)
- Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/CEPAL/986)

5. Activities of ECLA in relation to international co-operation
- (a) Co-operation at the international level
- (b) Co-operation at the regional level
- (c) Other activities of the Commission

- Documents - Conclusions and recommendations of the meetings convened by ECLA. Other activities in the field of international co-operation. Note by the secretariat. (E/CEPAL/988)
- Work of the Commission since 1 March 1974 (E/CEPAL/989)

Under this head, a review is made of ECLA's activities since 1 March 1974, the date of the last report which the secretariat presented to the Economic and Social Council. It is subdivided as follows:

- (a) Co-operation at the international level
- (b) Co-operation at the regional level
- (c) Other activities of the Commission

Under points (a) and (b), the secretariat presents for consideration by the delegations a summary of the meetings held and the conclusions and recommendations reached. It would be advisable for the Commission to take decisions on some of these: for example, in connexion with the setting-up of an ECLA standing committee on industrialization, and a committee on science and technology, as was proposed in the meetings on these subjects.

The following is a list of the meetings held:

Second Latin American Meeting on Population

Latin American Conference on Industrialization, Mexico City

ECLA/FAO Panel: Food in Latin America within the World Context

Technical Symposium on Latin America and Current Energy Problems

Round Table of Latin American Insurance Superintendents

/Meeting on

Meeting on Science, Technology and Development in Latin America,
Mexico City

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Ninth Extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of
ECLA (to consider the disaster suffered by Honduras).

A report on activities in progress, some of which may culminate
in further meetings or projects which would be included in the work
programme, is also being placed before the present session.

The topics are: technical co-operation among developing countries,
participation of women in development, human settlements, economic
integration and environment.

The third point complements this panorama of ECLA's activities
with work carried out in other areas. The relevant document will
constitute Part One of the annual report which ECLA will present to
the Economic and Social Council.

6. Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

(a) Activities of the Institute, 1973-1974

(b) Future activities of the Institute

- Documents
- Activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic
and Social Planning, 1973-1974, with a Note by the
secretariat (E/CEPAL/990)
 - Secretariat report on the implementation of the
resolution 340 (AC.66) adopted at the Eighth Extraordinary
Session of the Committee of the Whole, (New York, 24 and
25 January 1974) (E/CEPAL/991)
 - Future frame of action of the Latin American Institute
for Economic and Social Planning (E/CEPAL/1000)

The titles of the documents suffice in themselves to indicate
the subjects of discussion.

7. Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

(a) Report on activities carried out and programmed

(b) Future activities of CELADE

- Documents
- Activities of CELADE carried out in 1973-1974 and
programmed for 1975-1977. Note by the secretariat
(E/CEPAL/992 and Add.1)
 - Report of the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Committee
of the Whole (Mexico, 8 March 1975) (E/CEPAL/993)

The first of these reports aims at giving a summarized account of the activities carried out by the Centre during the last two years (1973-1975) in its four areas: teaching, technical assistance, research and documentation and information. As part of this first report, a summary of future activities in terms of expected demand, and of others that will derive from the new institutional structure which has been agreed upon for the Centre, has been included.

Point (b) relates to any decisions that may be adopted at the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole (Mexico, 8 March 1975), on the institutional reorganization of CELADE. The report of this extraordinary session is being presented to the States Members of the Commission for their consideration.

8. Regional structures and co-ordination with the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- (a) Regional structures of the United Nations
- (b) Decentralization of UNDP activities

Documents - Regional structures of the United Nations (E/CEPAL/998)
- Decentralization of UNDP activities (E/CEPAL/999)

9. Programme of work, budget and order of priorities

Documents - Programme of work and order of priorities 1975-1977 (E/CEPAL/994)
- Priorities, plan of work and institutional machinery of the Commission (Note prepared by the secretariat) (E/CEPAL/995)

Reference documents - Programme budget proposed for the biennium 1976-1977 (E/CEPAL/996)
- Medium-term plan for 1978-1979 (E/CEPAL/997)

(a) Programme of work and order of priorities 1975-1977

Under this item a draft programme of work for 1975-1977 is submitted, which includes information on the activities undertaken over the two previous years, the projects proposed for early implementation and the resources required.

As a result of the new arrangements introduced in 1974 in the preparation of this type of document, for the whole United Nations system, the form in which the draft programme of work is to be

/présenté diffère

presented differs from that used at the fifteenth session. On the whole, however, the information contained in the document submitted is approximately the same.

Moreover, the secretariat will submit a note based on the activities undertaken and the recommendations made at the meetings at government level held since the last ECLA session, and suggesting certain priorities for the Programme of Work, as well as certain institutional arrangements and machinery with a view to ensuring closer participation by the Governments in the activities to be undertaken.

The United Nations Administration has asked all agencies to submit a draft programme budget for 1975-1977 and the medium-term and long-term plans for 1978-1979. These documents are being sent to member Governments, for information purposes only, since the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly is the competent body to take decisions on these projects.

(b) Other business of the Commission

10. Place and date of the seventeenth session

In accordance with the rules of procedure, at each session the Commission decides upon the place of meeting for its next session, which in the present case will be held in April or May 1977. On this occasion the Commission will consider the invitations received from the Governments of States Members for the next session, and will decide upon the place and date thereof.

For the information of the meeting, the following is a list of the places and dates of the previous sessions of the Commission:

1. Santiago, Chile, 7-25 June 1948
2. Havana, 29 May-14 June 1949
3. Montevideo, 5-21 June 1950
4. Mexico City, 26 May-16 June 1951
5. Quitandinha, 9-25 April 1953
6. Bogotá, 29 August-16 September 1955
7. La Paz, 15-29 May 1957
8. Panama City, 11-23 May 1959

/9. Santiago,

9. Santiago, Chile, 4-15 May 1961
 10. Mar del Plata, 6-18 May 1963
 11. Mexico City, 6-18 May 1965
 12. Caracas, 2-13 May 1967
 13. Lima, 14-23 April 1969
 14. Santiago, Chile, 27 April-8 May 1971
 15. Quito, 23-30 March 1973
11. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council