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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Santiago, Chile

11 February 1952

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS

THIRTEENTH SESSION WITH RESPECT TO THE ECONOMIC

COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

1. Future of the Commission

The Council reviewed the activities and the future of the Commission along with those of other regional commissions. In this connection, the Council had before it, inter alia, reports and recommendations of its ad hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions<sup>1/</sup> and of its Co-ordination Committee<sup>2/</sup>.

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<sup>1/</sup> Document E/1995 and addenda

<sup>2/</sup> Document E/2129 and addenda

The Annual Report of the Council to the sixth session of the General Assembly states:

"The General Assembly, in resolution 405 B(V), expressed the opinion that the regional economic commissions should be maintained. The Council expressed unanimous appreciation of the work of the commissions, and in resolution 414 (XIII) decided to continue them indefinitely; stressed the importance which the governments represented on the commissions attach to their programmes; and endorsed their further development."

"The Council decided that it would make special reviews of the work of the regional economic commissions from time to time." 1/

At the same time, the Council reviewed the terms of reference of ECLA and other regional commissions. The Council agreed to the changes in ECLA's terms of reference suggested by the Commission at its Fourth Session,<sup>2/</sup> and replaced paragraph 16 by:

"16. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission."

Relevant parts of resolution 414 (XIII) of the Council are included in Appendix I.

## 2. Rules of Procedure

(i) Dates and places of sessions. The Council recommended to the regional commissions (resolution 414 (XIII) C.1, paragraph (4)) that

"Their rules of procedure be amended, where necessary in order to comply with the following:

The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. In special cases, the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences;"

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1/ Annual Report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, covering the period from 16 August 1950 to 21 September 1951 (document A/1884, Supplement No.3), paragraphs 84 and 85.

2/ Document E/2021 (E/CN.12/266) pp. 65 - 68

The Committee of the Whole may wish to review the present rules of procedure of the Commission in the light of the above recommendation.

In this connection the Executive Secretary, after consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, has prepared a draft, which together with the present rules is presented in Appendix II. If approved, it would replace rules 1 and 2 of the present rules.

(ii) Relations of Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations

The Council decided to recommend to regional economic commissions (resolution 414 (XIII) C.1, paragraph (5));

"that they examine the desirability of revising their rules of procedure regarding consultative relations with non-governmental organizations in the light of the rules on consultation with non-governmental organizations established by the Council for the functional commissions, of part V of resolution 288 (X) of 27 February 1950, and of the discussions on this subject during the thirteenth session of the Council;"

The recommendation was based upon a draft resolution contained in a report of the Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.<sup>1/</sup> This report, indicated that in making that recommendation the Committee "understood that, if adopted, it would not place upon the regional commissions any obligation to revise their rules of procedure."<sup>1/</sup> The same opinion was expressed during the debate in the Council.

It will be recalled that ECLA had already considered the matter at its fourth session (see resolution E/CN.12/252), and the Commission decided

"to wait the outcome of the Council's consideration before deciding upon its permanent rules of procedure in this respect," and further decided to

"apply the provisions of resolutions 288 and 289 (X) of the Economic and Social Council, and in particular those provisions which pertained to arrangements for consultations between non-governmental organizations and functional commissions, and further that any provision in the existing rules of procedure of the Commission which is inconsistent with resolutions 288 and 289 (X) shall be superseded".

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<sup>1/</sup> Document E/2127

Appendix III contains the provisions of Part V of resolution 288 (X) of the Economic and Social Council dealing with relations of consultations between functional commissions and non-governmental organizations, as well as the provisions of Part IX of this resolution on consultation with the Secretariat.

In order to facilitate consideration of this subject, the Executive Secretary has prepared a draft of the rules which incorporate substantially the provisions found in resolution 288 (X), part V. This draft is reproduced in Appendix IV, which also contains the text of the present rules of procedure dealing with relations with non-governmental organizations. It will be noted that the major differences between the two sets of provisions are found in additional conditions included in the draft rules with respect to the proposal of items by non-governmental organizations for the provisional agenda; circulation of written statements by such organizations; and consultations with non-governmental organizations on the register.

### 3. Annual Report

In resolution 383 (XIII) reproduced in Appendix I, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Annual Report of the Commission (E/2021 - E/CN.12/266), considered that ECLA, as the most recent regional commission, should be given the same opportunities for developing its work as the other regional commissions, and recommended that the funds necessary for the full implementation of its 1951/52 work programme should be made available.

The summary of the Council debate on this subject, contained in the Annual Report of the Council to the General Assembly, <sup>1/</sup> is reproduced

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<sup>1/</sup> Annual Report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, covering the period from 16 August 1950 to 21 September 1951 (document A/1884 - Supplement N° 3), paragraphs 422 to 431.

as Appendix V.

It may be noted that the Economic and Social Council did not take action on the Commission's resolution on Adoption of Portuguese as an Official and Working Language (E/CN.12/268). During the Council's debate, the proposal was supported by the representatives from the Latin American countries. It was understood by many representatives that the Commission's resolution referred to Portuguese as a working language only for the fifth session of the Commission which was to be held in Rio de Janeiro. Reference was also made to the fact that the General Assembly had not taken action on an earlier proposal originated by ECLA (see document E/1717, page 49) to include Portuguese as an official language of the Commission.

In paragraph 430 of the Council's report to the General Assembly the position in this respect was summarized as follows:<sup>1/</sup>

"430. The Council had before it a recommendation for the adoption of Portuguese as a working language, in connection with the holding of a session of the Commission in Rio de Janeiro. In view of the fact that no regular session of the Commission was scheduled for 1952, however (a Committee of the Whole being scheduled to meet in Santiago), the Council took no action on this proposal."

In the light of the Council's debate, the Committee of the Whole may wish to consider the matter further.

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<sup>1/</sup> Annual Report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, covering the period from 16 August 1950 to 21 September 1951 (document A/1884 - Supplement No.3), paragraph 430. See also the Summary Record of the 562nd Plenary Meeting of the Council.

Appendix I

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its Thirteenth Session with regard to the Economic Commission for Latin America

Resolution 414 (XIII) - Organization and operation of the Council and its Commissions (Resolutions of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951).

The Economic and Social Council

1. Taking note of the reports of the ad hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions, and ....

C. I. Regional Economic Commissions

40. Decides, with regard to its regional economic commissions:

(1) To approve in general the principles contained in paragraphs 5 - 10 of the second report of the ad hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions which guided the Committee in the formulation of its conclusions regarding regional commissions; and, in particular:

(2) To continue the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America;

(3) To amend the terms of reference of these commissions in accordance with the provisions of sections (a), (b) and (c) below, as well as, in the case of the Economic Commission for Europe, in accordance with the provisions of part C.II below:

...

(c) The Economic Commission for Latin America (resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948 as amended by resolution 234 B (IX) of 12 August 1949)

(i) After sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1, add sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) to read as follows:

"(d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region."

"(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council and its Technical Assistance Committee in discharging their functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in their appraisal of these activities in the Latin American region"; and

(ii) Replace paragraph 16 by:

"16. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission."

(4) To recommend to the regional economic commissions that their rules of procedure be amended, where necessary, to comply with the following:

"The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. In special cases, the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences."; and

(5) To recommend to the regional economic commissions that they examine the desirability of revising their rules of procedure regarding consultative relations with non-governmental organizations in the light of the rules on consultation with non-governmental organizations established by the Council for the functional commissions, of part V of resolution 288 (X) of 27 February 1950, and of the discussions on this subject during the thirteenth session of the Council; and ....

45. Decides:

(a) That the arrangements in the foregoing resolutions relating to the organization of the Council and its Commissions shall come into force on 1 January 1952;

Resolution 383 (XIII) - Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (Resolutions of 3 September 1951).

A

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

B

The Economic and Social Council.

Considering that the work programme of the Commission as established at its fourth session is of primary importance for the economic development of Latin America,

Taking into account that the Economic Commission for Latin America is the most recent regional economic commission and should be given the same opportunities for development of its work as other regional commissions,

Recommends that the necessary funds should be made available to implement fully the 1951/52 work programme of the Commission, included in its annual report.



Appendix IIPresent and Proposed Rules Regarding Dates and Places of SessionsPresent Rules"Rule 1

Sessions of the Commission shall be held:

- (a) on dates fixed by the Commission, after consultation with the Executive-Secretary, at previous meetings,
- (b) within forty five days of the Communication to the Executive-Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council,
- (c) at the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, after consultation with the Executive-Secretary,
- (d) on such other occasions as the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Executive-Secretary, deems necessary.

Rule 2

The Commission shall at each session, with the concurrence of the Secretary-General decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation."

Proposed Rules"Rule 1

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty five days of the communication to the Executive-Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

(b) In special cases the date and place of the sessions may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in

General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session.

(c) The Commission's recommendation regarding the place of meeting for its session shall be taken with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation."

/Appendix III

Appendix III

Resolution 288(X) - Review of Consultative Arrangements with Non-governmental Organizations (Resolutions of 27 February 1950)

A

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations presented in accordance with Council resolution 214 E (VIII).

B

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to Article 71 of the Charter,

Recognizing that the peoples of the United Nations have a basic and continuing interest in the policies and operations of the United Nations and that the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations provide an important means of ensuring that this interest may be fulfilled,

Considering that consultations between the Council and its subsidiary organs and the non-governmental organizations should be developed to the fullest practicable extent,

Approves the following revised arrangements for consultation: ...

/Part V

Part V

CONSULTATION WITH COMMISSIONS

Provisional Agenda

25. The provisional agenda of sessions of commissions or sub-commissions shall be communicated to organizations in categories A and B and on the register at the same time as to Members of the United Nations.

26. Organizations in category A may propose items for the provisional agenda of commissions subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Secretary-General at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Secretary-General may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Attendance at Meetings

27. Organizations in categories A and B and organizations on the register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of commissions and sub-commissions of the Council.

Written Statements

28. Written statements relevant to the work of the commission or sub-commission may be submitted by organizations in categories A and B on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations except those statements which have become obsolete, e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of.

29. The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages.

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation.

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Secretary-General may make in the course of

/such consultation

such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category A or B will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the two working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the commission or sub-commission.

(e) The Secretary-General may invite organizations on the register to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) above shall apply to such statements.

(f) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Secretary-General in the working languages and, upon the request of a member of the commission or the sub-commission, in any of the official languages.

#### Hearings

30. (a) The commission or sub-commission may consult with organizations in categories A or B either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the commission or sub-commission or on the request of the organization.

(b) On the recommendation of the Secretary-General and at the request of the commission or sub-commission, organizations on the register may also be heard by the commission or sub-commission.

#### Special Studies

31. Subject to the relevant rules of procedure on financial implications a commission may recommend that an organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the commission. The limitations of part V, paragraph 29 (d) shall not apply in this case. ...

Part IX

CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT

37. The Secretariat should be so organized as to enable it to carry out the consultative arrangements as set forth in this statute.

38. All organizations in consultative relationship shall be able to consult with officers of the appropriate sections of the Secretariat of the United Nations on matters in which there is a mutual interest or a mutual concern. Such consultation shall be upon the request of the non-governmental organization or upon the request of the Secretary-General.

39. The Secretary-General may request organizations in categories A and B and on the register to carry out specific studies or prepare specific papers, subject to the relevant financial regulations.

40. The Secretary-General shall be authorized, within the means at his disposal, to offer to non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship facilities which include:

- (a) Prompt and efficient distribution of such documents of the Council and its subsidiary bodies as shall in the judgment of the Secretary-General be appropriate;
- (b) Access to the Press documentation service at the United Nations headquarters;
- (c) Arrangement of informal discussions on matters of special interest to groups of organizations;
- (d) Use of the libraries of the United Nations;
- (e) Provision of accommodation for conferences or smaller meetings of consultative organizations on the work of the Economic and Social Council;
- (f) Appropriate seating arrangements and facilities for obtaining documents during public meetings of the General Assembly dealing with matters in the economic and social fields. ...

Appendix IV

Present and Proposed Rules Regarding Relations  
with Non-Governmental Organizations

Present Rules

Rule 8

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

....

(g) items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category A;

....

Rule 9

Before the Executive Secretary places an item proposed by a specialized agency, or by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, or a non-governmental organization in Category A on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultations as may be necessary.

Proposed Rules

Rule 8

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

....

(g) items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category A, subject to the provisions of rule 9A; and

....

Rule 9

Before the Executive Secretary places an item proposed by a specialized agency, or by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultations as may be necessary.

Rule 9A (new rule)

Organizations in category A may propose items for the provisional agenda of commissions subject to the following conditions:

Present Rules

Rule 38

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting, except as provided in the third paragraph of rule 10 of these rules of procedure.

Rule 49

Non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Non-governmental organizations in Category A may circulate to the members of the Commission written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence. Non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C may submit such statements and suggestions to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will prepare and distribute at each session of the Commission a list of such communications received, briefly indicating the substance of each of them. On the request of any Member of the Commission the Executive Secretary will reproduce in full and distribute any such communication.

Proposed Rules

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Executive Secretary may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 38

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of those present and voting, except as provided in rule 9A and the third paragraph of rule 10 of these rules of procedure.

Rule 49

(a) Non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission.

(b) Written statements relevant to the work of the commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories A and B on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the Members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete, e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of.

/(c) The



Present Rules

Proposed Rules

(c) The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(i) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages of the Commission.

(ii) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation.

(iii) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(iv) A written statement submitted by an organization in category A or B will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the two working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission.

(v) The Executive Secretary may invite organizations on the register to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (i), (iii) and (iv) above shall apply to such statements.

Present Rules

Rule 50

The Commission may at its discretion consult with non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C on matters in which the Commission regards these organizations as having special competence or knowledge. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. In the case of non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C consultations might be effected either directly or through ad hoc Committees.

Proposed Rules

(vi) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 50

- (a) The Commission may consult with organizations in categories A or B either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission, organizations on the register may also be heard by the Commission.
- (b) Subject to the relevant rules of procedure on financial implications the Commission may recommend that an organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 49, paragraph C (iv) shall not apply in this case.

Appendix V

Summary of debates at the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council on the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America 1/

"Action of the Council at its thirteenth session

422. The Council, at its thirteenth session, considered the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/2021).

423. The debate was mainly devoted to an appraisal of the activities of the Commission during the past year. The Council agreed that the Commission had achieved considerable progress in its work and commended the work programme of the Commission formulated during its fourth session. The method of work favoured by the Commission - i.e., initiating basic and analytical studies followed by the calling of ad hoc groups of experts to consider them and frame practical recommendations prior to the submission of the studies to the Commission - met with general approval. The Council considered that the Commission's record fully justified its indefinite continuation, since it had proved a valuable organ in promoting international co-operation on the regional level and in assisting the economic development of its members.

424. The emphasis on problems of economic development, revealed in the numerous studies and recommendations of the Commission was considered fully justified since the Commission's region comprises mainly areas where the most urgent problems are those of accelerating the rate of economic growth. The secretariat study entitled "Theoretical and Practical Problems of Economic Growth" (E/CN.12/221) was cited by several representatives as an example of a significant contribution which had assisted members of the Commission in framing recommendations on the promotion of sound economic development policies.

425. Several representatives stated that the main problem was to evolve a balanced economic development and that improvements in agriculture had lagged behind the needs of an increasing population and the growth of industry. Others considered that the importance of industrialization should not be overlooked even in preponderantly agricultural areas.

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1/ Annual Report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, covering the period from 16 August 1950 to 21 September 1951 (document A/1884 - Supplement No. 3).

426. The Council was in general agreement regarding the value of the technical assistance programme in the region, and considered that the Commission and its secretariat in co-operation with TAA should assist the member countries in appraising their needs in this respect. Several speakers also expressed the opinion that the secretariat should be fully utilized in the implementation of the technical assistance programme. The Commission's proposal for the establishment of an ECLA Centre for Economic Development received full support, especially in view of its potential value for the training of economists.

427. The Council also commended the activities of the Commission in the industrial field, in particular a first report on "Labour Productivity of Cotton Textile Industry in Five Latin American Countries" (E/CN.12/219), undertaken with the financial assistance of the Bank.

428. Some representatives, particularly those from the under-developed countries, likewise emphasized the value of the Commission's studies on the trade of Latin American countries with the United States and with Europe as well as on intra-regional trade. Recommendations made by the Commission on these problems received the sympathetic consideration of the Council, and a number of speakers stressed the usefulness of the study on expansion of trade between Latin America and Europe prepared jointly by the secretariats of ECLA, ECE and FAO.

429. Several representatives felt that the Commission had passed from the stage of studies and general research activities to the stage of formulating concrete policy recommendations and initiating practical activities, such as its recommendation that the economic integration of Central American countries would be promoted by the establishment of a committee on economic co-operation composed of Ministers of Economic Affairs of the countries concerned or persons appointed by them. The implementation of this recommendation was facilitated by the establishment of the Mexico Office of the Commission.

430. The Council had before it a recommendation for the adoption of Portuguese as a working language, in connexion with the holding of a session of the Commission in Rio de Janeiro. In view of the fact that no regular session of the Commission was scheduled for 1952, however (a Committee of the Whole being scheduled to meet in Santiago), the Council took no action on this proposal.

431. The Council, in resolution 383 (XIII), took note of the report of the Commission. It considered the work programme and priorities established during its fourth session as of primary importance for the development of Latin America, took into account that ECLA should be given the same opportunities for the development of its work as the other regional commissions, and, as indicated in chapter X, on financial implications of the actions taken by the Council, recommended that the necessary funds be made available to implement fully the 1951-1952 work programme of the Commission."