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STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE
ACTION TAKEN FOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN ECLA AND IA-ECOSOC
AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL SINCE THE FIFTH SESSION

1. Background

On 15 June 1951, at its fourth session in Mexico City, the Commission adopted a resolution on co-ordination between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC. In addition to establishing other means for improving this co-ordination, the resolution invited the IA-ECOSOC to appoint an official of the OAS, to study, jointly with an official of the United Nations designated by ECLA, the measures which they considered necessary and adequate to ensure that co-ordination at the government level might be achieved in a practical and positive manner. It was also established that their conclusions should be submitted to the subsequent meetings of the Economic Commission for Latin America and of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. In this resolution the Commission appointed me as its representative to carry out this task.

On 9 October 1952, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council approved a resolution proposing to the Organization of American States that Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo, Secretary-General of the OAS, should be named as its representative. This suggestion was accepted and approved by the Council of the OAS in November, and on 9 December 1952, Dr. Lleras Camargo officially informed me of his nomination.

Since that date and until 9 April 1953, when the fifth session of the Commission opened, I was in communication with Dr. Lleras Camargo on the question entrusted to us. The correspondence dealing with this subject was summarized in document E/CN.12/311/Add.1/Rev.1, dated 21 April 1953, and which was submitted to the fifth session. The Commission fully discussed co-ordination between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC, both at a special committee (documents E.CN.12/AC.23/SR.1, 2 and 3) and in plenary sessions. A resolution was placed on record by which the Commission noted with approval the position which I had adopted in the conversations conducted with Dr. Lleras Camargo. Further it was recommended that in future conversations, I should take into account, as a general rule, the desirability of scheduling the Commission's sessions and the Extraordinary Meetings of IA-ECOSOC, so as to ensure a calendar of meetings making provision for adequate intervals between major meetings of an economic

nature (document E/CN.12/326).

2. Action taken since the Fifth Session

In June 1953, I went to Washington D.C. to continue the work entrusted to me by means of personal conversations with Dr. Lleras Camargo.

During these discussions and in subsequent correspondence, we considered various measures which both of us deemed adequate for good co-ordination between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC at the government level.

Despite the general agreement on such measures, several constitutional problems arose which led me to consult the Legal Department of the United Nations and whose opinion on this subject accompanies this statement (document E/CN.12/AC.24/6/Add.1). This document analyses the legal relationship between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC, as well as the terms of reference and sphere of activities of both organizations, clearly demonstrating the limits to which my action is restricted in these negotiations.

3. Concrete measures for closer collaboration between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC at the governmental level

On 30 October 1953, when I sent a copy of the Legal Department's opinion to Dr. Lleras Camargo, I also enclosed a statement in which I commented in detail upon the measures for co-ordination which were being used as the basis for our discussions. I outlined them in such a way that the collaboration between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC, which we are both anxious to attain, would not restrict the terms of reference of either party nor would it be incompatible with their individual freedom of action. Such measures are as follows:

1. Establish a procedure by which ECLA reports could be used by IA-ECOSOC and those of IA-ECOSOC, on a reciprocal basis, by ECLA.
2. Reach agreement for the joint accomplishment of work between the Secretariats of IA-ECOSOC and ECLA or for the inclusion in the work programme of each organization of subjects in which the other party showed interest.
3. Establish a reciprocal system for consultation on the holding of special conferences or technical meetings with the aim of considering means for mutual collaboration, each party retaining freedom of action in regard to such conferences or meetings.

/4. Agree that

4. Agree that the Commissions' Sessions and the Extraordinary Meetings of IA-ECOSOC should be held alternately and that one organization should not meet without a reasonable interval having elapsed since the meeting of the other party, unless unforeseen circumstances should make it advisable.

4. Present position of the negotiations

Dr. Lleras Camargo replied to my statement by a letter dated 19 January 1954, informing me that, since the Tenth Inter-American Conference was almost due, it did not appear advisable or necessary to advance our negotiations at this time. He based this decision on the fact that the Conference might take decisions on the future functions of IA-ECOSOC which could alter the bases for our conversations. According to Dr. Lleras Camargo, if the Tenth Conference does not decide to make any substantial changes to these basic factors, he believes that after the meeting in Caracas we can recommence our conversations on the same footing as previously.

The Tenth Inter-American Conference is to discuss an item on the agenda under the heading of Inter-American Economic and Social Council, which is divided into two sub-sections:

- a) Membership, functions and means of action; and
- b) Co-ordination of work with that of other international organizations.

As regards this agenda item, consideration will be given to a document to be presented by the Council of the OAS, in accordance with a resolution adopted at the last extraordinary meeting of IA-ECOSOC, which requested its Executive Committee to prepare "a report that taking into consideration the status of IA-ECOSOC, will recommend suitable measures to correct any imperfections there may be and to strengthen it in all aspects, especially in the matter of the financial resources required for it to operate properly".