

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.12/AC.26/7/rev.1

9 May 1955

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Fourth Committee of the Whole Meeting

9-10 May 1955

Santiago, Chile

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES - 1955-56

## INTRODUCTION

At each of its Sessions and Committee of the Whole meetings since 1951, the Commission has taken into full account the policy of the Council to concentrate its efforts on problems of major concern to the governments of the region. It will be recalled that at its meeting in February 1954, the secretariat called the attention of the Committee of the Whole to resolution 497 C (XVI) of the Economic and Social Council, which requests the regional commissions to review their programmes "(a) in the light of the criteria for priorities established under Council resolution 324 (XI), (b) in accordance with the procedures for indicating priorities outlined under Council resolution 402 B (XIII) and (c) in the light of the United Nations priority programmes listed under Council resolution 451 A (XIV)".

In resolution 553 (XVIII) adopted in August 1954, the Council called for "further continued efforts" to be made regarding "the concentration of efforts in the light of the United Nations priority programmes established by the Council".

In accordance with Council resolution 402 B (XIII), the programme of work has, as in previous years, been divided into three groups:

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority in which the responsibility of the secretariat, in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference and resolutions, is of a continuing character.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority, for which an approximate duration can be estimated.

(c) Other projects which, in view of budgetary or other limitations, may have to be deferred or eliminated, or undertaken in so far as resources permit.

ANNOTATED LIST OF PROJECTS

Section I. Economic Growth and the Technique of Programming

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

1. General problems of economic development and the technique of programming - Resolutions 7 (IV), 48 (V), 49 (V)

- (a) Continuation of the analysis of the technique of programming initiated in a study presented as document E/CN.12/292. The revised report will be ready for publication in June 1955.
- (b) Country studies: The first two country studies - on Brazil and Colombia - will be issued as mimeographed documents subject to revision, in June 1955. Other country studies are in progress. The country studies apply the method of analysis and projection of economic growth as presented in the technique of programming study.

2. Monetary and fiscal policies relative to the requirements of economic development - Resolutions 3 (IV), 52 (V)

Analyses of government receipts and expenditure; special analysis of taxation and other sources of revenue; and the influence of government credit, fiscal policies, and exchange and trade controls upon consumption and investment in the various sectors of the economy. This forms part of the country studies under 1 (b) above.

/3. Economic integration

3. Economic integration

(a) Economic integration and reciprocity in Central America - Resolutions 9, 24 (IV), 50 (V)

Work is continuing in accordance with the above resolutions and with those adopted by the Committee on Economic Co-operation in Central America.

(b) Preliminary investigation of problems of progressive integration of Latin American economies - Resolution 55 (V)

Certain aspects of this problem are being dealt with in the study of Inter-Latin-American Trade.

4. Training programme for economists - Resolutions 4 (IV), 48 (V)

Continuation of the training programme organized for selected groups of Latin American economists to work with ECLA economists on theoretical and practical problems of economic development and the technique of programming.

The third annual course was completed in December 1954. A three-month course will be given in Colombia, during the last months of 1955, for Colombian economists and officials. The regular course initiated during April in Santiago will consequently be limited to seven trainees.

A manual on the evaluation, preparation and presentation of development projects is being prepared for use in the training course.

5. Technical research and training in Latin America - Resolutions 13 (IV), 53 (V)

Work on this project has not advanced owing to lack of resources.

/ (b) Ad hoc projects

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

6. Expert conference, including working parties, on problems of economic development and the technique of programming (with co-operation of TAA) - Resolutions 7 (IV), 48 (V)

This conference is planned for 1956, and will bring together a group of Latin American economists who are directly concerned with problems of economic development in their respective countries. A small number of economists from outside the region will also be invited to participate. The main subjects will be the technique of programming economic development and the role of monetary and fiscal policies, based on the work of the Commission and other international agencies, special papers prepared by participants, and the experiences of countries having development programmes. For specific aspects of the problem small working parties may be established before or during the conference.

7. Influence of taxation on private capital exports - Resolutions 3 (IV), 52 (V)

Continuation of a study begun with document E/CN.12/298 and Add.1 and 2, taking into account both the economic and fiscal aspects of the problem. Studies of taxation in capital exporting countries will be followed by a series of taxation studies in capital importing countries.

This has been discussed with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, but work has not advanced pending certain studies that are being made by the governments involved.

/ 8. Transport problems -

8. Transport problems - Resolution 38 (AC.16)

A study of the obstacles to economic development and of the transport requirements for this purpose.

Work on transport problems has been confined to the Central American programme and to economic aspects of transport in the studies on economic development in Brazil and Colombia. Further work in this field, particularly in South America, will depend on the ability to recruit qualified staff, including a Chief of the Transport Section.

(c) Other projects

9. Relationship of migration to economic development - Resolution 6 (IV)

This study, planned in collaboration with other international agencies, will be based on a field investigation in a selected area in process of rapid economic growth, with particular reference to its capacity for absorption of migrants, especially from foreign countries.

This project has been temporarily deferred.

10. Study of the organization and structure of capital markets in Latin America - Resolution 3 (IV)

It is recommended that this project be eliminated from the Work Programme.

11. Cyclical fluctuations in Latin America (E/CN.12/190)

This project has been deferred.

/ Section II.

Section II.            Economic Problems of Agriculture  
                          (with the collaboration of FAO)

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

12. Factors affecting agricultural production -  
Resolutions 7, 14 (IV), 61 (V)

Work has not advanced owing to lack of staff resources.

13. Agricultural development in individual countries -  
Resolutions 7, 14 (IV), 62 (V)

Work is being done in connexion with economic development studies in selected countries.

14. Agricultural credit and regional seminars - Resolutions  
14 (IV), 65 (V)

Secretariat studies on agricultural credit were made for the Central American countries and were presented to the meeting of experts held in Guatemala in September-October 1952.

Early in 1954, the printed version was published in three volumes, in Spanish only, under the title Memoria del Seminario Centroamericano de Crédito Agrícola.<sup>1/</sup>

Work has not advanced owing to lack of resources.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

15. Study of coffee production and trade in relation  
to economic development - Resolution 63 (V)

This study is being carried out under the Joint ECLA/FAO programme.

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<sup>1/</sup> Document E/CN.12/305, United Nations publication, Sales N°: 1953.II.G.1.

15. Investigation of agricultural statistical systems and methodology in Latin America - Resolution 64 (V)

The studies would appraise the available statistics and methodology employed by the Latin American countries in order that ECLA and FAO might be in a better position to interpret the results of statistical analysis in the preparation of studies on economic problems of agriculture, with special reference to economic development. The results of these surveys would be referred to FAO and other agencies in order that appropriate measures might be taken to improve agricultural statistics in Latin America.

Consultations have been held with the interested agencies, but no further steps have been taken.

(c) Other projects

17. Study of economic and technological problems of the banana industry - Resolution 67 (V)

This project has been deferred.

18. Study of production, industrialization and export markets of hard fibres - Resolution 68 (V)

This project has been deferred.

Section III.

Industry and Mining

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

19. Iron and steel industries - Resolutions 10 (IV), 57 (V)

- (a) Studies of Latin American steel production costs and investments;
- (b) Studies of production costs, investments and incentives in the iron and steel transforming industries;

/ (c) Collection,



- (c) Collection, analysis and dissemination of specialized statistics and technological documentation;
- (d) Compilation and unification of terminology, norms and standards as applicable to the region.

Work has been principally confined to the study based on field investigation of the iron and steel transforming industries; the report will be ready in December 1955. A document will be presented to the sixth session dealing with the general aspects of this work and summarizing the main results and conclusions which have been reached.

20. Pulp and paper industries (studies undertaken in co-operation with FAO) - Resolutions 10 (IV), 58 (V)

The studies submitted to the Latin American Meeting of Experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry (held at Buenos Aires in October-November 1954) are being revised and condensed. It is hoped to publish them in printed form during June 1955.

21. Studies of the heavy chemical industries - Resolutions 10 (IV), 59 (V)

- (a) Surveys of the existing industry in Latin America;
- (b) Analyses of imports of chemicals and investigation of the possibility of establishing industries producing import substitutes;
- (c) Availability of raw materials in the region and technical and economic problems related to their utilization.

/ Work on

Work on this study will be started by July 1955 and should be completed by December 1956.

22. Development of energy resources - Resolutions 38 (AC.16), 60 (V)

The preliminary over-all survey of energy resources, utilization and requirements will be ready in June 1955.

23. Mining - Resolution 57 (V)

Compilation of data on estimated reserves of ores of non-ferrous metals. Analysis of demand trends for non-ferrous metals, and economic and technical problems related to mining and non-ferrous metallic ores, their preparation, smelting and refining.

Work has not been initiated owing to lack of staff.

24. Collection and classification of data available on non-agricultural natural resources in Latin America, and publication of inventories of resources - Resolution 60 (V)

Work has not advanced owing to lack of staff.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

25. Expert meeting, including working parties, on the iron and steel industries and related transforming industries - (in co-operation with TAA) - Resolutions 10 (IV), 57 (V)

Work is progressing and it is planned to hold the meeting during the first half of 1956.

26. Expert meeting, including working parties, on the pulp and paper industry - Resolutions 10 (IV), 58 (V)

The meeting of experts on the pulp and paper industry (in co-operation with TAA and FAO), to discuss

/ material assembled

material assembled and reports prepared by the secretariat and by technical experts, was held in Buenos Aires from 19 October to 2 November 1954. (See Report of the Latin American Meeting of Experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry - document E/CN.12/361.)

27. Studies of possibilities of establishing processing industries utilizing domestically produced raw materials, with particular reference to expansion of intra-regional and international trade - Resolution 46 (V)

Work has not advanced owing to lack of staff.

(c) Other projects

28. Food processing industries - Resolution 10 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

29. Textile industry - Resolution 11 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

Section IV.

International Trade

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

30. Trade between Latin America and the United States and Europe - Resolutions 18, 21 (IV), 45 (V)

The current trends of Latin American trade are presented in the Economic Survey for 1954. The secretariat has also initiated a study on the possibilities of expanding exports from Latin America.

31. Inter-Latin-American trade studies - Resolutions 20 (IV), 69 (V)

(a) Problems of commercial policy; implications of GATT for intra-regional trade; payments and exchange

/controls as

controls as applied to inter-Latin American trade; import-export controls and administrative procedures;

- (b) Possibilities of increasing demand and trade within the region for Latin American raw materials and manufactures;
- (c) Problems of maritime transport in relation to inter-Latin-American trade.

The report will be issued in July 1955.

32. Studies of the terms of trade and their influence on the rate of economic development - Resolutions 18, 22 (IV), 46 (V)

Work is progressing and a paper will be presented to the sixth session which will open on 29 August 1955 at Bogota.

- (b) Ad hoc project of high priority

33. Study of multilateral compensation settlements among Latin American countries and between Latin American and European countries - Resolutions 42 (AC.16), 47 (V)

A preliminary study of the flow and problems of payments between Latin American countries and the possibility and methods of effecting multilateral payments settlements is being made as a part of the work on inter-Latin-American trade.

A report will be ready in July 1955.

- (c) Other projects

34. Tourism - Resolution 56 (V)

It is recommended that this project be eliminated from the Work Programme.

/35. Study on

35. Study on the operation of the Free Zone of Colon, Panama - Resolution 25 (IV)

It is recommended that this project be eliminated from the Work Programme.

Section V. Annual Economic Survey and Economic Bulletin

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

36. Annual Economic Survey of Latin America - Resolutions 7 (IV), 44 (V)

The Economic Survey of Latin America, 1954, will be ready for publication in May 1955.

37. Economic Bulletin - Resolution 32 (IV)

Material is being prepared for the first issue which will appear in August 1955.