

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL
E/CN.12/AC.40/8
31 March 1958

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Sixth Session
santiago, Chile, 7 April 1958

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

1958-59

In accordance with recommendations of the Central American Meeting of Electric Power Officials held at Costa Rica in November 1957, the permanent exchange of experience and information through a Central American Electric Power Development Subcommittee will be organized under the guidance of TAA experts. This Subcommittee will hold its first meeting at the end of 1958.

A working group of the Central American Industrial Initiatives Commission will meet to examine the development of the construction industry, with the co-operation of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the Pan American Union, the Interamerican Housing Centre and the Central American Institute for Research in Industry. In 1958 a joint programme of work will also be undertaken on housing, the construction industry and urban planning, as recommended by the conference on housing and related problems held at Costa Rica in November 1957. This programme will be adopted by a Housing Subcommittee to be established towards the middle of 1958.

In co-operation with FAO experts the secretariat will proceed with studies on agricultural development problems in Central America related to the integration programme, particularly those with a bearing on the supply and trade of basic commodities, the exchange of information on surpluses and price regulation policies. The secretariat will collaborate with the Central American development institutes in the conferences which they plan to hold on these matters.

(iii) Transport - resolutions 4 (AC.17), 21 (AC.17), 18 (CCE), 19 (CCE), 42 (CCE), 43 (CCE), 44 (CCE), 45 (CCE) and 46 (CCE).

The secretariat will continue to collaborate with the Central American traffic authorities, in connection with the activities of the Transport Subcommittee that will set up this year upon the recommendations of the Second Meeting of Traffic Authorities held at El Salvador, in October 1957. Special attention will be given to the application of the Central American Agreement on Road Traffic Circulation, the Agreement on Standard Road Sign, Signals and Markings and the Agreement on the Temporary Importation of Motor Vehicles, and a detailed study will be initiated on the regulation of international passenger and freight services by road. A TAA expert will

finish the preparation of a manual of standard specifications for highways and for road construction contracting in Central America, and working groups consisting of the Highway Directors of the respective countries will be held. The first formal meeting of the Transport Subcommittee will take place in the third quarter of 1958.

The TAA and ILO expert mission which is preparing the draft Central American maritime and port legislation will submit this to a working group for discussion during the second half of 1958.

(iv) Statistics - resolutions 20 (AC.17), 3 (CCE), 21 (CCE), 47 (CCE) and 43 (SC.1).

The fourth session of the Statistical Coordination Subcommittee was postponed until May 1958. It is expected that in the forthcoming year special attention will be given to the preparation of comparable agricultural statistics and to the 1960 censuses. The United Nations Statistical Office, FAO and the Interamerican Statistical Institute are co-operating actively in this programme. The work programme also includes foreign trade, industrial transport and population statistics. The fifth session of the Subcommittee will take place during the first half of 1959.

A report on weights and measures and effective methods for applying the decimal metric system in Central America which has been prepared by a TAA expert will be examined by the Subcommittee. This report will also be considered under other aspects of the integration programme.

(v) Financing and economic development - resolutions 10 (AC.17), 22 (AC.17) and 50 (CCE).

In collaboration with TAA the secretariat will continue to study fiscal aspects of the Central American Economic Integration Programme, particularly the consequences of free trade and equalization of customs tariffs, consumption taxes, and tax exemption granted to encourage new industries.

(vi) Social problems - resolutions 27 (CCE) and 51 (CCE).

In the course of 1958 and 1959 it is expected that more attention will be paid to social aspects of economic development and Central American integration, particularly problems arising from population growth and migratory movements, conditions of agricultural labour and certain aspects

of land tenure. A report on demographic problems by a TAA expert will be submitted to the Committee.

A staff member of the Bureau of Social Affairs who has been seconded to the Mexico Office will lend his support to these studies.

(vii) Research and training institutes - resolutions 6 (AC.17), 23 (AC.12), 5 (CCE), 6 (CCE), 31 (CCE), 52 (CCE) and 53 (CCE).

The secretariat will maintain liaison with the Advanced School of Public Administration and with the Central American Research Institute for Industry on all matters in their work programmes that may concern Central American Economic Integration. Both institutions have been established and financed by the Central American Governments, mainly with the collaboration and financial assistance of the TAA and, in some aspects, of UNESCO.

Page 7: Delete the first paragraph beginning "Country studies...." and substitute the following two paragraphs:

In collaboration with local working groups, the secretariat will proceed with the analyses and projections of economic development in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama that were begun in 1957, at the request of those countries' Governments. In 1959 it is hoped by means of the same type of co-operation, to initiate similar studies for Guatemala and Nicaragua thus completing the over-all study of development projections for Central America.

The Government of Haiti has in the past requested that the secretariat collaborate in a study of this kind, and the possibility of its doing so in 1959 is being considered.

Page 18: Insert the following paragraph at the end of sub-section(i):

The Mexico Office will take an increasing part in the studies relating to trade between Mexico and other Northern Zone countries, and between these and the Southern Zone countries with regard to both payments and the elimination of obstacles to trade and the formation of a common market.

Relations between the Central American Free Trade Zone and the rest of Latin America will also be considered.

INTRODUCTION

It is the practice of the Commission to approve at its regular biennial sessions the programme of work and priorities for the succeeding two years subject to revisions which the Committee of the Whole may wish to make in the intermediate years.

The programme contained in the list below was unanimously adopted at the Commission's seventh session at La Paz,^{1/} but some slight modifications have been included to bring the status of the programme up to date.

The report of the seventh session, including the Work Programme and Priorities, was considered at the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, which adopted resolution 655 C (XXIV) as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America for the period 15 May 1956 to 29 May 1957, adopted at its seventh session (E/2998: E/CN.12/451);
2. Endorses the work programme of the Commission as established by the Commission at its seventh session held at La Paz, Bolivia, from 15 to 29 May 1957, as being of primary importance for the economic development of Latin America;
3. Endorses the order of priorities allocated by the Commission to the individual work projects."

BASIC DIRECTIVES

As in the past, in preparing the programme of work and priorities, the Executive Secretary has continued to follow a series of basic directives and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, regarding programmes and priorities in the economic and social fields, concentration and co-ordination of efforts and resources, control and limitation of documentation, pattern of conferences and related questions. Particular attention

^{1/} See E/CN.12/451 (E/2998).

has been given to the recommendations contained in the Economic and Social Council resolutions 324 (XI), 362 B (XII), 402 B (XIII), 451 A (XIV), 497 C (XVI), 553 (XVIII), 557 A and B (XVIII), 560 (XX), 597 (XXI), 604 (XXI), 630 (XXII) and 664 (XXIV).

The Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session, in its resolution 664 (XXIV), noted with satisfaction the efforts made by each of the regional economic commissions to co-ordinate its activities and to streamline its work programme in accordance with Council resolution 630 AI (XXII). The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its twelfth session, in its resolution 1158 (XXI) also noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by each of the regional economic commissions to further co-ordination of its activities and to streamline its work programme, especially in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 630 AI (XXII), and expressed its belief that these efforts would result in a more effective exchange of information and experience in matters of common interest. The General Assembly further expressed the hope that the regional economic commissions would continue, within their respective terms of reference and in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, their valuable services and efforts.

In this connexion, the Commission at the seventh session reviewed the work programme to ensure (i) that projects should be of regional importance or at least of importance to a number of countries in the region; (ii) that there should be increased concentration on broader and continuing problems of major or longer-term importance, and on projects promising practical results in the not-too-distant future; (iii) the more effective execution of the general work designed to facilitate the formulation of a development policy the secretariat might undertake economic studies, supplementing them when necessary with the related technological studies on the sectorial activities considered necessary for applying and implementing that policy.

The Commission at its seventh session eliminated 17 projects from the work programme and placed several projects in a lower priority so as to enable the secretariat to concentrate its resources on a smaller number of projects directly related to the objectives outlined above.

Since the seventh session, the Executive Secretary has been considering the possibility of further streamlining, by concentrating resources wherever possible on those studies and projects which are in any way related to the programme for a Latin American regional market. This explains the constant reference in the annotated list of projects to studies relating to the regional market.

FUTURE SCOPE AND TREND OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to the Economic and Social Council resolution 665 C (XXIV) which "requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the principles set forth in the annex to its resolution 664 (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, to make an appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the regular United Nations programmes in these (economic, social and human rights) fields for the period 1959-1964 for consideration by the Council at its twenty-eighth session". The Executive Secretary is in consultation with the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, and would also follow the decision which might be taken by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination as to the implementation of the Council resolution 665 C (XXIV). However, it is unlikely that results of these consultations will be available before the eighth Commission session. The Commission, at this stage, therefore, may wish generally to bear in mind the Council resolution when considering its present work programme, and discuss in broad terms the probable needs of the countries of the region in the light of which a general indication may be given of the orientation, character, scope and trend of its work which the Commission may consider both possible and desirable.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 789 (VIII) and 1203 (XII), considerable thought has been given to the question of limiting and reducing the amount of documentation put out by the Commission. Should recent proposals for strengthening the ECLA Editorial Section materialize, it would be possible to ensure a thorough scrutiny of all drafts and to abridge them, where necessary, before publication.

/Moreover a

Moreover a serious attempt is being made to avoid mimeographed editions of some documents which will eventually be printed, but this is not always possible because of the need to obtain comments and criticism on mimeographed editions and to incorporate any necessary revisions in the printed publications.

Although over-all output of documentation in 1958 will be reduced through the fact that the Commission holds no regular session this year, the net savings will be to some extent offset by the series of meetings and the work programme relating to the regional market. Nevertheless, it is not proposed to issue summary records of all the meetings to be held in the ECLA region during the year, but simply to incorporate the findings thereof in the final record of proceedings.

In the case of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Regional market, held at Santiago from 1 to 11 February, control of documentation reduced to 6 the number of working papers, while in all possible cases existing documents were marked for use as reference papers. Although records of the proceedings had to be made, these were not distributed as such, but were simply used as aids in preparing the Group's final report.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The programme of work is divided into five broad sections, namely:

Section I: Current economic situation,

Section II: Economic growth and technique of programming,

Section III: Economic problems of agriculture (projects undertaken with the collaboration of FAO),

Section IV: Industry, mining and energy, and

Section V: International trade.

The last project, Co-operation in the programme of TAA, covers various fields of activity and is therefore included at the end of the programme, separately from the broad sections.

It has not been found practicable or useful to attempt a determination of priorities as between these broad sections.

/Within each

Within each broad section projects are listed in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 402 B (XIII) in three groups, as follows:

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

This group consists of projects and activities in which the responsibility of the Commission and its secretariat, pursuant to the Commission's terms of reference and resolutions, is of a continuing character. The studies and reports it contemplates are to be presented from time to time. Each study may differ from and supplement the others in scope (country coverage), substance (different aspects of major problems), and time (development during a given period).

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

This group consists of non-recurrent projects, for which an approximate duration can be estimated. It includes projects outside the broad scope of the continuing projects (group (a)) as well as occasional topics within the scope of such continuing projects.

(c) Other projects

This group consists of projects which, in view of staff and budget limitations, will have to be deferred for the present and probably cannot be undertaken in 1958.

The criteria used in proposing the distribution of projects in the above three groups include, among other factors, an estimate of the basic importance of each project concerned, as well as an estimate of the most effective way to utilize available resources. No relative priorities are assigned to projects within groups (a) and (b) or between these two groups.

ANNOTATED LIST OF PROJECTS

Projects are consecutively numbered with arabic numerals. For specific aspects of major projects roman numerals in parentheses [(i), (ii), (iii), etc.] are used. The notes on the projects are given to identify them, but the pertinent resolutions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies are the official guide to their full and real scope.

The resolutions of the Economic Commission for Latin America are identified by an arabic numeral indicating the serial number, followed by a roman numeral, in parentheses, indicating the session at which they were adopted.

The resolutions of the Committee of the Whole are identified by an arabic numeral indicating the serial number followed by the appropriate Committee symbol, in parentheses.

The resolutions of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee are identified by an arabic numeral followed by the symbol "CCE" in parentheses.

The resolutions of the Trade Committee are shown by arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session of which they were adopted.

SECTION I. CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority.

1. Economic Survey of Latin America - resolutions 44 (V) and 79 (VI) - published annually.
2. Economic Bulletin for Latin America - resolutions 32 (IV) and 79 (VI) - published twice yearly.

SECTION II. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TECHNIQUE OF PROGRAMMING

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority.

3. General problems of economic development and technique of programming - resolutions 48 (V), 81 (VI), 132 (VII) and 137 (VII).
 - (i) Analysis and projections of economic growth in individual countries - resolution 48 (V).

The studies on Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia have been completed and published, and the one on Bolivia is now being printed. The technique described in An introduction to the technique of programming (E/CN.12/363) was applied in the case of Brazil and Colombia. At the request of, and in collaboration with, the Bolivian Government, the possibilities for the practical application of the Bolivian study have been examined. The study on Mexico is practically ready to go to the printer. The study on Argentina will be concluded in the near future.

/Country studies

Country studies for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama are well advanced and will be completed before the eighth session. These studies are being undertaken in collaboration with working groups appointed by the respective governments. Other governments in the area have indicated their interest in having studies made for their countries, under similar conditions.

(ii) General studies on economic growth

According to resolution 132 (Import substitution), a special analysis will be made of the priorities to be assigned for import substitution. These analyses will be conducted in connexion with the problems of the external vulnerability of under-developed economies and of the balance between agricultural and industrial development.

(iii) Analyses and projections of economic growth for the region as a whole, taking into account the possibilities of complementary development - resolution 81 (VI)

Work on this project is being carried out in connexion with the studies on the regional market.

(iv) Study of monetary and fiscal policies for economic development - resolution 81 (VI).

Analysis of government income and expenditure, taxation and other sources of revenue and the influence of the Government's fiscal, credit, trade and exchange policy upon consumption and investment in the different economic sectors. A preliminary study on this subject was included in the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1955 (E/CN.12/421). A study on fiscal policy in relation to economic growth in Chile is now being prepared. Whether this study can be extended to other areas in Latin America will depend on available staff resources.

(v) Study of social factors affecting economic development - resolutions 82 (VI) and 124 (VII).

Resolution 82 (VI) and resolution 124 (VII) request the continuation of the work on the social aspects of economic development and also that the secretariat should provide Governments with
/assistance in

assistance in the preparation of guiding principles or outlines for research in this field.

- (vi) Guidance in the preparation and evaluation of projects
- resolution 137 (VVI).

According to resolution 125 (VII) the secretariat, with the co-operation of the Technical Assistance Administration and/or the specialized agencies concerned, whenever necessary, should collaborate with the Government, at their request, in the preparation and economic evaluation of economic development projects.

In this connexion, the secretariat collaborated with the Government of Bolivia in the study and planning of certain development projects, based on the findings of the ECLA study (see under 3 (i) above).

4. Economic integration in Central America - resolutions 24 (IV), 55 (V), 84 (VI), 27 (CCE) and 123 (VII).[⌘]

The activities of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and its subsidiary organs will continue to develop according to the resolutions adopted by that Committee and by the Commission. The secretariat prepares some studies and collaborates in others which the Committee assigned to experts of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme (TAA, FAO, ILO, UNESCO), in response to requests made by the Central American Governments.

The fifth session of the Committee will be held during the first half of 1958. During 1957 and early 1958, moreover, meetings of its subsidiary organs and ad hoc meetings of Central American experts on specialized subjects have been held.

- (i) Central American trade - resolutions 9 (AC.17), 18 (AC.17), 19 (AC.17), 4 (CCE), 7 (CCE), 11 (CCE), 22 (CCE), 23 (CCE), 24 (CCE) and 37 (CCE).

In resolution 37 (CCE), the Committee adopted a draft multilateral free trade and economic integration treaty to be signed by the Governments members of the Committee. A period of six months was fixed in which member Governments may express their views on the provisional lists of commodities to be included.

[⌘] All this section 4 is subject to final changes which will be incorporated in the Annual Report.

The secretariat has prepared the background material for a study on tariff levelling to be implemented by the Central American Trade Sub-Committee. A TAA expert is working with the Sub-Committee on the procedural aspects of the negotiations for tariff levelling.

The Sub-Committee also considered a draft standard customs code prepared by a TAA expert. Another TAA expert is studying a plan for the adoption of standard weights and measures and the effective application of the metric system.

(ii) Industrial and agricultural studies - resolutions 2 (AC.17), 3 (AC.17), 1 (CCE), 2 (CCE), 8 (CCE), 14 (CCE), 20 (CCE), 25 (CCE), 26 (CCE), 27 (CCE), 28 (CCE), 38 (CCE), 39 (CCE), 40 (CCE), 41 (CCE), 48 (CCE), and 49 (CCE).

In accordance with resolution 38 (CCE), the Committee adopted a draft agreement on Central American integration industries to be signed by its member Governments. TAA and FAO experts requested by the Committee continue to explore the possibilities of integrated industrial development in regard to the pulp and paper and forest industries, cotton and rayon textiles, livestock and dairy products, fisheries products and electric energy. The secretariat is responsible for preparing, with the aid of the experts and the Central American Research Institute for Industry, basic material on other industrial possibilities, to be considered by the Central American Industrial Initiatives Commission, in which private enterprise participates. A Working Group of the Central American Industrial initiatives Commission held a special meeting to consider the integration problems of the textile industry on the basis of the report prepared by a TAA expert. FAO experts continue to work on the projects for the establishment of a pulp and paper factory at Olancho (Honduras).

A Central American meeting of electric power officials was held to consider a report prepared by a TAA expert concerning the development of electricity in Central America.

/The secretariat,

The secretariat, in conjunction with FAO experts, will continue to prepare studies on the problems of the integrated agricultural development of Central America, with particular emphasis on grain supplies, exchange of information on exportable surpluses, marketing of livestock products, cotton production and fisheries development.

The secretariat will collaborate with the Industrial Resources Division of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs on a study of the criteria determining the optimum size of industrial plants in Central America.

(iii) Transport - resolutions 4 (AC.17), 21 (AC.17), 18 (CCE), 19 (CCE), 42 (CCE), 43 (CCE), 44 (CCE), 45 (CCE) and 46 (CCE).

The secretariat will continue to collaborate with TAA experts in organizing meetings of Central American authorities on road traffic and of working groups to consider the following matters: maritime and port legislation, international road transport services and regional road planning. The background documents will be prepared by the TAA experts requested by the Committee. An expert is also working with national traffic authorities on the implementation of the manual on standard road signs and signals approved by the Committee. The secretariat is bringing up to date the study on Central American transport problems prepared in 1953.

(iv) Statistics - resolutions 20 (AC.17), 3 (CCE), 21 (CCE) and 47 (CCE).

The Statistical Co-ordination Sub-Committee held its fourth session during the first quarter of 1958. In co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and FAO, the secretariat carried out preparatory work for this Sub-Committee. In 1957 the Central American Statistical Digest approved by the Sub-Committee at its third session was published.

(v) Financing of

- (v) Financing of economic development - resolutions 10 (AC.17), 22 (AC.17) and 50 (CCE).

As a result of the study on taxation policy and economic development in Central America, carried out jointly by the secretariat and the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs (E/CN.12/CCE/66), the Committee requested that work should continue on taxation and public finance problems in Central America, particularly in relation to economic development and the economic integration programme.

- (vi) Social problems - resolutions 27 (CCE) and 51 (CCE).

A TAA expert, with secretariat collaboration, is preparing the study requested by the Committee on the demographic problems of Central America as related to economic development and integration problems. A staff member of the Bureau of Social Affairs, outposted to the Mexico Office has begun to survey the social aspects of economic development in Central America. In accordance with resolution 51 (CCE), the Committee sponsored a seminar on housing problems in Central America and Panama. The secretariat collaborated with the Bureau of Social Affairs, which was in charge of the substantive aspects, in the preparation of this seminar which was held late in 1957.

- (vii) Research and training institutes - resolutions 6 (AC.17), 23 (AC.12), 5 (CCE), 6 (CCE), 31 (CCE), 52 (CCE) and 53 (CCE).

The secretariat will continue to maintain liaison with the Advanced School of Public Administration for Central America and with the Central American Research Institute for Industry on all matters in their work programme that may relate to Central American Economic Integration. Both institutions have been established and financed by the Central American Governments, mainly with the collaboration and financial assistance of TAA and, in some aspects, of the ILO and UNESCO.

5. Joint ECLA/TAA economic development training programme - resolutions 4 (IV), 48 (V) and 85 (VI).

This is a continuation of the training programme under which groups of selected Latin American economists work with ECLA economists on practical and theoretical problems of development and programming. In resolution 85 (VI) the Commission calls for an expansion of this programme with the co-operation of member Governments. The regular course given at ECLA Headquarters began in May 1957 and was attended by fourteen fellowship-holders. An intensive course for Brazilian economists, on the same basis as in 1956, was held at Rio de Janeiro from 19 August to 8 November 1957. Another intensive course was held at Caracas (Venezuela) from 16 September to 4 December. In 1958, in addition to the regular training programme in Santiago, intensive courses will be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

The manual on Development Projects (E/CN.12/426 and Add.1) was finished and presented to the seventh session. It will be revised for publication.

6. Study of transport problems - resolutions 38 (AC.16), 69 (V) and 120 (VII).

Transport problems and the obstacles to economic development which they constitute are being dealt with in the Central American Integration Programme and in studies on the economic development of individual countries.

The Transport Section of the secretariat is mainly concerned with transport problems and requirements in relation both to economic development in individual countries and to inter-Latin American trade.

(c) Other projects

7. Study of public administration in relation to economic development - resolutions 81 (VI) and 137 (VII).

The study presented to the seventh session will be completed for publication. Further research, in collaboration with the Public Administration Division of TAA, will be contingent upon the discussions to be held with that Division.

/8. Studies of

8. Studies of demographic growth and manpower requirements in relation to economic development - resolution 33 (VI).

A long preliminary report was presented to the seventh session. The secretariat intends to continue its research in this field in relation to other studies on economic development.

9. Meeting of experts on problems of economic growth and the technique of programming - resolution 48 (V).

It is anticipated that the meeting referred to in resolution 48 (V) will not be held before 1959.

10. Preliminary survey of organization and structure of capital markets in Latin America - resolution 3 (IV).

The United Nations Department of Economic Affairs is conducting a survey on the financing of industry in Mexico.

The project outlined in resolution 3 (IV) has been set aside as a separate study, with low priority, because the main aspects of the problem will be included in the analyses of fiscal and monetary policies.

11. Study of technical research and training in Latin America - resolutions 13 (IV) and 53 (V).

This project would require substantial financial resources and technical staff not available to the secretariat at present. It is suggested that at a future date this project might be carried out in collaboration with TAA and the specialized agencies.

/SECTION III.

SECTION III. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE
(PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE COLLABORATION OF FAO)

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

12. Agricultural development, programming in individual countries and technique of agricultural programming - resolutions 63 (V) and 89 (VI)

This project is being carried out in part through the studies of economic development in individual countries. The secretariats of ECLA and FAO have held consultations concerning the joint preparation of a manual on agricultural programming and it is expected that work on such a manual may be initiated in 1958.

13. Study of productivity of labour and of capital in agricultural production - resolutions 87 (VI) and 134 (VII)

A general study was presented in the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1956 (E/CN.12/427/Rev.1). This problem is also dealt with in the individual country studies and in the coffee study. Resolution 136 (VII) provides for the continuation of this type of general study and also assistance to Governments, at their request, to enable them to carry out their own productivity surveys.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

14. Study of productivity and costs of coffee production in relation to economic development - resolutions 63 (V), 80 (VI) and 136 (VII)

The study on El Salvador has been completed and a report was presented to the seventh session. The study on Colombia has also been finished and is in process of revision prior to publication. Field work is now proceeding on a similar study in Brazil. Resolution 136 (VII) provides for further studies of coffee production if the Governments so request. However, the resolution recommends that, if a sufficient number of countries wish to carry out studies of productivity and trends of production, a training centre be established in one of the countries for the purpose of training experts in the coffee producing countries in methodology so that these countries might themselves undertake their own coffee studies. Such a centre could be provided if requested by Governments through the FAO technical assistance programme.

/15. Study

15. Study of factors affecting development of livestock industry in Latin America - resolution 91 (VI)

Work on this project has been initiated. It is planned first to make a general survey of the existing information and problems of the livestock industry in a number of Latin American countries. On the basis of this general survey more detailed studies of the most urgent problems may then be undertaken.

16. Study of possibilities of increasing investment in agriculture - resolution 92 (VI)

Although this is one of the most important projects in connexion with the economic problems of agriculture, the secretariats of ECLA and FAO have not yet begun work on it owing to lack of resources.

17. Study of Latin American timber production and consumption trends and prospects - resolution 133 (VII)

This study calls for an over-all survey of timber resources and the economic possibilities of their development with particular reference to providing raw material for the wood working industries.^{2/} It is expected that work on this project will be begun in 1959 and completed by the end of 1960.

(c) Other projects

18. Selective expansion of agricultural production and co-ordination of programmes between countries - resolutions 87 (VI) and 88 (VI)

A report on this project was submitted to the seventh session and has since been published. The secretariats of ECLA and FAO do not anticipate doing any further work on this project in 1958/59 although certain aspects may be dealt with in other studies.

19. Measures for improving the conditions of uneconomic farms - resolution 135 (VII)

This resolution calls for guidance and assistance to Governments, at their request, in improving the economic conditions under which such farms operate.

^{2/} Similar studies have been carried out in Europe by ECE and FAO and another is being carried out in Asia by ECAFE and FAO. Attention should be called to the financial implications for this project as stated in paragraph 291 in document E/2998.

SECTION IV. INDUSTRY, MINING AND ENERGY

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

20. Iron and steel making and transforming industries - resolutions 10 (IV), 57 (V), 96 (VI) and 127 (VII)

Under the terms of resolution 127 (VII), the studies proposed at the Latin American Meeting of Experts on the Iron and Steel Making and Transforming Industries, and listed in the resolution, will be carried out, so far as available resources permit and in collaboration with the TAA.

21. Study of chemical industries - resolutions 59 (V) and 97 (VI)

Because of the importance of this project for the regional market it is proposed to make a general survey of economic and market conditions for the development of the petro-chemical industries.

22. Joint FAO/TAA/ECLA Expert Advisory Group to assist countries in the development of the pulp and paper industries - resolutions 58 (V), 98 (VI) and 128 (VII)

After completing its work in Argentina and Chile, the Advisory Group extended its activities to Brazil and Peru. It will also visit Mexico and, in accordance with resolution 128 (VII), it will prepare standard budgets for investment in pulp and paper mills and evaluate the possibilities of purchasing and manufacturing machinery for such mills.

23. Development of energy resources - resolutions 99 (VI), 100 (VI), 130 (VII)

(i) Evaluation of hydro-electric resources in specific regions in order to determine potential and optimum utilization. No work has yet been done on this project.

(ii) Proposed field surveys, by teams of experts provided by TAA, on the efficacy of the production and utilization of the various forms of energy in the more important economic activities in selected countries. In this connexion, there has been very close co-ordination by the secretariat with the work of the TAA fuel efficiency mission in Argentina.

/(iii) According

(iii) According to resolution 130 (VII), the secretariat, in co-ordination with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will keep the Governments informed of all economic aspects of atomic energy which are of special interest for the Latin American countries.

24. Preliminary examination, based on existing information, of multiple water resources utilization in Latin America - resolution 99 (VI)

The study on Chile is almost ready and thereafter the water resources group will proceed to another country. This work is being carried out in collaboration with TAA and WMO, and in consultation with FAO.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

25. Special Meeting on the Mining Industry - resolution 129 (VII)

In accordance with resolution 129 (VII), the secretariat intends to make arrangements to sponsor, in conjunction with TAA, a special meeting on Latin America's mining industry to be held in 1959 or 1960.

26. Meeting of experts on problems of energy development - resolution 99 (VI)

A meeting of a small group of experts may be held in 1959 provided that the work of the secretariat on this field is sufficiently advanced and the co-operation of other agencies is enlisted.

(c) Other projects

27. Utilization of international rivers and lakes - resolution 131 (VII)

The secretariat, in compliance with resolution 131 (VII), will approach the Governments which utilize rivers and lakes in international hydrographic basins so that their utilization may be adequately planned by international technical commissions.

28. Textile industry - resolution 11 (IV)

The secretariat continues to follow up developments in this industry in connexion with its country studies and also for publication in the Economic Survey of Latin America.

SECTION V. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

29. Inter-Latin American Trade - resolutions 101 (VI), 1 (I) to 4 (I) of the Trade Committee, and 115 (VII) to 122 (VII)

In accordance with resolution 101 (VI), the Trade Committee was established to deal with the preparation of specific arrangements, consistent with the bilateral and multilateral commitments of member Governments, for the solution of inter-Latin American problems, without detriment to the expansion of trade with other areas. It will also be incumbent upon the Committee to prepare the background to facilitate trade negotiations.

Out of the first session of the Trade Committee, inaugurated at Santiago on 26 November 1956, emerged a working programme which was adopted by the Commission at its seventh session in the following form:

(i) The establishment of a transitional régime between the present system of bilateral accounts, which are not mutually inter-connected, and a method which would facilitate voluntary and, as soon as possible, automatic, transfers from one to another of these accounts; this would be followed by the establishment of a completely multilateral payments system in Latin America in accordance with resolutions 1 (I) of the Trade Committee and 115 (VII).

The second meeting of the Central Banks Working Group - the first was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, April-May 1957 - is scheduled for October 1958. The secretariat is preparing the background documentation for this meeting. This documentation will consist mainly of studies of commodity trade and movements of money balances in bilateral accounts; obstacles to the application of parity exchange rates and non-discriminatory prices in trade between countries having bilateral accounts; and the bases, nature and mechanism which a multilateral payments system in Latin America might have.

(ii) Inventory of existing industries - resolutions 2 (I) of the Trade Committee and 116 (VII)

The purpose of this study is to gather basic information for existing industries in relation to the possible creation of a

/regional market

regional market with special reference to those in which there is duplication of services, resulting in idle capacity and lower productivity.

(iii) Possibility of creating a regional market - resolutions 2 (I) and 3 (I) of the Trade Committee and 116 (VII)

Under this project the secretariat was called upon to constitute a group of experts to study the possibilities of creating a regional market and, on the basis of such study, to make recommendations to be submitted to the Trade Committee.

The first session of the group of experts was held in February 1958. Before making any definite proposal, it required further background information and requested the secretariat to provide additional information and material relating to tariffs and quantitative or other restrictions on trade, special treatment for less developed countries, alternative regulations for imposing temporary restrictions, problems relating to payments and credit facilities, and the contractual aspects involved in the establishment of the proposed regional market.^{3/} In connexion with the last point, the secretariat is sending out a questionnaire to governments in order to gather information needed for this study.

(iv) Trade in traditional products - Trade Committee resolution 4 (I) and resolution 119 (VII)

The secretariat is requested to continue its studies of trade in traditional commodities between the Latin American countries, especially from the point of view of existing structural disequilibrium in the trade of such commodities between the Latin American countries. Such reports are part of the regular work of the secretariat and will be published in the Economic Survey.

30. Trade between Latin America and the rest of the world - resolutions 45 (V), 102 (VI) and 121 (VII)

(i) Possibility of expanding production of Latin American export commodities - resolution 45 (V)

(ii) Study of future trends of demand for products exported by Latin America - resolutions 102 (VI) and 121 (VII)

^{3/} For a fuller description of these studies, see E/CN.12/AC.40/3.

The scope of this project has been redefined to include the possible impact on Latin American trade of the proposed establishment of a European common market and free trade area.

(iii) Study of changes in composition of Latin American imports from industrialized countries - resolution 45 (V)

The Economic Survey of Latin America, 1956, contained a special study on this subject, entitled "Preliminary study of the effects of post-war industrialization on import structures and external vulnerability in Latin America".

31. Studies of the terms of trade and their influence on the rate of economic development - resolution 46 (V)

This topic is periodically discussed in the annual Economic Survey of Latin America.

(c) Other projects

32. Study of multilateral trade and payments arrangements between Latin American and European countries - resolution 47 (V)

The secretariat will continue to follow developments concerning these arrangements, particularly with respect to those relating to the Hague and Paris Clubs. This information may be included in the Economic Survey of Latin America or in the papers of the Trade Committee.

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33. Co-operation in the technical assistance programme - decision of the General Assembly at its tenth session, Committee of the Whole resolution 110 (AC.34)

Apart from co-operation with TAA on specific projects as indicated above, the secretariat is rendering assistance to the Latin America Office of TAA at various stages of the United Nations technical assistance programme.