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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Seventh Session  
Santiago, Chile, 28 March 1960

## CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

Note by the secretariat

1. The text of General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII) is attached to this note for the information of delegations.
2. The report of the Commission on the Control and Limitation of Documentation (A/3888) and the Secretary-General's report on steps taken to implement resolution 1203 (XII), both of which are referred to in resolution 1272 (XIII), are available in the secretariat's files for consultation by delegations.
3. The Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-eighth session, held at Geneva from 30 June to 31 July 1959, adopted a resolution (742 (XXVIII), part II), in which, after taking note of General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII), it recalled that it had requested its subsidiary bodies to include the item "Control and limitation of documentation" in their agenda and noted that the reports of those bodies contained descriptions of the various measures taken. The Council further recalled the decisions taken by it in the past, as a part of its efforts to achieve a greater concentration of activities, which had had considerable results on the control and limitation of documentation, and undertook to keep the question under review. Considering that primary objective should be to ensure the distribution of documents, in all the working languages of the council, within the six weeks' time limit, the Council

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called the attention of its subsidiary bodies to the fact that the problem was a continuing one and should be constantly borne in mind. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare a summary of action taken by the Council, and its subsidiary bodies in response to General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII), for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its fourteenth or fifteenth session or in the report which he would submit to the General Assembly in response to that resolution, and further requested the Secretary-General to ensure the distribution of documents in all working languages of the Council in good time.

4. It is expected that ECLA's over-all output of documentation in 1960 will be reduced because the Commission holds no regular session this year, although the net saving will be offset to some extent by the series of meetings and the work programme connected with the Latin American common market and the Central American sub-committees. However, it is proposed to continue the policy of not issuing summary records of the meetings of ECLA's subsidiary bodies during the year, but simply to incorporate a short account of the proceedings in the final report of each body.

5. On the other hand, some criticism was expressed regarding the excessive brevity of the summary records of the Commission's eighth session (Panama), and it is the secretariat's intention to ensure that, in future, the summary records of the Commission's sessions, while kept as short as possible, are fuller than those of the eighth session and contain the necessary information required by delegations. The secretariat hopes that, for this purpose, it will have at its disposal the necessary additional editorial staff.

6. An example of the secretariat's efforts to reduce the volume of documentation may be noted on the occasion of the current session of the Committee of the Whole. Instead of issuing a lengthy document on the work programme for 1960, a short paper (E/CN.12/AC.45/9) has been distributed drawing attention to the programme of work and priorities for 1959-60, as reproduced in extenso in the report of the eighth session (E/3246/Rev.2-E/CN.12/530/Rev.2), pages 33 to 41).

Thirteenth session  
Agenda item 51

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/3982)]  
1272 (XIII). Control and limitation of documentation

The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the Committee on the Control and Limitation of Documentation<sup>1/</sup> set up under General Assembly resolution 1203 (XII) of 13 December 1957 to consult with and advise the Secretary-General on the most effective means of implementing that resolution,

Noting further the Secretary-General's report<sup>2/</sup> on the steps taken and on the nature and extent of the reductions achieved,

1. Commends the Secretary-General for the appreciable results achieved so far during 1958;

2. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Control and Limitation of Documentation, particularly the basic approaches enunciated in paragraph 10 and the proposals set out in paragraph 27, except those contained in subparagraph (c); in regard to the maintenance of verbatim and summary records, the existing practice shall continue unaltered in all respects;

3. Draws the attention of all organs and subsidiary bodies in particular to the recommendations contained in paragraph 27 (e) of the Committee's report, requesting those organs and bodies to include in the agenda of their next session the question of the control and limitation of their documentation;

4. Emphasizes in this connexion the importance of strict adherence to financial regulation 13.1 and the relevant rules of procedure of the organs concerned, with the object of ensuring that no organ or subsidiary body takes decisions on any measure until it has been informed in advance of the financial and administrative considerations involved;

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<sup>1/</sup> A/3888.

<sup>2/</sup> A/3921.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that no effort is spared within the Secretariat to maintain the progress achieved and to extent it in all ways possible, taking into account the guiding principles set forth in paragraph 10 of the report of the Committee;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General, within the existing establishment, to extend the editorial control services;

7. Urges the representatives of Member States as well as all other members of commissions, committees and similar bodies to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in carrying out the policy laid down by the General Assembly, particularly in resolutions 593 (VI) of 4 February 1952, 789 (VIII) of 9 December 1953 and 1203 (XII) of 13 December 1957;

8. Requests the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to report on the operation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session or earlier.

781st plenary meeting,

14 November 1958.