



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.12/AC.41/3
7 October 1958
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Committee of the Whole
Extraordinary session
New York, 1-3 October 1958

REPORT *

on the Extraordinary Session of the Committee
of the Whole of the Economic Commission for
Latin America,

1-3 October 1958

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Nota.

Detallar la versión en español.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
PART I. EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE		
A. <u>Attendance and organization of work</u>	1 - 3	3
Opening and closing meetings	1	3
Membership and attendance.	2	3
Election of officers	3	3
B. <u>Agenda</u>	4	4
C. <u>Summary of discussion</u>	5 - 10	4
United Nations building in Santiago		
PART II. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT ITS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION		
147 (AC.41) Proposals for the financing of a United Nations building in Santiago, Chile.		6
List of representatives		Annex

PART I

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE

A. Attendance and organization of work

Opening and closing meetings

1. With a view to discussing proposals for the financing of a United Nations building on the plot of land donated by the Government of Chile, the Executive Secretary, after consulting the Chairman of the Commission, convened the extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole that was held in New York on 1 and 3 October 1958.^{1/} The first meeting was opened by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, after which Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General, made a statement concerning the purpose of the meeting. Mr. José Correa, Representative of Ecuador, who was elected Chairman of the Committee; spoke on behalf of the attending delegations at both the opening and closing meetings.

Membership and attendance

2. Representatives of the following countries attended the extraordinary session: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization.

Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: International Federation of Christian Trade Unions and World Federation of Trade Unions.

Election of officers

3. The Committee of the Whole elected Mr. José Correa (Ecuador) Chairman, and Mr. Eurico Penteadó (Brazil) and Mr. Jorge E. Illueca (Panama) First and

^{1/} For the background information on the extraordinary session of the Committee, see document E/CN.12/AC.41/2.

Second Vice-Chairman, respectively. Mr. Raúl Guijano (Argentina) was elected Rapporteur.

B. Agenda

4. The Committee of the Whole adopted the following agenda (E/CN.12/AC.41/1):
1. Election of officers
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Proposals for the financing of a United Nations building in Santiago, Chile. Background document: Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.12/AC.41/2)
 4. Pledges of contributions
 5. Report of the session

C. Summary of discussion

5. The Committee of the Whole took note of General Assembly resolution 1224 (XII) under which the Secretary-General was requested to accept the generous gift by the Government of Chile of a plot of land for the construction of a building for the United Nations offices in Santiago, Chile. It also took into account a Note by the Secretary-General concerning the financing of the construction of the building (E/CN.12/AC.41/2).
6. In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the delegations of Ecuador and Mexico submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.41/L.1) under the terms of which the building would be financed by means of interest-free loans made by the Governments of the members States. In this connexion, the delegations were in unanimous agreement concerning the advantages to be derived from construction of the building.
7. Several delegations recommended that the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations should contribute towards financing the cost of the building, and some indicated that they had instructions from their Governments to pledge contributions.
8. It was pointed out that while member Governments should be encouraged to make interest-free loans, this procedure raised constitutional difficulties in the case of some countries and therefore, from an administrative point of view,

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would prove very slow. Several delegations therefore supported a plan of action under which the General Assembly could authorize the Secretary-General to construct the building, the cost of which would be included, in annual instalments, in the regular United Nations budget. The contributions of the members of the Commission would supplement the cash needs for construction. The Secretary-General could also use advances from the Working Capital Fund. These advances and those made by the Governments of States members of the Commission would be repayable by means of annual appropriations in the regular United Nations budget over a period of years.

9. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the two ideas could be combined into a single proposal, subject of course to the approval of the General Assembly, as that would give a firm basis for undertaking the construction. Ultimately, the total membership of the United Nations would be underwriting the cost through budget appropriations over a period of years, but the question at issue was the availability of cash resources in the two or three years of actual construction. He said that, as a practical matter, these cash requirements could be met in part by means of budget appropriations and in part by cash advances either from especially interested member Governments or from the Working Capital Fund. As the position of the Working Capital Fund was somewhat precarious, it would be advisable to include a procedure whereby the Secretary-General could, if necessary, approach Governments members of the Commission for interest-free cash advances.

10. The two points of view were combined in the draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Ecuador, France, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay, which in the Committee's view represented a practical and effective arrangement for the rapid construction of the building. Resolution 147 (AC.41) was adopted unanimously.

PART II

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AT ITS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

147 (AC.41) Proposals for the financing of a
United Nations building in Santiago, Chile

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,
Bearing in mind that the General Assembly in its resolution 1224 (XII)
requested the Secretary-General to accept with thanks the generous offer of the
Government of Chile of a plot of land for the construction of a building to house
United Nations offices in Santiago, Chile, and authorized him to open with the
Governments of States members of the Commission such negotiations as may be
necessary with regard to the financing of the construction of that building,

Having considered the proposals of the Secretary-General and of members of
the Commission,

Considering that the provisional estimate of the cost of construction is not
more than \$850,000,

Considering that the Commission at the sixth session of its Committee of the
Whole adopted a resolution (143 (AC.40)) in which it expressed the hope that the
Secretary-General would expedite the work he has undertaken in this connexion so
that the United Nations building in Santiago would soon become a reality,

Requests the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General
Assembly a proposal that it take a decision in this matter along the following
lines:

1. Authorizing the Secretary-General to proceed with the planning and
construction of a building on the site in Santiago within the cost estimate
above;

2. Appropriating for 1959 the amount of \$50,000 in the regular United
Nations budget for initial expenses in planning and construction of the building;

3. Deciding, in principle, that the remaining cost of the building should
be included in the regular United Nations budget in annual instalments. These
instalments might be \$200,000;

4. Inviting Governments members of the Commission to make repayable interest-free advances to the United Nations in order to meet the cash needs for construction if the Secretary-General finds this to be necessary;

5. Authorizing the Secretary-General to meet any cash deficiencies for construction from the Working Capital Fund.

ANNEX

List of Representatives

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

- Argentina - Representative: Raúl Quijano
- Bolivia - Representative: Abel Ayroca
- Brazil - Representative: Eurico Penteado
Alternate: Fernando Abbott Galvao
- Chile - Representative: José Serrano Palma, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Alternate: Alfonso Grez Valdovinos
- Colombia - Representative: Jorge Morales Rivas
- Costa Rica - Representative: Gonzalo Ortiz Martin
- Cuba - Representative: Emilio Núñez-Portuondo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Alternate: Juan O'Naghten
- Dominican Republic - Representative: Kémil Dipp-Gomez
- Ecuador - Representative: José A. Correa, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Alternate: Luis Coloma Silva
- El Salvador - Representative: Miguel Rafael Urquía, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations
- France - Representative: Maurice Viaud
- Guatemala - Representative: Ciro A. Molina
- Haiti - Representative: Robert Theard

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (continued)

- Honduras - Representative: Carlos Adrián Perdomo, Ambassador,
Permanent
Representative to
the United Nations
- Mexico - Representative: Victor A. Urquidi
- Netherlands - Representative: J. Kaufmann
- Nicaragua - Representative: Luis Mena Solorzano
- Panama - Representative: Jorge E. Illueca
- Paraguay - Representative: Pacífico Montero de Vargas, Ambassador,
Permanent
Representative to
the United Nations
- Alternate: Miguel Solano Lopez
- Peru - Representative: José Pareja y Paz Soldán
- United Kingdom - Representative: J.A. Annand
- United States - Representative: Christopher H. Phillips
- Alternates: Albert F. Bender, Jr.
Virginia Westfal
- Uruguay - Representative: Juan Felipe Yriart, Minister to Finland
and Sweden
- Venezuela - Representative: Juan Alvarado

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- International Labour Organisation: Rudolph A. Metall
- Food and Agriculture Organization: Joseph L. Orr
- World Health Organization: R.L. Coigney

REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

- International Federation of Christian Trade Unions: Mr. G. Thormann
- World Federation of Trade Unions: Miss Elinor Kahn
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