



GENERAL

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Fifth Committee of the Whole Meeting
Santiago, Chile

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held in the Conference Room of the Economic Commission for Latin
America at Santiago, Chile, on Monday
14 May 1956, at 3.45 p.m.

CONTENTS:

- Election of officers
- Adoption of the agenda
- Progress Report by the Executive Secretary (E/CN.12/AC.34/2)
and Brief Review of the Work and Activities of the Commission
1948-55 (E/CN.12/AC.34/2/Add.1)
- Technical assistance for economic development (E/CN.12/AC.34/3
and 4)
- Economic development and integration in Central America
(E/CN.12/AC.34/5)
- Co-ordination between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC (E/CN.12/AC.34/6)
- Establishment of a Regional Centre for Demographic Research
and Training in Latin America (E/CN.12/AC.34/7 and Add.1)

/PRESENT:

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. GUILLERMO VILDOSOLA AGUIRRE	Chile
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. JOSE DE JESUS NUNEZ Y DOMINGUEZ	Mexico
	Mr. JESUS UNDA MURILLO	Guatemala
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GAERIEL MARTINEZ	Argentina
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ITURRALDE CHINEL	Bolivia
	Mr. FRAZAO	Brazil
	Mr. MOLINA SILVA	Chile
	Mr. MANOTAS	Colombia
	Mr. JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. HERNANDEZ PORTELA	Cuba
	Mr. CUSTODE MOSQUERA	Ecuador
	Mr. LINDO	El Salvador
	Mr. DE CROUY-CHANEL	France
	Mr. MERCERON	Haiti
	Mr. COELLO	Honduras
	Mr. VAN DER GAAG	Netherlands
	Mr. VALDES	Panama
	Mr. LORENTO DE PATRON	Peru
	Mr. WRIGHT	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SANDERS	United States of America
	Mr. DORR	
	Mr. DE PENA	Uruguay

Also present:Representatives of Member States of the United Nations,
non-members of the Commission, in a consultative capacity:

Mr. ALIASY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. LAJOS	Hungary
Mr. MANCINI	Italy
Mr. ARAGONES VILA	Spain

/Representatives of

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ABOUGHANEM

International Labour
Organisation (ILO)

Mr. SACC

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations (FAO)

Mr. CARLSON

International Bank for
Reconstruction and
Development (IBRD)

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mr. TAYLOR

Inter-American Economic
and Social Council
(IA-ECOSOC)

Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Category A:

Mr. OTERO BORLAFF

International
Confederation of Free
Trade Unions

Secretariat:

Mr. FREBISCH

Executive Secretary

Mr. SANTA CRUZ

Secretary of the
Commission

Mr. LEUSCHNER

Technical Assistance
Administration (TAA)

Mr. DURAN

/Election of officers

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. COELLO (Honduras) proposed, and Mr. UNDA MURILLO (Guatemala) seconded, that Mr. Vildósola Aguirre (Chile) take the Chair.

Mr. VILDOSOLA AGUIRRE (Chile) was elected unanimously.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) proposed as First Vice-Chairman Mr. Núñez y Domínguez (Mexico).

Mr. NÚÑEZ Y DOMÍNGUEZ (Mexico) was elected unanimously.

Mr. LINDO (El Salvador) proposed Mr. Unda Murillo (Guatemala) as Second Vice-Chairman.

Mr. UNDA MURILLO (Guatemala) was elected unanimously.

Mr. MANOTAS (Colombia) nominated Mr. Martínez (Argentina) as Rapporteur.

Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) was elected unanimously.

Mr. VILDOSOLA AGUIRRE (Chile) took the Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) moved the adoption of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda was adopted unanimously.

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/CN.12/AC.34/2) AND BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION, 1948-55 (E/CN.12/AC.34/2/Add.1)

There being no discussion, the Committee took note of the two documents.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E/CN.12/AC.34/3 and 4)

Mr. LEUSCHNER (TAA) said that as the Report of the Technical Assistance Administration on Technical Assistance Activities in the ECLA Region (E/CN.12/AC.34/4) had been distributed to delegations, it was unnecessary to discuss it in detail. It was, however, desirable to define the branches of technical assistance covered by the decentralization programmes. They were, in the first place, the United Nations Technical Assistance programmes, which comprised: planning of economic policy and its instruments; public administration, finance and statistics; research into natural resources (mining and water resources); industry; transport; and social affairs. At the beginning of 1955 the Secretary-General had entrusted to a group of senior officials a study of the organization of the United Nations. Among its many recommendations was that of decentralizing the Technical Assistance Administration so that its programmes could be better identified with the needs of the different countries, taking advantage of the knowledge acquired

/through studies

through studies undertaken by the respective Regional Economic Commissions. The General Assembly had recommended that an experiment be first made in Latin America and if that were successful, that it be extended to other parts of the world: the Middle and Far East, Europe and Africa.

He himself had been appointed to direct the Latin American Regional Office of Technical Assistance. The work would be carried out by a group of staff members who had previously operated from New York and who would in future have their headquarters in Santiago and Mexico, respectively. The countries themselves would continue to decide upon the types of programmes they needed most. The bulk of the work would still be carried out by permanent delegations and on the suggestions of Resident Representatives.

Mr. MOLINA SILVA (Chile) stated that the Chilean delegation considered Technical Assistance to have been an efficient instrument for progress in Latin America and thought that decentralization would help to accelerate the region's economic development. He proposed a draft resolution on the subject. (Conference Room Paper No. 6.)

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) supported the resolution but asked that a paragraph be added requesting the secretariat to furnish periodic reports, at intervals of its own choice, on the way in which ECLA and TAA were co-ordinating their activities in the region.

Mr. PREBISCH (Secretariat) said that the secretariat had no objection to the proposal of the Brazilian delegation.

Mr. DORR (United States of America) explained that his delegation would abstain from voting, as the report in question had been submitted too late to prepare a position on the document and his Government could not express satisfaction with an experiment until the results were known.

The draft resolution on technical assistance, with the amendment proposed by the Brazilian delegation was adopted with one abstention.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA (E/CN.12/AC.34/5)

Mr. UNDA MURILLO (Guatemala), in the name of the delegations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and his own, presented a draft resolution. (Conference Room Paper No. 5)

Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) regretted that his Government had not had an opportunity of studying the document; he read the pertinent part of his Government's instructions, which indicated that not all the

/basic documents

basic documents had been officially received and that those which had been received had been incomplete. He therefore requested the inclusion in the record of the fact that his Government retained complete freedom to take any decision concerning the documents under review.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Secretary of the Commission) explained that the document concerned had been officially distributed by Headquarters after the January Meeting of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and had been subsequently distributed again by the Mexico Office to all Member Governments.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the vote.

The resolution was adopted, with one abstention.

CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN ECLA AND IA-ECOSOC (E/CN.12/AC.34/6)

Mr. TAYLOR (IA-ECOSOC) stated that since the original resolution had been adopted in 1948, the Executive Secretaries of both organizations had sought for co-ordination and that the results had been constructive and fruitful.

Mr. SANIERS (United States of America) trusted that co-ordination between ECLA and IA-ECOSOC could be as effective in the social field as it had been in the economic one.

Mr. MOLINA SILVA (Chile) wished to know: first, in what way ECLA and IA-ECOSOC would achieve co-ordination in the social field and second, whether the IA-ECOSOC conference planned for September in Buenos Aires would not give rise to difficulties for ECLA's seventh session to be held in May 1957.

Mr. DURAN (Secretariat) explained that there had always been close co-ordination between the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the IA-ECOSOC, and that co-ordination had also been extended to ECLA's work in the social field. He particularly called to the attention of delegates the co-ordination achieved in the realm of housing, as described in page 7 of the report.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that although ECLA had changed the date of its sixth session after the Rio Meeting of Ministers of Economy, it was not possible to make a regular practice of altering the date, since ECLA's sessions were closely bound up with the work of the Economic and Social Council. If IA-ECOSOC were to meet say six months after ECLA's next session, it would be able to make full use of the studies to be presented at La Paz, particularly the new reports on obstacles to inter-Latin-American

/trade, with

trade, with special reference to payments problems.

With regard to Argentina's position, he understood that postponement would be very useful for Argentina, since more complete studies could be made of that country's own problems. Moreover, he understood from the Secretary-General of OAS that the organization would be willing to meet ECLA in that respect. The desirable time lapse would be between one year and six months.

Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said that although he had no specific instructions on the matter, it was his understanding that his Government wanted to meet the other American Governments on the question of the date.

Mr. MOLINA SILVA (Chile) suggested that agreement in principle would be desirable, or a draft resolution, stating that: 1) the Committee of the Whole was competent to discuss the matter; and 2) if there were any possibility of postponement, sufficient time should elapse between the two meetings to prevent any overlapping.

Mr. TAYLOR (IA-ECOSOC) stated that he would be very glad to put before his Council the points of view expressed by delegations.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), while understanding the Committee's concern with the matter, felt that the Chilean resolution went too far; no suggestions could be made without specific instructions. Nevertheless, if Argentina should express officially the views just put forward in an unofficial manner, IA-ECOSOC would then be in a position to take a decision in the matter.

Mr. MOLINA SILVA (Chile) suggested that any resolution include the suggestion of a time lapse between the two meetings.

Mr. DORR (United States of America) explained that the United States would abstain from voting since he had received no instructions on the dates of the Buenos Aires Economic Conference.

The CHAIRMAN put the draft resolution presented by the delegation of Chile to the vote. (Conference Room Paper No. 8.)

The resolution was adopted with two abstentions.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICA (E/CN.12/AC.34/7 and Add.1)

Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) presented a draft resolution concerning the creation of a regional centre for demographic research and training. (Conference Room Paper No. 4.)

Mr. DE PENA (Uruguay) said that he had several doubts about the draft /resolution, which

resolution, which could be summed up as relating to the following four points: a) its origin; b) financing; c) staff, and d) authority of the Committee to approve the creation of the Centre.

He stated that he was not in opposition to the establishment of the Centre providing he had assurance as to the Committee's authority to vote on the matter.

Mr. DURAN (Secretariat) explained that the Centre's origin was fully detailed in paragraph 3 of E/CN.12/AC.34/7. It would be financed through the regular programme of Technical Assistance Administration, which would provide the staff, including three teachers and one director, as well as fellowships for the students. The question of the Committee's authority did not arise, since it would simply be corroborating a suggestion made by the Economic and Social Council and requesting that the necessary steps be taken to implement it.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) was not prepared to support the draft resolution because he believed that the representatives were not in a position to reach any decisive agreement. Moreover, although his Government's views had been expressed at a previous meeting held at Rio de Janeiro in December 1955, he was not authorized to take any decision in the matter. The form in which the resolution was drafted implied that the Centre would be created in Santiago. He considered that more time should be given to studying the proposal which was entirely new within the Commission's work.

Mr. DURAN (Secretariat) stressed that no formal agreement had been reached with the Government of Chile. The only document in existence was the record of a meeting held at the Chilean Foreign Office, signed by the competent authorities of both the Government of Chile and the United Nations, specifying the contribution which the former would be willing to make if the Centre were created in Santiago.

Mr. LINDO (El Salvador) summarized the views expressed and said that two ideas had been put forward: 1) the idea of creating a centre having its headquarters at Santiago, as implicit in the first part of the draft resolution. He thought that the expression "welcomes the office" which might be interpreted as approval be replaced by "takes note with satisfaction"; 2) he emphasized that it was not the Commission's task to establish the Centre, but rather that of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

/Mr. DE PENA

Mr. DE PENA (Uruguay) proposed, in view of the objections made to the text of the draft resolution, that a vote on it be postponed until a Working Group had had time to agree on a text satisfactory to all parties. He therefore proposed the setting up of a working group.

It was agreed to form a Working Group to study the draft resolution, composed of the representatives of El Salvador, Chile, Brazil and the United States.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.