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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Eighth Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at ECLA Headquarters, Santiago, Chile
on Wednesday, 14 February 1962, at 3.30 p.m.

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(E/CN.12/AC.50/7) Programme of work and priorities
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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ORTIZ	Mexico
<u>later:</u>	Mr. ESCOBAR CERDA	Chile
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ROCHA	Colombia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. SOLARI	Argentina
	Mr. GALARZA	Bolivia
	Mr. RAMOS DE ALENCAR	Brazil
	Mr. MIDWINTER	Canada
	Mr. DIAZ CONTRERAS	Chile
	Mr. BOLAÑOS	Costa Rica
	Mr. LASALLE	Cuba
	Mr. MARTINEZ MORAZA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. BORRERO	Ecuador
	Mr. LISETTE	France
	Mr. ALVAREZ	Guatemala
	Mr. FARREAU	Haiti
	Mr. CAMPOS	Mexico
	Mr. RADHAKISHUN	Netherlands
	Mr. LUNA	Nicaragua
	Mr. COUCHONNAL	Paraguay
	Mr. BAKULA	Peru
	Mr. KENNEDY	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. COLE	United States of America
	Mr. VASQUEZ	Uruguay

Representatives of States
Members of the United Nations
not members of the Commission,
attending in a consultative
capacity:

Mr. BRUENNER	Austria
Mr. MERAN	Hungary
Mr. CUNEO	Italy
Mr. ANDO	Japan
Mr. PAN DE SORALUCE	Spain
Mr. ALEXEEV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Representatives of States not
Members of the United Nations,
attending in a consultative
capacity:

Mr. STINER

Switzerland

Representatives of specialized
agencies:

Mr. CASSAN

International Labour
Organization (ILO)

Mr. H. SANTA CRUZ

Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)

Mr. VAN DE CASTELLE

International Civil
Aviation Organization
(ICAO)

Mr. VERA

United Nations
Educational, Scien-
tific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. BLOOMFIELD

World Health
Organization (WHO)

Mr. MARTINEZ

World Meteorological
Organization (WMO)

Representatives of inter-
governmental organizations:

Mr. DA SILVA

Organization of American
States (OAS)

Mr. DEL PINO

Inter-Governmental
Committee for European
Migration (ICEM)

Representatives of non-
governmental organizations:

Category A: Mr. BERGANZA

International Confederation
of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
and Inter-American Regional
Organization of Workers of
ICFTU

Mr. SOTO

World Federation of Trade
Unions (WFTU)

/Secretariat:

Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH

Mr. SWENSON

Mr. A. SANTA CRUZ

Mr. ECHEGOYEN

Mr. VALDES

Executive Secretary

Deputy Executive Secretary

Assistant Executive Secretary

Technical Assistance BOARD
(TAB)

Secretary of the Commission

/PROGRESS REPORT

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT (E/CN.12/AC.50/2, E/CN.12/AC.50/3, E/CN.12/AC.50/4 and E/CN.12/AC.50/6)

Mr. ROCHA (Colombia) observed that the draft annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.12/AC.50/2) contained the statement that under the Colombian four-year plan for public investments an increment of 5.5 per cent in the gross national income during the period 1961-70 was envisaged. The correct figure was 5.6 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN said that the secretariat would make the necessary correction in the draft report.

Mr. SOLARI (Argentina) said that the present session of the Committee of the Whole was being held in circumstances and under auspices different from those of its previous sessions. The peoples of America, particularly of Latin America, had moved forward from the stage of studies to that of achievement.

Latin America was faced with three general economic problems: the problem of placing its finances on a sound footing, the question of monetary stability and the problem of promoting its development. The present session provided an unusual opportunity to take a vital and decisive step in the field of economic development.

It was not sheer coincidence that ECLA had foreseen, and suggested solutions for, the technical requirements with which Governments were confronted at the present stage. The Argentine delegation wished to pay a tribute to the Executive Secretary and staff of ECLA for their dedication to the progress of the Latin American people and the search for effective solutions to the problems created by under-development. Argentina had had an opportunity at the sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly to continue its action in favour of the strengthening of ECLA and, together with Brazil and other countries, had sponsored General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI) on "Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions". Later, in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions it had supported measures designed to enable ECLA to take full and effective part in technical assistance activities.

/He hoped

He hoped that the Governments of States members of ECLA would take similar action during the current session.

The Conference on Tax Administration, held at Buenos Aires in 1961, was further evidence of Argentina's dedication to the positive action undertaken under ECLA's auspices.

It was in that spirit that he wished to address himself to the question of the establishment of the Institute for Economic and Social Planning, which in his view should be based on two essential principles: 1. The Institute should be established under the auspices of the Governments of the States members of ECLA; 2. The Institute should be an autonomous body with full authority to deal directly with Governments and to interpret accurately the mandate entrusted to ECLA. It should be noted, in that connexion, that it was not the Managing Director of the Special Fund but its Governing Council which had "final authority for the approval of the projects and programmes" of the Fund under General Assembly resolution 1240 (XIII). The same principle applied to the Inter-American Development Bank and to the Organization of American States.

The co-operation between the Commission, IDB and OAS, as mentioned by the Executive Secretary of ECLA, was an encouraging sign and dispelled such doubts as might have been entertained concerning the successful co-ordination of the activities of the three organizations.

With respect to the view that the possibility of obtaining funds should constitute a basic criterion which should be formally recognized in the terms of reference concerning membership in the Council of Directors of the Institute, the Argentine delegation felt that it infringed certain basic principles. Autonomy was a fundamental principle in economic development as it was in political organization. The concept of separate plans for the formulation and evaluation of which each country retained full responsibility was already a cardinal principle of programming in the Western Hemisphere recognized both in General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) and in ECLA resolution 199 (IX). While Governments might, and in fact did, require technical co-operation in formulating their plans, the responsibility for the formulation and evaluation of plans and projects was theirs alone and neither could nor should be delegated to international civil servants who neither represented nor spoke on behalf of Governments.

/Argentina considered

Argentina considered the establishment of the Institute not only desirable but necessary. It expected to derive benefit from the work of the Institute and also to make major contributions to it for the benefit of other Latin American countries. The training of qualified staff in the field of development planning would contribute to a better exchange of experiences among planning officials of the States members of ECLA and to the strengthening of national nuclei responsible for the formulation and evaluation of economic development plans.

In carrying out the Institute's training programme, account should be taken of the fact that Latin America constituted a geographical as well as an ideological and cultural unit dedicated to democratic and Christian ideals. Argentina therefore unreservedly rejected any attempt or proposal to assimilate or adapt methods or experiences emanating from ideologies alien to America. He wished to make that clear in view of the possibility of provisions which would involve recourse to the experience of experts, as well as funds, from countries with centrally planned economies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E/CN.12/AC.50/5)

Mr. ECHEGOYEN (Technical Assistance Board) pointed out that 1961 had been the final year of programming on an annual basis, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance having been approved for a period of two years instead of one as hitherto.

While the technical assistance programmes for the period 1961-1962 had increased for Latin America as a whole, the region's share showed a slight percentage drop which reflected the channelling of additional resources to the newly independent States Members of the United Nations. However, in absolute terms, the annual average of the approved 1961-1962 programme for the region was greater than in 1960, the increase being to a large extent due to the emergency programme approved for Chile after the earthquakes in 1960.

While the upward trend in the pledges to EPTA was a welcome development, the effect was somewhat tempered by the disappointing record of actual payments received. Delays in payment of local cost contributions in relation to the assistance provided to Governments in the ECLA region continued to be a source of concern.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

/Mr. Escobar

Mr. Escobar Cerda (Chile) took the Chair.

UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN SANTIAGO (E/CN.12/AC.50/8; Conference Room Paper No. 2)

Mr. BOLAÑOS (Costa Rica), on behalf of his own country and of the delegations of Mexico and Uruguay, submitted a draft resolution (Conference Room Paper No. 2) in which, in the light of the secretariat's report on the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile (E/CN.12/AC.50/8), it was proposed that an ad hoc committee be established to co-ordinate and promote the gift programme, so as to ensure the fitting out and decoration of the building while preserving the appropriate characteristics of dignity and elegance.

Mr. VAZQUEZ (Uruguay) proposed that the draft resolution should be discussed immediately.

The CHAIRMAN, having previously obtained the unanimous consent of the Committee to discuss the draft resolution immediately in accordance with rule 34 of the Commission's rules of procedure, where so decided by the Commission, submitted the draft resolution for discussion and vote.

The draft resolution submitted by Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay was adopted unanimously.

Mr. DIAZ CONTRERAS (Chile) proposed that the appointment of the three representatives to serve on the ad hoc committee referred to in the draft resolution just adopted should be deferred until the following meeting.

It was so agreed.

LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (E/CN.12/AC.50/7 and Corr.1)

Mr. ROCHA (Colombia) considered that the present session of the Committee of the Whole held a special practical significance for the future of Latin America and for its development plans, since it was at the present session that the permanent foundations would be laid for the Latin American Institute for Development Planning. That Institute would be called upon to serve as the main instrument in the common battle against economic and social under-development. It would facilitate fuller studies, the preparation of programmes and, in brief, the launching of the specific plans required for the development of each country. Colombia now had a general development programme and a national public investment plan, made possible through the

/aid received

aid received from ECLA and other United Nations bodies. The proposed Institute should operate in close relationship with ECLA; it should have a Council of Directors in which member countries should have an active influence and control, but in conjunction with the representatives of the international bodies that would most normally be concerned with the details of its operation, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS) and ECLA itself; and it should have an Executive Director with sufficiently broad functions and the executive ability to launch effectively such a complicated technical body as the Institute must necessarily be. He would join with certain other delegations in sponsoring a draft resolution that would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Mr. DIAZ CONTRERAS (Chile) recognized the urgent need to encourage the training of experts in economic development, a task for which the proposed Latin American Institute for Development Planning would be well fitted. Like the representative of Colombia, he intended to join with other delegations in submitting a draft resolution which might serve as the basic charter of the new body. He considered that the new Institute should be a technical and teaching body that should operate with the guidance and under the aegis of ECLA, with an executive body on which there should be proper representation of the Governments of member countries and of the international bodies concerned. The co-ordination that had been achieved between IDB, OAS and ECLA represented a clear step forward for the economic development of the Latin American countries, but it should be established on a sounder footing by providing those bodies with proper representation on the Council of Directors of the Institute. He also considered it essential that the Executive Director of the Institute should have the necessary combination of executive powers and delegated authority to ensure that the programmes would be executed promptly and efficiently; consequently, it would be desirable for him to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the Council of Directors.

Mr. VERA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that his organization was naturally interested in the proposal to establish a Latin American Institute for Development Planning, since without proper co-ordination with economic and social development

/there could

there could be no systematic and effective development of the educational services, which was the special field of UNESCO. The truth of that had been recognized at the Inter-American Seminar on Over-all Planning of Education held jointly by UNESCO and OAS in Washington in June 1958. Since then both organizations had continued their efforts to put into practice the conclusions reached at that seminar, with the result that there were now educational development plans in sixteen Latin American countries. Further proof of UNESCO's interest in co-operating in that field was its active collaboration with ECLA, OAS, FAO and the ILO in preparing the Latin American Conference on Education and Economic and Social Development, which was to open at Santiago on 5 March 1962. In conclusion he suggested that the proposed Latin American Institute for Development Planning should include a special section dealing with educational planning.

Mr. PREBISCH (Executive Secretary) confirmed the interest shown by UNESCO and FAO in participating in the organization of the Latin American Institute for Development Planning. For that purpose it might be possible to make use, with respect to those two organizations and to the ILO and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, of the system represented by the Joint ECLA/FAO Agriculture Division, which operated within ECLA under a Director appointed by FAO in consultation with the ECLA secretariat. He believed that that method would make it possible, once the Institute was established, to organize a joint training programme for the planning of education, manpower and agriculture. Such plans would require larger funds for their execution than were available thus far, as well as unified direction in order to ensure maximum efficiency.

Mr. CAMPOS (Mexico), continuing the general discussion on the projected Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and referring to document E/CN.12/AC.50/7 as well as to the views expressed at the beginning of the meeting by the representative of Argentina, said he was convinced of the desirability of creating the Institute, and recalled the support given to the project by the Mexican delegation at the ninth session of the Commission. In his opinion, the member countries of ECLA should take part in the administration of the Institute, and more especially the Latin American countries. He considered that it would be best to reduce the participation of international organizations in the direction and organization of the

/Institute, since

Institute, since it would be undesirable that the votes of Governments should have the same weight as that of the organizations, which might carry the day in the majority of cases where the views of the government representatives happened to conflict. Since the organizations in question were already collaborating closely with ECLA, the latter might well act as their representative. That or a similar solution would assure the wholehearted and effective participation of the member Governments in the administration of the Institute.

The CHAIRMAN said that the discussion of item 7 would be continued at the next meeting.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1961-62 (E/CN.12/AC.50/9)

The CHAIRMAN submitted for consideration by the Committee the programme of work and priorities for 1961-62 as presented by the secretariat, and pointed out that its adoption would involve a reservation with respect to the items on the work programme that might be transferred to the Institute. That possibility would be examined once the resolution on the Institute had been considered.

The programme of work and priorities, 1961-62, contained in document E/CN.12/AC.50/9, was unanimously adopted, subject to the reservation indicated by the Chairman.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The CHAIRMAN announced that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 16 February, at 9.30 a.m., when the draft resolution on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (Conference Room Paper No. 1) submitted by the Argentine delegation would be discussed and put to the vote, together with the other draft resolutions submitted in writing to the Secretariat by the delegations twenty-four hours in advance, as stipulated in rule 34 of the Commission's rules of procedure.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.