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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole
Eighth Extraordinary Session

New York, 24 and 25 January 1974

Latin American Conference on Industrialization

(Note by the secretariat)

The Industrial Development Board, at its sixth session, adopted resolution 33 (VI) which recommends the United Nations General Assembly to convene the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In its resolution 2952 (XXVII) the General Assembly decided to convene this World Conference for a period of two weeks in the early months of 1975 and requested the Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee to prepare the provisional agenda and undertake the relevant preparatory arrangements.

At its seventh session the Board recommended that the Conference be held at Lima, Peru, from 12 to 26 March 1975 and approved the text of the provisional agenda. Agenda item 6 covers documentation and discussion on industrialization in developing countries and on questions related to international co-operation for industrial development. It comprises the following four major points:

(a) Review of the basic issues, progress attained and problems encountered in the field of industrialization during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

/(b) Review

(b) Review of the special measures put into effect to assist the relatively less developed countries, and the main problems that need to be solved;

(c) Policies and action required to promote and accelerate industrialization with the purpose of attaining the industrial development objectives of the Second Development Decade;

(d) International co-operation for the promotion of industrialization in developing countries.

In compliance with the above resolution, UNIDO has requested, inter alia, the co-operation of ECLA, at the same time indicating the advisability and desirability of holding a preparatory meeting in the Latin American region. The secretariat of the Commission welcomed this proposal and has offered to organize and conduct a Latin American Conference on Industrialization, subject to Member Governments' approval.

The purpose of this meeting would be to review the present situation, problems and prospects of industrial development in Latin America and the measures and decisions (particularly those related to international co-operation) which should be adopted in order to accelerate the process. The meeting could thus be considered as an opportunity for the countries in the region to make adequate preparations for the discussions to take place at the World Conference.

To ECLA, which bears the main responsibility for the appraisal of the International Development Strategy at the regional level, this meeting will offer an opportunity to carry out important work in co-ordination with the countries of the region with the aim of analysing in greater depth the obstacles to industrial progress.

The intention is that the agenda for this meeting should keep as closely as possible to the subjects to be discussed at the World Conference, since those subjects have a great deal in common with the projects in the ECLA work programme and this undertaking will therefore not involve any diversion of resources from ECLA's present programme.

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The basic documentation for the meeting would be prepared by ECLA with the collaboration of the regional advisers from UNIDO and consultants specially recruited for the purpose. It is also hoped to obtain the co-operation of some agencies of the inter-American system such as IDB and OAS for the discussion of specific subjects.

The Latin American Conference could be held at the end of November 1974, in good time to present the corresponding report at the World Conference. It would last for one week and it is considered that it should be held in one of the most industrialized centres of Latin America, such as São Paulo, Buenos Aires or some other city.

It should be noted that ECLA has held similar regional meetings to prepare for important world conferences such as the three UNCTAD sessions and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm. The results of these preparatory meetings have won the full support of the Member Governments of the Commission.