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LATIN AMERICAN SEMINAR ON HOUSING STATISTICS
AND PROGRAMMES

2-25 September 1962

Copenhagen, Denmark

AIDE-MEMOIRE ON THE LATIN AMERICAN SEMINAR
ON HOUSING STATISTICS AND PROGRAMMES

Sponsored by:

The United Nations

Economic Commission for Latin America

Economic Commission for Europe

Statistical Office

Bureau of Social Affairs: Housing, Building and Planning Branch

Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations

The Government of Denmark

The Inter-American Statistical Institute

In collaboration with:

The Latin American Demographic Centre

The Inter-American Housing and Planning Centre



I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In accordance with a long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of housing and related community facilities which was drawn up by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and approved by the Social Commission at its twelfth session^{1/} the Secretary-General prepared a progress report including a list of projects to be carried out during the period 1961-62. One of the projects included in this list was the present Seminar.^{2/} The Economic and Social Council at its thirtieth session noted the report of the Secretary-General and expressed the hope that the projects included in the programme would be effected.^{3/}

In connexion with the programme mentioned above it is planned to organize a series of seminars on housing statistics and programmes for the benefit of participants from housing agencies and statistical offices of underdeveloped countries in the various regions. In view of the need to limit the number of participants so as to ensure individual attention to all participants and efficient operation of the project, it is proposed to organize each seminar primarily for participants of only one region, although limited participation from other regions would not be barred.

Latin America has been selected as the region for which the present seminar will be designed. It is expected that rapid industrialization coupled with growing populations and the trend toward urbanization throughout Latin America will create serious problems in respect of the housing situation. Housing needs will be competing with the need for factories, roads and schools, etc. and many decisions will have to be made involving careful balancing of needs and available resources.

^{1/} E/3265/Rev.1, Annex III, Res. A.

^{2/} E/3382.

^{3/} A/4415, Supplement 3, Chapter V, Section I, para 474.

For the purpose of making such decisions, reliable statistics will be needed by the policy makers. Studies on statistical methodology and the improvement of statistical data relating to housing conditions, needs and programmes, residential construction and the provision of community facilities are subjects of high priority in Latin America and it is hoped that the present Seminar will assist the Latin American countries in their endeavours.

The seminar is being sponsored and organized by the United Nations in collaboration with the Government of Denmark. At United Nations Headquarters the Statistical Office, the Housing, Building and Planning Branch, and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations are collaborating in the organization of the Seminar. The Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Inter-American Statistical Institute will sponsor the seminar by making available lecturers and discussion leaders, preparing documents and by assisting with the necessary arrangements. The Inter-American Housing and Planning Centre and the Latin American Demographic Centre are also lending their support. Each sponsoring agency will assume responsibility for organizing the sessions dealing with specific items of the agenda and the Economic Commission for Latin America will assume responsibility for co-ordinating the preparation of the documentation. The Danish authorities will organize and direct all seminar activities conducted in that country. The Danish experts will participate in all topics and Danish experience will serve to demonstrate how the various problems are being tackled in actual practice in Denmark. The United Nations will contribute lecturers, discussion leaders and technical material. The Danish authorities have appointed a Director of the Seminar and an Administrative Secretary and the United Nations have appointed a Co-Director and two Technical Secretaries.

/II. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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1. Housing conditions throughout the world

(The emphasis will be on housing conditions, existing and future housing needs and building activities required in the developing countries.)

2. Housing problems in selected areas

2.1 The Danish experience and trends

2.2 The housing situation in Europe and recent trends

2.3 The Latin American housing situation and prospects

(a) General report

(b) The case of six selected Latin American countries

(c) The case of the Central American countries and Panama

3. Basic housing problems facing the developing countries

3.1 Housing and economic development

3.2 Basic information on the housing situation: present and future housing requirements

3.3 Housing programmes: their purpose, general characteristics and factors determining their scope

3.4 The implementation of housing programmes: materials and techniques

3.5 Administrative and organizational requirements in the drawing up of housing programmes at all levels and the execution of such programmes

3.6 Analysis of the scope and characteristics of housing programmes from selected Latin American countries

4. Statistical requirements and statistical tools for housing programmes

4.1 Information required and methodological problems involved

(a) Statistical indicators of housing conditions

(b) Present housing requirements

(c) Future housing requirements

/4.2 Statistical

4.2 Statistical tools

- (a) Housing censuses
- (b) Sample housing surveys
- (c) Permanent housing records
- (d) Current housing statistics
- (e) Demographic statistics and projections (population, household information, migration, urbanization)

5. Basic information required for the implementation of housing programmes

- 5.1 Assessment of house-building capacity and current and prospective house-building activities
- 5.2 Assessment of current and prospective economic resource for housing (national income, household income and other means of financing housing programmes)
- 5.3 Analysis of the economic significance of housing

6. Administrative and organizational arrangements required for collecting statistical data for housing programmes

III. METHOD

Documentation will be prepared for the topics shown in the programme and will be distributed one month in advance. The participants will be requested to submit for the seminar a report of the housing situation in their respective countries and of the methods of collection and use of housing statistics for the formulation and implementation of housing programmes in their countries, the form of which will be indicated to them beforehand.

There will be a series of lectures and discussions on housing statistics and programmes followed by more detailed study and discussions in small working groups on specific aspects, including the application of methods suitable to the conditions in the countries of Latin America.

The seminar will be conducted in English, but interpretation into and from Spanish will be provided.

/Field trips

Field trips in Denmark and other Scandinavian countries may be organized in connexion with the seminar.

A final report will be prepared concerning the proceedings of the seminar.

IV. PARTICIPATION

Travel and per diem will be provided for thirty participants from Latin American countries, members of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The participants should be housing statisticians or representatives of housing agencies or institutes. The Governments are invited to nominate candidates for fellowships; applications should be sent to the Economic Commission for Latin America through the Technical Assistance Board Resident Representatives before 30 April 1962.

V. DATE AND PLACE

The seminar, including field trips, will take place from 2-25 September 1962 and will be held in the neighbourhood of Copenhagen, Denmark.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

All administrative and financial arrangements will be made by the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations.

The expenses of the seminar will be financed out of the special contribution of the Danish Government to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, with the exception of the travel of United Nations staff members and certain other expenses in connexion with outside experts which will be financed under the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Assistance.

The following expenses will be paid on behalf of participants:

- (i) round-trip, air transportation between airport of departure in home country and Copenhagen;
- (ii) travel outside Copenhagen for field visits in Denmark and other Scandinavian countries;
- (iii) board and lodging in kind and, in addition, an allowance of 15 kroner per diem for incidental expenses for the duration of the seminar.

