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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

200 (IX). Repercussions of scientific progress and regional integration on the economic and social development of Latin America

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the rapid advances achieved in the field of scientific research are constantly creating synthetic substitutes for the natural raw materials which have hitherto constituted the basis of the Latin American economies,

Appreciating the progress made in connexion with the peaceful uses of non-conventional energy, the aim of which is to transform the existing systems of production, conversion and distribution of energy, to which sector the Latin American countries devote a very large proportion of their resources,

Bearing in mind that the increasing application of automation in contemporary life is creating a new situation as regards the numbers and training of personnel employed, giving rise to temporary unemployment, or manpower shifts towards services, or the absorption of the younger population groups by the extension of their period of education,

In view of the need to co-ordinate Latin American economic integration efforts with similar efforts being made in the European and African countries, creating common markets which are bound to affect one another and whose repercussions may be felt by the economy of our countries,

Decides to recommend to the ECLA secretariat that, with the co-operation of the ILO, FAO, BTAO, UNESCO and the International Atomic Energy Agency, it carry out research, on a continuing basis in so far as its resources permit, on the future repercussions of scientific progress, the development of the non-conventional forms of energy, automation and the integration of other areas, on the economic and social development of Latin America.

13 May 1961

201 (IX). Consumer goods industries

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that on various occasions, and particularly in resolution 10 (IV), the Commission expressed its interest in studies connected with consumer goods industries, including the textile industry which occupies a prominent place in that group,

Considering that a thorough knowledge of the characteristics of these industries in the various countries of the region acquires particular importance when related to regional problems of economic integration,

Takes note with satisfaction of the fact that the secretariat has embarked on new studies on the textile industry in some countries of the region in response to requests made by institutions in those countries,

Recommends to the secretariat that it extend such studies to other countries of the region which have expressed interest in the matter and also to other industries in the group of consumer goods industries,

Requests the United Nations Bureau of Technical

Assistance Operations and FAO to collaborate in this project by providing experts in these branches of industry who have previously taken part in missions in individual countries of the region.

13 May 1961

202 (IX). Pulp and paper industries

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the work accomplished by the ECLA/FAO/BTAO Pulp and Paper Advisory Group in studying the prospects of developing the pulp and paper industries in Latin America,

Considering the usefulness of such studies, not only for the countries directly concerned, but also as background information essential for the adoption of a regional approach to the development of those industries,

Considering the need for pursuing such studies not only as regards bringing them up to date in the countries where this is necessary but also in respect of supplementing them with an analysis of other fundamental aspects of the development of the industries in question, such as the training of personnel, technological research for the more efficient adaptation of conventional processes to the special characteristics of Latin American raw materials, the international financing of new plants, etc.,

Considering the desirability of directing the activities of the above-mentioned Advisory Group towards the provision of assistance to Governments, whenever requested, in the preparation of specific development programmes for industries in the sector or in formulating applications for international technical and financial assistance in the preparation of such programmes from such organizations as the Special Fund,

Decides :

1. To recommend to Governments that they continue to utilize the services of the Group ;

2. To request the secretariat to take the necessary steps to enable the Group to continue its useful activities in Latin America ;

3. To request that the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continue to co-operate with the secretariat in constituting the Group ;

4. To recommend to the secretariat that the future activities of the Group be primarily concerned with providing assistance to Governments which so request, in the preparation of specific programmes for the development of the pulp and paper industries in their countries and in clarifying the problems of training and technological and financial research to which the implementation of such programmes may give rise, in co-operation, on the technological side, with the Regional Institute for Forest Research at Merida (Venezuela).

13 May 1961

203 (IX). Technological research

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the disparity between Latin America's

current capacity to undertake technological research and the requirements implicit in industrial development,

Bearing in mind that this disparity constitutes an obstacle to such development at the present stage of Latin American industrialization,

Conscious that the similarity of resources and problems among the countries of the region has begun to lead to the establishment of common targets for technological research, and will conduce to duplication of effort in the absence of specialization and a division of responsibilities among existing research institutes,

Convinced that technological research comes within the purview of the promotional activities of international bodies such as ECLA, the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the Special Fund, the specialized agencies, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States,

Reaffirming the interest that it has itself expressed in technological research in resolutions 13 (IV) and 53 (V),

Requests the secretariat:

1. To proceed with its studies on Latin American requirements as regards technological research, with particular attention to the formulation of a regional programme of priorities and the determination of ways and means of expanding existing institutions or setting up new ones;

2. To collaborate, to the extent that its terms of reference permit, with member States in the preparation of their own programmes for the development of technological research, and in the formulation of applications to international organizations for technical and financial assistance;

3. To convene a meeting of directors of technological research institutes, with a view to promoting the formulation of co-ordinated programmes and the specialization of activities, and disseminating the findings of the research already carried out;

Suggests that the Special Fund and other relevant organizations should give due attention to applications for assistance connected with the foregoing objectives.

13 May 1961

204 (IX). Water resources

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the progress made in the study of water resources in the Latin American countries with the assistance of the ECLA/BTAO/WMO missions, such as, *inter alia*, the study on Venezuela (E/CN.12/593) submitted to the present session, and the requests pending in this connexion,

Bearing in mind that the secretariat has been unable to comply with resolution 131 (VII) on the utilization of the waters of rivers and lakes forming international hydrographic basins owing to lack of funds and of adequate technical staff,

Having regard to resolutions 166 (VIII) on the continuation and amplification of the studies on water re-

sources, and 164 (VIII) on the planning and utilization of hydroelectric resources,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the need to continue with the studies on the integrated rational and co-ordinated utilization of hydroelectric resources in the Latin American countries;

2. To request the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations to continue co-operating in the water resources programme;

3. To reaffirm the urgent need to promote the study of water resources and the training of experts specializing in this field, either as a separate activity or as part of the other work of the Commission connected with vocational training and research on the basic problems of economic development;

4. To suggest that the secretariat, as a special activity or by any other means deemed appropriate, with the assent of countries having joint jurisdiction and in consultation with the component national bodies, proceed at the earliest opportunity to prepare methods for the collection, processing and interpretation of the basic data required for the study and development of the water resources common to several countries in the region, and to encourage the adoption and application of such methods in those countries.

13 May 1961

205 (IX). Tariff liberalization with respect to construction materials

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that, despite the measures adopted by certain Governments and the success achieved to date in reducing the housing deficit in Latin America, the situation does not appear to have improved to any appreciable extent,

Realizing that the shortage of housing in conjunction with the deficient state of existing dwellings constitutes a grave social problem for the Latin American countries,

Bearing in mind that the machinery of both the Montevideo Treaty and the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration could serve a useful purpose in lowering the cost of housing construction and hence expediting government housing programmes,

Taking note of the document submitted by the Pan American Federation of Architects' Associations³⁵ on the need to undertake studies on intra-regional trade in construction materials,

Decides:

1. To recommend to the Governments belonging to the Latin American Free-Trade Association and the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration that they explore the possibility of including housing construction materials in their programmes for import liberalization, and of promoting agreements on industrial complementarity in the fields concerned;

2. To request the secretariat to carry out studies on

³⁵ See Conference Room Paper No. 11.