



**UNITED NATIONS**

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**(15 February 1952–25 April 1953)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : SIXTEENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 3**

**NEW YORK**

ment in secretariat studies of programming and economic development in the Latin-American countries;

2. That, to give effect to the above recommendation, the secretariat should work in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters and with that of the Food and Agriculture Organization, taking into account the reports of the above seminar and bearing in mind that there should be a high degree of co-ordination between the activities of United Nations organizations in this field; and

3. That the secretariat should submit to the next session the reports and suggested lines of action developed by that seminar, and any other data which it may collect through its own efforts.

#### PROBLEMS OF THE BANANA INDUSTRY

*Resolution 67 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953*  
(E/CN.12/352)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* that the production and export of bananas have increased in some countries and declined in others (E/CN.12/291/Rev.1),

*Considering* that during the period 1947-52 this decline was marked in some Central American and Caribbean countries, although there was a considerable increase in Latin America's total production and export of bananas, and

*Considering* that the countries which feel they are affected should be helped in carrying out measures likely to regain the former level of banana production,

*Recommends* that the secretariat should

1. Arrange for the carrying out, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, and at the request of interested governments, of a study of the economic and technological problems of the banana industry; and

2. Give special attention to the economic aspects of the banana industry in the preparation of the next *Economic Survey of Latin America*, taking into account, as far as possible, the results of the study mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

#### HARD FIBRES

*Resolution 68 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953*  
(E/CN.12/353)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* that hard fibres, mainly sisal, play an important part in the economy of several Latin-American countries,

*Considering* that, owing to the drop in the prices of hard fibres on the world market, caused by various factors, the Latin-American producing countries have suffered a substantial reduction in their resources, and

*Considering* that it is necessary to help the countries affected in this way to find the means of recov-

ering their previous levels of production and export of hard fibres,

*Recommends* that the secretariat undertake, in collaboration with FAO, a study of the status of the production, industrialization and export of hard fibres—mainly sisal—in the various producing countries of Latin America which request it.

#### INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE

*Resolution 69 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953*  
(E/CN.12/354)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having considered* with interest the preliminary study presented by the Executive Secretary in document E/CN.12/304,

*Considering* that this is of positive technical value and that it represents a first step towards the clarification of questions not previously dealt with, and

*Considering* that

(a) It is necessary that in the continued study referred to in resolution 20 (IV), the research should be extended to cover the field of trade within the Latin-American region as a whole, since the successful carrying out of a commercial policy calculated to improve this trade depends on a more thorough analysis thereof, if it is to yield precise data,

(b) Therefore, the analysis of the problems outlined in document E/CN.12/304 should be broadened with respect to commercial and payments agreements, raw materials and manufactured goods, and foodstuffs and transport,

(c) By reason of the fact that some Latin-American republics are and others are not parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, they are in different positions as far as their trade negotiations with each other are concerned,

(d) In view of the position of the land-locked States of Latin America, it is advisable to give special attention to their foreign trade problems with a view to promoting their economic development and increasing trade within the Latin-American region, and

(e) The complications inherent in trade within the Latin-American region may render it advisable to resort more frequently to the services of experts for the purpose of carrying out the studies referred to herein, and that thus it is desirable to broaden the scope of resolution 20 (IV) in this regard,

*Recommends*

1. That, in the continuing study referred to in resolution 20 (IV), the secretariat should broaden the scope of its research into co-operation among the Latin-American countries with respect to economic policy, in such a way that practical solutions may be found for the problems affecting the development of trade, and should, in addition, study the possibility of formulating the bases of a commercial policy for Latin-American trade;

And for this purpose instructs the secretariat to study:

(a) With greater emphasis than hitherto, the influence on trade within the Latin-American region as

a whole of foreign trade controls existing in these countries;

(b) In co-operation with the competent international bodies, the problems involved in the payments machinery and administrative procedures in so far as these affect trade within the Latin-American region as a whole;

(c) The simplification of administrative procedures which govern the conduct of commercial transactions among the Latin-American countries;

(d) The possible increase of the consumption of both raw materials and manufactured goods in Latin America, taking into account imports from other regions (in the part of this study which relates to trade in manufactured goods, account should be taken of the present and prospective future demand of Latin America, so that the producing countries may be provided with data that may help them in fixing production targets in certain manufacturing industries);

(e) Measures to stimulate exports by countries suffering from a shortage of foodstuffs to the countries supplying foodstuffs;

(f) Means of encouraging trade agreements relating to specific products; and

(g) The problems of prices and all those other problems affecting the marketing of products which enter into trade within the Latin-American region;

## 2. That the secretariat

(a) In its surveys of trade within the Latin-American region should consider the effects which the application of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade might have on the increase of the said trade; and

(b) Should examine the various ways in which problems might be solved and in due course report the results of its study to the respective governments and to the international organizations concerned;

## 3. That in the light of the studies of other international bodies, the secretariat should analyse:

(a) The problem of transport as it affects trade within the Latin-American region as a whole, with particular attention to the special aspects which affect the various shipping routes;

(b) The possibility of co-ordinating the services of the national merchant marines, with a view to their better utilization;

(c) The exchange systems applied by the various Latin-American countries in co-ordination with freight charges; and

(d) The problems connected with port regulations, frontier traffic, free zones and warehouses and other similar questions; and

*Requests* the secretariat to transmit copies of these studies to the governments concerned as and when they are produced;

## 4. That the secretariat, in its survey of trade within the Latin-American region as a whole, should give special attention to the foreign trade problems of the land-locked countries of Latin America; and

*Authorizes* the secretariat to convene special meet-

ings of experts as and when necessary, in order to discuss topics to be specified by it.

## CO-ORDINATION WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

*Resolution 70 (V) adopted on 23 April 1953*  
(E/CN.12/326)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* the position, adopted at its fourth session, that the Commission should not only be continued on a permanent basis but should broaden its functions and activities,

*Having noted* with satisfaction that, in accordance with the Commission's recommendation, the Economic and Social Council had, at its thirteenth session decided that the Economic Commission for Latin America should be continued on a permanent basis and had approved the amendments proposed to its terms of reference,

*Having noted* with equal satisfaction that the General Assembly at its seventh session had reviewed the work of the Commission, particularly in the field of economic development and related activities and, in its resolution 627 (VII), had particularly commended the work of the Commission and stated that its activities should be further intensified,

*Considering* that the Commission, among other achievements, has conducted studies and research the continuance of which is of great importance for Latin America, and is carrying on practical activities which are of increasing value to the Latin-American countries; that, owing to the high quality of its technical resources, it is helping the governments of Latin America in the orientation of their economic relations, both among their own countries and with the rest of the world; and that it has the authority to make recommendations to member Governments,

*Considering* that, in view of the foregoing considerations, the Commission should continue to work toward the accomplishment of its purposes, and that no changes in its structure and organization should prejudice the attainment of its objectives, and

*Having noted* that there is adequate co-ordination at the secretariat level between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council; that in particular this Council, by a resolution adopted on 21 February 1953, noted that this co-ordination was proceeding satisfactorily, and that the co-ordination of the studies and work of the two organizations largely depended on the arrangements made at that level,

*Commends* the respective secretariats of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and of the Commission for what has been achieved in carrying out the resolutions approved by each organization;

*Suggests* that the activities of the Co-ordination Committee at the secretariat level should be continued, taking into consideration the growth and nature of the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council;