



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(15 May 1956 - 29 May 1957)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

NEW YORK

(c) That, in the same resolution, the Committee takes note of the fact that the Latin American clearing-accounts countries are prepared, during the transitional period before the proposed multilateralism can be achieved, to adopt various principles and measures designed to impart greater flexibility to their payments relations and to make possible the transfer of balances between the various bilateral accounts in force,

(d) That, under the terms of this resolution, a Working Group was set up composed of representatives of the Central Banks, or equivalent authorities, of the Latin American clearing-accounts countries,

(e) That, at its first session (Montevideo, 29 April - 10 May 1957), this Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System, besides discussing the progress of the technical studies referred to, reached agreement on various points relating to draft agreements and to the procedures to be observed by the Central Banks, or equivalent authorities, of the countries between which bilateral agreements are in force, in order to put the principles and measures mentioned in paragraph (c) of this preamble into effect,

(f) That it is proposed to hold a second session of this Working Group,

Decides:

1. To take note with satisfaction of the report on the results of the work of the Trade Committee at its first session, in so far as an intra-regional payments system is concerned, and to endorse resolution 1 (I) of the aforesaid Committee;

2. To take note with satisfaction of the report on the first session of the Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System;

3. To take note of the fact that the Latin American clearing-accounts countries are prepared to study the possibility of undertaking, during the second session of the Central Banks Working Group and immediately thereafter, a study of the agreements in force for each pair of contracting parties in Latin America. This study will relate to those agreements which, in the opinion of the countries themselves, require revision in order to bring them into line, so far as may be consistent with the situation and characteristics of trade between each pair of countries, with the draft standard payments agreement adopted at the first session of the Central Bank Working Group, subject to any adjustments that may be agreed upon by the parties before the second session;

4. To request the secretariat that it provide technical and secretarial assistance to that same group of countries in carrying out this study;

5. To request the secretariat that it transmit to the Trade Committee and to the Latin American clearing-accounts countries the observations formulated during this seventh session on the draft standard agreement on payments and procedures prepared by the Central Banks Working Group on Multilateral Payments System, so that the countries in question may bear them in mind when revising existing agreements or negotiating new ones.

27 May 1957.

Resolution 116 (VII)

LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MARKET
(E/CN.12/457)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,
Considering:*

(a) That the Trade Committee, established under the terms of resolution 101 (VI) adopted at the sixth session of the Commission, held its first session at Santiago, Chile, in November 1956, and has presented a report on the result of its work (E/CN.12/423)³⁹ to the current session of the Commission,

(b) That it is desirable to complete the studies specifically relating to the creation of a regional market in Latin America,

(c) That the trends indicated in document E/CN.12/C.1/4, presented at the first session of the Trade Committee, have become more clearly marked since that date, a development which might have unfavourable repercussions on Latin America's extra-regional and intra-regional trade,

(d) That resolutions 46 (V), 69 (V) and 101 (VI) recommended to the secretariat and to the Trade Committee that they devote special attention to the trade of those Latin American countries which are landlocked, or whose economic structure is based on a single branch of production or is little diversified,

(e) That greater mobility of capital among the Latin American countries would be advantageous,

(f) That it is desirable for the regional market to be gradually extended until it covers Latin America as a whole, in order to increase the benefits and possibilities of fuller development and economic integration which such a market may offer,

Decides:

1. To congratulate the secretariat on the efficiency with which it has discharged its responsibilities pursuant to resolution 101 (VI);

2. To express satisfaction at the success of the Trade Committee's first session, to take note with satisfaction of all those aspects of its report relating to the regional market, and to endorse resolutions 2 (I) and 3 (I) of the aforesaid Committee;

3. To take note of the instructions to the secretariat both as regards the inventory of existing industries in Latin America and with respect to the convening of a group of experts to undertake the work pursuant to resolution 3 (I);

4. To recommend to the secretariat:

(a) That it consider the desirability of expediting the implementation, within the shortest possible time, of resolutions 2 (I) and 3 (I) of the Trade Committee, with a view to taking a more decisive step towards their underlying objective;

(b) That it conduct research and compile all data that may serve as a basis for the work of the Group of

³⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.II.G.5.

Experts mentioned in resolution 3 (I), at the earliest opportunity, so that the availability of such background information may facilitate the task of the Group;

(c) That it call the attention of the Group of Experts to the specific situation of those Latin American countries which are landlocked or whose economic structure is dependent on a single branch of production or lacks diversification, so that the Group may consider, in planning the structure of the regional market, the possibilities for the absorption of the exportable commodities of such countries and for facilitating their industrial development within such a market;

(d) That it also request the Group of Experts to consider, in planning the structure of the regional market, the desirability of facilitating the formation of enterprises with capital supplied jointly from two or more countries;

(e) That it request this Group to study the problems facing the development of a regional market, in which study consideration would be given to each and every Latin American country, bearing in mind its situation and possibilities;

5. To empower the secretariat to request, should it deem this necessary, the collaboration of other competent international agencies in the preparation of the studies or compilation of the data referred to in paragraph 4, items (a) and (b).

27 May 1957.

Resolution 117 (VII)

REPORT ON PAYMENTS AND THE REGIONAL MARKET
TO GOVERNMENTS AND THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
(E/CN.12/458)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering :

(a) That, in August 1957, an Inter-American Economic Conference, convened by the Organization of American States, is to be held in the city of Buenos Aires (Argentina),

(b) That one of the items on the agenda for this conference is the "promotion of inter-Latin American trade",

(c) That ECLA has made considerable progress in this field through its Trade Committee, the Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System, and several studies carried out by the secretariat,

(d) That, in conformity with resolutions 31 (IV), 70 (V), 106 (VI) and 107 (VI), on co-operation and co-ordination of the work of ECLA and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council in their respective spheres of activity, it is highly advisable to avoid duplication of effort or of expenditure,

(e) That, consequently, it is from every point of view desirable that a complete report on the work carried out and scheduled by ECLA in the same field up to the date of the aforesaid conference be presented to the countries participating therein,

Decides that, for purposes of information, the ECLA secretariat shall transmit to the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council for the aforesaid Economic Conference of the Organization of American States, and, in advance, to the Governments of the countries participating therein, a full report on the studies carried out, under way or scheduled up to that date in relation to the problem of payments and the possibility of creating a regional market in Latin America, with a view to co-ordinating the efforts of ECLA and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and preventing the duplication of their activities;

Declares that it would view with satisfaction any co-operation that the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council might extend to the ECLA secretariat in proceeding with the studies on inter-Latin American trade.

27 May 1957.

Resolution 118 (VII)

SESSION OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE
(E/CN.12/459)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering :

(a) That, in accordance with resolution 101 (VI) the ECLA Trade Committee was created and met for the first time at Santiago, Chile, in November 1956,

(b) That the work which has been undertaken pursuant to the resolutions of this Committee is progressing satisfactorily,

(c) That, in compliance with resolution 1 (I) of the Trade Committee, the Central Banks' Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System has already met at Montevideo (Uruguay),

(d) That the secretariat of the Commission has announced that, in pursuance of resolution 3 (I), a group of experts will meet in the second half of the current year to study the possible structure of a regional market which will help to promote the rational development of Latin American industries,

Requests the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the Trade Committee to hold its second session during 1958.

27 May 1957.

Resolution 119 (VII)

STUDY ON COMMODITY TRADE
(E/CN.12/460)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering :

(a) That its member States are at present endeavouring to seek formulae and procedures which will promote the transition from a bilateral to a multilateral system of reciprocal payments,

(b) That, to this effect, the Trade Committee adopted resolutions 1 (I) and 4 (I), at its first session,