



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(30 MARCH 1960 — 15 MAY 1961)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

2. To request the secretariat, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Inter-American Statistical Institute, to participate with the countries in reviewing their existing sets of national accounts, and to organize teams of statistical advisers who would, at the request of Governments, assist the government services in formulating national statistical programmes and in developing effective co-ordination among agencies collecting and using statistical data;

3. To express its satisfaction with the results achieved at the Seminar on Industrial Statistics, held at Santiago from 10 to 28 October 1960 and sponsored jointly by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and the Economic Commission for Latin America;

4. To recommend to the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations that further seminars be held for groups of countries so as to deal with special problems of industrial statistics relevant to the countries concerned, and to request it to co-operate in the holding of further seminars in other statistical fields;

5. To recommend that each country study the desirability and possibility of introducing into its statistical system periodical sample surveys of households, whereby it would be possible to collect current information on economic and social conditions primarily centred in households;

6. To request the secretariat, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Inter-American Statistical Institute, to provide the technical assistance required for developing such a programme.

13 May 1961

197 (IX). Comparative prices and the purchasing power of currencies

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,**

Taking into account the preliminary study on comparative prices and the purchasing power of currencies (E/CN.12/589) submitted by the secretariat,

Recognizing that a proper comparative calculation of real prices, costs, wages and incomes is of fundamental importance for the countries of Latin America in connexion with the analysis of economic development and the formulation of national and regional development programmes,

Considering that, given the present inadequate operation of the market in Latin America, the prices of the factors of production in many cases do not reflect the relative scarcity or abundance of such factors, and that this tends to introduce distortions into the evaluation of development projects from the standpoint of national economies,

Decides:

1. To recommend to the secretariat that it amplify the aforementioned study to cover all the countries of Latin America; that it collaborate to the full with other international bodies in comparing data from the Latin American countries with information from other

parts of the world; that it broaden the study to include relationships between price, wage and personal income levels; and that it analyse the causes underlying the difference in the price structure of each country;

2. To recommend to the secretariat that it collaborate to the fullest possible extent with countries that so request in determining the book prices which are required for the evaluation of investment projects from the point of view of the economy as a whole;

3. To recommend to Governments that their competent authorities collaborate to the full with the secretariat by providing it with the information it requires for carrying out the aforementioned studies.

13 May 1961

198 (IX). Development of information media in Latin America

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that Latin America, in order to attain its economic growth objectives in a relatively straightforward manner and satisfy those aspirations of its peoples whose fulfilment can no longer be deferred, will need the understanding and support of the population for national and regional development programmes,

Considering that in order both to obtain this understanding and support and to extend and guarantee to the peoples of Latin America—particularly the rural population—the full enjoyment of the right to information, it is urgently necessary to undertake co-ordinated action with a view to facilitating the satisfactory development of the press, broadcasting, television and cinematography and at the same time permitting the intensification, expansion and improvement of programmes for the vocational and technical training of personnel working in such information media.

Bearing in mind that information media can give vigorous impetus to efforts and programmes designed to provide both technical training and general education, and thus efficaciously help to expedite the economic and social development of the peoples,

Considering that in resolutions 150 (VIII), 191 (IX) and 192 (IX) the Commission has already emphasized the need for the Latin American countries to intensify their educational and training programmes,

Decides:

1. To commend the activities which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been undertaking, at the request of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to promote the development of information media, and which are reviewed in the general UNESCO report on development of information media in under-developed countries (E/3437 and Add. 1);

2. To endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in the said report, especially those put forward by the Meeting of Experts on the Development of Information Media in Latin America, held under the auspices of UNESCO at Santiago, Chile, from 1 to 13 February 1961;

3. To call attention to the resolutions on information adopted by the Commission on Human Rights (IV (XVII)) and the Economic and Social Council (819 A (XXXI)), and particularly to the fact that the latter invites "the Technical Assistance Board of the United Nations, the Special Fund, the specialized agencies concerned, the regional economic commissions and other public and private agencies and institutions to assist, as appropriate, less developed countries in the development and strengthening of national information media in these countries";

4. To recommend to Governments that in their economic and social development programmes they give due priority to projects, programmes and agencies for the purpose of expanding and improving information media;

5. To recommend to the ECLA secretariat and to member Governments that they encourage, support and facilitate the dissemination of studies by ECLA itself and by other similar international bodies as also by national or regional economic development plans and of programmes and studies in general relating to the purposes of the Economic Commission for Latin America;

6. To recommend to Governments, likewise, that the abovementioned programmes include measures designed to promote the wider and more efficient dissemination of accurate information on Latin America in the other countries of the world, with the help of the United Nations public information services and the facilities of other international and regional agencies.

13 May 1961

199 (IX). Establishment of an institute for planning economic development

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the importance and urgency of planning economic development in Latin America for fostering and securing the accelerated economic development of the region,

Considering the need for economic development training and advisory assistance in Latin America on a much larger scale than in the past to support these planning activities,

Considering that an economical and expeditious way of meeting this need is to expand the already existing ECLA activities in the fields of training, research and advisory assistance,

Being aware that, in spite of the increased contributions of United Nations technical assistance programmes the resources at the secretariat's disposal for carrying out economic development training and advisory activities are not adequate to meet all the requests received,

Considering that the Special Fund lends its assistance to planning, training, and other pre-investment activities like those referred to above,

Appreciating the specific interest expressed at this

session of the Commission by the Managing Director of the Special Fund in economic development programming and planning,

Appreciating further the Managing Director's readiness to recommend to the Governing Council of the Special Fund that it approve a special allocation of funds to permit preparatory work for a draft request for the establishment of an institute for planning economic development in Latin America,

Noting that the Governments of Chile, Colombia and Venezuela have submitted a request to the Special Fund for the establishment of such an institute, and that other Governments intend to do likewise,

Decides:

1. To recommend that ECLA's current training and advisory activities in the field of planning be expanded to the extent necessary, and that to this end the Executive Secretary of ECLA, in consultation with the Managing Director of the Special Fund, prepare the organization of the establishment of an autonomous institute for planning economic development under the auspices of ECLA, and so organized that it will be empowered to receive and administer funds from sources other than the Latin American Governments and the Special Fund;

2. To recommend that the said institute should aim at building up a permanent team of development planning experts to work at the regional or national level and at establishing close liaison with the planning institutions of the Latin American Governments, in order to maintain a continuous process of training, exchange of experience and improvement of planning techniques;

3. To request the executive Secretary of ECLA to give such assistance as may be requested by the Managing Director of the Special Fund and the Governments concerned dealing with all the procedures necessary for the establishment of the institute;

4. To express the hope that the Managing Director and the Governing Council of the Special Fund will give prompt and favourable consideration to the applications formulated by the Latin American Governments for financial support for this institute;

5. To request the Executive Secretary of ECLA to consult with the Managing Director of the Special Fund on the arrangements that might be made with other international and regional organizations for the functioning of the institute;

6. To draw the attention of the Latin American Governments to the desirability of supporting the work of the institute by placing at its disposal the local human and material resources required to ensure the maximum efficiency of its activities in the various countries;

7. To declare that it is confident that the institute established under the auspices of ECLA with the support of the Special Fund will in time become an agency directed and maintained by the Latin American Governments.

13 May 1961