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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Fifteenth session

Quito, Ecuador, 23-30 March 1973

preceded by a Meeting at the Technical Level
beginning on 20 March

PROVISIONAL AGENDA */

1. Opening addresses and statements in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Latin America and the International Development Strategy: regional appraisal and recent economic trends in Latin America
5. Latin America's participation in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations

*/ With a view to expediting consideration of the various agenda items - in particular the item on Latin America and the International Development Strategy in connexion with the first review and appraisal at the regional level prepared by the secretariat - the Commission will meet at the technical level from 20 March onwards. The meeting at this level - which will elect its own officers consisting of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur - may prolong its activities - if the representatives should so decide - beyond the opening of the plenary session of the Commission, and transmit to the Commission the results of its work as they become available.

/6. Latin



6. Latin America's participation in the World Population Conference
7. ECLA's activities in connexion with the environment
8. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development: regional plan of action for Latin America
9. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the developing countries
10. Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
 - (a) Report of activities
 - (b) Election of new members of the Governing Council
11. Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)
 - (a) Report on activities undertaken and planned
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12. Programme of work and other matters
 - (a) Activities of the Commission since 1 May 1972
 - (b) Programme of work and priorities, 1973-1975
 - (c) Report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the organization of the secretariat of the Commission
 - (d) Regional problems in the field of information and computing
13. Place and date of the sixteenth session
14. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening addresses and statements in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission

The programme for the opening meeting, which will take place on the morning of 23 March, will, be announced in the Journal for that day. Statements will be made at the meeting by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ecuador, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and other speakers. Messages which the secretariat understands that Heads of State of member countries, intend to send will also be read out. At the first working meeting the Executive Secretary of the Commission will make a general statement, after which the floor will be open to delegations and observers.

2. Election of Officers

Rule 16 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Commission shall at the commencement of each session elect from among the representatives a Chairman, two Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election".

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission appears on page 1 of the present document; representatives are at liberty to adopt it as submitted or to make such observations as they deem relevant. A few comments on the various agenda items are formulated below.

4. Latin America and the International Development Strategy: first regional appraisal and recent economic trends in Latin America

Documents:- Latin America and the International Development Strategy: first regional appraisal (E/CN.12/947 and Add.1 and 2).

- International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade
- Economic Survey of Latin America, 1972 (E/CN.12/954)
- Report of the First Meeting of the Committee of High-level Experts (E/CN.12/AG.65/3).

On 24 October 1970, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2626 (XXV). This contained a programme of action to accelerate the economic and social progress of the developing countries which has been designated the International Development Strategy. Basically, the resolution represents an agreement among Governments at the highest political level of the United Nations regarding the steps that should be taken on a systematic basis and in various fields during this decade with the immediate objective of promoting the economic and social progress of the developing countries. The document indicates the minimum targets and objectives that will have to be achieved and the measures and policies that will have to be applied at the national and international level.

The programme establishes review and appraisal machinery to evaluate the progress achieved, identify shortfalls in the process and determine the factors which account for them. This machinery is geared to the study and proposal of such new measures and policies as may be thought necessary.

The Strategy stipulates that these appraisals will be carried out at various levels, involving both developed and developing countries. At the national level, each developing country will conduct its own reviews and appraisals, while at the regional level the main responsibility will be assumed by the regional economic commissions of the United Nations. At the sectoral and functional level, the work will be carried out by UNCTAD, UNIDO and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Finally, in the light of the discussions on the matter in the Economic and Social Council the General Assembly will make an overall appraisal on the basis of the above-mentioned reviews and of the comments and recommendations by the Committee for Development Planning. These overall appraisals will be made biennially beginning in 1973, the second biennial appraisal being in the nature of a mid-term review.

On the occasion of the first biennial appraisal, the ECLA secretariat has prepared the document mentioned at the beginning of this section (E/CN.12/947). This document was submitted to the first meeting of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts, (Santiago, Chile, 26 February to 1 March 1973) and is now submitted to the fifteenth session of the Commission for initial consideration at the technical meeting beginning on 20 March and final consideration at the plenary session of the Commission proper.

/This provides

This provides the member Governments of ECLA with an opportunity to review in the context of the Strategy, among other matters which may be considered relevant, the following:

- (i) the progress made in the economic and social development of the region, especially during the last two years;
- (ii) the results of international economic, financial and technical co-operation in the light of the objective, measures and policies laid down in the Strategy;
- (iii) the extent to which the decisions which the international community took in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly are being adopted and applied;
- (iv) the efficacy of these measures and policies; and
- (v) the possible formulation of new proposals on international co-operation in the light of the experience accumulated and the conditions and prospects observed in the evolution of the problems of Latin American development and in the framework of international economy and trade.

As usual, the secretariat is also submitting to the Commission the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1972 (E/CN.12/954) which examines the evolution of the economy in the region as a whole and in each individual country. This document will provide the additional information on developments in 1972 that is needed to supplement the data already supplied for the review and appraisal of the first two-year period of the Strategy.

In addition, an information document will be submitted on international monetary problems with special reference to Latin America; it will deal with the main aspects of the situation and the proposals that are currently being considered for the reform of the international monetary system.

5. Latin America's participation in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations

Document: - Latin America and the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations (E/CN.12/955)

This information note provides a brief description of the state of the 1973 multilateral trade negotiations within the context of GATT, and of related activities at other forums (UNCTAD, FAO, etc.). Special attention is drawn to the problems of particular interest to the Latin American countries.

6. Latin America's role in the World Population Conference

Document: - Participation of Latin America in the World Population Conference and World Population Year: population and development activities. Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/956)

In resolution 290 (XIII) the Commission recommends that the secretariat in its programme of work, should give special attention to studies, research and advisory services designed for, inter alia, the continuation of demographic studies in order to shed more light on population problems.

The holding of the third World Population Conference in 1974 - in addition to a number of technical meetings and other activities which are scheduled to take place during 1973 and 1974, in accordance with the programme of the World Population Year - means that the secretariat will have to not only prepare documents for those meetings, but also render assistance to the Governments of the region in order to facilitate their active participation in those activities.

7. The Commission's activities in connexion with the human environment

Document: - ECLA's activities in connexion with the United Nations Environment Programme. Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/957)

At its twenty-seventh session the General Assembly, in compliance with the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference, decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme, together with a Governing Council and a voluntary fund for the provision of the additional financing required.

/In resolution

In resolution 2997 (XXVII) the General Assembly invites the regional economic commissions "to intensify further their efforts directed towards contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for the rapid development of regional co-operation in this field".

A note has been prepared which provides the Commission with the necessary data in order to consider the secretariat's future activities in this connexion.

8. Application of science and technology to development

Document: - World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development: Summary of the regional plan for Latin America (E/CN.12/949)

A summary is presented of the Regional Plan of Action prepared by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST). The Committee, which is composed of government representatives, was established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 980 (XXXVI) in 1963, and since then it has been concerned with the widening gap in science and technology between the developed and developing countries. Following the guidelines of the World Plan of Action, the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America provides guidance in training for indigenous research and comprises the building up of human and technical resources, as well as the transfer of technology from the more advanced countries, selecting the sectors in which more intensive domestic effort and international co-operation are required.

9. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the developing countries

Document: - The economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in relation to the developing countries. Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/944).

In resolution 1689 (LII), the Economic and Social Council reiterated the importance of implementing the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights. It also found it desirable to consult its regional economic commissions on the realization of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, especially in connexion with the twenty-fifth anniversary in 1973 of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration.

10. Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

(a) Report of activities, 1971-1973

(b) Election of new members of the Governing Council

Documents: - Report on the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) in 1972.

Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/951)

- Note by the secretariat on the election of new members of the Governing Council of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/CN.12/945)

In compliance with resolution 220 (AC.52), adopted by the Commission at the ninth session of the Committee of the Whole, the Institute was established as an autonomous agency under the aegis of ECLA, with the financial co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme and the Inter-American Development Bank. Its activities began on 1 July 1962 and are currently in their third phase which is scheduled to end in June 1974. The Committee of the Whole of the Commission recommended at its fifth extraordinary session that the Institute should be given continuity and permanence and accordingly adopted resolution 296 (AC.62).

(a) Report on the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning

Under the terms of resolution 220 (AC.52), part A, paragraph 2 (c), the Governing Council of the Institute is required to submit to the Commission an annual progress report on the Institute's work. At the present session, this requirement is met as usual by the submission of document E/CN.12/951 and by a statement which the Chairman of the Governing Council will make in the course of the debates.

(b) Election of new members of the Governing Council

In accordance with resolution 220 (AC.52), part A, paragraph 3, as amended by resolution 299 (XIV), it is incumbent upon the Commission to elect the ten members of the Governing Council of the Institute whose term of office expires this year. The rules and conditions for the election are given in the note presented by the secretariat (E/CN.12/945).

11. Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)

- (a) Report on activities carried out and programmed
- (b) Election of new members of the Governing Board

Documents: - Activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre carried out in 1971-1972 and programmed for 1973-1974. Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/950)

- Election of new members of the Governing Board of the Latin American Demographic Centre. Note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/952)

(a) Report on activities carried out and programmed

At its previous session, the Commission adopted resolution 304 (XIV) recognizing CELADE as an autonomous agency under the aegis of the Commission and requesting it to continue to extend and improve its teaching, research and advisory activities in countries in the field of population.

CELADE is accordingly submitting a report on its activities in 1971-1972 and its work programme for 1973-1974. The increase in CELADE's activities derives from the growing interest of Governments in the study of population problems which will be taken up at the 1974 World Population Conference.

(b) Election of new members of the Governing Board

In view of the completion of the mandate of the two members of the Governing Board, it is incumbent upon the Commission to elect two members and two alternates for a period of two-and-a-half years.

12. Programme of work of the Commission and other matters

- (a) Activities of the Commission since 1 May 1972
- (b) Programme of work and order of priorities, 1973-1975
- (c) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit
- (d) Regional problems in the field of information and computing

/Documents

- Documents:
- Report on the work of the Commission since 1 May 1972 (E/CN.12/958)
 - Programme of work and order of priorities, 1973-1975 (E/CN.12/959 and Add.1)
 - Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Commission, with a note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/960 and Add.1)
 - Latin American Centre for Information Technology (E/CN.12/963)
 - Note by the secretariat on resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with a bearing on the agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.12/953)

(a) Activities of the Commission in the period 1972-1973

Under this item, the secretariat is presenting the report on the work of the Commission since 1 May 1970. The secretariat has already circulated the annual report covering the period 1 May 1971 to 30 April 1972 (E/CN.12/931) to the Governments of the member States.

The present report reviews the activities of the different offices, divisions and units of the secretariat of the Commission, and their participation in conferences and seminars.

(b) Programme of work and order of priorities, 1973-1975

The secretariat is presenting a draft programme of work for the period 1973-1975 which includes information on 1972 and provisional data for the period 1976-1977. The document indicates the projects which the secretariat is submitting to the Commission for its consideration, and gives details of the resources required.

The form of presentation of the draft programme of work differs from that used in recent years, but on the whole the information it contains is approximately the same. Resolution 3042 (XXVII) adopted at the recent session of the General Assembly introduced modifications into the presentation of the budget and in the duration of the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, and the presentation of document E/CN.12/959 has been brought into line with these modifications.

(c) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the secretariat is making a report (E/4935) available to representatives on a study of the activities of the Commission and its subregional offices undertaken by three members of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations from late October to early December 1969.

The secretariat will be furnishing appropriate information on this matter.

(d) Regional problems in the field of information and computing

The secretariat has prepared a document which notes that General Assembly resolutions 2458 (XXIII) and 2804 (XXVI) have expressed the need to develop regional programmes in the field of information technology with the aim of setting a policy for this issue that will bring computing methods into line with the needs of the regional economic commissions as regards research and other activities.

The document also states that a mere servicing medium is not sufficient, and that it is necessary to develop a programme or form of organization that will undertake applied research into the economic and social problems of Latin America.

The Commission, therefore, is called upon to take a decision on this issue.

13. Place and date of the sixteenth session

In accordance with its rules of procedure, at each session the Commission decides upon the place of meeting for its next session, which in this case will be held in early 1975. On this occasion the Commission is called upon to consider the invitations received from the Governments of States members for the next session, and to decide upon the place and date thereof.

/The following

The following is a list of the places and dates of the previous sessions of the Commission:

First session	Santiago, Chile, 7-25 June 1948
Second session	Havana, 29 May to 14 June 1949
Third session	Montevideo, 5-21 June 1950
Fourth session	Mexico City, 26 May to 16 June 1951
Fifth session	Quitandinha, 9-25 April 1953
Sixth session	Bogotá, 29 August to 16 September 1955
Seventh session	La Paz, 15-29 May 1957
Eighth session	Panama City, 11-23 May 1959
Ninth session	Santiago, Chile, 4-15 May 1961
Tenth session	Mar del Plata, 6-18 May 1963
Eleventh session	Mexico City, 6-18 May 1965
Twelfth session	Caracas, 2-13 May 1967
Thirteenth session	Lima, 14-23 April 1969
Fourteenth session	Santiago, Chile, 27 April to 8 May 1971
Fifteenth session	Quito, 23-30 March 1973

14. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Every year the Commission submits to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and projects and on those of its subsidiary bodies. The report also includes an account of the proceedings of the session, the text of the resolutions adopted, and the programme of work and priorities.

