



**UNITED NATIONS**

# **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

**(FOURTH SESSION)**

**(28 MAY 1951 — 16 JUNE 1951)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTEENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**NEW YORK**

aspects of the problems of automotive transport in Latin America, with special emphasis on those affecting the Inter-American Highway, for submission to the Commission at its next session.

#### FREE ZONE OF COLÓN (REPUBLIC OF PANAMA)

25 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 14 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/258)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* the usefulness of free customs zones as a means of facilitating the interchange of goods within the Latin-American area as well as between the Latin-American countries and countries outside that area; and

*Considering* the practical problems arising from the need for the construction of installations in free customs zones that have already been created or may be created in the future by Latin-American republics; and

*Considering* the request expressed to the Commission by the Government of the Republic of Panama for assistance in connexion with the problems of bringing into maximum operation the free zone of Colón, Republic of Panama, created in 1948; and

*Considering* the contribution that could be made by the maximum operation of the aforementioned free zone toward the lowering of maritime freight rates with a view to reducing the price of the articles that are handled by that zone;

*Recommends* that the Executive Secretary make, within the means at his disposal, a preliminary inquiry into the problems of bringing about the maximum utilization of the facilities of the free zone of Colón, Republic of Panama, in order to determine the kind of studies necessary to evaluate the economic effects of the operation of that zone; with special emphasis on its relationship to the high level of maritime freight rates applicable to Panama; and that he report to the Government of Panama on the most practical means of carrying out such studies, bearing in mind the possibility of securing the assistance of United Nations and other agencies that might be concerned with this problem.

#### SOUTH AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

26 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/253)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Takes note* of document E/CN.12/232 concerning the South American Petroleum Institute submitted by the Executive Secretary; and

*Considering*

(a) That the Economic and Social Council has requested the Economic Commission for Latin America to advise the Council on the application of the South American Petroleum Institute for consultative status in category B;

(b) That the activities of the South American Petroleum Institute are such as would further the economic development of the Latin-American countries and that

its collaboration may therefore be of use to the organs of the United Nations concerned,

*Decides* to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should accord to the South American Petroleum Institute consultative status in category B.

#### POPULATION CENSUS OF LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES

27 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 15 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/265)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* the importance of statistical data on economically active population and labour resources; and

*Considering* that such statistical data can only be obtained by means of official censuses, effected in accordance with an adequate census programme such as that already approved by the Governments of the Latin-American countries;

*Invites* the Governments of those Latin-American countries which have not done so to take a census of the population of their respective territories, so as to make available comprehensive statistical data relating to the economically active population and the labour resources in each country.

#### RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

28 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN. 12/252)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering* that the Economic and Social Council will consider the question of relations between the three regional commissions and non-governmental organizations at its thirteenth session;

*Decides* to await the outcome of the Council's consideration before deciding upon its permanent rules of procedure in this respect; and

*Decides* that, pending Council action, it will apply the provisions of resolutions 288 (X) and 289 (X) of the Economic and Social Council, and, in particular those provisions which pertained to arrangements for consultations between non-governmental organizations and functional commissions, and further that any provision in the existing rules of procedure of the Commission which is inconsistent with resolutions 288 (X) and 289 (X) shall be superseded.

#### ADOPTION OF PORTUGUESE AS AN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE

29 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/268)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*In view of* the resolution, concerning the designation of the City of Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, as the site of its fifth session to be held in 1952, approved in plenary meeting this day;