



**UNITED NATIONS**

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

**(FOURTH SESSION)**

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTEENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**NEW YORK**

### III. AGRICULTURE

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME OF ECLA AND FAO

14 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/249)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having studied* the progress report of the joint work programme of the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization; and

*Considering* the importance of co-operation between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization in all the respects in which the two organizations have joint responsibilities and common interests; and

*Considering* the need to make the most effective use of limited budgets and personnel :

*Takes note* of the progress report;

*Expresses* its satisfaction with the agreement between the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

*Suggests* to member Governments which have not yet replied to the questionnaire requesting information concerning agricultural credit in their countries, that they reply to the questionnaire at their earliest convenience; and

*Requests* the Executive Secretary that he consult with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization with regard to convening, jointly and in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the proposed meeting of agricultural credit experts in one of the Central American countries, at such time as they are satisfied that all the necessary preparatory work has been completed.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

15 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/277)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having considered* the section of the Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;

*Considering* that, during the agricultural year 1949-1950, the *per capita* quantum of production of the region's principal crops was only 87 per cent of the pre-war levels and that the ratio between the total area harvested and the population does not show any improvement in the majority of countries;

*Considering* that although some progress in the total agricultural production of the Latin-American countries over the pre-war period can be noted, this progress is still very slow because greater attention was paid during the war and is still being paid to other sectors of the economy;

*Considering* that it is important that the agricultural development of the region should be stimulated by devoting the greatest possible attention to such develop-

ment and by making available modern technical skills in order to obviate any lack of balance with the growing industrialization to be observed in Latin America;

*Considering* that industrial development tends to increase the urban population which, through its greater earnings, increases the pressure of demand, and that this demand, if it is not satisfied by greater production, not only causes a rise in prices—as has occurred in many countries—but also creates an atmosphere in which social disturbances might arise;

*Considering* that standards for general application cannot be recommended because the factors affecting agricultural and stock raising development are varied and differ from one country to another, in accordance with their specific ecological characteristics;

*Considering* that it is a primary and immediately essential obligation to supply the people with food; and

*Considering* that the Governments of member States should pay increasing attention to agricultural problems and to all those factors which exercise a direct and decisive influence upon the improvement of agriculture;

1. *Takes note* of the section of the Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;

2. *Recommends* that member Governments should take *inter alia* the following measures in the technical field :

(a) Perfect the methods of professional training of agronomists, who are responsible for applying technical knowledge to farming;

(b) Make a soil survey of their countries in order to obtain full knowledge of their soils and thus to be in a position to determine their special usefulness in accordance with their principal characteristics, since without such surveys, programmes of improvement, studies of production targets and similar subjects are unreliable;

(c) Co-operate with existing or projected experimental stations;

(d) Expand and improve State agricultural extension services;

(e) Create soil and water conservation services;

(f) Expand entomological and botanical plant treatment services and enact plant health legislation in such a way that application may be effective, and even drastic if the general interest of the country so requires;

(g) Encourage farm mechanization, and co-operative methods designed to facilitate it;

(h) Spread knowledge of the correct use of fertilizers and study the best methods of enabling the farmer to obtain them in due time and as cheaply as possible;

(i) Enact legislation to protect the farmer by ensuring that the fertilizers or preparations he acquires in fact contain the guaranteed minimum content of nutritive elements and that their price is in conformity with the accepted values of plant foods;

(j) Stimulate irrigation and communications; and

(k) Give technical and economic assistance to stock raising generally;

3. *Recommends* to the Governments of member States that they should study the serious problem of the way in which the land is now held, with a view to obtaining a better utilization of land, bearing in mind resolution 401 (V) of the General Assembly adopted at its 312th plenary session of 20 November 1950;

4. *Urges* member Governments to examine existing conditions of trade and distribution in products of agriculture and stock raising, in order to eliminate the intervention of those intermediaries which serve no social purpose other than that of increasing the price of those products;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO to grant to Governments of member States adequate technical assistance for the integrated development of agriculture in the fulfilment of the relevant portions of the foregoing resolutions;

6. *Recommends* that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development pay effective and timely attention to agricultural development projects.

#### AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE

16 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/251)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

1. *Notes* with satisfaction that the Government of Chile, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development have completed their arrangements to establish a Latin-American Training Centre on Agricultural Programme Planning at Santiago, Chile, in September 1951;

2. *Considers* that technical analysis of programmes of agricultural development and the determination of priorities among such programmes within the framework of national programmes of economic development are of particular importance to Latin-American countries; and therefore

3. *Requests* Governments to pay special attention to the facilities for the advanced training of their national experts by that training centre, and to send to the centre fully qualified and duly authorized persons, so that their special knowledge of the analysis of agricultural development programmes may be effectively integrated into and used by the national agencies concerned with planning and development.

#### REPORT ON FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA

17 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/250)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having examined* document E/CN.12/235, report on the importance of forests and forest production in the Latin-American economy;

*Considering* that forests cover more than 40 per cent of Latin America, an area which represents about one

quarter of the forests of the world, so that Latin America has a greater proportion of forest area than any other continent;

*Considering* that even though the present needs of Latin America as to the consumption of lumber are small and its forest resources, as has been noted, are abundant, the lumber industry in Latin America cannot satisfy those needs and that, on the contrary, the balance of trade in lumber is unfavourable, as is demonstrated by the fact that Latin-American lumber importations amount to 75 million dollars annually, whereas exportations amount to 63 million dollars annually;

*Considering* that within a short time the consumption of lumber could increase greatly for reasons of urgency such as the need to develop building to relieve the existing housing shortage;

*Considering* that the world's needs are constantly increasing, as is reflected by the shortage of sawn lumber, especially in Europe and the Far East, and by the world-wide inadequacy of the supply of wood pulp;

*Considering* that only by making the best possible use of new technical methods of processing and utilizing forest products can growing national and international needs be satisfied;

*Taking into account* that the exploitation of forest wealth would enable those countries whose economy is founded on only a few agricultural products or essential raw materials to diversify their production;

*Considering* that this programme for forest production, if it is to be rational, must be based upon :

(a) Full knowledge of forest wealth; and

(b) A forest conservation, forestry and management policy to maintain forests, to ensure continuous production, to exercise a favourable influence upon the climate and the water system, and to conserve the soil;

*Considering* that the consumption of wood for fuel, which is very considerable in some of the densely populated regions of Latin America, may cause complete, rapid and dangerous deforestation over large areas;

1. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the report on the importance of forests and forest production in the Latin-American economy (E/CN.12/235), which is a result of the joint work of ECLA and FAO (E/CN.12/299);

2. *Recommends* to the Executive Secretary that work such as this, which is the product of co-operation between specialized agencies and other international organisms, should be continued;

3. *Recommends* to the member Governments that, in preparing or carrying out their programmes of forest and lumber development, they should take into consideration the study contained in document E/CN.12/235;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO to give to the member Governments which request it, adequate technical assistance for the purpose to which reference is made in the preceding paragraph;

5. *Recommends* to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development that it should pay due atten-