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CO-ORDINATION WITH THE INTER-
AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL

Note by the secretariat

In accordance with the various relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission, the secretariat has continued to maintain contact with the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and to exchange information on their respective activities.

The Committee on Co-ordination, established pursuant to resolution 31 (IV) adopted at the fourth session, met twice in 1956. The first meeting was held in May at Santiago, Chile, during the session of the Fourth Committee of the Whole, and the second in December at Washington.

At these meetings of the Committee on Co-ordination, the programmes of work of both bodies were examined and agreement was reached on co-operation on various projects covered in the programmes.

In addition, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council appointed its Chairman, Mr. Washington Bermúdez, to represent it at the first session of the ECLA Trade Committee. On that occasion Mr. Bermúdez and Mr. João Oliveira Santos, Deputy Director of the Department of the Economic and Social Affairs of the Pan American Union, discussed the co-operation of the two organizations with the secretariat of the Commission.

In view of the growing interest shown by the Latin American Governments in the preparation of studies on the economic development of their countries and of the limited resources at

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the disposal of the ECLA secretariat for undertaking such studies, consideration was given to the possibility of arranging for the IA-ECOSOC secretariat to carry out some of these studies in collaboration with ECLA or for IA-ECOSOC to collaborate in some of those undertaken by ECLA.

The study on economic development in Argentina, which the ECLA secretariat is completing, was undertaken with the effective co-operation of an agricultural expert who is an official of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences of the OAS.

On the occasion of the first session of the Trade Committee, the work of both secretariats was discussed concerning the promotion of Latin American trade. The conclusion was arrived at that this subject offered a wide field for both organizations and agreement was reached on measures for continuing cooperation along these lines. In view of the common interest of both secretariats in the study of measures to eliminate the restrictions to inter-Latin American trade and to promote its expansion the ECLA secretariat has kept the IA-ECOSOC informed about the work done.

In order to achieve greater statistical uniformity and to avoid any unnecessary duplication in collecting and compiling data, the secretariat of the Commission has continued to co-operate with the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) with these purposes in mind.

The IA-ECOSOC for its part has continued to participate in the work of the Statistical Co-ordination Sub-Committee and the

Central American Trade Sub-Committee, subsidiary bodies of the ECLA Central American Economic Co-operation Committee. The Inter-American statistical Institute also participated in the work of the first Sub-Committee.

So far as inter-American statistical training is concerned, the ECLA secretariat has collaborated with the Inter-American Training Centre for Economic and Financial Statistics sponsored by the IASI under the Programme of Technical Cooperation and has seconded one of its economists to the Centre to give instruction on national income. It was also agreed that the co-operation of TAA should be enlisted to give selected graduates of the Centre a course of further training at ECLA headquarters, particularly on national accounts and estimates of national product and income.

Since IA-ECOSOC has set up special committees to study certain commodities, the ECLA secretariat has refrained from carrying out certain studies, for example on bananas, which are included in its work programme.

In regard to coffee, ECLA has studied the productivity of the coffee industry in conjunction with FAO, and IA-ECOSOC has studied market problems. Both secretariats have kept each other informed concerning the progress of their respective tasks; they have thus not only avoided duplication of effort but have also prepared complementary studies on a commodity which is of great interest to a large number of Latin American countries.

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Both the secretariat of the Commission and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations have continued to maintain contact with the IA-ECOSOC secretariat regarding the social factors. The Chief of the Division of Social Affairs of ECLA has kept in correspondence and held meetings with the Chief of the Division of Labor and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Pan American Union in order to co-ordinate the work of both secretariats.

After discussing the best method of avoiding duplication and of coordinating their work, the Secretariats agreed that the three Regional Seminars being sponsored by IA-ECOSOC should take place prior to the Inter-American Seminar on the Social Aspects of Economic Development which was proposed by ECLA. Accordingly, the First Seminar organized under the auspices of IA-ECOSOC on the Contribution of Social Programmes to Economic Development will be held in Guatemala from 2-16 June, 1957 and the ECLA Secretariat has already designated its representative. The remaining two Seminars will take place in the fiscal years ending June 30th, 1958-1959, respectively. If ECLA decides to organize an Inter-American Seminar on the Social Aspects of Economic Development it will follow the final Seminar of IA-ECOSOC.

Increasing cooperation has been carried on between the Secretariats of the respective organizations in the fields of housing and planning, in which IA-ECOSOC has developed a broad

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programme through the Division of Housing and Planning of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Pan American Union, and through the Inter-American Housing Center established in Bogotá under the OAS Programme of Technical Cooperation.

Satisfactory coordination has been maintained through continuing liaison carried on between the Secretariat of IA-ECOSOC and the Housing, Building and Planning Branch of the UN Bureau of Social Affairs representing ECLA in matters of housing and planning, and also through informal meetings of the UN-OAS Working Group on Cooperation and Coordination of Technical Assistance Activities in the Fields of Housing, Building and Physical Planning in Latin America.

A group of housing experts appointed by the UN Housing, Building and Planning Branch and by the Secretariats of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC toured nine Latin American Countries during the last half of 1955 in order to prepare a preliminary study of the problem. Recommendations stressed the value of continued coordination among the organizations mentioned and the desirability of providing more effective technical assistance through the Inter-American Housing Center of the OAS. These recommendations were considered inter alia at the First Inter-American Technical Meeting on Housing and Planning held at Bogotá in 1956 under the auspices of IA-ECOSOC, at which observers of ECLA and of the UN Housing, Building and Planning Branch were present. Resolution XV of that Meeting recognized the effective contribution made to the work of the Inter-American Housing Center by the United

Nations and its specialized agencies, including the Economic Commission for Latin America, and expressed the hope that this cooperation would be strengthened recommending to the UN and its specialized agencies to continue their policy of supporting and strengthening the Inter-American Housing Center.