



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(8 May 1970 - 8 May 1971)

VOLUME I

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-FIRST SESSION**

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1971

301 (XIV). UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT 40/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2398 (XXIII), 2581 (XXIV) and 2657 (XXV) convening a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to be held in Stockholm in 1972, and establishing a Preparatory Committee,

Considering that the efforts of Latin American countries to improve the environment should be linked to those being undertaken at the world level and to the development objectives of over-all national policy in each country and that it is in their interest to take an active part in the preparations for and the work of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Considering that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment has provided support for the holding of regional seminars in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East prior to the next session of the Preparatory Committee,

Bearing in mind that during the preparatory stage of the Conference, the precise nature, origin and consequences of environmental problems for the countries of the region should be clarified in the context of their respective stages of economic and social development,

1. Recommends that Governments should take the necessary steps to ensure the effective participation of the countries of the region in the Conference;
2. Urges Governments to co-operate, through the Commission's secretariat, in this Conference and, above all, in the Regional Seminar to be held in Mexico in collaboration with the secretariat of the Conference towards the end of August 1971, with a view to exchanging information and making a joint examination of problems affecting the region;
3. Urges Governments to participate actively in the intergovernmental working groups established by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference;
4. Requests the secretariat to continue to co-ordinate at the regional level the activities connected with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment with the studies on the region's environmental problems that it is carrying out in connexion with development policies and plans.

159th meeting,
5 May 1971.

302 (XIV). NATURAL RESOURCES 41/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that almost ever since it was first established the ECLA secretariat has been doing work, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, on natural

40/ See para. 445 above.

41/ See para. 512 above.

resources, mainly on energy and water (resolution 99 (VI)) and on mining and other resources (resolution 239 (X)),

Bearing in mind that this work has been carried on in fields related to the knowledge and development of resources, the identification of obstacles to knowing and developing them and the definition of policy measures for overcoming such obstacles, research on planning methods, and advisory assistance to Governments in project evaluation and the establishment of the relevant institutional machinery,

Considering that by its resolution 1535 (XLIX), the Economic and Social Council established a Standing Committee on Natural Resources so that the United Nations could furnish the developing countries with broader and more effective co-operation in the utilization of their natural resources, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Taking into account the fact that, in order to fulfil the objectives established within the framework of the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the secretariat must systematically compile technical data, carry out research on the utilization of natural resources and evaluate the progress made,

Aware that regional planning requires, inter alia, a knowledge of the availability and spatial distribution of natural resources,

1. Recommends that the secretariat should continue its work in connexion with natural resources and energy, within the context of national development programmes and the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in co-ordination with the appropriate agencies of the United Nations system (the Resources and Transport Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization);

2. Requests the above agencies of the United Nations system to continue to co-operate with the secretariat of ECLA;

3. Requests the secretariat to assist countries in the regional planning studies that they are undertaking, and help to clarify the role played by natural resources and to apply the relevant programming techniques.

159th meeting,
5 May 1971.

303 (XIV). ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DOCUMENTATION 42/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that within an over-all approach to development in Latin America it is vitally important to have up-to-date and efficient national and regional information and documentation systems,

42/ See para. 522 above.