



ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL
E/CN.12/AC.30/SR.8
13 September 1955
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sixth Session
Bogotá, Colombia

COMMITTEE IV
(Economic Problems of Agriculture)
PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Bogotá on Tuesday
13 September 1955, at 4.20 p.m.

CONTENTS:

- Consideration of draft resolutions (continued)
- Closure of the session.

Note: Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the three working languages (Spanish, French or English) and addressed to Mr. Alfonso Santa Cruz, Secretary of the Conference, with 48 hours. The corrections should be accompanied by a note or written on headed notepaper and should give the symbol of the summary record in question, or, better, be made on a mimeographed copy of the record.

/ PRESENT:

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VILDOSOLA	Chile
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. MELERO	Argentina
	Mr. BUENO	Brazil
	Mr. LARA BORRERO	Colombia
	Mr. RODRIGUEZ MARTIN	Cuba
	Mr. SCHATAN	Chile
	Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES	Ecuador
	Mr. LOVERIDGE	(United States of
	Mr. CALE	(America
	Mr. BULLE	France
	Mr. JEAN-MICHEL	Haiti
	Mr. MOLINA	Honduras
	Mr. BELLO	Mexico
	Mr. BOJORGE	Nicaragua
	Mr. WRIGHT	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BROTOS	Uruguay
	Mr. DELGADO ROVATI	Venezuela

Also present:

Representative of a specialized agency:

Mr. ORTIZ	Food and Agriculture Organization
-----------	--------------------------------------

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mr. GLOWER	Inter-American Econo- mic and Social Council
------------	---

Secretariat:

Mr. SWENSON	Deputy Director
Mr. TRIVELLI	ECLA Secretary of the Committee
Mr. SACO	FAO Secretary of the Committee

/ CONSIDERATION OF

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

Draft resolution on agricultural surpluses (Conference Room Paper No. 17/Rev.2)

Mr. CALE (United States) said that he had much appreciated the spirit of understanding and co-operation shown by the working group which had drafted the resolution. He had received instructions from his Government and was happy to be able to support the draft resolution.

Mr. MELERO (Argentina), Mr. BROTONS (Uruguay), and Mr. SCHATAN (Chile) associated themselves with the United States representative's remarks concerning the working group.

Draft resolution No. 17 Rev. 2 was adopted unanimously.

Mr. SACO (FAO Secretary) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which would be given attention at the next FAO Conference.

Draft resolution on regional agricultural integration
(Conference Room Paper No. 36)

Mr. SCHATAN (Chile), introducing the draft resolution, emphasized the importance of co-ordinating the agricultural policies of the Latin American countries with a view to improving their trade with one another and world trade, and ensuring the optimum utilization of resources.

Mr. CALE (United States) said that he had been happy to note from the debate a growing awareness among delegations to the effects which the policy of one country might have on the economic development of others. It was particularly hartening,

/ as many

as many Latin American products were to be found on world markets.

There were three stages in agricultural developments, the national, the regional, and the world stages. In order to put the regional aspects more clearly in the world framework he thought that considerandum 1 should refer not only to inter-Latin-American trade but also to world trade. He therefore proposed that the words "and world" should be added between "inter-Latin-America" and "trade", in the last line of the considerandum. As a consequence of that amendment, the words "among the Latin American countries" should be deleted from considerandum 2.

Mr. SCHATAN (Chile), Mr. MELERO (Argentina), Mr. BROTOS (Uruguay) and Mr. JEAN-MICHEL (Haiti) supported the United States amendments. Mr. LARA BORRERO (Colombia) also supported the United States amendments and congratulated the working group and its Chairman on the work done.

Mr. MELERO (Argentina) thanked the Colombian representative.

Mr. SACO (FAO Secretary) suggested that only the words "Latin American" should be deleted from considerandum 2.

It was so decided

Consideranda 1 and 2, as amended, were adopted unanimously.

Mr. SACO (FAO Secretary) suggested that the words "the various regions of Latin America" should be amended to read "the region of Latin America".

/ It was

It was so decided.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MARTIN (Cuba) said that operative paragraph 1 (a) was not complete in its present form, as the traditional market on which a country sold its products affected its agricultural development quite as much as the ecological, economic and social factors mentioned in that paragraph. He therefore proposed that the second and third lines of the paragraph should be amended to read: "they bear in mind the ecological, economic and social factors affecting their respective countries, their share in traditional markets". Such an amendment would take account of the fact that the present economic structure of some countries was based on the production of a very few items.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES (Mexico) opposed the Cuban amendment. Although he understood the position of Cuba, which had a sugar surplus, he could not support the amendment, as his country had agreed to increase its production of sugar for export to the United States. He did not think that present circumstances should influence future policy.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES (Ecuador) said that the repercussion of the expanded production of certain products in one country or another without reference to others had already been considered by the Committee in connexion with the selective expansion of agriculture. Diversification seemed to be the solution for the problem. If the Cuban amendment were accepted, it would be tantamount to admitting that certain countries should not attempt to enter certain fields of production, and that would compromise the success of diversification.

/ Mr. BROTOS

Mr. BROTONS (Uruguay) said that the Cuban amendment appeared to contradict the rest of the draft resolution and particularly considerandum 1. Within certain limits, the free play of ecological, economic and social factors should be allowed to determine a country's policy. He therefore opposed the Cuban amendment.

Mr. SCHATTAN (Chile) thought that ecological, economic and social factors which were permanent should have more weight than a purely temporary factor such as a market situation. He therefore opposed the Cuban amendment.

Mr. DELGADO ROVATI (Venezuela) said that a country's tradition markets were not the only factor to be taken into account when a country was considering its agricultural development programme. Programming must be flexible and adapted to the economic structure of each country. It would be unwise to base a country's programme for the future on a past market situation. He understood Cuba's preoccupation with the market situation, but he could not support the amendment, which might establish a dangerous principle.

Mr. JEAN-MICHEL (Haiti) wondered whether the considerations covered by the Cuban amendment were not already understood in the expression "economic factors", which appeared in paragraph 1 (a).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MARTIN (Cuba) emphasized the importance of basic commodity markets in the economic development plans of the Latin American countries. Each one had to consider its resources

/ and its

and its exports and, if it were dependent on a single export product, it was extremely vulnerable. The world sugar market meant life or death to Cuba, but it had never opposed the imposition of quotas and had always striven not to influence the world market adversely by dumping surpluses. Its economy was based on sugar and that had been the reason for his amendment.

The CHAIRMAN put the Cuban amendment to the vote.

The Cuban amendment was rejected by 14 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

Mr. SCHATAN (Chile) pointed out, in connexion with operative paragraph 1 (b), that there could be no improvement of consumption without a parallel improvement of distribution.

Operative paragraph 1 (b) was adopted unanimously.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 15 votes to 1.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MARTIN (Cuba) said that he had voted against the draft resolution although he was in sympathy with its objectives, as he could not accept operative paragraph 1 (a) without his amendment.

Draft resolution on the industrialization of agricultural products.

(Conference Room Paper No. 28)

Mr. CALE (United States) felt that the words "to the fullest extent possible", in the operative paragraph, (provisional English translation), did not convey the meaning of "en la medida de sus posibilidades" of the Spanish text. If the Secretariat were studying the location of an industry, it would require technical

/advice. The

advice. The limitation implied in the Spanish text was well founded. He would support the draft resolution on the understanding that the final English text corresponded to the Spanish text.

He assumed that, in any studies of that kind, the question of cost would be carefully considered.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES (Ecuador) said that the Spanish text left the secretariat free, to the extent its resources permitted, to carry out studies on certain products. It had already undertaken studies on banana and hard fibres production, in conformity with ECLA resolutions 67 (V) and 68 (V).

Mr. LARA BORRERO (Colombia) underlined the importance of banana production for his country.

Mr. GLOWER (Inter-American Economic and Social Council) said that the Council realized the importance of banana production for Colombia. ECLA resolution 68 (V) had drawn attention to the situation and at the Rio de Janeiro Meeting of the Ministers of Finance or Economy, it had been decided to set up a permanent committee on banana production similar to the coffee committee. The Council was therefore co-operating in the work of the secretariat on that question.

Mr. TRIVELLI (ECLA Secretary) suggested that, in order to recognize the work done by the Council, the words "in collaboration

/ with other

with other interested international bodies" 1/ should be inserted in the operative paragraph.

It was so decided.

Mr. JEAN-MICHEL (Haiti) emphasized the importance of the studies on banana and hard fibres for his country, which was a large exporter of both products.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES (Ecuador) proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Secretaries of the Committee.

The Ecuadorian proposal was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

1/ Provisional translation.