



ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Seventh session
La Paz, Bolivia
15 May 1957

COMMITTEE IV

(Work Programme, Co-ordination with IA-ECOSOC
and Miscellaneous Matters)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at La Paz on Tuesday, 28 May 1957, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Consideration of the Commission's programme of
work for 1957-58

Draft resolution on building for the United
Nations in Chile, approved by the Working Group

Draft resolution containing recommendations to
the Economic and Social Council concerning the
admission of Spain to membership in the Economic
Commission for Latin America

. Rapporteur's report

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ISIDORO MARTINEZ	Argentina
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. MORERA	Costa Rica
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PICO	Argentina
	Mr. GISBERT	Bolivia
	Mr. OLIVEIRA CAMPOS	Brazil
	Mr. HALES)	Chile
	Mr. MAX)	
	Mr. GAMBOA	Cuba
	Mr. GINEBRA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. PONCE	Ecuador
	Mr. DUARTE	El Salvador
	Mr. POUSSARD	France
	Mr. MELGAR LARRIEU	Guatemala
	Mr. TORRES GAITAN	Mexico
	Mr. ZIJDERVELD	Netherlands
	Mr. CLEMENT	Panama
	Mr. GONZALEZ MAYA	Paraguay
	Mr. MORELLI	Peru
	Mr. BARNES)	United Kingdom
	Mr. HENDERSON)	
	Mr. RANDALL	United States of America
	Mr. ARIOSTO GONZALEZ	Uruguay
	Mr. PINO	Venezuela

/Also present:

Also present:

Observers from
Member States:

Mr. CHENDOV	Bulgaria
Mr. VESELY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. VICZENICK	Hungary
Mr. MANCINI	Italy
Mr. IZAWA	Japan
Mr. ALBU	Romania
Mr. MANZHULO)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. MIKHAILOV)	

Observer from
a non-Member
State:

Mr. ENGELS	Federal Republic of Germany
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Representatives
of specialized
agencies:

Mr. MOSER	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. KEESING	International Monetary Fund

Representative of non-governmental organization:

Category A:

Mr. HAYSEN	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
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Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary
Mr. MALINOWSKY	Head, Regional Economic Commissions Section, United Nations

/Mr. SWENSON

Mr. SWENSON

Deputy Director,
Economic Commission
for Latin America

Mr. SANTA CRUZ

Secretary of the Committee

CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR
1957-58 (Conference Room Paper No. 55)

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Secretary of the Committee) read out a statement which Dr. Prebisch had made in the Working Group concerning the criteria adopted by the Commission for the revision of its work programme in which he had said in effect that the studies to be carried out had not been chosen per se but as an aid to economic development.

The programme of work was approved unanimously.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON BUILDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN CHILE
APPROVED BY THE WORKING GROUP (Conference Room Paper No. 59)

Mr. ARIOSTO GONZALEZ (Uruguay) enthusiastically supported the draft resolution and expressed the hope that it would be implemented as soon as possible.

The draft resolution was approved.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that a Committee, made up of the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, should be set up to study the ways and means of implementing the resolution.

It was so decided.

DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL CONCERNING THE ADMISSION
OF SPAIN TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA (Conference Room Paper No. 58)

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Committee to consider a draft resolution, submitted by the delegations of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay,

/Peru and

Peru and Venezuela, recommending that the Economic and Social Council should consider the possibility of admitting Spain to membership of ECLA.

Mr. GINEBRA (Dominican Republic) said that, with the approval of the sponsors of the draft resolution, he would like to associate himself with them as co-sponsor.

Mr. GAMBOA (Cuba) supported the draft resolution.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Secretary of the Committee read out a letter from the Nicaraguan Government supporting the draft resolution.

Mr. TORRES GAITAN (Mexico) said he opposed the draft resolution. ECLA, like the other economic commissions, was a strictly regional body and France, the Netherlands and United Kingdom were represented on it because they had territory in Latin America. The admission of Spain, on the other hand, would call for a change in the structure of the Commission and would create a bad precedent in respect of possible applications from other European and Asian countries.

Mr. ARIOSTO GONZALEZ (Uruguay) said that relations between Uruguay and Spain were both diplomatically and economically satisfactory. However, the draft resolution that had been put forward did not appear on the Commission's agenda, and under rule 10 of the rules of procedure a new item could not be added unless the relevant reports, studies and documents were submitted thirty days in advance or unless three-quarters of the members attending the session insisted on its discussion.

/A further

A further point that should be borne in mind was that delegations had received instructions on economic matters, and not on political questions. Moreover, the addition of Spain, as the Mexican representative had said, would have the effect of changing the structure of ECLA. Under paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of ECLA membership of the Commission was open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Now there was a suggestion to include another State which had no geographical connexion with the area. It would be most unfortunate if ECLA were to develop into a miniature United Nations, with all the resultant pressures and problems.

At the request of Mr. ARIOSTO GONZALEZ (Uruguay), Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Secretary of the Committee) read out the rules of procedure dealing with the Commission's agenda.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the view that rule 10 was binding only when it was a question of introducing new documentation.

Mr. TORRES GAITAN (Mexico) disagreed with that view. The draft resolution, if adopted, would have the effect of radically changing the structure of ECLA; accordingly, its approval would require a three-quarters majority.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the question whether the draft resolution could be approved by a simple majority vote.

It was decided by 12 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions,
that the draft resolution could be approved by a simple

/majority vote.

majority vote.

Mr. ZIJDERVELD (Netherlands), Mr. RANDALL (United States of America), Mr. HENDERSON (United Kingdom) and Mr. MELGAR LARRIEU (Guatemala) said that as they had had no instructions from their Governments on the question of the admission of Spain to ECLA, they would be obliged to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

Mr. POUSSARD (France) associated himself with the previous speakers, and proposed that consideration of the draft resolution should be postponed.

Mr. TORRES GAITAN (Mexico) again drew attention to the dangerous precedent that the admission of Spain to the Commission would create. In addition to the argument he had advanced concerning the regional character of the Commission, and to the considerations expressed by the previous speakers, it should also be pointed out that the preamble to the draft resolution was extremely weak and unconvincing. He therefore supported the views expressed by the French representative and urged the sponsors of the draft resolution to withdraw it.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the French proposal that consideration of the question should be postponed.

The French proposal was rejected by 12 votes to 2 with 5 abstentions.

Mr. TORRES GAITAN (Mexico) emphasized that the Commission had met to discuss serious economic problems and not to consider unexpected proposals sprung upon it at the very last

/moment. An

moment. An attempt was being made by a minority of the total membership of the Commission to alter its statutes by unfair and illegal means.

Mr. ARIOSTO GONZALEZ (Uruguay) said it was clear that the agenda could not be changed at the very last minute in such a cavalier fashion. Under the rules of procedure any resolution adopted on an item which had not been previously included in the agenda by a three-fourths majority would be illegal and invalid.

Mr. TORRES GAITAN (Mexico) associated himself with the views expressed by the Uruguayan representative: a three-fourths majority was clearly required in order to include the item under consideration in the agenda and the decision taken by a previous vote to consider the question was therefore invalid.

Mr. RANDALL (United States of America) drew attention to the fact that an important question had been raised at the last moment, so that many delegations were without any instructions whatever from their Governments. In the circumstances, he wondered whether any decision reached by the Committee would really represent the considered opinion of many delegations. There was considerable doubt about the advisability of forcing the issue in those conditions

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recess to enable the heads of delegations to discuss the question in private.

It was so agreed.

/The meeting

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed in private at 12 noon.

The meeting rose at 2.15 p.m.