

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL  
E/CN.12/SR.58(VI)  
1 September 1955  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Sixth Session  
Bogotá, Colombia  
29 August 1955

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Bogotá

on Thursday, 1 September 1955, at 10.25 a.m.

CONTENTS :

General discussion (continued)

PRESENT :

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VILLAVECES	Colombia
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GEORGES-PICOT	France
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PEREZ VILLAMIL	Argentina
	Mr. ANTEZANA PAZ	Bolivia
	Mr. DE ANDRADE	Brazil
	Mr. ARCHILA MONROY	Colombia
	Mr. FERNANDEZ DURAN	Costa Rica
	Mr. RODRIGUEZ MARTIN	Cuba
	Mr. RODRIGUEZ MORALES	Ecuador
	Mr. RANDALL	United States of America
	Mr. GEORGES-PICOT	France
	Mr. YDIGORAS FUENTES	Guatemala

/Mr. Hudicourt

Members : (continued)

Mr. HUDICOURT	Haiti
Mr. BUESO ARIAS	Honduras
Mr. BELLO	Mexico
Mr. GUERRERO	Nicaragua
Mr. NEWTON	Netherlands
Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
Sir Keith JOPSON	United Kingdom
Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ	Dominican Republic
Mr. NADAL JAUME	Uruguay
Mr. MULLER	Venezuela

Also present :Observers from Member States :

Mr. ALMASY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. KOTT	Poland

Observers from non-member States :

Mr. FICRIO DELLA LENA	Italy
Mr. ALFARO Y POLANCO	Spain
Mr. BJORCK	Sweden

Representatives of specialized agencies :

Mr. VASQUEZ CANISOZA	International Labour Organization
Mr. SACO	Food and Agriculture Organization

/Representatives of

Representatives of specialized agencies: (continued)

Mr. LARSEN	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. LASO	International Monetary Fund
Mr. ROYER	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Representative of an inter-governmental organization :

Mr. RAFAEL	Inter-American Economic and Social Council
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Representatives of non-governmental organizations :

<u>Category A:</u>	Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions
	Mr. CARDENAS	International Con- federation of Free Trade Unions

Secretariat :

Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary of the Commission
Mr. SWENSON	Deputy Director
Mr. URQUIDI	Director, Mexico City Office
Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS	United Nations Technical Assistance Administration
Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary to the Conference

Note:

Corrections to the record should be submitted in one of the three working languages (Spanish, French or English) and addressed to Mr. Alfonso Santa Cruz, Secretary to the Conference, within 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.

/General discussion

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS (continued)

Mr. HUDICOURT (Haiti) recalled that, at the fifth session of ECLA, his delegation had stressed that the rate of population growth in Haiti far exceeded the rate of agricultural development, in spite of the active measures adopted by his Government, and that Haiti's export trade was adversely affected by price fluctuations in the international market.

Since then there had been seven greater price fluctuations. In addition, a cyclone had devastated large areas of southern Haiti, with disastrous effects on the coffee industry.

As the volume of private investment was small, Haiti depended largely on capital from governmental and international sources and therefore attached great importance to the proposals to establish international financing agencies. \*

Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ (Dominican Republic), without passing judgment on the contents of the documentation prepared by the Secretariat, paid a tribute to the Executive Secretary and his staff on the valuable work they had produced. His Government, true to the Pan-American spirit, followed the

\* For the text of Mr. Hudicourt's statement,  
see Information Document N° 16.

/developments of

developments of the session with great interest and hoped that it would contribute to practical solutions based on realistic criteria.

After analysing the impact that export volume had on the economic life of the Latin American countries, he drew attention to the resolution of the Economic and Social Council on inter-regional trade and stressed the importance for countries in process of development of creating and broadening a common regional market. Latin American countries should not look exclusively to outside assistance for economic development, but should apply scientific programming to their own resources to the full. To illustrate his point, he reviewed the experience of his own country and noted that, but for an obsolete quota system which had prevented the export of a larger amount of sugar to its natural market, the balance of payments position of the Dominican Republic would have been even more satisfactory.

He concluded by expressing his thanks to the Colombian people and Government for their hospitality. \*  
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Sir Keith JOPSON (United Kingdom), after paying tributes to the work done by the Commission and its Secretariat, explained the reasons for his country's interest in the speedy solution of Latin America's economic problems.

\* For the text of Mr. Ginebra's statement, see  
Information Document N° 18.

/Conditions varied

Conditions varied from year to year in particular countries, and both in some parts of the sterling area and in some Latin American countries the balance of payments situation had taken a turn for the worse. Such vicissitudes could not be entirely eliminated, but they could be cushioned by far-sighted policies during the good years. Granted a fair degree of stability, countries could achieve rapid economic growth by increasing productive capacity as quickly as possible in those fields in which they were best fitted.

After alluding to his country's research in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and its implications for Latin American countries, the speaker described the advantages over strict bilateralism of the multilateral trade arrangements between Brazil on the one hand and Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom on the other.

In that context, he wished to correct the erroneous impression that might be conveyed by the reference on page 73 of the Economic Survey of Latin America to the Anglo-German agreement on competitive trade. The agreement was designed, not to interfere with the promotion of exports by every normal competitive means but only to eliminate open or concealed subsidies to exporters.

Sir Keith concluded his statement by describing the changing trends in United Kingdom exports to, and investments in, Latin America and his country's contributions to technical

/assistance, a

assistance, a large part of which was benefiting the countries of Latin America. x

Miss KAHN (World Federation of Trade Unions) thanked the Colombian Government for its hospitality and expressed the profound interest of her organization in the economic problems of the peoples of Latin America. From the wealth of documents prepared by the Secretariat, certain facts stood out. For instance, economic development in Latin America had not maintained the rate prevailing in the five-year period immediately following the Second World War; the prosperity apparent in 1954 had been neither typical nor general, but had resulted from a temporary rise in price on the world market. Since 1954, however, greater efforts had been made to attract foreign capital to Latin America and facilities had been offered by such bodies as the United States Foreign Operations Administration. Trade had increased both with western and with eastern Europe; additional markets had been opened up, while the range of Latin America's suppliers had been widened. Furthermore, industrial production inside Latin America had increased, so that articles were now manufactured which had formerly been imported. The essential pre-requisites to successful economic development, however, as was pointed out in the Commission's documents - and her organization fully concurred in that - were a skilled labour force, sufficient capital resource and an adequate supply of electrical power. WFTU believed that the

x For the full text of Sir Keith's statement,  
see Information Document N° 17.

/formation of

formation of national capital should be encouraged, that the electrical industry should be nationalized and that the productivity of the labour force should be increased, provided, of course, that the wages, health and security of employment of the workers were not jeopardised.   \*

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

\* For the text of Miss Kahn's statement, see  
Information Document N° 19.