

United Nations

Nations Unies

RESTRICTED

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/CN.12/5

28 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

THE PROVISION OF EXPERT ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL TRAINING AS
A FUNCTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Note by the Secretariat on item 6 of the provisional agenda.

The Secretariat paper on the "Scope and Functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America" notes that one function within the Commission's terms of reference, on which the Commission may care to initiate action forthwith, is the subject of expert assistance and technical training. This note describes briefly the type of facilities which United Nations agencies can assist in providing and indicates certain lines of activity which the Commission may wish to consider.

The significance of expert assistance and technical training in the implementation of Articles 55, 56 and 62 of the Charter of the United Nations has been established by actions of the principal organs of the United Nations. The General Assembly, in a resolution of 14 December 1946, referred to the Economic and Social Council the question of furnishing expert advice to Member nations. The Economic and Social Council in a subsequent resolution of 28 March 1947 instructed the Secretary-General to establish machinery designed to assist Member Governments in securing, among other things, technical advice, particularly in the form of international teams of experts. Further recommendations in the same direction have been taken by other organs of the Council such as the Economic and Employment Commission and its Sub-Commission on Economic Development, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Social Commission, and the Population Commission.

The specialized agencies also have given considerable attention to this subject, and have introduced in their programmes appropriate pro-

/visions for

visions for technical advice or technical training to Members on request.

In view of these activities, the Economic Commission for Latin America may wish to consider means by which expert assistance and technical training can be rendered to countries within its geographical scope. The Commission may further wish to examine the experience of other organs of the United Nations in order to judge what forms of training and assistance are adaptable to the countries of Latin America and to find means by which they might be obtained for use in Latin America.

A report on technical assistance in economic development available through the United Nations and the specialized agencies, prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the specialized agencies, sets out a comprehensive description of facilities available. Copies of this report will be made available to the members of the Commission.

Where Member Governments require expert assistance in connection with measures falling within the terms of reference of the Commission, the Secretariat could offer its assistance. Such assistance might take the form, for example, of organizing small international teams of experts provided by or through the United Nations and the specialized agencies, who would investigate and report on an agreed group of problems. The organization of such teams would not, of course, preclude the invitation of specialists from single specialized agencies in connection with any specific problems in the field of those specialized agencies.

In a statement by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (document E/471/Add.2) the question of the reimbursement of the Secretariat for expert assistance provided to Member Governments was dealt with as follows:

"In those instances where the provision of expert assistance involves the assignment of staff from the United Nations, the Secretary-General proposes to follow the general policy that the

United Nations will pay the salaries of such staff so long as replacement is not required, and that the requesting Governments will be asked to reimburse the United Nations for other costs. Where the provision of experts from the staff of the United Nations necessitates temporary replacement of personnel, the Secretary-General proposes to request the Governments seeking assistance to pay for the costs involved in making such replacements."

The United Nations and the specialized agencies are also prepared to provide to Members technical advisers on particular aspects of development. In this connection small technical missions to assist in the organization of fiscal administration have been sent; responsible specialized agencies have helped to establish or improve public health services, to act in the development of agriculture and forestry, to assist in the development of social security systems, and in many similar undertakings. The personnel of technical missions sent out by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in some cases have been charged only with the responsibility of advising on particular problems of development. In other cases, however, their principal responsibility has been to provide training in various aspects of development.

At this stage of the Commission's work, however, attention might well be focused on two other types of activity in this general field. A brief description of these activities follows.

Technical Information

The dissemination of technical information may, in special cases, be a service of great importance, especially where it involves the imparting of practical experience. In general, however, it is likely that Member Governments have access to publications of a technical character sufficient to satisfy their needs. In exceptional cases the Commission's secretariat would always be available to assist in locating literature on a specific topic, from its own resources or through the specialized agencies or other recognized channels. Equally, the services of an

expert in a given field could be arranged on terms corresponding to those set out above. This is an area in which considerable experiment is possible if Member Governments encounter difficulties in satisfying their own requirements.

Technical training

The technical training requirements of Member Governments in an area such as Latin America are likely to be diverse and extensive. Except against specific requests and reimbursement for services provided, it is unlikely that the Secretariat could meet more than occasional demands of a not too highly specialized character.

Recognizing this, the United Nations and the specialized agencies have set up some machinery to simplify the process of overseas education.

In some cases, they have made provisions for in-service training in the agencies concerned; in others they have obtained or provided funds for fellowships in institutions of higher learning; and in other cases they have set up international training centres, staffed in part by their own employees, in which students from Member countries may receive training. In addition, for many years there have existed a number of governmental, inter-governmental and private institutions which make available fellowships in the field of technical training. The valuable experience gained here might well be studied and made available to the Member Governments of the Commission.

In considering these and other forms of technical training and assistance, the Commission may be especially interested to know of the study, Training of Technical Personnel in the Economic Field and the Use of Expert Assistance by Member Governments (document E/CN.11/40). This study, prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, examines the experience of the Far Eastern countries in obtaining technical assistance and technical training, both at home and abroad, and the potential requirements of these countries for technically trained personnel. The report also indicates specific lines which may

be pursued in further studies of the subject.

From the above description of certain types of service in respect of technical assistance, the Commission may wish to consider action on such lines as the following:

1. Collecting and placing at the disposal of Member countries information concerning existing facilities for the training of technical and administrative personnel and exchange of trainees within Latin America and the facilities available in countries outside the region for nationals of the region.
2. Studying measures which might be taken to extend and promote such facilities within the region; and the manner in which the Commission could assist and co-operate in such measures.
3. Facilitating contact between countries needing training facilities and the countries, institutions or organizations able to provide such services.
4. Facilitating the provision of expert assistance through the Secretariat, specialized agencies, professional associations or otherwise.



