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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
(Item 9 of Agenda)

Note by the Secretariat

The decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Economic Commission for Latin America "shall co-operate with and take the necessary measures to co-ordinate its activities with the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System and as may be necessary with the Caribbean Commission to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort between those organs and itself" (Paragraph 9 of Commission's Terms of Reference - E/712/Rev.1) was based upon the recommendation of the ad hoc Committee on Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America.

That Committee had been instructed by the Economic and Social Council to "ascertain the views of the Ninth International Conference of American States convening in Bogota in January 1948". The Committee decided, in view of the postponement of this Conference, that it was proper for it to approach the Pan American Union to obtain the considered comments of that body. The Committee accordingly transmitted a preliminary report containing proposals regarding the Economic Commission and subsequently received from the Director-General of the Pan American Union the text of a resolution which had been adopted by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council on 15 January 1948. The following is the text of the resolution:

"THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. Resolves to support the immediate establishment of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America, under the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
2. The Inter-American Economic and Social Council, in giving its support to the proposed immediate establishment of a Latin American Commission of the United Nations Economic and Social

Council, authorizes the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, in agreement with the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, to collaborate with the ad hoc Committee on the Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America and in due course with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in order to co-ordinate the work of that Committee with that of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the latter retaining its present independence and competence within the Inter-American System, and without prejudice to any decisions which may be taken by the Ninth International Conference of American States when it draws up the Constituent Pact of the Inter-American System (Pacto Constitutivo del Sistema Interamericano).

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council assumes that the expenses of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America will be met from the general United Nations budget."

The ad hoc Committee also heard a statement by Dr. Alberto Lleras Canargo, Director-General of the Pan American Union, in which he indicated the purpose of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council's resolution. The full text of this address is contained in the Report of the ad hoc Committee (Document E/630, Annex II). In the light of the considerations presented by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, by the Director-General of the Pan American Union, and of the discussions which took place during the Sixth Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, special reference was made in paragraph 9 of the Commission's terms of reference to the question of its relations with the Inter-American Economic and Social Council.

The Secretariat of the Commission understands that thorough consideration was also given to this matter during the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota and that a resolution was adopted by that Conference concerning the arrangements desired by it. The text of this resolution will be circulated to the Commission as soon as it becomes available.

In view of the fact that the development of a broad and comprehensive programme of work will require considerable time, the Commission may wish now to consider specific projects which could be agreed upon with the representatives of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council attending the First Session of the Commission.

Such specific projects might be drawn from proposals made during the First Session by Member Governments or from those submitted by the Secretariat, should these be acceptable to the Commission. In the latter case, there would be the advantage that this work could also be linked to work undertaken for other organs of the United Nations.

A broader delimitation of responsibility might be developed subsequently when both organs have considered their duties and responsibilities in the light of further experience. In this event, the Commission might desire to arrange for the continuance of negotiations after the Commission's first session.

Finally, under Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda the Commission may wish to formulate instructions to the Executive Secretary as to the specific measures of co-ordination which should be put into effect respecting the current operations of the Commission.



