

United Nations

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

1022

Nations Unies

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.12/106\*

31 May 1949

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

This Document Received  
By Annual Pouch. — 60  
Date..... AUG 31 1949

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Declaration of Mrs. Thibert, representative  
of the International Labor Organization

On behalf of the Director General of the International Labor Office, I have the honor of bringing to the second session of ECLA the wishes for success from the International Labor Organization and the expression of every sincere desire for friendly cooperation.

As the Executive Secretary of the ECLA has pointed out to the Commission, the ILO has already given a concrete proof of its desire to cooperate in undertaking, at the request of ECLA, an investigation into the problems of vocational and technical training in Latin America, a study bearing on the needs which are felt and existing facilities of meeting them in this field, as well as the best methods for adopting the available means to the requirements of an expanding economy. The preliminary report of the expert charged with this investigation has been distributed to inform the members participating in this meeting on the progress of these studies which directly concern Point No.7 of the Agenda.

But several other points on the Agenda are of interest to the ILO and offer the opportunity for a fruitful collaboration. In fact, the Fourth Conference of American States Members of the International Labour Organization which has just been held in Montevideo, discussed fully the social aspects of the economic development of the American Continent and adopted on this subject a resolution which

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constitutes the proposal for a comprehensive operating program. Part II, relating to manpower problems, has been presented to this Commission in an annex to the report of the expert of the ILO, since it concerns the very problems which this expert had to study. The measures which can be applied to supply the economy of these countries with technicians and qualified labor, either by training of local labor or by supplementing it by immigration, are indicated in this report. But the other parts of the same resolution express interests parallel to those of the ECIA as regards the economic development of the regions -- Point 4 of the Order of the Day -- interests which the ILO has the duty to share, because the raising of the living standards of the population is an indispensable element of social progress. As it is stated in the said resolution, "in order that large-scale schemes of economic development may produce the economic and political benefits with a view to which they are undertaken, such development should be accompanied, in all its stages, by a general social progress. Furthermore, in that resolution the ILO has expressed its readiness to cooperate fully with the Latin American Economic Commission in its program for economic development. From the specific point of view of the ILO's own responsibility in the social aspects of economic development, the resolution deals notably with the measures to be taken for intensifying technical assistance for the countries of America, assistance which it has often lent but in which demands are made more and more frequently

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and in greater variety of forms. The Montevideo conference has given one more occasion for the public expression of various demands towards that end.

Another point of the Agenda of the present ECIA meeting which presents certain interests parallel to those of the ILO is point 5. The regional conference of the ILO, in Montevideo, concerned itself with the employment conditions of agricultural workers. The conference adopted on this point an important resolution. In reading the report of the ECIA-FAO joint working party, I note also in this field a convergence of interests. The ECIA-FAO report deals, notably, with manpower problems, and with vocational training as a means of obtaining the qualified personnel indispensable to agricultural economy for a better production; also, on these points the ILO conference in Montevideo has expressed suggestions which respond to these concerns. For the study of agricultural problems, it may also be considered that the ILO can bring to the ECIA and to the FAO a useful contribution to progress on certain aspects of the question.

Finally, the necessity of establishing good relations between the two elements of production -- capital and labor -- to assure an efficient production, has been recalled this morning by one of the observers. It is necessary to recall that the problem of industrial relations a problem of capital interest for the ILO, has been made the object of deliberations by its American members at two regional conferences, already in Mexico in 1946 and again in Montevideo in 1949, and that on this subject, precise suggestions have been formulated, the application of which cannot be other than beneficial to the material progress of the interested countries as well as to their social progress.

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These are only some occurring examples of collaboration which the A endas ILO Montevideo Conference and the CEPAL present meeting brought to light; it is however certain that the work in the future will multiply such occasions, and that the efforts of each organization and the success of their efforts will be intensified by action. The ECLA will always see the ILO ready to respond cordially to its appeal as it has done at the first request for its assistance.

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