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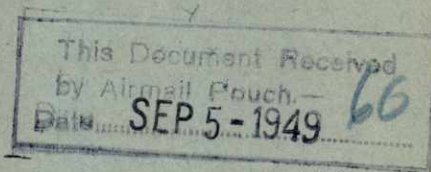
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Second Session

COMMITTEE 1

(Agriculture)



Report of the Committee as corrected
in the Plenary Meeting of 13 June 1949

I. General Remarks

Committee 1 was established by the Second Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America under the Chairmanship of Mr. Urgelles Caamaño (Ecuador) and held six meetings. At the first meeting Mr. Romeu y Jaime (El Salvador) was appointed Vice-Chairman and Mr. Inchaustegui (Dominican Republic) Rapporteur. The assignment of the Committee was to consider the following documents:

1. Chapter IV of the Economic Survey of Latin America (E/CN.12/82);
2. Report of the Joint ECLA-FAO Working Party (E/CN.12/83);
3. Executive Secretary's Report on "Prospects of Agricultural Development" (E/CN.12/86);
4. Report of the Latin American Commission on Forestry and Forest Products.

The Committee considered that certain aspects of agricultural development were so closely related to industrial development in Latin America that Chapter I

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(Manufacturing) of the Economic Survey (E/CN.12/82) should also be considered by the Committee, since the contents of that chapter might provide valuable background material and assist the Committee in recommending appropriate measures in the important field of the relationship between agriculture and industry.

The Committee also had the benefit of numerous statements by various delegations and observers.

The Committee's work was greatly facilitated by the comprehensive nature of the reports presented by the Secretariat and the ECLA-FAO Joint Working Party and expressed its satisfaction for the quality of those documents.

In examining the reports under discussion, the Committee was impressed by the magnitude of the work to be done by the Governments and peoples of Latin America to raise the standards of living in the region.

It is necessary therefore to expand Latin American agriculture. The Committee is of the opinion that this objective can only be attained by the adoption of coordinated measures taken jointly and applying both to the short term and to the long-term aspects of the problem. The Committee is likewise convinced that industrial development should be promoted simultaneously and that there is need for parallel action in the fields of transport and finance. The inter relationship between all these parts of the economic system is clearly shown in the conclusions of the Joint Working Party's report, which gives evidence of the need to secure a more adequate supply of adaptable agricultural requisites and at the same time to expand the region's financial and transport resources. The

Committee therefore submitted to the Commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/139).

II. Chapter IV of the Economic Survey of Latin America
(E/CN.12/82)

The Committee examined Chapter IV of the Economic Survey of Latin America and expressed its appreciation for this contribution made by the Secretariat. This section of the Survey presents adequately a picture of the state of agriculture in Latin America. In the short time it had at its disposal the Secretariat had attempted to outline the main features of the production and distribution of agricultural products and of the changes brought about by the war. The Committee considers that this first endeavour constitutes valuable background for the information of Governments and for the future work of the Commission. However, a more detailed survey is needed to enable Governments to take action in the matter. To that end it is indispensable to make not only an overall study of the situation on a regional basis but also a study on a country by country basis. The Committee is aware of the difficulties involved in making such studies, since in many cases sufficient information is not available. The success of such an enterprise depends on the Governments themselves. The Committee urges Governments to give their full cooperation to the ECLA in the preparation of future Economic Surveys so that it may provide the factual type of information that is needed.

In this connection the Committee took note of the fact that sufficient attention had not been given to the

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Caribbean area and Central America and was of the opinion that more attention should be given to these areas, though it recognised that this defect was mainly due to the Secretariat not having received information from Governments in time. The Committee is aware of the fact that this preparation of the Survey in question is closely related to the work of the FAO and other organizations operating in the region and that there must be cooperation between the organizations concerned in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve better results. The Committee therefore submitted to the Commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/140).

III. Report of ECLA-FAO Joint Working Party

The Committee considered the report of the ECLA-FAO Joint Working Party. It was of the opinion that it constituted a commendable effort made jointly by FAO and ECLA and it expressed its satisfaction for the quality of the report since it constituted the first study of the means of production in Latin America taken as a whole. In view of these considerations the Committee submitted to the commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/141).

The Committee then proceeded to examine the suggestions contained in Section B of the Summary of the report of the ECLA-FAO Joint Working Party, and came to the conclusion that some points were of such importance as to merit an additional resolution by the Commission. The Committee therefore submitted to the Commission a draft resolution

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which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/142).

IV. Problems of common concern to ECLA and FAO

The Committee wishes to express its satisfaction on the way in which FAO and ECLA have carried out the resolutions adopted at the First Session of ECLA, in a spirit of full cooperation. The relations between these two bodies are of the greatest importance and the Committee stresses the need for the fullest cooperation in problems of common concern.

Although such cooperation covers a very wide field, the Committee considers that more effective results could be achieved if the efforts and the limited financial resources of both bodies were to be limited to the solution of some of the most important problems.

The Committee therefore submitted to the Commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/143).

V. General Problems of Latin American Agriculture

In considering the report of the ECLA-FAO Joint Working Party (E/CN.12/83) and Chapter IV of the Economic Survey of Latin America (E/CN.12/82) the Committee expressed the view that Governments, acting individually, jointly or in collaboration with the appropriate international organizations, should take measures in the general field of agriculture. Among the important aspects examined by the Committee were soil erosion, consideration and rehabilitation, improvement of seeds, improvement of livestock and pest and disease control.

/The Committee

The Committee was of the opinion that the list of problems examined was not exhaustive, but wished to draw the attention of Governments to some important aspects of agricultural development and consequently submitted to the Commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/142).

VI. Problems of Rural Health

It was pointed out at the last meeting of the Committee that the important subject of rural health had not been considered although this is an important factor in the economic development of Latin America.

The Committee thought the subject of such importance that it should be necessary to give it particular consideration and that the attention of the Governments and the international organizations concerned should be drawn so that they should endeavour to solve some of its major problems.

The Committee therefore submitted to the Commission a draft resolution which was approved in plenary and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/145).

VII. Development of Forest Industries and Forest Resources

The Commission in Plenary expressed the view that the development of forest resources and forest industries was of such importance for the economy of the region that it should be considered separately. The Delegation of Brazil submitted a draft resolution, embodying the views of the Plenary Meeting. The Brazilian draft resolution was adopted and is attached to the present report (E/CN.12/146).
