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Bogotá, Colombia.

CO-ORDINATION WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America herewith submits the Joint Statement of IA-ECOSOC and of ECIA prepared after the meetings held from 8 to 10 August, 1955, in Washington D.C. for the purpose of discussing the work of both organizations with a view to achieving co-ordination of activities.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
OF ECLA AND OF THE I-A ECOSOC ON COORDINATION
AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

A meeting of the Committee on Coordination at the Secretariat level between the ECLA and the I-A ECOSOC was held in Washington, D.C., August 8-10, 1955, to consider current developments in the work in progress of both Secretariats and to review those projects on which cooperation and interchange of information on a regular basis is considered desirable. The present report takes account of Resolution 78 (AC.17) adopted by the Committee of the Whole on May 10, 1955.

Meetings of the Committee on Coordination at the Secretariat level have been held regularly since 1951, in accordance with Resolution 31 (IV).

An account of such meetings, held at different times in Washington, Santiago, and Rio de Janeiro, may be found in Documents E/CN.12/311, E/CN.12/320, E/CN.12/AC.24/7, and E/CN.12/AC.26/5.

These meetings have led to progressive improvement of coordination, thus enabling both Secretariats, through frequent contact and interchange, to avoid unnecessary duplication and, wherever appropriate, to perform their work along complementary lines.

Since the Joint Statement submitted to the Committee of the Whole in February, 1954 (E/CN.12/AC.24/7), meetings took place in Washington in May and September of the same year. In addition to the review of current work, special consideration was given to the collaboration of the ECLA Secretariat with the I-A ECOSOC Secretariat in the preparation of documents for the Meeting of Ministers of Finance or Economy as the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the I-A ECOSOC, held in Rio de Janeiro in November-December, 1954.

/Under arrangements

Under arrangements made with the I-A ECOSOC Secretariat and with an Ad-Hoc Committee of the I-A ECOSOC, an ECLA Secretariat report, together with a statement and recommendations drafted by a preparatory group of experts, was submitted to the I-A ECOSOC in September, 1954.^{1/}

Following the Rio Conference, the I-A ECOSOC set up a Committee of Experts in Santiago, Chile, composed of representatives of nine Central Banks of Latin American countries and, in a consultative basis, of the Secretariat of ECLA, to study and present a plan for a regional financing organization. The Committee met during February-April, 1955, and produced a plan which is now under consideration of the governments of the member countries of the OAS.

The present review of work in progress shows that there are certain new projects of common interest on which it will be possible to coordinate some aspects of research, in so far as timing permits, and that arrangements can be worked out to prevent any overlapping which would result in a waste of effort. Another meeting on coordination will be held after the Sixth Session of ECLA and close contact will be maintained at the working level.

The following paragraphs describe the projects that are subject to arrangements on coordination, taking into account the respective work programs of both Secretariats, as contained in the Seventh Annual Report of ECLA to the UN ECOSOC (Doc.E/2756) and in the Program of Work for 1956-57 approved by the I-A ECOSOC.

^{1/} These documents were issued under the title International Cooperation in a Latin American Development Policy (E/CN.12/359). For a fuller account of the above collaboration between ECLA and I-A ECOSOC, see Doc. E/CN.12/AC.26/5.

Inter-American Training Center of Economic and Financial Statistics

As contemplated in the Joint Statement submitted by the respective Executive Secretaries to the Committee of the Whole on February 8, 1954 (Doc. E/CN.12/AC.24/7), the staffs of ECLA and the Center participated jointly from time to time in special round-table discussions on specific statistical problems. Also, assistance has been given by each to the other through the exchange of statistical and other information.

Inter-American Center for Vital Statistics

In connection with the work of this Center, ECLA continued throughout the year its collaboration with the UN Statistical Office, WHO, the PASB, and the IASI.

Improvement of Statistical Data

The Executive Secretaries have continued their discussions and efforts to achieve greater statistical uniformity and to avoid any unnecessary duplication in the collection and compilation of statistical data.

The Committee on Economic Cooperation in Central America has established a Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination, composed of the Directors of Statistics of the member countries. The ECLA Secretariat has been requested to work in close collaboration with the IASI and the UN Statistical Office in the preparation of documentation for this Subcommittee. Conversations to this end have been in progress relative to preparations for an initial meeting of the Subcommittee during the latter half of 1955.

Standardization of Customs Nomenclature in Central America

An expert from IASI, together with a member of the UN Statistical Office and a staff member of ECLA, worked for three months in 1952 with the Subcommittee on the Unification of Central American Customs Nomenclature established by ECLA's Committee for Economic Co-operation in Central America and assisted in the preparation of a standard customs nomenclature (NAUCA) for that area. The second meeting of the Committee for Economic Co-operation, in October, 1952, adopted a resolution setting up:

/a Sub-Committee

nomic Co-operation, in October, 1953, adopted a resolution setting up a Sub-Committee on Trade to continue this work by preparing a Coding Manual for the nomenclature; establishing a standard customs nomenclature for Central American export products; studying means for unifying customs rates and other charges with a view to eliminating differences which may give rise to illicit trading, and recommending to the governments suitable measures for a solution to these problems. The Sub-Committee on Trade has held two meetings dealing with the application of the NAUCA, the adoption of the Coding Manual, the creation of an export nomenclature, and methods to improve customs operations. The ECLA Secretariat, IASI, and the UN Statistical Office have worked in full agreement on this project.

Maritime Statistics

The objectives of the Secretariats regarding the development of comparable statistics are reflected in the provisions of a resolution approved by the Third Inter-American Statistical Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1955, whereunder the Inter-American Statistical Institute is requested to consult the Governments of the American States on methods by which they might be able to provide comparable maritime statistics. The development of this work is of interest to the ECLA Secretariat and relates also to the activity of the Central American Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination.

/Maritime transport

Maritime Transport

The programs of the studies undertaken by I-A ECOSOC with regard to freight and insurance rates and of those by ECLA on the role of shipping in inter-Latin American trade have been reviewed by the respective Secretariats. Account was also taken of the survey of shipping, port operations and freight rates requested by the ECLA Committee on Economic Cooperation in Central America, carried out by a UNTAA mission. Arrangements have been made for continued exchange of data and information, with a view to having the studies complement and reinforce each other. Appropriate assistance through the exchange of materials and ideas will be given by each Secretariat to the other throughout the execution of the respective studies.

Transport Problems in Central America

The respective Secretariats have continued full collaboration relative to the activities arising from resolutions adopted by the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee in San José, October, 1953.

To ensure coordination, frequent contact has been maintained between both Secretariats in regard to studies on international highway transport in Central America, on which a number of reports were requested by ECLA's central American Economic Cooperation Committee, with the assistance of the UNTAA.

Housing

The social Commission of the UN ECOSOC has approved a resolution which provides for the convening of regional meetings of experts for the purpose of considering the problems and practical methods of financing housing and community improvement programs, especially for persons in the low-income groups.

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A set of guiding principles and questionnaires, designed to serve as a basis for reports on matters to be brought up by the national governments and to be prepared by national working committees, is to be formulated by a group of three experts nominated, respectively, by the UN Housing and Town and Country Planning Section, the Secretariat of the I-A ECOSOC and the ECLA Secretariat.

In accordance with previously established procedures the UN Housing and Town and Country Planning Section has continued to represent ECLA in coordinating activities with the Secretariat of the I-A ECOSOC in all substantive matters of housing, and its Chief was invited by a Working Group of the I-A ECOSOC to present to it the UN position regarding regional housing centers in connection with the study which I-A ECOSOC is making of the implementation of Resolution XXXV of the Tenth Inter-American Conference regarding the permanent status of the I-A Housing Center and the calling of periodic meetings of housing and planning experts representing official national housing agencies of the Member Governments of the OAS.

A joint UN/OAS Working Group on Cooperation and Coordination of Technical Assistance Activities in the field of housing, building and Physical planning in Latin America has been established and is meeting periodically for the purpose of exchanging information, developing projects of joint interest and deriving the best possible results from the available resources and existing facilities. Two such meetings have been held to date with representatives of the Secretariat of I-A ECOSOC, the I-A Housing Center, the Section of Housing and Town and Country Planning of the UN, ECLA and the UN Technical Assistance Administration. Special consideration was given at the meetings to the utilization of the regional facilities of the I-A Housing Center in rendering technical assistance to the Latin American countries in the field of housing.

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Following the suggestion of the working group, ECLA has included the subject of housing and physical planning in the curriculum of the training course on economic development which is to be held in Bogota in September. An expert of the I-A Housing Center will deliver a lecture on this subject during the course.

Economic Development Programming

The ECLA Secretariat has been engaged in studies on programming of economic development under successive resolutions of the Commission. A tentative general technique of programming has been worked out and, after due consideration and revision by the Secretariat and by outside experts, has been issued as a printed document entitled Analysis and Projections of Economic Development (E/CN.12/363). This document has been submitted to the Sixth Session. Work on individual countries has proceeded, and two reports - on Brazil and on Colombia - embodying application of the technique of analysis and projections, have been completed and presented to this Session. Work is in progress on other countries.

The I-A ECCSOC Secretariat has been requested, under Resolutions 27/53 (Tenth Inter-American Conference, Caracas, 1954) and 54/54 (Fourth Extraordinary Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, 1954), to prepare background material on the nature and content of economic development plans of the Latin American countries, and is engaged in compiling data for this purpose. In view of the experience and information already accumulated by the ECLA Secretariat in this field, it should be possible for an ample interchange to take place, and to this end it was agreed that detailed conversations should be carried

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out at an early date to determine the nature of the appropriate cooperative arrangements.

As to social aspects of economic development, it was noted that both Secretariats are engaged in studying the problem from approaches which permit a mutually profitable exchange of data and discussion of concepts. In view of the preliminary reports prepared by each Secretariat (for the Tenth Inter-American Conference and the Sixth Session of ECLA, respectively), arrangements for future complementary work will be made at the appropriate time.

Financing of Development

Under various resolutions of their respective bodies, both Secretariats have carried out studies on the national and international aspects of the financing of economic development. In addition to reports issued by each Secretariat for meeting of its own agency, the ECLA Secretariat collaborated, through its report on International Cooperation in a Latin American Development Policy, in preparing documentation for the Meeting of Ministers of Finance or Economy as the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the I-A ECOSOC, (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November-December, 1954). Current work by both Secretariats on foreign investments, taxation of capital exports, and domestic financing of development, has progressed without any significant overlapping.

Inter-Latin American Trade

Under Resolutions 20(IV) and 69(V), the ECLA Secretariat has done considerable work on inter-Latin American trade, including a statistical analysis, a discussion of specific commodities subject to such trade, an examination of the trade policies of the Latin American countries and a preliminary consideration of some shipping problems. A first report was submitted to the Fifth Session, covering South American countries, and later published (Doc.E/CN.12/304 Rev.1) and full reports covering inter-Latin American trade as well as the special case of inter-Central American trade are to be

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considered at the Sixth Session (Doc. E/CN.12/367, E/CN.12/368, E/CN.12/369). With a view to avoiding duplication, it was considered desirable that the I-A ECOSOC Secretariat, which has been requested to make a study of inter-Latin American trade and its possibilities under Resolution 47/54, take as a basis the work performed already by the ECLA Secretariat, and that an ample interchange of data take place.

Foreign Trade

Both work programs include items on the development of Latin America's foreign trade, including the study of export potentialities, maintenance of current data on trade and terms of trade and related matters. Through regular exchange of views and information duplication of effort is readily avoided.

Commodities

The I-A ECOSOC is particularly interested in commodities and is carrying out studies and discussions regarding a number of them, which are of importance to the economies of the Latin American countries. ECLA also has a specific interest in this field. However, no overlapping of work has existed; on the contrary, the studies undertaken by both organizations supplement each other. An example is coffee, a commodity which is now under intensive study by I-A ECOSOC, and with which ECLA, in collaboration with FAO, is also concerned. While I-A ECOSOC's interest is in the over-all demand-supply situation and consequent price level, conducive to stability of the economies of the countries highly dependent upon the commodity, the ECLA-FAO joint project is concerned with the relation of coffee to general economic development and, particularly, with factors affecting productivity, on which an initial survey, carried out in El Salvador, is near completion.

Since I-A ECOSOC is proceeding with work on the economic problems of banana production and marketing, the ECLA Secretariat does not contemplate any duplication of this work, and it will make available any information so far gathered.