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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
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Item 5 of the agenda

REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION  
COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

Statement by the Executive Secretary on the Implementation  
of Resolution E/CN.12/191 (in agreement with the representatives  
of FAO, ILO and IRO).

1. Resolution E/CN.12/191 adopted at the Third Session, requested the Executive Secretary in co-operation with the International Labour Organization and other Specialized Agencies concerned, to set up a working committee at the secretariat level with the following functions:

(a) to study the relation between the economic development of Latin America and immigration;

(b) to provide the Latin American countries at their request with:

(1) surveys with respect to their economic capacity to receive immigration;

(2) advice and assistance on the manner in which economic development can be promoted by immigration;

/(3) advice

(3) advice on the feasibility of adopting specific plans and projects of economic and technical assistance may be needed from international organizations.

2. The Executive Secretary duly approached the Directors General of the FAO, ILO and IRO who nominated representatives to serve on the Committee. The Committee held three meetings. Details of its activities are included in the progress report already circulated. (Document E/CN.12/224).

3. The EDI Committee performed a useful function in bringing together in the region the international agencies interested in immigration activities. However, only one immigration project involving economic development was submitted to the Committee and further extension of its work appears to require new methods and new arrangements. In fact experience has shown that the circumstances have altered considerably since the Committee was created. The individual international organizations are now operating technical assistance projects on a substantial scale in a considerable number of Latin American countries in fields related both to economic development and to migration. It has become the natural course for the individual countries to turn for technical assistance on economic development and migration direct to the individual international organizations. A number of countries are already requesting from the individual international organizations technical assistance in evaluating from various angles including migration specific resources which they have available, in recommending how such resources might /be developed

be developed in detail, and working out the extent of the return which such development might give both to the country concerned and to individual migrants and groups of migrants.

4. In regard to such activities the regional representatives in Latin America of the international organizations concerned have already developed an informal procedure for informing one another of such points in which Governments are interested, even when they have not reached the stage of a formal request for technical assistance. A further development has been the sending of joint teams to individual countries.

5. The international organizations concerned recognise the need for co-ordinating at the regional level such action in individual countries, and for joint direction of their experts working in related fields. There is a need for the representative of ECLA and the regional representatives of FAO, ILO and IRO, and the other international organizations concerned, to hold ad hoc meetings from time to time to review progress and coordinate action in the different countries. For this purpose the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the regional representatives of FAO, ILO and IRO suggest the present committee be replaced by an inter-agency co-ordinating committee to hold such meetings as are necessary. It would be understood that representatives of other international organizations concerned, notably WHO, UNESCO and the International Bank equally be members and would attend the meetings whenever their interests were involved. It would also be understood that meetings of this

/inter-agency

inter-agency co-ordinating committee would be called on the initiative of any of the members.

6. It is the view of the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the regional representatives of FAO, ILO and IRO that the proposed arrangements will give added impulse and greater effectiveness to the co-ordinated efforts of the international organizations working in this field.

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