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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Fifth Session
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

COMMITTEE V

DRAFT RESOLUTION

INTRAREGIONAL TRADE

(approved by the Committee on 23 April 1953)

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

HAVING CONSIDERED with interest the Secretariat's preliminary study contained in document E/CN.12/304 which it considers of positive technical value and as signifying a first step towards research into questions not previously dealt with; and
CONSIDERING THAT

(a) It is necessary that in the continued study referred to in resolution 20 (IV), adopted at the fourth session, this research should be extended to cover intra-regional trade as a whole, since the successful application of a trade policy, calculated to improve this trade depends on a more thorough analysis thereof, which is to yield precise data;

(b) Accordingly, the analysis of the problems described in Secretariat document E/CN.12/304 should be broadened with respect to both commercial and payments agreements, raw materials and manufactured goods, and foodstuffs and transport;

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(c) By reason of the fact that some Latin-American Republics are and others are not parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, they are in an unequal position in their trade negotiations with each other;

(d) In view of the position of the land-locked States of Latin America it is advisable to give special attention to their foreign trade problems with a view to promoting their economic development and intensifying intra-regional trade; and

(e) The problems of intra-regional trade are so complex that it might be advisable to resort more frequently to the services of experts for the purpose of carrying out the studies referred to in this resolution and hence resolution 20 (IV) adopted at ECLA's fourth session in Mexico should be broadened in this respect;

RECOMMENDS

(1) That in the continued study referred to in resolution 20 (IV), adopted at the fourth session in Mexico, the Secretariat should broaden the earlier research into the co-operation of economic policy among the Latin-American countries in such a way that practical solutions may be found for the problems affecting the development of trade, and should, in addition, study the possibility of formulating the bases of a commercial policy for Latin-American trade;

FOR THIS PURPOSE instructs the Secretariat to study

/ (a) With

(a) With greater emphasis than in the past, the influence of foreign trade controls applied in these countries on intra-regional trade;

(b) In co-operation with the competent international bodies, the problems involved in the payments machinery and administrative exchange procedures, as these affect intra-regional trade;

(c) The simplification of the administrative formalities which govern the conduct of commercial transactions among the Latin-American countries;

(d) The possible increase of the consumption of raw materials and manufactured goods in Latin America, taking into account imports from other regions. In the part of this study which relates to trade in manufactured goods, it shall take into account the present and prospective future demand of Latin America, so that the producing countries may be provided with data that may be helpful to them in fixing production targets in certain manufacturing industries;

(e) Incentives to encourage exports by countries suffering from a shortage of foodstuffs to the countries supplying foodstuffs;

(f) Means of encouraging trade agreements relating to specified products; and

(g) The problems of prices and all those affecting the marketing of products which enter into intra-regional trade;

(2) That the Secretariat:

(a) In its surveys of intra-regional trade should consider

the effects which the application of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade may have on the increase of the said trade; and

(b) Should examine the various ways in which those problems might be solved and in due course report, the results of its study to the governments concerned and to the competent international organizations;

(3) That in the light of the studies of other international bodies, the Secretariat should analyse:

(a) The problem of transport as it affects intra-regional trade, with particular attention to the special aspects which affect the various sea-routes;

(b) The possibility of co-ordinating the services of the national merchant marines with a view to their better utilization;

(c) The exchange systems applied by the various Latin-American countries in the matter of freight charges; and

(d) The problems connected with harbour regulations, frontier traffic, free zones and warehouses and similar questions;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to communicate copies of these studies to the interested governments as they are produced;

(4) That the Secretariat in its survey of intra-regional trade as a whole should give special attention to the foreign trade problems of the land-locked countries of Latin America;

/s/ AUTHORIZED

AUTHORIZES the Secretariat to organize special meetings of experts, when necessary, for the purpose of discussing topics to be specified by it.