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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL QUESTIONS

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Mar del Plata, Argentina
on Saturday, 11 May 1963, at 10.20 a.m.

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Technical Assistance co-operation with inter-American agencies.

Note: Delegations wishing to submit corrigenda to their statements in this summary record for inclusion in the final version are requested to make their corrections on a mimeographed copy of the record. The corrected copy should reach Miss Juanita Eyzaguirre (Conference Officer), Room 102, not later than forty-eight hours after distribution.

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LISETTE	(France)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. CESTERO	Dominican Republic
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. URTUBEY	Argentina
	Mr. GANDARILLAS	Bolivia
	Mr. DE ANDRADE MELLO	Brazil
	Mr. SUMMERS	Canada
	Mr. CISTERNAS	Chile
	Mr. EDIN	France
	Mr. CLARK	Jamaica
	Mr. GOMEZ	Mexico
	Mr. FEIN	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Mr. OVIEDO	Paraguay
	Mr. IBARRA	Peru
	Mr. TAYLOR	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BINGHAM) United States of America
	Miss JESTER	
	Mr. PITTALUGA	Uruguay
	Mr. VILLEGAS	Venezuela

Observers from States

Members of the United Nations
not members of the Commission

Mr. HOFINGER	Austria
Mr. TANI	Japan
Mr. HARTENSON	Sweden
Mr. GORGASSIDZE	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

/Representatives of

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. AUTELLI	International Tele-communication Union
Miss JAMES	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Representatives of inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. REY ALVAREZ	Inter-American Development Bank
Mr. MAGAÑA)	Organization of American States
Mr. BANZAS)	
MR. LAGO	Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration

Secretariat:

Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission
Mr. VALDES	Secretary of the Commission
Mr. BERTHOUD	ECLA
Mr. ARDITI	Secretary of the Committee, ECLA

/Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Mr. VALDES (Secretary of the Commission) explained that item 13 on the agenda would be discussed at a plenary meeting and not in committee, so as to give the Commission an opportunity of studying the report meeting of the Governing Council of the Institute to be held on 14 and 15 May.

Mr. ARDITI (Secretariat) gave a brief account of the contents of the documents on technical assistance presented to the Conference. He referred particularly to document E/CN.12/669 which, apart from providing an ample body of information on what had already been done to bring about the decentralization of technical assistance activities, indicated the steps that should be taken in future to ensure that ECLA was given sufficient authority to carry out regional projects itself, and, in the process, to assume a certain amount of responsibility for the financial, administrative and staff recruitment aspects as well. So far it had been given authority over administrative questions. With respect to document E/CN.12/654 on technical assistance in the field of public administration, he pointed out that it was essential to have sound administrative machinery for economic and social development programmes; and he referred to the new trend pursued by the OPEX programme whereby technical assistance experts were fully incorporated into the public administration of a country for their term of service, and were partly paid by the Government concerned.

/Mr. BERTHOUD

Mr. BERTHOUD (Secretariat) drew the Committee's attention to the document on co-operation with the Central American Demographic Institute (CELADE) (E/CN.12/687). The Institute had been established in 1957 and was working in close co-operation with ECLA in the field of demographic studies. Its operations were due to cease at the end of 1964. ECLA was fully aware of the value of the Institute and sincerely hoped that the Commission would take measures to ensure continuation of the Institute's activities after 1964.

Mr. OVIEDO (Paraguay) said that his Government was concerned that the ECLA secretariat had not yet been given sufficient authority in the substantive, administrative, financial and recruitment fields to enable the decentralization of technical assistance activities to be wholly successful. It was convinced that ECLA was better equipped to plan and execute technical assistance programmes in Latin America than United Nations Headquarters in view of its intimate knowledge of each country's problems and requirements. He therefore urged that the necessary machinery should be set up to enable it to assume responsibility for such work without delay. In that connexion, the Paraguayan Government was particularly satisfied that a Technical Assistance Co-ordinating Unit had already been set up at Santiago and a branch unit had begun operations in Mexico.

Another point that deeply concerned his Government was the fact that experts had not yet been found for several of the more important subjects covered by the Advisory Group which had been assigned to Paraguay as part of the ECLA/OAS/IDB Committee's plan of action. He felt sure that recruitment

/difficulties would

difficulties would largely be solved once ECLA was made responsible for engaging experts.

Mr. GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) concurred with the points of view expressed by the delegation of Paraguay as co-sponsor of the draft resolution on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations (Conference Room Paper N° 12). There had also been untoward delays in granting technical assistance to his country, and formalities could undoubtedly be speeded up if more authority were delegated to ECLA with respect to regional projects.

Mr. CISTERNAS (Chile) expressed his Government's satisfaction with the measures taken to strengthen the ECLA secretariat's capacity to implement technical co-operation programmes. In that respect, his Government considered that during the initial stages ECLA should concentrate on the studies and other preparatory work involved in the execution of regional technical assistance projects. The moment had come to set up a system of joint studies and consultations between ECLA and its member Governments to select and determine priorities for such projects.

The Government of Chile intended to engage five experts, which would work with the secretariat of the National Consultative Committee of ALALC in 1963 and 1964 under the Expanded Programme. He suggested that other Governments might adopt similar measures to be continued, if expedient, during 1965 and 1966.

/In view

In view of the valuable contribution made by ECLA to the preparation of regional programmes, his Government considered that ECLA could also give useful advice on the planning of national projects so as to ensure that they would be consonant with both regional technical assistance projects and national development plans. His Government was convinced, however, that the co-ordination of the various projects and sources of technical assistance with national programmes should be left in the hands of the particular organizations concerned in each country. With that proviso, the delegation of Chile was fully prepared to support the extension of ECLA's responsibilities in technical assistance programmes for Latin America.

He paid particular tribute to the aid given by the United Nations to Chile to improve its public administration. The OPEX programme had proved itself to be a peculiarly effective instrument in that respect.

Mr. AUTELLI (International Telecommunication Union) gave an account of the work of his organization in the field of technical assistance, which had begun in 1865 with the establishment of the Union. Since 1960, it had been directly responsible for the implementation of such programmes, and had trebled its contribution under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

In view of the importance of satisfactory telecommunications for the economic and social development of Latin America, a sub-committee had been set up in 1959 as part of the ITU plan for developing the communications network in the region. ITU had acted in an advisory capacity in the preparation of the regional /telecommunications plan

telecommunications plan for the Central American countries, and had seconded two experts to Latin America to assist the different countries in preparing national and regional plans. Much greater efforts were required, however, and ITU offered its whole-hearted co-operation in the task.

Mr. LAGO (Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration) informed the meeting that the Council of ICEM had just adopted at its nineteenth session a resolution on the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Development Decade, whereby it was urged to intensify its activities in Latin America in view of the importance of the human factor in economic and social development and the need for more skilled manpower in the region. The programmes for technical co-operation and development that were already under way or in preparation covered such matters as the establishment of co-operative farms, fishing communities, the training of administrative personnel, and professional training courses. His organization was resolved to do all in its power to aid the Latin American Governments, the specialized agencies and inter-American organizations to promote the economic and social development of the region.

Mr. de ANDRADE MELLO (Brazil) supported the views expressed by the ECLA secretariat and the representative of Chile regarding the need to prolong CELADE's activities. His delegation was therefore pleased to act as co-sponsor of the relevant draft resolution on the subject.

/Mr. BINGHAM

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America), after suggesting a drafting amendment to the English text of the draft resolution on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, said that the United States supported the decentralization of United Nations technical assistance programmes in favour of the regional economic commissions, including ECLA. The regional commissions had a better understanding of the problems of the area with which they were concerned and were therefore better equipped than United Nations Headquarters to exercise authority over technical assistance programmes, particularly with respect to regional projects. In that connexion, the increase in ECLA's authority had been satisfactory.

It was essential that to the extent possible technical assistance programmes should be devised on a country programme basis and not in an abstract way. That point had been made in the ECLA document on the subject (E/CN.12/669). There was nothing inconsistent between the views expressed by ECLA in that document and the granting of greater authority to the Commission. However, the United States was also interested in strengthening the role of Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and wished to receive an assurance that their authority was not being weakened by any of the suggestions in the draft resolution. With respect to the suggestion that ECLA should have authority to shift financial support from one project to another, he wished to know whether that applied to programmes in a specific country.

/The greatest

The greatest possible share of the limited funds available should be devoted to dispatching individuals to work in the field with the country concerned. Personnel at rear echelons, so to speak, should be limited in order to avoid building up a large body of administrative staff between Headquarters and the workers in the field. It would be uneconomical for ECLA to attempt to develop all the technical supporting staff needed for experts in various fields of activity under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. United Nations Headquarters and the specialized agencies were better suited to engage in that type of activity.

Mr. ARDITI (Secretariat) said that ECLA had no desire to bypass the authority of the TAB Resident Representatives. On the contrary, the Commission was co-operating closely with them and had recently held a meeting with the Resident Representatives in Latin America at which bases had been laid down for close and effective co-operation regarding the planning and programming of technical assistance programmes in the area, from both the regional and the country project standpoint.

With respect to the delegation of financial authority to ECLA, he wished to make it clear that the suggestion in the draft resolution applied merely to the funds already allocated to each programme following discussions with Headquarters. ECLA could not use more funds than were allocated to it by Headquarters.

/Mr. BINGHAM

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) thanked Mr. Arditi for his explanation, which had reassured his delegation. On the question of transfer of funds, he asked whether the authority sought was limited to transfers from one regional project to another or whether it also included the transfer of country programme funds administered by one specialized agency to another programme administered by a different specialized agency, as well as the transfer of funds from one country programme to another.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLA) explained that technical assistance programmes administered by specialized agencies would not be affected since the suggestions regarding decentralization related exclusively to the technical assistance provided by the United Nations itself. Only regional programmes were concerned since the administration of country programmes was the responsibility of United Nations Headquarters. With respect to the transfer of funds, the suggestion applied only to transfers within a regional programme and not to the transfer of funds from one regional programme to another.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) thanked the secretariat for its explanations which concurred with the views of his delegation.

The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution on the subject would be discussed at the Committee's next meeting.

/CO-OPERATION WITH

CO-OPERATION WITH INTER-AMERICAN AGENCIES

Mr. VALDES (Secretary of the Commission) drew the Committee's attention to the ECLA document on co-operation between the secretariat of ECLA and the secretariats of the other inter-American agencies (E/CN.12/674). He reviewed the activities being carried out jointly by the various agencies concerned, and referred specifically to the financial assistance being received from the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, particularly with respect to the Latin American Institute on Economic and Social Planning.

Mr. REY ALVAREZ (Inter-American Development Bank) said that a satisfactory solution to the problem of co-operation had been found through the establishment of the OAS/IDB/ECLA Co-operation Committee. The Bank was satisfied with the work of the Committee and had appointed one of its staff members to work full time on it.

With respect to the work of the Advisory Groups established to co-operate with Governments in the field of planning, recruitment of experts had proved to be a major problem, particularly for the Advisory Groups in Peru and Paraguay. The Advisory Group in Haiti had completed its work and would shortly submit its final report to the Haitian Government.

Mr. MAGAÑA (Organization of American States) supported the views expressed by the previous speaker on the satisfactory work done by the Tripartite Committee and on the problem of recruitment for the Advisory Groups.

/ Mr. OVIEDO

Mr. OVIEDO (Paraguay) said that his Government was concerned over the fact that while its agreement with the Tripartite Committee regarding the establishment of an Advisory Group in Paraguay had been reached in 1962, not all the experts required to serve on the group had as yet been made available.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLA) said that every effort was being made to solve the problem of recruiting experts for the Advisory Groups. The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning was co-operating in those efforts. He assured the representative of Paraguay that everything was being done to fill all the posts for the Paraguay Advisory Group.

Mr. PITTALUGA (Uruguay) expressed his Government's satisfaction with the work of the Tripartite Committee. In 1961 Uruguay had reached an agreement with the Committee regarding the provision of experts to help Uruguay prepare its ten-year development plan. The experts concerned had co-operated closely with a team of Uruguayan planning experts, and their final report, together with their conclusions and recommendations, would be submitted to the Uruguayan Government within the next few days.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.

