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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
8 February 1954  
Santiago, Chile

JOINT STATEMENT ON CO-ORDINATION BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES  
OF IA-ECOSOC AND ECLA

The Executive Secretaries of the two organizations have held two meetings since the fifth session of ECLA in April 1953. A meeting was held in Washington on 24-26 June 1953 and another in Santiago on 5-6 February 1954. Between these meetings there was continuous consultation and exchange of ideas and materials concerning the work in progress.

The purpose of these meetings has been to ensure that the research and studies being pursued by the two organizations would supplement each other and that there should be mutual collaboration on special projects whenever resources are available and the best results may be achieved in this manner.

In considering these matters it is necessary to differentiate between problems of a broad character and those of a more limited scope, especially since the former are more likely to reflect areas of common interest. Such problems as economic development and inter-Latin American trade are necessarily of a very broad character and thereby of continuing importance in the development and execution of a constructive work programme for each organization.

The Executive Secretaries are in complete accord on the need and feasibility of continuous consultation as the best means of assuring effective co-ordination in the mutual development of research in these broad fields of enquiry and analysis.

In examining the specialized topics in their respective work programmes, the Executive Secretaries reviewed the projects in which they have collaborated during the past year and considered plans for further collaboration along these lines. Such collaboration includes the following projects:

a) Inter-American Training Centre of Economic and Financial Statistics.

ECLA economists participated in the seminars, particularly that on national income analysis, and in the Centre organized by the IA-ECOSOC in Santiago, Chile. It is planned that the staffs of ECLA and the Centre may from time to time hold special round-table discussions on specific statistical problems. ECLA has also indicated its strong support of any project which might be organized for further training in national income research and has offered to lend assistance insofar as its staff resources may permit.

/b) Improvement

- b) 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. In this connexion the Secretary General of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) held meetings with the ECLA staff during his recent visit to Santiago, during the course of which a number of problems were discussed and certain decisions taken with respect to future collaboration in this field. It is planned to hold a meeting of the Directors of Statistics of the Central American countries, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the ECLA Committee for Economic Co-operation in Central America. It is expected that IASI will act as the secretariat of this meeting, with the assistance of the ECLA staff.
- c) Transport problems in Central America. An expert from IA-ECOSOC participated in the seminar on this subject organized by ECLA and TAA, and has continued his collaboration in the activities pursuant to the decisions arising out of the transport meeting.
- d) Unification of Tariff 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 with the Sub-Committee on the Unification of Central American Tariff Nomenclature established by ECLA's Committee for Economic Co-operation in Central America and assisted in the preparation of a standard tariff nomenclature for that area. The second meeting of the Committee for Economic Co-operation, in October 1953, adopted a resolution setting up a Sub-Committee on Trade to continue this work by establishing a standard tariff 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 governments suitable measures for a solution to these problems. Consultations are now being held with IASI and TAA for carrying out this programme.

- e) Interamerican Centre for Vital Statistics. ECLA has collaborated with the UN Statistical Office, WHO, the PASB and the IASI in the work of this Centre.
- f) The Secretariat of IA-ECOSOC has prepared a special study on the problem of internal migration from rural areas. On the other hand, ECLA, with the assistance of other international organizations, is planning a study of the relation of migration to economic development in an area undergoing rapid economic development, in accordance with resolution 6 (IV) adopted by the fourth session. The Secretariats will consult regarding this study in which the collaboration of IA-ECOSOC is contemplated.
- g) Pursuant to a resolution adopted at the fifth session, it is contemplated that ECLA might initiate its proposed study on coffee, which would be based on previous consultations with FAO, TAA, IA-ECOSOC, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and other competent agencies that may be prepared to collaborate effectively in such a study.
- h) Maritime transport. Both ECLA and IA-ECOSOC are doing work in this field: IA-ECOSOC with particular reference to emergency problems and freight and insurance rates and ECLA in connexion with the role of shipping in inter-Latin American trade. These studies will complement each other and it has been agreed that as the work progresses, the secretariats will lend each other appropriate assistance through the exchange of materials and ideas in the execution of their respective studies.