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Fifth Committee of the Whole

Santiago, Chile

14 and 15 May 1956

CO-ORDINATION WITH THE  
INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note by the Secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America submits to the consideration of the Fifth Committee of the Whole the joint report of the secretariats of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC, as drawn up by their Co-ordinating Committee after the meetings held in Washington, D.C., on 20 and 21 December 1955, to discuss means of achieving a more effective co-ordination of the work of these two organizations.



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COORDINATION  
COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

In accordance with Resolution 31 adopted by ECLA at its Fourth Session and Resolution 32 adopted by the Second Extraordinary Meeting of IA-ECOSOC, a meeting of the Committee on Coordination at the Secretariat level between ECLA and the IA-ECOSOC was held in Washington, D.C., December 20-21, 1955, to review those projects of the two Secretariats on which cooperation and exchange of information is desirable, with particular emphasis on new projects originating from the 6th Session of ECLA and on modifications introduced in the programme of the IA-ECOSOC since the last coordination meeting held in August, 1955.

The Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC on Coordination at the Secretariat level, issued on 20 August 1955 (document E/CN.12/381), described in detail projects that are subject to arrangements on coordination. The present report therefore refers principally to new developments on these projects, as well as to new projects in the work programme of ECLA and the IA-ECOSOC which are susceptible to cooperative arrangements.

At its Sixth Session the Economic Commission for Latin America took note with satisfaction of the joint statement referred to above, expressed its appreciation of the coordination achieved at the Secretariat level, and recommended to the Secretariat that it continue to make the maximum effort to achieve the fullest possible coordination between its work and that of the IA-ECOSOC.

Improvement of Statistical Data

Both the ECLA Secretariat and the IA-ECOSOC Secretariat have continued their efforts to achieve greater statistical uniformity and to avoid any unnecessary duplication in the collection and compilation of statistical data. The statistical section of ECLA, and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) maintain a continuous exchange of information and comments on international trade statistics and other matters of common interest.

/The Subcommittee

The Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination in Central America, a subsidiary body of the Committee on Economic Cooperation in Central America, held its first meeting from 24-28 October 1955, in San Salvador. As requested by the Committee, the ECLA Secretariat has worked in close collaboration with IASI, and the UN Statistical Office, on the preparation of documentation for the Subcommittee. A representative of IASI attended the meeting and the cooperation and assistance of IASI in preparing the meeting was noted with thanks in a resolution adopted by the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee also noted in Resolution 13 (SC.2) that the Third Inter-American Statistical Conference had requested IASI to undertake a study on the experience and progress of the American States in adopting international standards in their preparation of industrial statistics. The Subcommittee suggested to IASI that, in undertaking such a study, it take into account the statements on the subject which have been requested from the Directors General of Statistics of Central America.

#### Inter-American Statistical Training

ECLA and the Inter-American Center of Economic and Financial Statistics (CIEF) have continued their previous participation in round table discussions on specific statistical problems. An arrangement is being considered, on a tentative basis, to provide students of the Center with a further short period of training at ECLA headquarters, following the conclusion of their CIEF courses.

At the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination in Central America a resolution was adopted 8 (SC.2) expressing the satisfaction of the Subcommittee for the success of the training course on statistics which operates in San Salvador and recommending that Central American Governments and IASI make efforts for the course to operate in one of the Central American countries during 1956.

#### Maritime Statistics

As indicated in the previous joint Statement, 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 IASI

whereunder IASI is requested to consult the Governments of the American States on methods by which they might be able to provide comparable maritime statistics. These consultations are now in progress. The Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination in Central America, taking note of the above resolution, proposed that, if possible, IASI initiate its study on statistics of maritime transport in the Central American Countries.

#### Subcommittee on Central American Trade

The Third Meeting of the Subcommittee on Central American trade was held in Managua from 23 to 26 November 1955. As at previous meetings a representative of IASI was in attendance. The ECLA Secretariat, IASI and the UN Statistical Office are working in close cooperation on projects under consideration by the Subcommittee, which include the application of the customs nomenclature (NAUCA), the issuance of its coding manual, the adoption of an export nomenclature (NUECA), steps to improve customs operations, and other aspects of Central American trade.

The Subcommittee, in resolution 12 (SC.1) requested the ECLA Secretariat that after taking into account the comment of Governments on the present draft text of the Customs Code and Regulations, it prepare a definitive text of the draft for the next meeting of the Subcommittee or alternatively, arrange a meeting of experts from the Central American countries to prepare, in collaboration with the UN Statistical Office and IASI, the definitive text of the draft Customs Code and Regulations. The principal interest of IASI relates in this connection to the effect on the international trade statistics of such a code.

#### Inter-Latin American Trade

The Economic Commission for Latin America at its Sixth Session decided to establish a Committee on Foreign Trade for the purpose of intensifying inter-Latin American trade. In discharging its functions, the Trade Committee will consider in detail and make full use of studies on this subject already undertaken, including those carried out by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. The first meeting of the Trade Committee will probably be convened during 1956 and in the light

of the work programme that the Committee may adopt, the Secretariat of the IA-ECOSOC will be making available to the Committee materials and reports which it has prepared in this field. Representatives of the IA-ECOSOC will be invited to attend as observers the meeting of this committee.

#### Maritime Transport

As indicated in the previous joint statement, the IA-ECOSOC work program concerning freight and insurance rates, and those of ECLA dealing with the role of shipping in inter-latin American trade, have been reviewed by the respective Secretariats. Requirements arising out of the IA-ECOSOC Resolutions on Technical training in the maritime field, inland waterway navigation, port and harbor matters, and commercial maritime laws were noted, and account was also taken of the survey of the shipping, port operations and freight rates requested by the Committee on Economic Cooperation in Central America. Appropriate assistance through the interchange of viewpoints and data, will be given by each Secretariat to the other as the respective studies are executed.

#### Commodities

Resolution 90 (VI) of the Sixth Session of ECLA requests both ECLA and FAO to make available to the Special Commission on Coffee of the IA-ECOSOC, information resulting from the studies on the coffee industry in which they are now engaged. A progress report on this project was presented to Sixth Session under document symbol E/CN.12/379. The report on a pilot study undertaken jointly by ECLA and FAO in El Salvador is now being finalized and will be put at the disposal of the Special Commission on Coffee of the IA-ECOSOC as soon as available in 1956.

As indicated in the previous joint statement, IA-ECOSOC is proceeding with work on the economic problems of banana production and marketing. The ECLA Secretariat does not contemplate any work on this subject. The IA-ECOSOC, in accordance with its Resolution 33/54, has established a Special Committee on Bananas.

### Economic Development Programming

In addition to the report "Analysis and Projection of Economic Development, Introduction to the Technique of Programming" (document E/CN.12/363), referred to in the previous joint statement on Coordination, ECLA has published preliminary texts of studies on Brazil and Colombia, respectively, in which the technique of programming contained in the general study is applied to these countries. At the request of the governments interested, ECLA is proceeding with similar studies for additional countries. The activities of the IA-ECOSOC, based on resolutions 27/53 and 54/54, which are concerned essentially with the analysis of existing development plans, deal primarily with other aspects of programming of economic development, and thus do not involve any duplication with the work of ECLA in this field. The material and information obtained by ECLA in its country studies may, however, be of use to the work of IA-ECOSOC and to this effect ECLA has made these studies and data available to the IA-ECOSOC, and will continue to do so in the future.

### Social Factors Affecting Economic Development

A resolution adopted at the Sixth Session of ECLA (82-VI) requests the ECLA Secretariat to cooperate with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the specialized agencies concerned, and the IA-ECOSOC, in the study of social factors affecting economic development. As the IA-ECOSOC has a resolution (N° XXIV of the Tenth Inter-American Conference) covering a similar field, it has been considered desirable that both Secretariats would consult each other on the work pursued and make arrangements in order to exchange data and information at the appropriate stages.

Contacts have already taken place between officials of each Secretariat dealing with social problems. The detailing to ECLA in Santiago of a staff member of the Bureau of Social Affairs of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs will ensure the necessary co-ordination, since the Bureau maintains close relation with the IA-ECOSOC Secretariat in matters of common interest.

/Housing A

### Housing

A group of three experts on financing of housing, nominated by the UN Housing Town and Country Planning Section, the IA-ECOSOC Secretariat and the ECLA Secretariat, respectively (see document E/CN.12/381), has completed a tour of nine Latin American countries. During its stay in Mexico and Chile the group benefitted from the active cooperation of the ECLA Secretariat, which also prepared a number of working papers for use of the group. The final report of the group was prepared at the CINVA in Bogota, with the assistance of the chief of the Housing and Planning Division of PAU and the chief of the UN Housing Town and Country Planning Section, respectively.

At the training course on economic development held in Bogota from August to December 1955, ECLA included, at the suggestion of IA-ECOSOC and the UN Housing Section, the subject of housing and physical planning in the curriculum of the course, and a representative of CINVA delivered a lecture on this aspect.