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REPORT ON CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

In the intervening period between the eighth session of the Commission (Panama, May 1959) and the present session there has been closer co-operation between the secretariats of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC) within the co-ordination machinery already set up, and according to the principles of flexibility agreed upon in order to develop a dynamic and beneficial procedure for the work of the two organizations.

At several meetings consideration was given to the possibility of progressively intensifying this co-operation by means of mutually satisfactory arrangements in respect to the common market, the Free-Trade Area and the trade policy of the Latin American countries as well as other vast fields which are being opened up to joint action.

#### I. The common market and the Free-Trade Area

In view of the rapid progress being made in the Latin American countries towards regional agreements, co-ordination was intensified between the two secretariats in order to provide the most effective assistance possible within the terms of reference assigned to them by the corresponding organs. At Santiago (October 1959) and Washington (December 1959), consultations were held on the Latin American common market and Free-Trade Area projects and on the Central American Economic Integration Programme.

At the last meeting, it was decided that a group of consultants should make an immediate start on a joint study on the influence of Government policy on foreign investment within a common market. Each organization appointed two consultants of high calibre, who are currently undertaking detailed and comprehensive studies in selected countries. The group has so far visited Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

The Montevideo Treaty provides that both ECLA and IA-ECOSOC shall be represented on the Committee and shall give technical co-operation to the Free-Trade Area Association. Within the framework of the agreements in force and in keeping with the prevailing spirit of co-operation, the secretariats of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC will consult each other in order to

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collaborate more effectively in carrying out this request.

## II. Co-ordination of activities in other fields

As a result of meetings held for co-ordination purposes at the headquarters of the two organizations, it was agreed that they should co-operate in the following projects.

### 1. Study of the teaching of economics in Latin America

For this project the ECLA and UNESCO secretariats will each provide one expert. OAS is willing to collaborate in so far as its programme and budget permit.

### 2. Technical assistance in housing and planning in Central America

The secretariat of OAS will provide the services of two technical experts to collaborate with the Housing, Building and Planning Sub-Committee of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, as soon as the five countries concerned have made the pertinent applications.

### 3. Analysis of economic development in Latin American countries

The Pan American Union has received applications for development studies from several Latin American countries. These studies will concentrate on the analysis of specific programmes and will be planned with a view to the formulation of economic development policy.

ECLA, too, (in co-operation with other departments and agencies of the United Nations), has a programme relating to technical advice to several Latin American Governments.

Although the purposes and scope of the two programmes differ to some extent, it was agreed - in conformity with Commission resolution 151 (VIII) - that close co-operation in the form of mutual consultation was a necessary preliminary to the initiation of the studies that would facilitate advisory assistance to individual countries. The secretariats would also interchange the findings of their research, and would consider a possible division of labour between them to avoid needless duplication of effort.

### 4. Social aspects of economic development in Latin America

UNESCO, ECLA and OAS are collaborating in the study of the social aspects of economic development in Latin America. A meeting of a working group will be held at Mexico City in December 1960 to evaluate various

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aspects of social development in relation to economic development on the basis of papers now being prepared. The group will also plan the work to be done for a Seminar on social aspects of economic development to be held in 1962.

5. Skilled labour in Latin America

In conformity with resolution 149 (VIII), adopted at the eighth session, ECLA has arranged for two meetings of representatives of the ILO, UNESCO, OAS, ICEM and ECLA to consider the best way in which to carry out this survey. OAS will also participate in the meeting which is scheduled to take place shortly in Santiago to discuss the advisability of a pilot study.