

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL  
E/CN.12/AC.50/13  
16 February 1962  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Eighth Session  
Santiago, Chile, February 1962

Resolution 217 (AC.50): DECENTRALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND STRENGTHENING OF  
THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV) and 1709 (XVI) and resolution 793 (XXX) and 823 (XXXII) of the Economic and Social Council as well as the Reports by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (E/3522) and to the General Assembly (A/4911),

Bearing in mind specially paragraph 4 of resolution 1709 (XVI) which "urges the strengthening, without delay, of the secretariats of the regional economic commissions as executive arms of the Organization in the economic and social fields, including technical assistance operations, by means of an increasing delegation to the regional secretariats of substantive and operational functions and responsibilities and the provision of the requisite resources, including personnel, while maintaining the central substantive functions, including policy guidance and co-ordination",

Bearing in mind also Economic Commission for Latin America resolution 210 (IX) together with the Note by the Executive Secretary on decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, adopted at the ninth session of the Commission,

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(a) that the Governments of the member States concur in the opinion that advantages would accrue from utilizing the services of the Commission in the economic and social fields as frequently as possible and from the decentralization of United Nations Technical Assistance activities,

(b) that the limited resources available for technical assistance projects in which the Governments of the member States are interested must be turned to the fullest possible account and that consequently the knowledge and experience accumulated by the Commission's secretariat should be drawn upon as fully as possible in the selection, execution and evaluation of technical assistance projects in order to ensure the maximum utilization of available resources,

(c) that the Secretariat of the Commission should be given the requisite resources to enable it to carry out such activities with the necessary efficiency,

1. Decides to take note with satisfaction of resolution 1518 (XV) and 1709 (XVI) of the General Assembly and resolution 793 (XXX) and 823 (XXXII) of the Economic and Social Council;

2. Expresses its gratitude for the measures which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have adopted to decentralize United Nations economic and social activities and to strengthen the regional economic commissions;

3. Expresses its appreciation of the views of the Secretary-General on the intensified participation of the regional economic commissions in the United Nations economic and social activities and on the need to increase their staff resources;

4. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he take the necessary measures to ensure that the Commission's secretariat has the requisite authority and sufficient technical personnel at the appropriate time to enable it to fulfil its functions efficiently with regard to the decentralization of economic and social activities and with regard to the services required of it by the Governments of member States in connexion with the selection, execution and evaluation of Technical Assistance projects.

16 February 1962