



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.12/AC.16/SR.6

14 February 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL : SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH SESSION

Held at the Hotel Carrera, Santiago, Chile on

Thursday 14 February 1952, at 4.25 p.m.

SUMMARY.

1. Priorities in the Work Programme
2. Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council
3. Closing speeches
4. Chairman's closing remarks

## PRESENT:

Chairman	Mr. BALTRA CORTES	Chile
Vice Chairmen	Mr. LERENA	Argentina
	Mr. ARMENDARIZ del CASTILLO	Mexico
Rapporteur	Mr. ROMERO MARTINEZ	Nicaragua
Members	Mr. ARGENTO	Argentina
	Mr. VALDES HERTZOG	Bolivia
	Mr. ARANHA PEREIRA	Brasil
	MR. HERNANDEZ FORTELA	Cuba
	Mr. RIOSECO	Chile
	Mr. CORSINO CARDENAS	Ecuador
	Mr. SMITH	United States
	Mr. LEPREVOST	France
	Mr. ORDONEZ PANLAGUA	Guatemala
	Mr. MALEBRANCHE	Haiti
	Mr. KASTEEL	Netherlands
	Mr. FERNANDEZ PUYO	Peru
	Mr. PATERSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
		Ireland
	Dominican Republic	
	Uruguay	
	Venezuela	
Organization of American States	Dr. TAYLOR	Executive Secretary
Representatives of specialized agencies	Mr. KOULISCHER	International Labour Office
	Mr. AKKAR	
	Mr. FOLETE TRONCOSO	
	Mr. BARR	Food and Agricultural Organization
	Mr. BUZETA	International Civil Aviation Organization
	Mr. ESTABLIER	UNESCO
Representatives of non-governmental organizations	Category A: Mr. VARGAS FUEBLA	World Federation of Trade Unions
	Category B: Mr. LEVRERO	South American Petroleum Institute

/Secretariat

Secretariat:	Mr. PREBISCH Mr. BLOCH	Executive Secretary Representative of Mr. Owen, Assistant Secretary in charge of Economic Affairs and of the Director General of TAA
	Mr. SWENSON	Assistant Director
	Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary of the Committee

#### PRIORITIES IN THE WORK PROGRAMME

The CHAIRMAN declared the meeting open at 4.25 p.m. and submitted for consideration the draft resolution presented by the Cuban Delegation (Conference Room Paper No. 10) approving priorities in the ECLA Work Programme, as set forth in its fourth Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council,

Mr. HERNANDEZ FORTELA (CUBA) explained that the draft resolution which he had presented was the outcome of the discussions of both the Committee of the Whole and the Working Group and thought that it would be sufficient to read it and put it to the vote without further discussion.

Mr. SMITH (UNITED STATES) supported the said draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN put the draft resolution to the vote.

The resolution on the Priorities in the Work Programme was adopted.

#### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Provisional Draft Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.12/AC.16/15) was before the Committee for consideration. He said that the English translation of that document had already been distributed, but that the Spanish text was not yet ready.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that the delay in distributing the Spanish text was due to the fact that the results of the discussions held that morning had been incorporated therein.

The CHAIRMAN suspended the session for ten minutes, until the Spanish text had been distributed.

The meeting was resumed at 4.45 p.m. and the CHAIRMAN stated that the Provisional Draft Annual Report was up for discussion.

Mr. LERENA (ARGENTINA), Mr. ARRENDARIZ del CASTILLO (MEXICO), Mr. VALDES (BOLIVIA) and Mr. HERNANDEZ FORTELA (CUBA) expressed their approval of the Report.

Mr. VALDES (BOLIVIA) stated that his Delegation wished to place on record "its satisfaction at the manner in which the Meeting had been

/organized

organized, its congratulations to the Executive Secretary and to the Assistant Director and all their worthy collaborators of the ECLA staff for the excellent work they have done during the 1951/52 period and its appreciation of the valuable contribution made by ECLA to the economic development of these countries".

Mr. SMITH (UNITED STATES) said that he wished to congratulate the Executive Secretary on the splendid work done and on the rapidity with which the Draft Provisional Annual Report had been completed. He added that in reading through the report he had only found a few minor errors which he trusted the Secretariat would correct.

Mr. KASTEEL (NETHERLANDS) said that he wished to associate himself with everything that the Representatives of Bolivia, Cuba, Mexico and the United States had said.

The CHAIRMAN put the Draft Provisional Annual Report to the vote.

The Draft Provisional Annual Report of ECLA to the Economic and Social Council was unanimously approved.

Mr. DE PENA (URUGUAY) stated that he heartily endorsed the congratulations extended by the representatives who had spoken before him and said that they should also be extended to all grades of the ECLA staff.

#### CLOSING SPEECHES

Mr. CHARVET (FRANCE) expressed his satisfaction at the speed and efficiency with which the Committee had dealt with the Agenda and at the fact that ECLA continued to be one of the international organizations in which maximum results are obtained at a minimum cost. He extended his country's thanks to the Executive Secretary. Referring to the documentation prepared by ECLA, he said that it has reached such proportions that no doubt it would soon be possible to call it the Economic Bible of Latin America. He reiterated the pleasure with which the French Delegation viewed ECLA'S growing interest in technical assistance and reminded the delegates that France, having had to carry out many technical assistance activities in its under-developed territories, had built up a considerable force of technicians and experts, for which reason she could contribute usefully to the work of ECLA in this field.

He stressed the importance amongst the problems dealt with at this Meeting of that relating to newsprint and printing paper and the Commission's interest in carrying out in conjunction with UNESCO a study of measures

/ designed to increase

designed to increase available supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials.

Mr. ARANHA FERREIRA (BRAZIL) after excusing himself for speaking in imperfect Spanish, due to the fact that Portuguese was not yet an official and working language of ECLA, expressed his hope that the work of the Commission would prove of great benefit to Brazil in view of the huge and as yet partly undeveloped resources of his country. He referred to the careful, accurate and realistic work of the Executive Secretary and commended his proposal to establish goals for the economic development programmes and to recommend measures to stimulate economic factors. He declared that his Government assigned the greatest importance to the next ECLA Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro and expressed the pleasure with which Brazil would receive the delegates to whom her most cordial hospitality would be extended.

Mr. CARDENAS (ECUADOR) said that he was privileged to address the meeting by kind invitation of the Chairman, who, as he understood it, wished to show in this way his appreciation of the interest with which Ecuador regarded international cooperation and the respect with which she looks upon the principles of the United Nations and its regional and specialized agencies. He recognized that the success achieved by the Committee of the Whole at this meeting was due as much to the spirit of democratic solidarity of the nations represented as to the careful preparation of its Agenda and working material by the ECLA Secretariat under the capable direction of the Executive Secretary and to the Chairman's able leadership.

He added that ECLA's work in examining the difficulties which impede the adequate economic development of the nations of this continent and the improvement in the living standards of their peoples and in determining the way in which those obstacles can be removed, was a generous task which deserved the unrestricted support of the governments and peoples of the countries forming part of ECLA. In conclusion, he said that only by working together under the guidance of agencies such as ECLA, TAA, UNESCO and other such bodies, would it be possible to surmount in this part of the world the obstacles which hamper peace and progress.

Mr. ORDONEZ (GUATEMALA) stressed the excellent guidance given to this meeting of the Committee of the Whole by the Executive Secretary and said  
/that all the staff

that all the staff from the experts down to the most junior typist had cooperated in a most exemplary manner in its success. He added that the Latin American countries are now conscious of the importance of economic development and are eagerly awaiting the results of this meeting. He considered that one of the most important resolutions adopted was that which definitely put on record that the role of ECLA is not only to draw up theoretical studies but also to participate actively in practical questions in cooperation with the governments concerned. He alluded particularly to the ECLA work programme on the economic integration of the Central American countries and expressed his confidence that that study would be the basis for far-reaching developments for the five nations concerned, firstly in the economic sphere and later politically. He also pointed out the growing importance of ECLA's role in the application of United Nations technical assistance programmes. He then drew a broad outline of the specific problems which ECLA is to tackle in the near future, such as the seminar on the iron and steel industry, the study of agricultural credit in the Central American countries and the one which this Committee had decided to have prepared regarding transportation and power, saying that this latter was a problem which was stifling the development of the Latin American peoples. He also stressed ECLA's interest in the problem of production, distribution and consumption of paper and newsprint in Latin America. In conclusion, he thanked the delegates for having allowed two non-government organizations recognized by the United Nations, both of them federations of labour unions, to state their hopes and aspirations before the Committee and congratulated the Executive Secretary on the success of this meeting.

Mr. MALEBRANCHE (HAITI) extended hearty and sincere congratulations to the Executive Secretary on his Annual Report which he considered to be an illustrative and brilliant document. He congratulated Dr. Prebisch personally, together with his collaborators and also the Chairman for the very able manner in which he had conducted the meeting and expressed his wish that the fruitful work of ECLA might be extended more and more for the benefit of the Latin American peoples.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY stated that he only wished to say a few words expressing his gratitude to the delegates for their encouraging speeches. He stressed that it was his pleasant duty to point out that /they were equally

they were equally deserved by his collaborators, particularly the Assistant Director; Mr. Louis Swenson. He added that some delegates had made reference to his personal ideas and without denying that he had contributed some, he assured the delegates that if a body of doctrinal thought was in process of formation at ECLA to interpret Latin American economic reality and guide practical action, it was only the result of the work of an enthusiastic group having faith in their ideas.

He concluded by saying that he did not wish to become unreceptive to the ideas of others and that at time he had changed his mind due to the influence of the thinking of the men working with him.

Mr. BLOCH (Director of the Fiscal Division) said that he would personally transmit to the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs and the Director General of Technical Assistance Administration, Messrs. Owen and Keeleyside, respectively, the very favourable impression which he had gained of the work and results of this meeting, and of the spirit of harmony and cooperation which had characterized it. He added that the warm tributes to the Executive Secretary had caused him the greatest satisfaction, more so as, to a certain extent, they were also extended to the United Nations Organization itself.

#### CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The CHAIRMAN closed the meeting with the following words: "Gentlemen, before closing the discussions of this Committee of the Whole, the Chair wishes to thank you all most sincerely for your cooperation. That cooperation has enabled us, in a comparatively brief space of time, to deal with our Agenda. The Chair also wishes to thank the Executive Secretary and all his collaborators for their help. The Chair is sure that this meeting of the Committee of the Whole marks a further advance towards the goal of economic development which we are pursuing. Thank you very much, gentlemen. The meeting is now closed".

THE MEETING ROSE AT 17.35 O'CLOCK.

Conference Room Paper 1  
OUT OF STOCK  
See SPANISH:

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION PRESENTADO POR LA DELEGACION DE BOLIVIA.

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room. Paper No. 2  
12 February 1952

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

DRAFT RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE CUBAN DELEGATION

The Committee of the Whole of ECLA

CONSIDERING

1. That by resolution 374(XIII) of the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Regional Commissions share in the task of studying and investigating forestry development and the utilization of forest resources in relation to the manufacture of newsprint,
2. That the ECLA Secretariat is working in co-operation with FAO on a preliminary report which deals with wood pulp and paper in Latin America,
3. That the representative of UNESCO has indicated the interest of the Organization which he represents as regards the same problem and has offered their collaboration in the work being done in connexion with this subject by ECLA,

AGREES

1. To take note of resolution 374(XIII) of the Economic and Social Council and document E/CN.12/AC.16/7 submitted by the Executive Secretary
2. To take note likewise of the Executive Secretary's statement in his Progress Report (document E/CN.12/AC.16/2/Rev.1) on the wood pulp and paper study
3. Expresses its concern over the shortage of newsprint and printing paper in Latin America
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue the studies which are being prepared and which deal with the manufacture of paper and wood pulp in Latin America and, furthermore, that in the foreign trade studies, account should be taken of the problem of newsprint and printing paper imports.
5. To thank UNESCO for its offer to co-operate with ECLA in the research into these problems and to recommend that the Executive Secretary consult with the Director General of UNESCO as to the best method of co-ordinating the work on this subject.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room. Paper No. 3  
13 February 1952  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

TRANSPORTATION AND POWER IN LATIN AMERICA  
BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR: JOINT DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

CONSIDERING that, from the first meetings of the Commission, the Member Governments have insisted on the importance of transportation and power in economic development;

CONSIDERING that no special studies have been made on these subjects and that their preparation would be an effective contribution to the formulation of economic development plans and programmes;

DECIDES to request the Executive Secretary that he should, in relation to the economic development of Latin America, carry out studies in the nature of "special works" on:

- (a) Transport problems, including working conditions and mechanization of Latin American ports and their comparative operating costs;
- (b) Power supplies and requirements.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room Paper No.4  
13 February 1952

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE WORKING COMMITTEE  
MADE UP OF THE DELEGATIONS OF BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, MEXICO  
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH REGARD TO  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America

1. TAKES NOTE with interest of the statement made by the Executive Secretary with regard to the joint activities of ECLA and TAA (document E/CN.12/AC.16/3);
2. TAKES NOTE of the report prepared by TAA with regard to technical assistance activities in Latin America (document E/CN.12/AC.16/4);
3. RE-ASSERTS the recommendations contained in resolution 12(IV), (document E/2021) approved by the Commission during its Fourth Session;
4. RECOMMENDS SPECIALLY that the Secretariat, following resolution 12(IV), co-operate with the Latin American governments in preparing, jointly or separately, specific requests for technical assistance with a view to carrying out a study of mineral resource potentialities in the interested countries.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room Paper No. 5  
13 February 1952

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

DRAFT RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM  
ON AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the rules of procedure of the regional commissions be amended regarding the dates and places of their sessions (resolution 414(XIII) C.1, paragraph (4);

DECIDES to amend its rules of procedure as follows:

For Rule 1 and for Rule 2 as they now read the following shall be substituted:

For Rule 1

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council, and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive-Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

(b) In special cases the date and place of the sessions may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session.

For Rule 2

The Commission's recommendation regarding the place of meeting for its session shall be taken with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER No. 6

13 February 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION PRESENTED BY THE URUGUAYAN  
DELEGATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE USE OF PORTUGUESE AS AN  
OFFICIAL WORKING LANGUAGE

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America ,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the favourable views expressed by various delegates with regard to the statements made by the Brazilian delegate during the meeting of the Committee of the Whole on February 13, with a view to the permanent adoption of Portuguese as an official working language, by the Economic Commission for Latin America and,

CONSIDERING that the Economic Commission for Latin America at its meeting in Mexico approved a resolution [No.29(IV), document E/CN.12/268] referring to the adoption of Portuguese as an official working language and taking into account the considerations expressed in the aforementioned resolution,

RESOLVES to recommend the permanent adoption of Portuguese as an official working language of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Committee of the Whole

Conference Room Paper No.7  
13 February 1952

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

EFFECTS OF THE EUROPEAN PAYMENTS UNION ON  
LATIN AMERICA

Draft Resolution presented by Argentina.

The Committee of the Whole of ECLA,

CONSIDERING

1. That the document known as "Implications of the European Payments Union for Latin America" is of great importance,
2. That this document may have a great influence on the study of the economic development of Latin American countries.

REQUESTS

That the study of the repercussions of the European Payments Union be included in the Work Programme of the Secretariat for 1953.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Committee of the Whole.

Conference Room Paper No.8  
13 February 1952  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE CUBAN DELEGATION

The Cuban Delegation proposes a modification in document E/CN.12/AC.16/11/Rev.1 "Work Programme and Priorities for 1952-1953" adding under (f), after the paragraph which reads: "To eliminate from the Work Programme the 'Inquiry on facilities for training of economists in Latin America'", the following paragraph: "It is nevertheless understood that the Economic Commission for Latin America will continue to consider the training of economists in Latin America as one of its important activities, and will take all relevant steps in that direction."

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room Paper No. 9  
14 February 1952

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Financial Implications of Draft Resolution  
on the use of Portuguese as an official and  
working language

The Commission's resolution at the Fourth Session on this subject will be found on page 129 of Document E/2021 (Report of the Fourth Session of the Commission). It is understood that the offer made by the Brazilian delegation and referred to in the third paragraph of the resolution related to interpretation facilities at the Fifth Session of the Commission in Rio de Janeiro. Provided that the additional facilities are provided by the Brazilian Government, no additional financial costs are involved for this Session.

However, for the full use of Portuguese as a permanent official and working language of the Commission, the estimated cost would be \$9,200.- above the present costs of each session and for documentation purposes during the year's work further costs would arise, estimated at \$34,000.- The total annual cost for future years (after 1953) may therefore be estimated at \$43,200.- per annum.

These figures were presented by the Secretary-General to the Thirteenth Session of the Economic and Social Council (Document E/2112, pages 6 and 7). This financial implication should cover the additional costs arising from the draft resolution which is before the Committee of the Whole.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Conference Room Paper No.10  
13 February 1952

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

DRAFT RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE  
CUBAN DELEGATION

THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,  
RECOGNIZING the necessity for utilizing available resources in the most  
economical manner and for co-ordinating its activities with other United  
Nations bodies;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the report of the Co-ordination Committee to the  
Council (E/2121), in particular paragraph 11;

HAVING CONSIDERED the statement of the Executive Secretary on Work  
Programme and Priorities 1953 (document E/CN.12/AC.16/11/Rev.1);

HAVING CONSIDERED the statement of the Executive Secretary on Financial  
Implications relative to the draft resolutions proposed for adoption by the  
Committee of the Whole;

EXPRESSES its approval of the Work Programme and priorities as set  
forth in its Fourth Annual Report to the Council.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS 1 - 4

ONLY SPANISH:

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Committee of the Whole

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS  
Monday, 11 February 1952  
Santiago

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
11.30 a.m.	Heads of Delegations Meeting	Delegate's Conference Room Third Floor. Hotel Carrera
12.00 a.m.	Plenary meeting opening session	Salón Sur. Hotel Carrera
	Opening address by His Excellency Mr. Eduardo Yrarrazaval Concha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile.	
	Address by His Excellency Mr. Ramiro Hernández Portela, Ambassador of Cuba in Chile.	
	Address by Mr. Henry S. Bloch, Director of the Fiscal Division, representative of the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs and the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration.	
	Election of the Chairman.	
4.00 p.m.	Plenary meeting	Salón Sur. Hotel Carrera.
	Election of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur	
	Adoption of the Agenda	
	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Raúl Prebisch, Principal Director.	
	Consideration of programme of work related to economic development as presented in the Progress Report, document E/CN.12/AC. 16/2/Rev. 1.	

ORDAY/AC.16/2  
12 February 1952

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Committee of the Whole

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS  
Tuesday, 12 February 1952  
Santiago

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
10.00 a.m.	Discussion of the following items of the Agenda:	Salón Sur - Hotel Carrera
	3. Technical Assistance for Economic Development:	
	a) Joint ECLA/TAA Activities Statement by the Executive Secretary on objectives, organization and programme of activities of the ECLA Centre for Economic Development (document E/CN.12/AC.16/3).	
	b) Report on activities in the region undertaken under the United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance (document E/CN.12/AC.16/4).	
	4. Economic Integration of Central American Countries. Note by the Executive Secretary on the status of the preliminary study and on planned activities (document E/CN.12/AC.16/5).	
	5. Production and Distribution of Newsprint and Printing Paper in Latin America. (Resolution 374(XIII) of the Economic and Social Council - document E/CN.12/AC.16/6). Note by the Executive Secretary on the present situation (current production and imports and apparent consumption requirements, and on the status of the joint ECLA/FAO study on pulp and paper in Latin America (document E/CN.12/AC.16/7)).	

ORDAY/AC.16/3  
13 February 1952

UNITED NATIONS  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Committee of the Whole

ORDER OF THE DAY  
Wednesday 13 February 1952  
Santiago

<u>Time</u>		<u>Place</u>
16 o'clock	Plenary session of the Committee	Salón Sur Hotel Carrera

Items

1. Draft resolution submitted by the Delegation of Bolivia, concerning joint ECLA/TAA activities.
2. Draft resolution submitted by the Delegation of Cuba on the production and distribution of newsprint and printing paper.
3. Action by the Economic and Social Council with respect to ECLA (resolution 414 (XIII)).  
Note by the Executive Secretary (document E/CN.12/AC.16/8).
4. Progress Report on Co-ordination between ECLA and the IA/ECOSOC. Joint statement by the Executive Secretaries of ECLA and IA/ECOSOC (document E/CN.12/AC.16/9).
5. Priorities in the Work Programme (resolution 402 (XIII), - document E/CN.12/AC.16/10).

Statement by the Executive Secretary on the work programme and priorities for 1952-1953, to be presented during the meeting (document E/CN.12/AC.16/11/Rev.2)  
Report of the Working Group on the work programme and priorities for 1952-1953.

Draft resolution submitted by the Delegations of Bolivia and Ecuador concerning studies on transportation and power.

14 February 1952

## UNITED NATIONS

Economic Commission for Latin America  
Committee of the Whole

## ORDER OF THE DAY

Thursday, 14 February 1952  
Santiago

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Place</u>
10.00 a.m.	Plenary Session	Salón Sur Hotel Carrera
	1. <u>Pending draft resolutions:</u>	
	a) Technical Assistance (Conf. Room Paper N° 4).	
	b) Changes in Rules of Procedure (Conf. Room Paper N° 5).	
	c) Use of Portuguese as an official and working language (Conf. Room Paper N° 6).	
	d) Implications of the European Payments Union for Latin America (Conf. Room Paper N° 7).	
	e) Amendment to document on Work Programme and Priorities (Conf. Room Paper N° 8).	
	2. <u>Priorities in the work programme:</u>	
	Resolution 402 (XIII) (document E/CN.12/AC.16/10).	
	Statement by the Executive Secretary on the work programme and priorities for 1952-1953 (document E/CN.12/AC.16/11/Rev.1)	
	Statement on financial implications for 1953 (document E/CN.12/AC.16/16).	
	3. Examination and approval of the Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council. Provisional draft. (Document E/CN.12/AC.16/15).	
4.00 p.m.	Continuation of discussion on items left pending from the morning session.	

s/s.

ONLY SPANISH:

DISCURSO PRONUNCIADO POR EL SEÑOR ALBERTO BALTRA CORTES EN LA  
SESION INAUGURAL DEL COMITE PLENARIO DE LA COMISION ECONOMICA  
PARA AMERICA LATINA.

ADDRESS BY MR. H.S.BLOCH, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,  
SANTIAGO, 11 February 1952

Mr. A.D.K. Owen, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, has asked me to convey to you his best wishes for a very successful meeting and his regrets that he is unable to attend the present session of the Committee of the Whole of your Commission. I also bring to you the good wishes of Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration.

My brief contact with the people of this beautiful and hospitable country has allowed me to appreciate their energy and to admire their determination to overcome the difficulties which have hampered their economic development. I have also been deeply impressed by their faith in the action of the United Nations in the field of technical assistance.

The words of the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs demonstrate the interest and the enthusiasm shown for the work of the United Nations by the Government and people of Chile. This country has always taken an outstanding part in the work of the United Nations and the Economic Commission which is gathered here as a Committee of the Whole has also received its constant and definite support.

The constant demonstrations of interest by the Government and people of Chile in the work of the United Nations has recently culminated with the Government's generous gesture in sending to the National Congress a draft law, under which the Economic Commission would be provided with permanent and suitable offices for its operations in this beautiful capital.

After the meeting of your Commission at Mexico City last year, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Economic Commission for Latin America, along with the other regional commissions, should be continued indefinitely. This action of the Council brings into bold relief the growing importance of the regional bodies as centres for concerted inter-governmental action in the solution of the economic problems which confront the region. More recently, in the debates of the current session of the General Assembly, the regional commissions

/have also received

have also received the full support of the governments. A resolution passed by the Assembly noted with satisfaction the work which is being done by the regional economic commissions and fully endorsed the decision of the Council to continue them. It is therefore appropriate to mention briefly the significance to the United Nations of the results achieved by your Commission.

When the Economic and Social Council established the Commission and defined its terms of reference, it acknowledged the interest of the governments of the Latin American countries in the raising of the standards of living of their peoples and the development of their economies. ECLA has from the very beginning directed its major effort toward the furtherance of economic development, and the progress of its activities has, since that time, served to strengthen its initial orientation.

In carrying out its functions, the Commission has examined the problems of the individual countries, with a view to elucidating the common problems which face the countries of the area. Thus, the lessons learned from those experiences furnished the basis for undertaking the analysis of common problems from a regional viewpoint. The progress of its work further led the Commission to expand the scope of its activities, by considering long-term as well as short-term development problems, and by placing added emphasis on the consideration of concrete problems leading to practical action. These developments enhanced the effectiveness of the Commission in the analysis and dissemination of economic information and stimulated a growing consciousness of the significance of economic development among the Latin American countries. We believe that this is one of the principles which have guided the thinking and achievements of the Commission and which, I personally might add, has for many years characterized the work of its Executive Secretary.

The growing importance of the Commission to its member governments and their support were manifest in the resolutions adopted during the fourth session which preceded the review of ECLA's activities by the Economic and Social Council. The Council was not unmindful of these facts when it adopted the decision to continue the Commission. Moreover, in approving the amendments to the terms of reference of ECLA which your Commission had recommended, the Council emphasized once again the weight which it attaches to your work in the fields of economic development and technical assistance.

In the implication of the mandate laid down in its terms of reference,

/your Commission has

your Commission has come into close contact with the Specialized Agencies and other international organizations concerned with economic questions in Latin America. It is highly satisfactory to note that in questions of mutual interest their relations have been conducted in a spirit of co-operation and that arrangements for further co-operation and co-ordination of effort have been concluded.

As the technical assistance work in Latin America has expanded, the role and the responsibilities of the Commission have also become more important. The Commission has made a significant contribution in drawing to the attention of the governments in the region the nature of the assistance which the United Nations can furnish by aiding economic development and by improving administrative techniques, at the request of the governments or groups of governments concerned. The requests which have come forth from Latin American governments have been in general well balanced and broadly conceived and show that the countries are alert to the need that technical assistance from international organizations be effectively integrated with the general development efforts of the countries.

The intensification of the functions of your Commission in the field of economic development, following upon the resolutions adopted at its fourth session, and its interest in the dissemination of technical knowledge, will assume special significance with respect to the development of relations which have already been established with the Technical Assistance Administration. The arrangements for co-operation with the Technical Assistance Administration, which now have a firm basis in the recently revised terms of reference of the Commission, will undoubtedly contribute to a fuller realization of the possibilities that technical assistance offers in furthering the economic development of the region.

It may be permissible to add that the consideration of the economic problems of Latin America was facilitated by the relevant information and analysis prepared by the Secretariat, in carrying out the directives received from the Commission. I have mentioned this aspect of your activities because of the continuous interest shown by the Commission in promoting the training of economists in Latin America. In this respect a significant step was taken at the fourth session of ECLA when the Commission recommended the establishment at the Headquarters of the Commission, of the ECLA Centre for Economic Development, designed to facilitate the dissemination of the experience and knowledge acquired by the Secretariat in the course of its work to other

/Latin American Economists,

Latin American Economists, by means of the provision of scholarships or fellowships or through seminars and meetings centred around specific problems. I am confident that the results of this initiative will fully justify the hopes of the Commission.

The present session of the Committee of the Whole is the first meeting of ECLA since the Economic and Social Council re-affirmed its confidence in the accomplishments of the regional economic commissions, and takes place in the same hospitable country where the first session of your Commission was held. Nearly four years have passed since those initial meetings and your Commission has, in that time, achieved significant results. Mr. Owen and I both feel certain that your deliberations will bring new contributions to the work of the Commission and will facilitate further the development of its work in the interests of the governments and peoples of its member countries.