



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Fifth Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Santiago, Chile

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held in the Conference Room of the Economic Commission  
for Latin America at Santiago, Chile, on Monday,  
14 May 1956, at 10.30 a.m.

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- Address by Mr. Enrique O. Barbosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile
- Reply on behalf of the Delegations by Mr. José de J. Núñez y Domínguez
- Statement by the Executive Secretary

/PRESENT:

## PRESENT:

Acting Chairman: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Members

Mr. DE LAFERRERE	Argentina
Mr. ITURRALDE CHINEL	Bolivia
Mr. FRAZAO	Brazil
Mr. VILDOSOLA AGUIRRE	Chile
Mr. MANOTAS	Colombia
Mr. GOICOECHEA QUIROS	Costa Rica
Mr. HERNANDEZ FORTELA	Cuba
Mr. BAEHR	Dominican Republic
Mr. CHIRIBOGA	Ecuador
Mr. LINDO	El Salvador
Mr. DE CROUY-CHANEL	France
Mr. UNDA MURILLO	Guatemala
Mr. MERCERON	Haiti
Mr. COELLO	Honduras
Mr. NUÑEZ Y DOMINGUEZ	Mexico
Mr. VAN DER GAAG	Netherlands
Mr. VALDES	Panama
Sir Charles EMPSON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. SANDERS	United States of America
Mr. DE PENA	Uruguay
Mr. GONZALEZ VALE	Venezuela

Also present:

Mr. ENRIQUE O. BARBOSA Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Chile

Representatives of Member States of the United Nations,  
non-members of the Commission, attending in a consultative  
capacity:

Mr. ALMASY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. LAJOS	Hungary
Mr. MANCINI	Italy
Mr. ARAGONES VILA	Spain

/Representatives of

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ABOUGHANEM	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. SACO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Mr. CARLSON	International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mr. TAYLOR	Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC)
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Representatives of a non-governmental organization:Category A:

Mr. OTERO BORLAFF	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
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Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary
Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary of the Commission
Mr. LEUSCHNER	Technical Assistance Administration (TAA)

/OPENING ADDRESS

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE, MR. ENRIQUE O. BARBOSA 1/

Mr. BARBOSA, in the name of his Government, said that he had pleasure in opening the Fifth Committee of the Whole Meeting. In connexion with the progress report, he mentioned the Central American Economic Integration Programme, the establishment of the Regional Centre for Demographic Research and Training and the creation of a Trade Committee. He stressed the importance of the decentralization of United Nations technical assistance activities as well as the efforts to achieve greater co-ordination and co-operation between ECLA and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council; and, finally, wished the Committee all success in its work.

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS BY MR. J. NUÑEZ Y DOMINGUEZ 2/

Mr. NUÑEZ Y DOMINGUEZ (Mexico) thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his attendance and the Executive Secretary for his efforts to promote the economic and social progress of the Latin American countries. If the work accomplished to date by the Commission had proved inadequate, it would still deserve gratitude for having pointed out that the resources of these countries required to be exploited on a scientific and economic basis.

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY 3/

Mr. PREBISCH (Executive Secretary) expressed his gratitude to the Chilean Government for its continued support, which had once again taken practical shape in the offer of a building site in Las Condes to accommodate the United Nations agencies and dependencies located in Santiago. He also thanked the representative of Mexico for his allusions to ECLA's work, and welcomed the delegations, the observers and the representative of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council.

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1/ See Information document No. 1.

2/ See Information document No. 3.

3/ See Information document No. 2.

/The Executive

The Executive Secretary commented briefly on the most recent and significant economic developments in Latin America, stressing, inter alia, the expansion of exports in several countries as a result of change in policy aimed at solving balance of payments disequilibria. In this connexion, he mentioned the cases of Chile, Brazil and Argentina. Owing to the price and exchange policy pursued by the Latin American countries, opportunities for such expansion had been allowed to go by. That phenomenon was caused by unleashing inflation and trying at the same time to curb its consequences by artificial means. The basic solution lay in a real and effective improvement of productivity and in co-operation from foreign capital.

With respect to ECLA's work programme, he reviewed some new activities such as the initiation of studies on the social aspects of economic development, the establishment of a Regional Centre for Demographic Research and Training, the creation of the Trade Committee, the greater participation of ECLA in technical assistance activities owing to the decentralization of these latter, the study on Argentina - with the collaboration of FAO, TAA and the Institute of Agricultural Sciences of the OAS - and the study on economic development in Bolivia. Among projects already under way, he mentioned the progress achieved in the Central American Economic Integration Programme and the background studies and preparation for the coming meeting of iron and steel experts.

Finally, Mr. PREBISCH spoke of the Economic Bulletin and Economic Survey of Latin America, 1955. He admitted that the latter had not been appearing as early as planned, but pointed out that the causes could not at present be obviated and suggested that the delegations should authorize the postponement of the date of distribution of this Survey until 30 April of each year.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.