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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole
Eleventh session

Santiago, Chile, 10 to 12 May 1966

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at ECLA Headquarters, Santiago, Chile, on
Wednesday, 11 May 1966, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador)

later: Mr. SILVA (Chile)

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- Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning
(concluded)
- Technical assistance activities in Latin America
- Other business

Corrections to this summary record should be written in one of the two working languages of the Commission (Spanish or English), preferably on a mimeographed copy of the record, and sent to the Editorial Section, through Miss Juana Eyzaguirre, Conference Officer, by 13 May 1966, at the latest.

LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (concluded)

Mr. DUNGAN (United States of America) endorsed the draft resolution on the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (Conference Room Paper No. 1/Rev.1) and expressed his Government's full support of the Institute's effort to ensure that the technical assistance given to various countries be co-ordinated with the work of other international institutions, and hoped that its efforts to conduct research in the social aspects of development would be strengthened. He also felt that the Institute's studies might usefully include institutional and managerial research as well.

Mr. LISETTE (France) stressed the importance of the Institute's work in connexion with training, research and technical assistance to Governments, and the useful purpose that its new course for trade union leaders would serve in creating a favourable climate for planned development in which all sectors of the population would have their part to play. Planning and programming in Latin America should represent a doctrine to which both the working and entrepreneurial sectors should adhere in the interests of regional development. His Government therefore supported, and would continue to support, the Institute's fruitful activities, in so far as its resources would allow.

Mr. NAVAS (Nicaragua) endorsed the draft resolution and requested that his delegation should be included among the sponsors.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution on the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, presented by the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Conference Room Paper No. 1/Rev.1).

/The draft

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Mr. ARDITI (Secretariat) said that in 1965 the United Nations Development Programme had contributed approximately 1 million dollars towards financing regional technical assistance projects for which the administrative, operational and executive responsibility was shouldered by the ECLA secretariat. Those projects included the programme for training demographers and for providing advisory assistance to Governments at present being carried out by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE).

The funds made available under the Development Programme had served to finance the services of many experts and to hold two regional meetings in 1965, one on national accounts and the other on trade and development policy. At the first meeting, a study had been made of the proposal to expand and revise the United Nations System of National Accounts and to bring it into line with the conditions prevailing in the developing countries. At the second meeting, a group of high-level experts in trade and development had discussed and examined, in general terms, the recent evolution, present position and prospects in respect of Latin America's trade relations with the rest of the world, and the trade policy measures it would be advisable to adopt in the light of that examination. In particular, consideration had been given to the trade position and prospects in respect of Latin America's exports of primary commodities and manufactures, in the light of the resolutions adopted at the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the events that had taken place since the Conference which were of immediate concern to the Latin American countries. In that way, practical effect was given to Trade Committee resolution 18(IV) and ECLA resolution 253(XI). In 1965 ECLA had had recourse to the services of some fifty regional advisers on economic development programming, social affairs, industry, trade policy, natural resources and energy, transport, statistics and public administration. In addition to the advisers whose services were financed by the United Nations Development Programme, other experts were

/made available

made available by various specialized agencies of the United Nations - in particular, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) in conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) - and other organizations including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The development of techniques for the provision of technical assistance to the developing countries had culminated some years ago in the practice of recruiting regional advisers who could, within a brief period, issue over-all recommendations in the economic and social fields. At the same time, the need became apparent for high-level experts who could carry out short-term missions to satisfy the urgent needs of Governments. Conscious of those needs, the United Nations General Assembly had indicated in its resolution on the decentralization of economic and social activities the necessity of assigning regional technical assistance advisers to the regional economic commissions. The number of regional advisers in ECLA had increased from 31 in 1963 to over 50 in 1965, when more than 300 missions had been completed. The experts attached to the ECLA Mexico Office were working on sub-regional projects and carried out assignments in a small group of countries. Their functions were directly in line with the recommendations and work programme of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and its various sub-committees.

The Joint OAS/IDB/ECLA Central American Programming Mission, which included five United Nations regional experts, had completed the preparation of medium-term sectoral development plans, including the determination and preparation of specific projects. The electric energy mission, consisting of two experts, had advised the five Central American Governments on electric power development programmes, tariff policies and joint projects for the development of energy resources.

The Advanced School of Public Administration for Central America (ESAPAC) had had the services of United Nations technical assistance advisers since its establishment in 1956. In 1965, five of those experts had held courses and seminars at the national and regional level and had provided advisory assistance directly to the Central American countries

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in the fields of civil service and administration, transport management, customs organization and government organization. ESAPAC's work was largely co-ordinated with the Central American Economic Integration Programme.

The activities undertaken in 1965 by the regional advisers at ECLA headquarters in Santiago had included the successful collaboration of the regional expert on vital statistics in the administrative and operational reorganization of the civil registration services of Paraguay; the work done by the regional advisers associated with the ECLA/TAO/WMO/WHO Water Resources Survey Group on water resources in Peru and Uruguay; the assistance given by the regional advisers on trade policy to many countries of the region on questions relating to the diversification of exports, exploitation of the advantages obtained in the ALALC rounds of negotiations, and means of facilitating intra-area and world trade; and, in the industrial field, the co-operation given to a number of countries in developing the petrochemical and metallurgical industries, and in applied industrial research.

The regional advisers in public administration had co-operated with the Dominican Republic in preparing a study on administrative reforms, and another on the reorganization of the public sector in industry. In Central America assistance had been given with a study on the administrative aspects of the regional and national institutions linked with the integration, and economic development of each of the five countries of the area.

During 1965 two meetings financed by the United Nations regional programme of technical assistance had been held at headquarters, one on national accounts and the other on trade and development policies.

Early in 1966 preparations had been undertaken for the holding in Santiago of the first regional course on housing programming, and the course on trade policy. The first course had begun on 2 May 1966, jointly sponsored by ECLA and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. The second meeting was to take place from 1 July to 10 August 1966. Work was also being done on the organization of a meeting of petroleum experts, to be held at ECLA headquarters in November 1966, and of two

/seminars, one

seminars, one on industrial statistics and one on small-scale industry, to be held in Quito in October and December 1966, respectively. All these projects were financed by the United Nations technical assistance programme.

The ECLA secretariat had been represented at the regional meeting of Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, held in Mexico City in April 1965. At that meeting there had been a detailed discussion of the technical assistance programmes in Latin America, the Special Fund programmes in the Latin American countries, and the agencies carrying out major programmes in the region.

Mr. SILVA (Chile), took the chair.

Mr. RAMIREZ BOETTNER (Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Chile) referred to the report of the Administrator (DP/SF/L.1) on the implementation of the programmes approved by the Governing Council of the Special Fund at its second through fourteenth sessions, which gave an account of the work done by the Special Fund during 1959-1965, and the main features of the 522 projects approved in various parts of the world. Those projects represented a total cost of 1,150,884,700 dollars, of which 478,278,200 dollars had been directly contributions by the Special Fund, and 672,606,500 dollars were contributions by the Governments for the execution of preinvestment projects. In Latin America 142 projects had been approved, to which the Special Fund had contributed 125 million dollars.

The strictly preinvestment nature of that type of project had greatly facilitate public investment; in many cases the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) had been the body undertaking the necessary studies.

The study of natural resources, the application of technology in industry, agriculture and research, and the large-scale vocational training in the developing countries, had all served as catalysts to stimulate development.

/The experience

The experience gathered by the Special Fund, the Technical Assistance Board and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance would provide a valuable basis for the new United Nations Development Programme, in accelerating the progress and development of the Latin American countries.

During the two years 1967-68, 84,214,000 dollars would be allocated to technical assistance programmes in different parts of the world. It was to be hoped that in future years increased voluntary contributions from both the developed and developing countries would permit expansion of the technical assistance programme, to which the ECLA secretariat had always given valuable co-operation.

Mr. CREEK (United Kingdom) indicated his country's interest in the progress of technical assistance activities, and listed the United Kingdom's contributions to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Special Fund, and certain special industrial services. Other contributions by his country to the development of the Latin American countries had included the renegotiation of the debts of several countries, the granting of a number of loans, and the offer of 11 million dollars to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 8)

(a) Public participation and community development

Mr. FABREGA (Panama) submitted a draft resolution on public participation and community development, and stressed the impossibility of achieving a satisfactory level of economic development in the absence of an integrated use of planning, community development and public participation. Neighbourhood organizations, and rural and urban worker's groups, could play a valuable part; cases in point were Chile's experience in the field of public participation, and the success of people's clinics in Panama. Such bodies as ECLA and the Institute could assist in harnessing the powerful current of the people's energies to technical progress, in order to permit the building up of a new Latin America in which the people could play a part in the direction of their own progress.

/Mr. IGLESIAS

Mr. IGLESIAS (Uruguay) supported the draft resolution, pointing out that a number of activities relating to public participation and community development had just been launched in his country. He suggested that the final paragraph be amended so that ECLA and the Institute might share, with other international organizations the task of co-ordinating the work on community development.

Mr. FABREGA (Panama) accepted the amendment suggested by the representatives of Uruguay.

Mr. MORENO (Mexico) supported both the draft resolution and the proposed amendment, and pointed out that the Regional Fundamental Education Centre for Community Development in Latin America (CREFAL) had been operating in his country for many years and had become the focus for that type of work with the backing of the institutions that had been its original sponsors, and of some others as well. He suggested that further changes be made in the draft resolution to make it clear that the tasks referred to in the last two paragraphs would be the responsibility of the ECLA secretariat, while in the penultimate paragraph it should be expressly left to the discretion of the countries themselves to decide whether or not to apply programmes of the type mentioned.

Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile), in endorsing the draft resolution, made a brief reference to the work that had been done in his country in little over a year by the National Council for Public Participation, and the mobilization of the people by means of the neighbourhood associations and mothers' unions. He suggested that the various amendments proposed should be co-ordinated.

The meeting was suspended at 5.5 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN informed the meeting that all the amendments put forward in the course of the discussions had been merged into one to replace the last two paragraphs of the draft resolution, as follows:

/"Requests the

"Requests the secretariat of ECLA, in co-ordination with other international agencies, to redouble its efforts in this field, in particular by encouraging an exchange of experiences and helping to promote programmes in those countries, which, while not yet having tried out those programmes, might so request."

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

(b) ECLA's activities in the field of trade and development

Mr. VILA (Argentina) introduced the draft resolution on ECLA's activities in the field of trade and development (Conference Room Paper No.2), sponsored by the delegations of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. His Government stressed the need for the secretariat to take steps to speed up and expand the studies on preference systems for the developing countries, on agreements concerning primary commodities of interest to the Latin American countries and on a classification of manufactures, all of which would be useful for the development of the region.

Mr. WALKER (United States), Mr. LISETTE (France), Mr. CREEK (United Kingdom) and Mr. SUMMERS (Canada) stated that their respective delegations would abstain from voting on the draft resolution, for the same reasons as they had abstained from voting at ECLA's eleventh session on resolution 253(XI), which was related to the draft resolution now before them.

Mr. LA FUENTE (Bolivia) said that he would also abstain as he had received no instructions on the matter from his Government.

The draft resolution was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. SUMMERS (Canada) emphasized his country's interest in the work of ECLA and the Institute, which were key organizations for Latin America. Canada had contributed to development activities in Latin America in various ways, as for instance, loans and contributions to the Inter-American Development Bank (35 million dollars), and had endorsed the proposal made at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide financial support for work in the field of development.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.