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DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Programme of work and priorities

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In considering the programme of work and priorities, the Commission stressed the importance of timely presentation of the draft programme and of the performance report which is an integral part of it. That aspect would be particularly relevant in relation to the fourteenth session, since the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had decided, at its second session in April 1968, to consider the work programmes of the regional commissions in detail in 1971. Accordingly, the Commission requested the secretariat to circulate the draft programme of work and priorities for 1971-73 to all member Governments by December 1970, with the request that any suggestions and proposals concerning it should be sent to the Executive Secretary who, in turn, would duly transmit them to the Governments of States members of the Commission who were at the same time members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in time to be brought to the attention of that Committee when it reviewed the draft ECLA programme.

The Commission once again commended the secretariat on its continued improvements in presentation, one delegation going so far as to state that the draft programme constituted a model of what Governments required.

The delegations were particularly concerned to ensure that the decisions adopted at the thirteenth session were duly embodied in the final text of the programme to be presented at the next session of the Economic and Social Council, in view of the fact that, for reasons of timing, this had not been possible at the session. At the same time it was agreed that the highest priority was to be given to preparations for the second United Nations Development Decade and to the work for and during the Decade itself.

/The Commission

The Commission noted that, in the last two years, studies and operational work on 151 projects had been completed. It agreed to postpone or delete thirty-seven projects and to introduce seventy-three new projects. It accepted the changes in the work programme and the order of priorities proposed by the Working Group.

The Commission appointed a working group to conduct a detailed examination of the programme of work and priorities on which a number of proposals were put forward. In particular emphasis was laid on the need to take full advantage in work on maritime transport, of the technical assistance now offered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and on the need to ensure that the United Nations five year Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources was geared to the needs of the ECLA region. The representative of British Honduras (Belize) expressed his Government's appreciation of the work done in his country, and requested that in the future consideration should be given to further projects in which it was particularly interested. In connexion with the Commission's subregional offices, it was urged that if no additional resources could be made available, every effort should be made to increase their staffing by redistributing the over-all resources of the secretariat and by decentralizing the work to the regional offices. The Commission took note of the way in which work for the Caribbean area and the Caribbean Basin was being distributed between this Office and the Mexico Office.

In that connexion, the Commission, at its 130th meeting, unanimously adopted resolution 288 (XIII). At the request of one delegation, the secretariat informed the Commission that in order to strengthen the ECLA Office for the Caribbean, as

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requested in the resolution, an additional sum of \$ 60,000 would be required to cover salaries, travel and costs of three Professional staff who could not be seconded to Port-of-Spain from other ECLA offices. Those funds would be requested of the Secretary-General and the request would be discussed by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly when it met. Consequently, they would not necessarily mean an increase in the regular United Nations budget, since they might be found in savings made in other chapters.

In reviewing the programme, the Commission took into account the pertinent recommendations contained in the report of the second session of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination (E/4493/Rev.2) in accordance with the request contained in resolution 1366 (XLV) of the Economic and Social Council. In particular, it examined paragraph 30(a)(i) of that document, relating to the question of projects started under resolutions more than five years old. The Commission at its 134th meeting accordingly adopted resolution 295 (XIII), which reaffirmed the validity of those resolutions governing projects included in the approved programme of work and priorities for 1971-1973.

Place and date of the next session

At its 133th meeting, the Commission, by 27 votes to none, with 1 abstention, adopted resolution 294 (XIII) under which it decided that its next session would be held in Guatemala City.

295 (XIII) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1969-71

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Having examined the draft programme of work and priorities, 1969-71, in document E/CN.12/835 and Corr. 1,

Having made the adjustments suggested by the Governments of States members in the programme and incorporated the consequential changes arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted at the thirteenth session,

Bearing in mind the report of the second session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4493/Rev.2), in particular what is said in paragraph 30 (a)(i) regarding the legislative authority for programmes and projects;

1. Approves the programme of work and priorities for 1969-71, as amended in accordance with the resolutions and decisions adopted at its thirteenth session;

2. Reaffirms the resolutions relating to the specific projects contained in the programme of work and priorities.