



# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT ON THE FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

**(21-22 March 1962)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTY-THIRD SESSION**

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION .....	1-4	1
PART I. FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE		
<i>A. Attendance and organization of work</i>		
Opening and closing meetings .....	5-6	1
Membership and attendance .....	7	2
Credentials .....	8	2
Officers .....	9-10	2
<i>B. Agenda</i> .....	11	2
<i>C. Account of proceedings</i>		
Election of members of the Governing Council of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning .....	12-24	2
Amendments to part B, paragraph 7, of resolution 218 (AC.50) proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission .....	25-30	3
PART II. DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL .....		
		4
ANNEX. LIST OF DELEGATIONS .....		5

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E/ 582/Add.1
E/CN.1/AC.51/2/Rev.2



## ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

### Report on the fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole (21-22 March 1962)

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth session, held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Santiago, Chile, on 14 and 16 February 1962, the Committee of the Whole adopted resolution 218 (AC.50) establishing the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Record of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/3581/Rev.1)*, para. 356.

The Committee of the Whole also adopted resolution 219 (AC.50), by which it decided:

"1. To request the secretariat to transmit forthwith to the Economic and Social Council a special report on the Institute, giving an account of the discussions on the subject by the Committee of the Whole, and of their decisions and resolutions adopted thereon;

"2. To ask the Economic and Social Council, at its thirty-third session, to devote special consideration to the Commission's decisions with respect to the Institute, in view of the urgent need for it to begin its operations."

In implementation of that resolution, the ECLA secretariat prepared for the Council a special report (E/3582-E/CN.12/AC.50/16) containing the paragraphs relating to the Institute subsequently published in the annual report of ECLA to the Council at its thirty-fourth session (E/3581/Rev.1, paras. 339-354).

2. Paragraph 1 of part B of resolution 218 (AC.50) provides that "the first election of the members of the Governing Council [of the Institute] . . . shall take place at an extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole, to be held at Santiago on 21 March 1962 with this exclusive end in view". It goes on to say that "the secretariat shall not be required to abide by the provisions laid down in the Commission's rules of procedure in respect of documentation, prior notice, and other arrangements".

3. The present fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole has been convened in compliance with this injunction, and a new item has been added to the agenda in the shape of a proposal by the Executive Secretary of the Commission that consideration be given to the amendment of paragraph 7 of the said resolution.

4. The present report is divided into two parts. Part I gives an account of the proceedings of the fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole. Part II comprises a draft resolution for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. At the end is an annex giving the list of delegations.

#### PART I

#### FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

##### A. Attendance and organization of work

###### OPENING AND CLOSING MEETINGS

5. The fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole was held at Santiago, Chile, on 21 and 22 March 1962, in the assembly hall of the Universidad Técnica del Estado. The proceedings opened with a few words by the first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gustavo Ortiz Hernán (Mexico).

6. At the closing meeting on 22 March, the Rapporteur submitted the present report to the Committee and it was adopted, the secretariat being authorized to introduce such final changes of presentation as might be considered necessary. Mr. Bernal Jiménez Monge (Costa Rica) outlined the aims of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. After a short statement by Mr. Alfonso Santa Cruz, Acting Executive Secretary of ECLA, the Chairman declared the session closed.

## MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

7. The session was attended by delegations from the following States members of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The complete list of delegations is given in the annex to this report.

### CREDENTIALS

8. Pursuant to rule 14 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the credentials of the delegations to the fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole, as submitted to the Executive Secretary, were examined and found in order.

### OFFICERS

9. The officers for the fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole were the same as those elected for the eighth session, namely:

*Chairman:* Mr. Luis Escobar Cerda (Chile);

*First Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Gustavo Ortiz Hernán (Mexico);

*Second Vice-Chairman:* Mr. Paul Tremblay (Canada);

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Alvaro Rocha Lalinde (Colombia).

10. In the absence of the Chairman, the First Vice-Chairman presided over the session.

### B. Agenda

11. The Committee of the Whole adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of members of the Governing Council of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning.
3. Amendments to part B, paragraph 7, of resolution 218 (AC.50) proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

#### *Background documents:*

Resolution 218 (AC.50): Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/CN.12/AC.50/14);

Special report to the Economic and Social Council on the creation of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/CN.12/AC.50/16).

4. Adoption of the report on the session.

### C. Account of proceedings

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

(Agenda item 2)

12. The secretariat explained the rules of procedure for the election of the eight members of the Governing Council of the Latin American Institute for Economic

and Social Planning, who were to be nationals of eight different Latin American countries.

13. The Committee was asked whether there were any further nominations in addition to the names already officially submitted to the secretariat by some Governments, and appearing in Conference Room Paper No. 1.

14. The delegation of Uruguay submitted the name of Mr. Jorge Giucci, Under-Secretary of Finance in Uruguay, for addition to the list presented in the Conference Room Paper. The delegation of Ecuador proposed Mr. Jaime Cifuentes as alternate to its candidate.

15. These new proposals raised the number of candidates for membership of the Governing Council of the Institute to ten, the total number to be elected being eight.

16. Since some Governments had proposed as candidates both a member and an alternate, one delegation expressed the view that there should be no election of alternates, since under resolution 218 (AC.50) the Governing Council was to comprise only members proper.

17. After a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Committee of the Whole was not empowered to elect alternates, and that the problem should be referred to the Governing Council of the Institute itself, to enable it to consider whether the need for alternates should be taken into account and if need be to raise the question at the next session of the Commission.

18. The Committee of the Whole, reaffirming the terms of resolution 218 (AC.50), noted that the members of the Governing Council of the Institute would be elected in their personal capacity, and on the basis of their high technical qualifications, and that they would not appear in the Council as representatives of the countries of which they were nationals. Furthermore, it was pointed out that in electing the members of the Council, care should be taken to ensure equitable geographical distribution.

19. At the proposal of one delegation, it was also placed on record that if it should be decided in due course to appoint alternates, such a proceeding would not necessarily mean that the alternate had to be a national of the same country as the member he replaced.

20. One delegation, although endorsing the principle that the members of the Governing Council should be experts of recognized authority in their own fields and should not be regarded as representatives of their countries, expressed the hope that the candidate it had nominated might hold office on the Council, since its Government had never been represented in executive posts on international bodies.

21. The various delegations of the Governments nominating candidates outlined for the benefit of the Committee the qualifications of the experts concerned.

22. The Committee elected the eight members of the Governing Council by secret ballot, the result of the voting being as follows, in alphabetical order of names:

Mr. Luis Escobar Cerda, Minister for Economic Affairs, Reconstruction and Development of Chile;

Mr. Celso Furtado, Executive Director of the Superintendencia do Desenvolvimento do Nordeste, Brazil;

Mr. Felipe Antonio Galarza, Member of the Planning Board of Bolivia;

Mr. Plácido García Reynoso, Under-Secretary for Industry and Commerce of Mexico;

Mr. Héctor Hurtado, Assistant Director of the National Planning Board of Venezuela;

Mr. Bernal Jiménez Monge, Chief, Economic and Social Research Department, University of Costa Rica;

Mr. Germánico Saldago, Technical Director of the Planning Board of Ecuador;

Mr. Alejandro Solari, Director of the Planning and Development Board of Argentina.

23. The Committee of the Whole raised the question of whether the three members of the Governing Council of the Institute from international organizations, provided for in resolution 218 (AC.50), part A, paragraph 3 (a), should be elected by name at the present fourth extraordinary session.

24. After discussing the problem fully and hearing the explanatory statements made by the secretariat, the Committee of the Whole decided, in order to facilitate the expeditious entry into operation of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, for this one time only, without establishing a precedent and for obvious and sufficient reasons, to elect the holders—whoever they might be—of the posts of Executive Secretary of ECLA, President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), instead of nominating the three members personally. The fourth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole endeavoured thereby to interpret the spirit of the statutes of the Institute, contained in resolution 218 (AC.50), in accordance with the discussions and records of the Committee's eighth session, instead of adhering literally to the text, which, in its view, should be strictly applied for the normal operation of the Institute once the stage of organization was over.

AMENDMENTS TO PART B, PARAGRAPH 7, OF RESOLUTION 218 (AC.50) PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

(Agenda item 3)

25. The Committee of the Whole considered whether or not it would be appropriate to adopt a decision on the amendment of resolution 218 (AC.50) at its fourth extraordinary session, which had been convened for the sole and exclusive purpose of electing the members of the Governing Council of the Institute. Some delegations maintained that the Committee was not competent to amend resolution 218 (AC.50).

26. The secretariat explained that on 10 March 1962

the Executive Secretary of the Commission had sent a cable to the States members of the Commission proposing the amendment reproduced in Conference Room Paper No. 2, and that some Governments had replied that they were instructing their delegations to support the wording suggested. It also stated that no Government had replied to the proposal in the negative. The secretariat had therefore included item 3 on the provisional agenda for the session, which had been unanimously adopted at the beginning of the meeting.

27. The secretariat also pointed out that the new text had been suggested after the other participants in the OAS/ECLA/IDB Tripartite Agreement had called the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Commission to the possibility that the present wording of paragraph 7 of part B of resolution 218 (AC.50) might hamper co-operation arrangements among the three organizations with respect to their joint activities in the field of advisory assistance to Governments requesting it.

28. Following a discussion in which conflicting points of view were expressed on questions of procedure, and after the matter had been put to the vote, the Committee of the Whole decided, with regard to the proposal by the Executive Secretary of ECLA contained in the note by the secretariat concerning the amendment of paragraph 7 of part B of resolution 218 (AC.50) (Conference Room Paper No. 2), and in conformity with the wording of the invitation to its fourth extraordinary session and with its terms of reference as established at the eighth session, that it was not competent to consider, still less to decide upon, any statutory change whatsoever. Nevertheless, in view of the arguments put forward in the proposal in question, it declared that, after conscientious analysis, it found that paragraph 4 (g) of part A of resolution 218 (AC.50) and paragraph 7 of part B afforded the Director-General of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning the freedom of action necessary for making arrangements for co-operation with the organizations forming the OAS/ECLA/IDB Tripartite Committee, in consonance with the powers invested in him by the regulations and with the instructions to be given him in due course by the Governing Council set up at the fourth extraordinary session of the Committee.

29. The Committee also decided to call the attention of the OAS/ECLA/IDB Tripartite Committee, through the secretariat of ECLA, to the substance of paragraph 28 above, so that the work of organization of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning might not only be unimpeded by any obstacle, real or interpretative, but might be reinforced and expedited to the fullest extent possible.

30. At the suggestion of the Chairman, who had thanked the Acting Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Commission for their work at the fourth extraordinary session, the Committee unanimously agreed that a message should be sent to Mr. Raúl Prebisch, Executive Secretary of the Commission, conveying the Committee's warm greetings and best wishes for the success of the work of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning.

**PART II**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Takes note* of the report (E/3582/Add.1 — E/CN.12/AC.51/2/Rev.2) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America on its fourth extraordinary session held at Santiago, Chile, on 21 and 22 March 1962, which supplements the special report to the Economic and Social Council on the creation of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/3582 — E/CN.12/AC.50/16), transmitted by the Commission on 19 February 1962.

## ANNEX

## LIST OF DELEGATIONS

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