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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Eighth Session
Panama City, Panama, 14 May 1959

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FACTOR OF
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Approved by Committee II on 20 May 1959

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind that a considerable proportion of the economically active population of Latin America is employed in crop and stock farming, forestry and fisheries,

Bearing in mind that exports of agricultural commodities are the principal source of the region's aggregate foreign exchange earnings,

Bearing in mind that the products of crop and stock farming, forest and fisheries likewise constitute a substantial proportion of inter-Latin American trade, and that the exports of many countries consist almost entirely of such products,

Considering that, in spite of the relatively high rate of industrialization which has been observable in recent years, the development of agriculture is, in general, still too slow to satisfy the expansion of demand due to the increase of population and income,

Considering that, as a result of the foregoing factors, there have been an increase in imports of foodstuffs, a decrease in exports, stagnation in the levels of food consumption which are already very low for large sectors of the Latin American peoples, and a recrudescence of

/inflationary

inflationary pressures,

Considering that one of the main causes of the slow rate of agricultural development in some countries lies in the persistence of outmoded institutions and other matters which render it advisable to improve land tenure systems and the distribution of rural income in order to enable agriculture to contribute to a much more rapid rate of industrialization than has hitherto been attained,

Considering that agricultural progress is in great measure influenced by Government action designed to help the farmer to improve his production methods, particularly agricultural research, extension and educational services,

Bearing in mind resolutions 15 (IV), 62 (V), 66 (V), 88 (VI) and 89 (VI) of the Commission which refer to various aspects of the problem of agricultural development and land redistribution,

Takes note with satisfaction of the resolution on land reform adopted at the Fifth Regional Conference of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America,

Recommends to member Governments:

1. That they consider, whenever appropriate, land reform, including the establishment of adequate farming units, the elimination of obsolete forms of labour contracts, the introduction of up-to-date agricultural methods and the more equitable distribution of income in the rural sector as suitable instruments for the attainment of a level of agricultural development compatible with the requirements of overall economic growth;

/2. That they

2. That they pay special attention in their agricultural development programmes to the improvement of distribution systems and to economic incentives which would increase productivity and lower costs;

Requests the ECLA secretariat and the Director-General of FAO, acting through their joint programme, and to the extent that the resources of the two organizations allow and in cooperation with other international and regional bodies:

1. To study, the possibilities of expanding the supply of foodstuffs and of agricultural and fishery raw materials by removing obstacles of an institutional and structural nature which are currently slowing down the development of these important sectors of the Latin American economy;
2. To study, in collaboration with member Governments which so request, the conditions under which Government services are given to agriculture, with particular reference to rural research, extension and educational services;
3. To consider, when carrying out these studies, the possibilities of specialization in specific areas and the competitive status of certain items within the setting of a common market, with a view to regional economic integration and to the more efficient utilization of Latin America's resources.