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

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PLANNING AND UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES

Approved by Committee II on 21 May 1959

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the existence of vast hydroelectric potential in Latin America and that in recent ECLA research (see E/CN.1/501) this potential was estimated at 120 million kW,

Whereas the same research shows that only about 5 per cent of this potential has been developed and the uses of water as a means toward the economic development of the countries of the region are increasing daily,

Whereas the development of hydroelectric and similar resources promote the rapid growth of the country's over-all economy, mainly on account of the following factors: (a) a basic natural resource is utilized; (b) a high percentage of investment is spent within the country; (c) the use of non-renewable sources of energy decreases and, in many cases, the disbursement of foreign exchange for purchases of imported fuels is avoided,

Whereas there

Whereas there is an obvious shortage of the technicians required for the development and operation of hydroelectric and other kindred projects in the Latin American countries,

Considering that only through integrated programming studies can the maximum yield be obtained from a region's water resources and that experience has shown most of the Latin American countries to have been unable to carry out the aforementioned studies owing to their complexity and to the want of appropriately qualified personnel,

Decides:

1. To request the secretariat to explore the possibility and desirability of setting up a Latin American centre for programming the uses of hydroelectricity, including the integrated development of resources, which might also be used as a training centre for technicians;
2. To recommend that this centre should use, as a basis of the first importance in its training activities, the specific studies that may be requested by member countries.