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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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transforming industries and of the problems arising out of their establishment or expansion in the countries of Latin America.

22 May 1959

162 (VIII). Panels of petrochemical and iron and steel experts

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that various Latin American countries are making great efforts as was pointed out at the recent meeting of consultants on trade policy at Caracas, to establish or expand basic industries, such as the iron and steel and petrochemical industries, which require broad markets and heavy investment,

Considering that the greater part of the programmes for the establishment or expansion of such industries are still at an early stage and can therefore be directed towards optimum productivity, provided that they are able to depend upon a demand exceeding that of local markets,

Considering that it is advisable to give promoters and those responsible for such industries the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the effective possibilities offered by the Latin American common market for their products in the near future,

Considering that it is undeniably important for the better utilization of capital, technical processes and labour to avoid unnecessary duplication by means of a co-ordinated policy of specialization for the purpose of supplying the aggregate demand in the aforesaid regional market,

Takes note with satisfaction of the studies already undertaken by ECLA in this field; and

Decides to request the ECLA secretariat to convene panels of experts on basic industries, especially the iron and steel and petrochemical industries, in order to study as a whole the programmes being carried out in Latin America and to suggest possibilities for the specialization of production with a view to reaching optimum productivity in each of the branches already established or to be established in the region.

22 May 1959

163 (VIII). Pulp and paper

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the rapidly rising consumption of domestic and imported pulp and paper products in Latin America,

Considering the potential resources of raw materials which exist in Latin America,

Considering the need for regional co-ordination in the development of the pulp and paper industry in order to secure better use of natural resources and better coverage of various needs of the area,

Estimating that the need to study the possibilities of further development in the field of pulp and paper

both on a national and regional basis is increasing in importance and that the necessity of giving adequate and rational advice to this development continues to be desirable,

Expressing satisfaction for the work done so far by the Joint FAO/ECLA/TAO Pulp and Paper Advisory Group,

Recommends to Governments:

1. That they continue to utilize the services of the Group;

2. That the necessary measures be taken to secure the continuation of its beneficial activities in the region.

22 May 1959

164 (VIII). Planning and utilization of hydroelectric resources

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the existence of vast hydroelectric potential in Latin America and that in recent ECLA research 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 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 the programming of hydroelectric projects, 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.

22 May 1959