



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(30 MARCH 1960 — 15 MAY 1961)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

possible with the help of supplementary sources, so as to cater effectively for the needs of demographic research with a view to the preparation of economic and social development programmes in Latin America;

2. To request the secretariat:

(a) To pursue and intensify, in co-operation with the Latin American Demographic Research and Training Centre, a programme of studies and assistance to Governments, giving priority to the most advantageous use of the findings of the new population censuses in the formulation of economic and social development policies, and promoting the preparation of population case studies;

(b) That in such a programme, until detailed tabulations of the new censuses are to hand, a substantial part of the resources available be provisionally allocated to the study of the establishment of concepts and methods of analysis, especially in relation to the redistribution of the population among cities, towns and rural areas, internal migration, size and characteristics of the labour force, and its possible trends;

(c) That at future sessions of this Commission, reports on the progress made and on demographic research of importance for economic and social policy be submitted to it for consideration.

13 May 1961

188 (IX). Social aspects of development

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Whereas it is now a generally accepted principle that the social development of the Latin American countries should be promoted alongside their economic development,

Whereas this implies, on the one hand, the existence of specific factors of strategic value for economic development which must be taken into account in any attempt at programming, and, on the other, that every possible endeavour should be made to foster integrated socio-economic development in which the objectives of social policy are smoothly co-ordinated,

Whereas, despite the general recognition of these needs, basic empirical research has not yet been carried out, and there is a shortage of properly qualified specialists in the theory and techniques of social programming,

Takes note with satisfaction of the secretariat's efforts in this connexion, pursuant to resolutions 82 (VI) and 124 (VII), and regards as a highly efficacious measure the joint convening, by the ECLA secretariat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Bureau of Social Affairs and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, of the Working Group on the Social Aspects of Economic Development in Latin America, which met at Mexico from 12 to 21 December 1960,

Requests the secretariat:

1. To continue activities of this type by convening working groups on social aspects of economic development at the regional level, and to arrange at the earliest

possible opportunity, with the co-operation of UNESCO, the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations, and other bodies, a second meeting of experts of the same nature, based, where appropriate, on the research recommended in the report of the Mexico meeting;

2. To co-operate, at the request of Governments, in the organization of meetings of this same type at the national level;

3. To study the problem of training social planning experts and to put forward suggestions for its solution.

13 May 1961

189 (IX). Social problems in Latin America

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Realizing the need to pay due attention to social problems in order to formulate measures of economic and social policy designed to raise the levels of living of the Latin American peoples,

Being concerned about the urgent need to improve the social situation in the Latin American countries,

Considering that a better knowledge of the main factors determining the social situation would be useful in formulating satisfactory economic and social development plans as well as the various programmes of social policy,

Decides to recommend to the secretariat that it undertake within the shortest possible time, in collaboration with the national and international organizations competent in the social field, a study to ascertain and analyse the principal social factors of the institutional structures in Latin America that should be taken into account for an effective policy of economic and social development.

13 May 1961

190 (IX). Decentralization of administrative machinery

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that one of the factors retarding the integrated and simultaneous economic development of the region is the uneven geographical distribution of economic activities within each individual country,

Bearing in mind that this concentration of economic activities usually results from over-centralization of administrative organs and machinery in capital cities, so that other parts of the country are deprived of the necessary means and incentives to develop at the rate their levels of living require,

Decides to recommend to the ECLA secretariat and to the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations that they study the repercussions on the harmonious development of the Latin American countries which would result from decentralization of administrative machinery, as one of the measures adopted to raise the economic and social levels of the countries of the region.

13 May 1961