



UNITED NATIONS

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

(15 May 1956 - 29 May 1957)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**NEW YORK**

(e) It is necessary in the Latin American countries for the industrial-scale generation of nuclear energy to be utilized economically and in conformity with the circumstances of each country,

*Decides :*

1. To call the attention of the Governments of the member countries to the desirability of systematically studying the possibilities of utilizing nuclear energy together with other methods of large-scale energy production;

2. To recommend to the Governments of the member countries that they consider the desirability of placing the study and application of nuclear energy for large-scale supply in the hands of the public or private entities responsible for the various aspects of energy supply;

3. To suggest to the member Governments that it would be desirable for national nuclear energy commissions, or corresponding bodies, to adopt appropriate measures in order to promote the study and large-scale application of nuclear energy by the entities responsible for the supply, or by the consumers, whether public or private;

4. To recommend to the secretariat that, as regards this subject, it keep in touch, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the International Atomic Energy Agency when it is established, with other competent agencies of the United Nations, and with agencies of the Organization of American States, and that it keep the Member Governments informed of those economic aspects of the problem which are of special importance for them.

27 May 1957.

*Resolution 131 (VII)*

UTILIZATION OF RIVERS AND LAKES  
(E/CN.12/472)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That the utilization of the waters of lakes and rivers forming hydrographic basins common to several countries is a question of vital importance for the economic development of the countries concerned,

(b) That such utilization would often appear to be feasible on the basis of joint effort,

(c) That studies and projects for the satisfactory utilization of the waters of international rivers and lakes are feasible only when effective co-operation is established between the government agencies concerned with hydraulic problems,

*Recommends* to the secretariat that it approach the Governments of the Latin American countries to the end that the utilization of rivers and lakes situated in international hydrographic basins, for hydroelectric energy, irrigation, navigation and any other useful

purposes to which they may lend themselves, be effected on the basis of adequate planning undertaken by international technical commissions.

27 May 1957.

*Resolution 132 (VII)*

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION  
(E/CN.12/473)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Whereas :*

(a) The amount of foreign exchange at the disposal of a given country partly determines the degree to which its economy is vulnerable to external fluctuations and contingencies,

(b) One of the requisites for attaining the objectives of a development policy is to reduce vulnerability to external fluctuations, and this can, up to a point, be achieved by means of an intelligent import substitution policy,

(c) Criteria on which to base decisions must be available in order to achieve a substitution of imports consistent with the economic development programme and with the evaluation of short-term and long-term problems,

*Recommends* to the secretariat that it study a methodology for the examination and implementation of an import substitution policy, and other policies, including fiscal and monetary policies, which might reduce the external vulnerability of the Latin American countries.

27 May 1957.

*Resolution 133 (VII)*

STUDY OF LATIN AMERICAN TIMBER PRODUCTION AND  
CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND PROSPECTS  
(E/CN.12/474)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having regard* to the note by the secretariat on a study on Latin American timber trends and prospects (E/CN.12/438);

*Considering :*

(a) That general economic development and higher living standards imply an increase in the consumption of timber products and entail a growing demand for such products, which is at present partially unsatisfied,

(b) The insufficiently utilized wealth constituted by the natural woodlands, the substantial earnings provided by carefully managed forest plantations and the part played by trees in protecting the soil against erosion,

(c) Whereas large-scale imports of forest products represent very high values in Latin America, even though it contains vast areas where the rate of forest growth is the highest in the world,

(d) *Considering* the need for each Government to collect data which will enable it:

(i) To assess the importance of forests and forest products for its national economy,

(ii) To ascertain the medium-term and long-term possibilities for the development of primary and secondary forest products industries and of reforestation,

(iii) To determine the priority to be assigned to each aspect of forestry development with a view to channelling public investment in this direction and to providing interested private capital investors with the necessary information and facilities,

(e) *Considering* the present and future importance of timber products in the inter-Latin American market and in world trade,

*Declares* that it is a matter of urgency to proceed with the most detailed study possible of the trends and prospects for the production and consumption of timber and forest products in Latin America;

*Decides*:

1. To request the secretariat to contact FAO with a view to undertaking such a study in close co-operation with that organization, and to concentrate on the immediate and medium-term aspects, while taking due account of contemplated long-term projections, the need for which the Commission fully recognizes;

2. To recommend to the Governments: (a) that they immediately take all appropriate steps to improve information on their forest resources as well as statistics on forest products, utilizing where necessary the Technical Assistance Administration, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other bodies; (b) that they collaborate to the greatest possible extent in providing their specialized financial, economic, industrial, agricultural and forestry services for the purposes of this study.

27 May 1957.

#### *Resolution 134 (VII)*

PRODUCTIVITY IN AGRICULTURE  
(E/CN.12/475)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Bearing in mind* resolution 87 (VI) adopted on 15 September 1955,

*Considering*:

(a) That the secretariat has prepared an over-all study on the productivity of labour and land which is included in the *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1956* (E/CN.12/427, Add.1 and Corr.1).

(b) That in the Latin American countries there is a wide disparity between the low income levels of the agricultural population and the income of the population employed in other sectors,

(c) That even within the agricultural sector itself there is a disparity between the income of the population employed in capitalized and mechanized farming and

that of the population engaged in traditional farming with a low level of productivity,

(d) That the balance of economic development must be preserved both within the agricultural sector and between this and the other sectors of the economy,

*Takes note* with satisfaction of the secretariat study on productivity mentioned in paragraph (a) of this preamble;

*Recommends*:

1. To the member Governments, that in their programmes of research on the agricultural economy of their countries they attach special importance to the study and improvement of the productivity of labour, land, capital and inputs;

2. To the secretariat, that, in co-operation with FAO, to the extent that its facilities permit, and in accordance with the respective resources and terms of reference of the two organizations, (a) it continue its over-all studies on productivity; (b) it furnish interested Governments, at their request, with the methodology necessary for the undertaking of country studies in this field; (c) at the request of the Governments concerned, it continue to advise and assist countries concerning measures to be applied to improve productivity.

27 May 1957.

#### *Resolution 135 (VII)*

UNECONOMIC FARMS  
(E/CN.12/476)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Taking into account*:

(a) Resolution 66 (V), 27 April 1953 dealing with questions of land reform, including *inter alia* those relating to land tenure,

(b) The conclusions reached by the Latin American Seminar on Land Problems, held at Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil), in 1953,

*Considering*:

(a) That in some Latin American countries there is an increasing number of farms in which the possibilities of capital formation are slight, and whose size and characteristics are inadequate to absorb the work capacity of the rural family and afford it a satisfactory standard of living,

(b) That the methods and procedures for solving the problem created by farms of this type are particularly complex,

*Recommends*:

1. To the secretariat that, in agreement with FAO, and to the extent which the two organizations' respective resources and terms of reference permit, it give due consideration to such requests for guidance and assistance as may be formulated by Latin American countries endeavouring to solve this problem;