



# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
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national levels to remedy these shortcomings — action which has, in some cases, already been initiated.

*Bearing in mind* that the countries on which the secretariat has already completed studies — Brazil and Chile — have initiated, through the relevant technical agencies, co-ordinated technical assistance to this industrial sector, aimed at introducing organizational and structural changes which will enable them to realize their full potential as regards satisfying and expanding domestic markets and taking part in a possible integrated regional market,

*Paying due heed* to the influence exerted on industrial operations by the quality of raw materials, the level of training of workers and administrative personnel, and the choice of suitable techniques,

*Invites* the international organizations interested in the various aspects mentioned, namely, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, to consider jointly with the secretariat of the Commission and the United Nations technical assistance programme the possibility of providing co-ordinated collaboration with the competent national organs and relevant industrial bodies in implementing the plans of action of the countries concerned, and, if necessary, to visualize the establishment of an *ad hoc* working group to examine in each country, at its request, the technical and financial assistance that the said organizations might be able to provide in this connexion in the light of the conclusions of the Commission's relevant studies, and thereafter to evaluate the progress made as a result of such assistance.

16 May 1963

### 236 (X). Forest resources and industries

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having considered* the study entitled *Latin American Timber Trends and Prospects* (E/CN.12/624)<sup>48</sup> and the report on forest resources (E/CN.12/670/Add.3), prepared jointly by the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Considering* that although Latin America is the richest region in the world in respect of *per caput* forest resources, it produces only 10 per cent of all the timber consumed by the world market and only 4 per cent of the timber used for industrial purposes,

*Taking into account* the rapid rate at which demand for timber products and derivatives is increasing, both in the region itself and in the world at large, and the emergence of new markets in countries that have hitherto been exporters of such products,

*Bearing in mind* the fact that, up to the present, detailed studies on the region's forest resources have covered only some areas in certain countries, and that research in this field must be completed at the earliest possible date, to prevent the formulation of misguided policies with regard to the utilization of these resources,

*Considering* that, unless the question of a sound and

co-ordinated forest policy for the region as a whole is tackled promptly, there will be a risk of incurring substantial expenditure in future years on imports of forest products and on land rehabilitation projects,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the studies mentioned above in the first preambular paragraph and recommends the secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to proceed with such studies;

2. *Expresses gratification* at the announcement by FAO that it is planning to carry out a thorough study of the region's forest resources as a contribution towards the economic integration earnestly desired by the Latin American countries;

3. *Recommends* FAO to seek co-operation from the secretariat of the Commission and from the competent agencies of both the United Nations family and the inter-American system;

4. *Recommends* the Governments of member States to provide all the facilities and co-operation they can for the preparation of these studies,

5. *Recommends* the Governments of member States to give express attention in their development plans to the industrial processing of their forest products, and to provide the necessary financing with a view to effecting import substitution in respect of these products, inasmuch as they can be processed from raw material of excellent quality of which the region possesses plentiful supplies.

16 May 1963

### 237 (X). Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Taking into account* the fact that the General Assembly at its seventeenth session adopted resolution 1823 (XVII), in which it reaffirmed the policy of decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions as stated in its resolution 1709 (XVI),

*Bearing in mind* that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 879 (XXXIV) relating to decentralization, expressed its gratification at the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI) and expressed its confidence that the Secretary-General would continue to take further steps to carry out the process of decentralization in accordance with resolution 1709 (XVI),

*Recognizing* that decentralization implies an appropriate degree of autonomy while maintaining at United Nations Headquarters the role of policy guidance and uniform financial and personnel administration,

*Considering* that the secretariat has submitted to the Commission at its tenth session a note (E/CN.12/669) in which it describes the present status of the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations, and reports that on 1 September 1962 a Technical Assistance Co-ordinate Unit was established at the Commission's headquarters and that on 1 January 1963 an auxiliary co-ordinating unit was set up at the Commission's Mexico office,

<sup>48</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.II.G.1.

*Considering that, as far as regional projects of technical assistance are concerned, the secretariat should be the focal point for the preparation, execution and co-ordination of the technical assistance programmes and for providing advisory services to Governments of member States by means of experts and regional advisers attached to it,*

*Considering that, if decentralization is to be successful, sufficient authority must be delegated to the secretariat in respect of substantive, financial and administrative matters and in the engagement of experts to enable it to take immediate decisions with regard to the execution of regional projects, and that it must also be given the necessary resources to put them into effect, on the basis of authority to modify the programme, introduce financial changes within regional projects and engage expert technical assistance staff at the regional level, in accordance with the standards and regulations established by the competent bodies concerned with the over-all management of technical assistance programmes,*

*Considering further that by means of unified action and close co-operation with the resident representatives of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, the resources and experience of the secretariat must be used to the full through more active participation in the preparation of national technical assistance programmes, in order thereby to make a positive contribution to the effective use of the financial resources assigned to the national technical assistance programmes of the Latin American countries,*

*1. Takes note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 879 (XXXIV);*

*2. Takes note with satisfaction of the establishment of technical assistance co-ordinating units at the Commission's headquarters and at its Mexico office which will enable the secretariat to assume the role of focal point for the planning and execution of regional technical assistance projects;*

*3. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he should take steps to expedite decentralization by the delegation of functions and authority in substantive, financial and administrative matters and in regard to the engagement of experts at the regional level to the extent necessary to enable the secretariat to take immediate decisions with regard to the execution of regional projects, while maintaining at United Nations Headquarters the role of policy guidance and uniform financial and personnel administration;*

*4. Requests the secretariat to take whatever action may be necessary to assist the countries of the region, at their request, in reviewing their technical assistance requirements;*

*5. Recommends to the Secretary-General that the necessary financial resources should be made available with a view to increasing the share of regional technical assistance projects in the Commission's programme of work, especially in the fields of social and industrial development, statistics and housing, by means either of meetings of expert groups or of direct advice to the Governments of States members of the Commission.*

16 May 1963

## *The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, which recommends that studies and research on the interrelationship of population growth and economic and social development should be intensified, and Economic and Social Council resolution 933 (XXXV) of 5 April 1963, in which the Commission was invited to intensify its work in the demographic field within the general framework of the programme recommended by the Population Commission,*

*Considering the widespread and justifiable concern aroused by the rapid rate of growth of the population, with all its complex and manifold implications,*

*Bearing in mind that knowledge of the real demographic situation is essential for the formulation of problems relating to economic and social development planning, as was recognized by the Commission at its ninth session (resolution 187 (IX)),*

*Having before it the note (E/CN.12/687) in which the secretariat describes the demographic studies and research which it has carried out in co-operation with the Latin American Demographic Centre, and at the same time calls attention to the unfortunate circumstance that the Centre's valuable co-operation in the projected programme would necessarily be discontinued should its activities cease in 1964 under the terms of the agreement by which it is governed,*

*Taking note with satisfaction of the existence of a project to establish, with the support of the United Nations, a demographic research centre for the Central American area, under the auspices of the Government of Costa Rica,*

*1. Requests the secretariat to continue and expand its current demographic activities in order to promote a better understanding of population problems;*

*2. Takes note with satisfaction of the work done by the secretariat and by the Latin American Demographic Centre under their joint work programme and suggests the desirability of maintaining that co-operation and making it increasingly closer;*

*3. Recommends that, in order to ensure continuity in this joint endeavour, the necessary financial resources should be provided to enable the Latin American Demographic Centre to continue in operation beyond 1964, until the countries have trained specialists of their own — a process which has already begun — to carry on these research and educational activities;*

*4. Supports the establishment of the proposed demographic research centre in Central America, for the purpose of intensifying the study of population problems, particularly those connected with the Central American Economic Integration Programme;*

*5. Points out to Governments the desirability of making arrangements as soon as possible with the Special Fund and other international bodies interested in the activities of the Latin American Demographic Centre, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the International Labour Organisation and the*