



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

(17 February 1962 — 17 May 1963)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 4**

**UNITED NATIONS**

**New York, 1963**

*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

Pan American Sanitary Organization, to obtain the financial assistance necessary for the continuation and extension of the Centre's operations and for the establishment of the Central American demographic research centre.

16 May 1963

### 239 (X). Natural resources

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

Having examined General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) on the United Nations Development Decade, the report of the Secretary-General entitled *The United Nations Development Decade: proposals for action*<sup>49</sup> and the report on natural resources in Latin America (E/CN.12/670 and Add.1-5) prepared by the secretariat,

Considering that the efforts to expedite economic growth in the Latin American countries call for the maximum and most effective utilization of the region's natural resources,

Considering further that up to the present the knowledge of such resources is very fragmentary and insufficient, since there are no adequate systematic inventories and little progress has been made in their evaluation,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report by the secretariat on Latin America's natural resources, existing knowledge concerning them and the relevant research that is required (E/CN.12/670 and Add.1-5);

2. Recommends to the Governments of the Latin American countries:

(a) That they should redouble their efforts on a permanent and continuing basis to complete the inventory and evaluation of their natural resources and extend scientific and technical research in this field, as part of their economic and social development;

(b) That they should establish specialized bodies for that purpose in order to undertake research on, and the administration of, the various natural resources and, where such bodies already exist, grant them priority budget treatment for the efficient fulfilment of their functions;

(c) That universities and technical training institutes should give special attention to the training of scientists and technicians in the different subjects related to the utilization of natural resources, renewable or non-renewable;

(d) That they should establish maximum co-ordination between technical services and those responsible for the conduct of economic affairs in each country;

3. Requests the secretariat and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, in co-operation with the appropriate international agencies and with the object of finding solutions to problems of common interest, to promote research on the region's natural resources and to extend the knowledge of techniques for their evaluation, through joint action based on systematic programmes, both short-term and long-term, as part of Latin America's economic and social development, and to that end to encourage the interchange of information, the standardization of technical terminology and nomenclature, the completion of general and specific studies of that nature and the organization of meetings and conferences of experts;

4. Requests the international agencies operating in the region to co-ordinate their efforts as far as possible and to develop coherent action on the basis of systematic programmes, both short-term and long-term, focusing particular attention on regional studies which involve joint action by several countries and bodies;

5. Expresses its appreciation of the contribution being made by the Special Fund in respect of natural resources and stresses the importance to the Latin American countries of the expansion of such activities, particularly where highly specialized and costly processes are required.

16 May 1963

### 240 (X). Date and place of the eleventh session

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of its terms of reference and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure,

Considering the invitation from the Government of the Dominican Republic to hold the eleventh session of the Commission at Santo Domingo,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous invitation;

2. Decides to hold its eleventh session at Santo Domingo in April 1965, or in the following month if this should prove necessary as a result of the consultations to be held by the Executive Secretary of the Commission with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of the Dominican Republic.

16 May 1963

<sup>49</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.II.B.2.

## PART IV

### DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

*The Economic and Social Council*

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America covering the period 17 February 1962 to 17 May 1963 (E/3766/Rev.3) and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in parts II and III of that report;

2. Endorses the programme of work and priorities contained therein.