



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

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VOLUME I

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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UNITED NATIONS

Considering, nevertheless, the backlog of work to be done and the number of urgent reports requested by Governments of member States, which are of vital importance to the development of the sub-region,

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to allocate high priority to the strengthening of the Commission's Office for the Caribbean, so that adequate resources will be available for the urgent studies that are necessary for the development of the sub-region and for more effective co-operation with other Latin American countries.

130th meeting,
19 April 1969.

289 (XIII). The Second United Nations Development Decade

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Having taken note of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 concerning the preparation of an international development strategy for the coming decade,

Having noted with satisfaction the document prepared by the secretariat on this subject (E/CN.12/836),

Considering that the thirteenth session of the Commission has provided a good opportunity for examining the economic and social evolution of Latin America during the nineteen-sixties and for expounding ideas which will help in the formulation of an effective programme of action for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting that the analysis of Latin America's economic and social evolution in the nineteen-sixties has shown that the objectives pursued by General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, which proclaimed the First Development Decade, have not been attained, and that, on the contrary, Latin America's share of world trade is still declining,

Recognizing that Latin America is determined to accelerate the development process and to assert a personality of its own with its own criteria and values,

Affirming that it is the sole and sovereign responsibility of the Governments to create internal conditions that will facilitate and encourage more rapid national development,

Realizing that the effectiveness of internal action will depend largely on the acceptance by the developed countries of the obligations arising from their general responsibility for co-operating in the development process and for taking practical measures to that end,

Aware that definite progress has been made in internal development policy, in regional economic integration and in certain aspects of external financial and technical co-operation,

Recognizing that, despite these advances, as the present Decade draws to a close, the Latin American economies continue to be confronted with problems which are still serious in the effort to strengthen and accelerate economic and social growth, and that in international economic relations these problems take the form of obstacles of various kinds affecting international trade, financial co-operation, shipping and the scientific and technological development of the region,

Bearing in mind the important part played by the Economic Commission for Latin America in the evolution of economic and social theory applicable to the diversity of conditions in the Latin American countries,

1. Stresses the urgent need for the international community, in the short term, to strengthen and set in motion programmes and measures of co-operation which will bring about substantial improvements in the coming Decade that will make it possible to overcome the external restrictions on the development of Latin America and, in particular, to:

(a) Provide easier access for primary commodities and manufactures to the markets of the developed countries, eliminate restrictive measures and revise the policies of incentives for anti-economic production which militate against the sale of Latin American products on those markets;

(b) Institute with the greatest possible speed a generalized non-reciprocal, non-discriminatory system of preferences for manufactures and semi-manufactures which will open up new opportunities and stimulate the flow of such exports from Latin America to the markets of the developed countries, and envisage measures which will enable the economically relatively less developed countries fully to enjoy the advantages of such a system;

(c) Bring about the structural and geographical diversification of Latin American foreign trade and eliminate the problems that have been and can be caused by tied loans;

(d) Increase external financial assistance and, when possible, augment that assistance as international liquidity increases, and adapt the relevant procedures and terms to the requirements of accelerated and sustained development in Latin America;

(e) Orient private foreign investment so that, subject to decisions taken by the countries themselves, it can effectively contribute to the development of the recipient countries;

(f) Improve shipping conditions and lower freight rates;

(g) Facilitate the transfer, dissemination, assimilation and creation of modern techniques and technology;

2. Reaffirms the need for each Latin American country to intensify its efforts to increase the effectiveness of its national development policies designed to achieve economic growth and social progress;

3. Reiterates the determination of the Governments of member States of the Commission to continue to pay special attention to the preparatory work on the United Nations programme for the Second United Nations Development Decade so that it will fully reflect the needs and aspirations of Latin America and so that the plans for the Second Development Decade may clearly define the problems of the countries of the region and suggest viable solutions for them;

4. Stresses the importance of social policies that will contribute to the attainment of the targets and objectives for the Second Development Decade, with due regard to the social and cultural factors that influence the process of development;

5. Requests the secretariat of the Commission, in performing its work, to co-operate as fully as possible with the United Nations bodies engaged in preparing the programme for the Second Development Decade, to pay special attention to the formulation of new ideas that will further the aims of the present resolution, and to furnish the Commission and the Governments of its member States, as and when required, with information and specific proposals that will facilitate their work in this field and help them to evaluate the progress of such action programmes as may be agreed upon for the Second Development Decade;

6. Suggests also that, in its work on this question, the secretariat should give particular attention to the activities of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, emphasizing the following subjects as those of primary interest to Latin America in the formulation of a concerted action programme as part of an over-all development strategy:

(a) The expansion and diversification of exports, with special reference to problems affecting the market access and sale of primary commodities, and the development of exploitation of the possibilities and potentialities of export trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures;

(b) The improvement of the volume, terms and conditions of external financial co-operation through the establishment of criteria and operational machinery that respond to the needs of the Latin American countries, in keeping with the priorities and measures established by each country for projects, programmes and plans;

(c) Co-operation with the countries of the region, through the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, in order to strengthen national planning systems during the nineteen-seventies;

(d) The participation of foreign private investment in and its effects upon the economies of the Latin American countries, and the terms and conditions governing such investment;

(e) The improvement of shipping conditions;

(f) The finding of better ways of transferring technology, and the assessing of the effects of the present system of ownership of trade marks and patents on development in the region;

(g) The strengthening of external co-operation and of regional centres for the scientific and technological development of Latin America.

130th meeting,
19 April 1969.

290 (XIII). The development of Latin America in the Second United Nations Development Decade

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Having taken note of the efforts the Latin American countries have been making to remove the obstacles to development,

Considering that, despite the headway made by most of the Latin American countries in some aspects of development, serious problems continue to prevent an acceleration of economic and social progress,

Bearing in mind that the Latin American countries have reaffirmed the principle that their development depends essentially on their own efforts,

Considering that, if the Latin American Governments are to devise and implement policies that will enable them to accelerate economic growth and social progress and achieve self-sustaining development in the nineteen-seventies, it will be necessary to make a more searching analysis of economic and social questions in order to provide criteria on the basis of which the Governments can select the strategies and alternatives best suited to the various types of economic policy, structure, development and social situation,

Emphasizing that the Latin American Governments have stated that regional economic integration is a basic instrument for stimulating the region's economic growth and social progress and for making the presence of Latin America felt in the international community,

Considering, therefore, that Latin American integration must be strengthened in the next Decade within the context of the existing integration agencies, taking into account the position of countries which are not yet members of those agencies, and, with a view to intensifying that process, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by sub-regional action and the gradual and progressive convergence of the systems referred to in the Declaration of the Presidents of America, 33/

1. Recommends that the secretariat, in the context of its programme of work, should give special attention to studies, research and advisory services designed for:

33/ Made at the meeting of American Chiefs of State, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 12 to 14 April 1967 (see OAS, Official documents, OAS/Ser.K/XIV/1.1).