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FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY WORKING
PARTY ON SKILLED MANPOWER IN LATIN AMERICA

Santiago, Chile, 22 to 28 March 1962

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY
WORKING PARTY ON SKILLED MANPOWER IN LATIN AMERICA

Explanatory Memorandum
prepared by the ECLA Secretariat

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Party on Skilled Manpower in Latin America was held at ECLA Headquarters, Santiago, Chile, from 22 to 28 March 1962. Four regular meetings had previously been held and a preparatory group for the fifth meeting had also met. The Working Party had held its first two meetings at Geneva on 23 September and 10 November 1959 at the International Labour Office, the following organizations being represented: United Nations, UNESCO, ICEM and ILO. The terms of reference of the Working Party at that time were to evaluate the experience of the various organizations working in Latin America in accordance with ECLA resolution 149 (VIII) and to study the project recommended in that resolution, which called for a general survey of manpower and training requirements in the region. At these early meetings, it was considered more opportune to undertake surveys or studies only in those countries which requested them and were prepared to set up permanent national machinery to deal with manpower problems. These findings were discussed in detail at a third meeting, held at ECLA headquarters, attended by representatives of the three specialized agencies mentioned above as well as those from the OAS and ECLA. This meeting considered that the Inter-Agency Working Party should meet on a regular basis and serve as a clearing house for information on activities by the different agencies related to skilled manpower and training; furthermore, stress was laid on the need to study and adopt a methodology for the formulation of manpower policy in its broadest sense, with a view to ensuring a co-ordinated approach to the problem. It was also considered that it would be useful to use the Advisory Group approach wherever possible, and both UNESCO and the ILO expressed their interest in working with the Advisory Groups; moreover it was agreed that ICEM should be invited to participate in the work of such groups, particularly when they were operating in countries where immigration prospects should be reviewed in relation to manpower needs.

Subsequently, the OAS and ECLA convened the fourth meeting in Washington (October 1961), with a view to exchange information on various aspects of skilled manpower requirements, and agreement was reached on

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the need to set up a preparatory group which would meet prior to the fifth meeting, to work specifically on the problems of methodology and the future terms of reference of the Working Party. In addition to the agencies mentioned, FAO and the IDB sent observers. The preparatory group met from 29 January to 9 February 1962 at Santiago, with the participation of the five agencies and FAO, and reached a number of conclusions, which were reviewed at the fifth meeting, which was held immediately following the Conference on Education and Economic and Social Development, (Santiago 5-19 March 1962) sponsored by UNESCO, ECLA, The United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and the OAS, with the participation of ILO and FAO. This meeting was attended by representatives of the ILO, UNESCO, ICEM, OAS, ECLA and FAO, as indicated below, and the report which follows summarizes the proceedings, with particular reference to methodological problems of manpower assessment and the future activities of the Working Party.