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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Eleventh session  
Mexico City, May 1965

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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  - (a) Latin American economic integration
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10. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council
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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening addresses

The programme for the inaugural ceremony and opening addresses will be announced in the order of the day for the opening meeting.

2. Election of officers

Rule 16 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election".

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (E/CN.12/710) was sent to the member Governments together with a note inviting them to attend the present session. The Commission may introduce changes or include other items in the agenda. It may also amend it at any time during the session.

4. The present position of the Latin American economy

- (a) General considerations
- (b) Progress in planning

This item will permit a general discussion on the position of the Latin American economy. It will begin with a statement by the Executive Secretary, followed by comments on the subject by the representatives and observers on the lines of a general debate. In order to facilitate the discussions, the secretariat presents the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1964, which contains an analysis of the major events occurring that year in the economic field. Part Three of the Survey comprises a special chapter on economic policy and planning in Latin America. The secretariat also presents the Statistical Bulletin for Latin America and other documents listed below.

The incorporation of Jamaica and of Trinidad and Tobago as members of the Commission has opened up a new field of activity for the secretariat. A preliminary study submitted here deals with aspects of economic development and trade in some of the Caribbean countries, and was prepared by a special consultant.

/Documents:

Documents:

Economic Survey of Latin America, 1964 (E/CN.12/711)

Statistical Bulletin for Latin America (Vol. II, N°.1)

Development and trade in the Commonwealth Caribbean, by Alister McIntyre, Consultant, with a note by the secretariat (E/CN.12/712)

Economic policy and planning in Latin America (Economic Survey of Latin America, 1964, Part Three, E/CN.12/711 and Add. 2)

Reference documents:

El transporte en América Latina (E/CN.12/703) (Spanish only)

"Latin America's coffee exports to countries members of the European Economic Community" (Economic Bulletin for Latin America, Vol. IX, N° 2)

5. The economic integration and trade policy of Latin America
  - (a) Latin American economic integration
  - (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

There is a clear consciousness in Latin America, to which the major political statements of the past few weeks bear witness, that regional economic integration is vitally necessary in order to overcome some of the major obstacles to the region's economic and social development. Hence the time is ripe for a technical discussion of the methods whereby integration may be achieved. The obstacles thereto can best be removed by the expansion of Latin America's market, more intensive and rational use of its factors of production and better allocation of the resources that integration would bring in its train, and these are some of the topics that will be considered at the present session. Steps have recently been taken in the region to expedite and broaden its integration movement, and, although the practical implementation of its principles depends on the political decision of the Governments, research and technical studies are essential as a basis for such decisions. The secretariat has prepared a study on the salient factors involved in any endeavour to achieve integration, which include the ways in which it may be given dynamic force, the institutions that should be set up and the investment policy to be followed. The study will be presented to the delegations at the present session.

/A report

A report will also be submitted on integration activities in Central America, where the Common Market is developing very satisfactorily.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Geneva from March to June 1964, was an event of vital importance for the future of the world economy, and was followed with keen interest by the Latin American countries. At the Commission's request, the secretariat convened the fourth session of the Trade Committee in November 1964, at which it presented the study The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Analysis of the results and prospects for Latin America as a basis for the discussions. This document, together with the report of the fourth session of the Trade Committee, are submitted to the present session.

Subsequently, the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, including ECLA, and the Secretary-General of the Conference met in New York to study measures for implementing the Conference decisions. The brief report issued on that occasion is submitted here for the consideration of the Commission.

The Trade and Development Board is scheduled to meet in New York in April 1965, and the secretariat will make every effort to present to the Commission the report of that meeting, or at least its major conclusions.

The secretariat has prepared an evaluation of the results achieved by ALALC, which will help the member Governments to reach conclusions on the progress made.

Documents:

A contribution to economic integration policy in Latin America (E/CN.12/728)

Evaluation of the results achieved by the Latin American Free-Trade Association (E/CN.12/717)

Situation of the Central American Economic Integration Programme (E/CN.12/708)

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Analysis of the results and prospects for Latin America (E/CN.12/714)

Report of the fourth session of the ECLA Trade Committee (E/CN.12/701)

Report of the meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions (E/CN.12/721)

/Reference documents:

Reference documents:

Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly establishing the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/CN.12/725)

"The Central American common market for agricultural commodities" (Economic Bulletin for Latin America, Vol. X, No 1)

6. The industrial development of Latin America

This is a particularly important item of the agenda, not only because it will serve as a basis for preparing the regional symposium on industrialization, which is to be followed by a world symposium on the subject, but also because the industrial development of Latin America and the possibilities of accelerating it on a co-ordinated basis are matters to which the countries of the region have devoted increasing attention, since they constitute one of the mainsprings of the general economic integration process. In response to the evident need for criteria on which to base an industrial development policy at the regional level, the secretariat has undertaken research aimed at explaining Latin America's industrialization process over the last few decades; for some time past, too, it has been engaged in technical and economic analyses of the most important branches of industry. The object of these studies is to formulate sectoral programmes for the reorganization and development of industry, and to facilitate the evaluation of specific investment projects by providing background data, at both a country and regional level, on the market, the technical features of its operation, production costs, and other similar questions. The studies cover the following industries: steel, basic industrial equipment and machine-tools, textile machinery, metal-transforming in general, chemicals, pulp and paper, textiles, aluminium and copper, either in the form of country studies or reports covering the whole region.

The trend towards integrated industrial development is also reflected in the establishment of the Joint ECLA/INST/IDB Programme on Integration of Industrial Development. The three sponsoring agencies are pooling their efforts to intensify and accelerate progress in this

/field and

field and to secure sufficient data within a relatively brief period upon which to base an action policy within the appropriate branches of industry.

One of the two background documents for the discussions on this topic contains an analysis of experience relating to industrialization, and the other summarizes the knowledge acquired through the new sectoral studies on the problems and prospects of the major branches of industry.

The document on industrialization starts with an analysis of the past evolution of the manufacturing sector and goes on to examine the problems affecting industry and the policy followed in various countries of the region. It also considers the future growth prospects of the manufacturing sector and the policies to adopt in order to meet the requirements of a new stage in the industrialization process.

The problems and prospects of the major sectors of Latin American industry (steel, chemicals, pulp and paper, aluminium, metal transforming and textiles) are analysed in a second report prepared by the secretariat, which highlights the salient features of each branch of industry, its present position and problems, and the possibilities opened up by regional integration.

The report of the Seminar on the Development of the Chemical Industry in Latin America is included in this item of the agenda instead of in item 7, because the results of this ECLA-sponsored meeting can be more usefully analysed in the discussions on industrial development.

It should be noted that the activities in connexion with industry are closely linked to item 5 of the agenda, since they bring to light specific data on integration possibilities in different sectors of industry, in terms of the countries' resources and potential.

Documents:

El proceso de industrialización en América Latina (E/CN.12/716)

Los principales sectores de la industria latinoamericana: problemas y perspectivas (E/CN.12/718)

Nota de la Secretaría sobre el simposio regional de industrialización (E/CN.12/705)

Informe Provisional del Seminario sobre el Desarrollo de la Industria Química en América Latina (E/CN.12/719) (Spanish only)

Central America: "Industrial policy problems", Economic Bulletin for Latin America, Vol. IX, No 1

/Reference documents:

Reference documents:

In order to avoid overloading the agenda of the present session, reports relating to specific branches of industry which the secretariat has completed since the last session will not be presented for discussion, but will be considered as reference documents. The list of these documents is appended to the agenda. Delegations requiring such documents should get in touch with the Documents Section, who will forward them from Santiago after the conference.

7. Report on the activities of the Commission

The report on the work of the Commission since the tenth session of the Committee of the Whole, which took place in Santiago, Chile, from 12 to 14 February 1964, is presented under this item. The document, together with the comments formulated by the delegations at the present session, will form part of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.

This item groups together the reports of the technical meetings and seminars held under ECLA's auspices since the last session, except the report of the Seminar on the Development of the Chemical Industry in Latin America, which is included in item 6 of the agenda to which it relates directly, and the reports of other meetings held in Central America which have not yet been considered by the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee.

Documents:

Work of the Commission since the tenth session of the Committee of the Whole (E/CN.12/713)

Report of the Seminar on the Organization and Functions of Regional Agencies Responsible for Housing Programmes (E/CN.12/715)

Report of the Second Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration (E/CN.12/704)

Information paper on technical assistance provided in 1964 to the countries and territories of the ECLA region under the expanded and regular programmes (E/CN.12/709)

/8. Latin

8. Latin America Institute for Economic and Social Planning

(a) Report on activities in the period 1963-65

(b) Election of new members of the Governing Council

By virtue of resolution 220 (AC.52) adopted by the Commission at the ninth session of the Committee of the Whole, the Institute was established as an autonomous agency under the aegis of ECLA, with the financial assistance of the United Nations Special Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It began operating on 1 July 1962.

In line with Part A, paragraph 2 (c) of the above-mentioned resolution, the Institute should submit to ECLA, each year, a progress report on its activities. This provision is complied with at the present session on the form of a special report which is presented together with a note by the secretariat.

Pursuant to Part A, paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 220 (AC.52), the eight members of the Institute's Governing Council whose term of office expires at this session must be elected by ECLA. The rules and conditions governing their election are reproduced in the aforementioned note by the secretariat.

Documents:

Report on the activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/CN.12/720)

Note by the secretariat on the election of new members of the Governing Council of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (E/CN.12/722)

9. Programme of work and priorities

(a) Programme of work and priorities, 1965-67

(b) Resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic Council of concern to the Commission

The Commission, at each session, adopts the programme of work and priorities for the two ensuing years, which is subsequently incorporated in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council. In the preparation of the programme, account is taken of the decisions adopted at the previous session, as well as of the recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the subsidiary agencies of the Commission. Likewise, whenever necessary, the United Nations specialized agencies are also consulted.

/The secretariat

The secretariat has prepared a draft programme of work and priorities for 1965-67 which will include, in due course, the pertinent decisions adopted by ECLA at the present session.

In the preparatory work for this programme, the Commission should bear in mind the recommendations of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council. To facilitate matters, the secretariat should present those resolutions that are of concern to the Commission.

Documents:

Draft programme of work and priorities, 1965-67 (E/CN.12/706)

Note by the secretariat on resolutions of concern or of interest to the Commission adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth session and by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session (E/CN.12/723)

10. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

The Commission presents to the Economic and Social Council each year a full report on its activities and projects, together with those of its subsidiary agencies. The report also includes an account of the proceedings at the session, the text of the resolutions adopted, and the programme of work and priorities. In order to facilitate the work of preparing the report, the secretariat has distributed beforehand draft versions of Parts I and V, covering the work of the Commission since its last session and the programme of work and priorities for 1965-67, respectively.

11. Date and place of the twelfth session

In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Commission shall at each session decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that "the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation". It is incumbent upon the Commission to examine the offers received from Governments of member States wishing to act as hosts at the next session, and to decide on the date and place of that session. It should be noted that since 1951 the Commission has held its sessions every two years, while the Committee of the Whole has met in the intervening years.

/The previous

The previous sessions of the Commission have been held in the following cities:

Santiago, Chile, 1948

Havana, 1949

Montevideo, 1950

Mexico, 1951

Rio de Janeiro, 1953

Bogotá, 1955

La Paz, 1957

Panama, 1959

Santiago, Chile, 1961

Mar del Plata, 1963