

E/2021
E/CN.12/266



UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

(FOURTH SESSION)

(28 MAY 1951 — 16 JUNE 1951)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTEENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

NEW YORK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

9 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/275)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that in a resolution (E/CN.12/194) adopted at Montevideo on 20 June 1950 at its third session, it agreed to recommend to Latin-American Governments that in drafting programmes and taking measures to promote economic development "they should take into account the possibilities of expanding demand through reciprocal trade, in order to achieve a better integration of their economies and higher levels of productivity and real income";

Considering that the delegations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, in pursuance of the principle of the above resolution and in view of the geographical and historical ties which unite Central America, have expressed the interest of their Governments in the development of agricultural and industrial production and of transportation systems in their respective countries so as to promote the integration of their economies and the expansion of markets by the exchange of their products, the co-ordination of their development programmes and the establishment of enterprises in which all or some of these countries have an interest.

Considering that these delegations have also indicated their desire that the Executive Secretary co-operate with the Governments concerned in the study and development of these plans; and

Considering that the aspirations of the Central American countries will make a positive contribution to the economic development of Latin America and are compatible with the objectives of the Commission;

(a) *Takes note* with satisfaction of the declared objectives of the Central American Governments with reference to the integration of their national economies;

(b) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to study the means or plans for the progressive attainment of those objectives; and

(c) *Invites* the Governments of the Isthmus of Central America, whenever they deem it appropriate, to form a committee on economic co-operation, composed of ministers of economic affairs or persons appointed by them, to act as a co-ordinating body for activities relating to the above-mentioned questions, and as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of ECLA, both to direct the studies mentioned above and to examine the conclusions reached therein.

SPECIAL INDUSTRY STUDIES

10 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/279)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Takes note with satisfaction of the series of special studies on industry undertaken by the Secretariat;

Welcomes the report on the productivity of the cotton textile industry in selected Latin-American countries submitted by the Executive Secretary;

Expresses its appreciation of the high quality of that report, and recommends it to all concerned with the industry in Latin America;

Recommends that member Governments take note of the recommendations made by the Executive Secretary in section VIII, entitled "General Recommendations", of Chapter I of this report (E/CN.12/219);

Considers that :

(a) in view of the importance of industrial studies to the economic development of Latin America, similar studies should be carried out as soon as possible on the steel, wood pulp and paper, basic chemicals and foodstuffs industries;

(b) in preparing these studies due attention should be paid to resolution E/CN.12/278, calling for the continuation of the study on the textile industry; and

(c) the Secretariat should seek the collaboration of the specialized agencies, in particular of the Food and Agriculture Organization, for the studies of the pulp and paper and foodstuffs industries;

Recommends that member Governments avail themselves of the technical assistance available to them under the expanded Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations;

Recommends that member Governments concerned consult with the Executive Secretary, with a view to preparing adequate requests for technical assistance, to be jointly submitted to the Secretary-General and to the appropriate specialized agencies; and

Authorizes the Executive Secretary to call meetings of industrial experts to examine, on their personal responsibility, the conclusions and recommendations contained in each study before submitting them to the Commission.

CONTINUATION OF THE STUDY ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

11 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/278)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the preparation of national economic, social and financial policies to promote the economic development of member countries must be based upon individual studies of the broad factors of economic activity, and that, specifically with regard to industrial development, such studies must necessarily comprise, both

(a) the technical analysis of engineering and administration, and

(b) the general economic analysis of factors outside the industrial installations;

Considering that the study on the productivity of the cotton textile industry in selected Latin-American countries points out to a large extent the principal technical

reasons for the general backwardness of that industry as far as engineering and administration are concerned;

Considering that in order to enable member Governments to obtain the greatest possible benefit from the results of that study when framing national development programmes in this branch of industry, it should be supplemented by another approach to the problem, paying due attention to the national and international economic factors not connected with the industrial installations themselves, which have influenced the present state of that industry's development as depicted in the technical study;

1. *Decides* that a second study shall be made of the textile industry in the Latin-American countries covered by the study of the productivity of labour, and that in it an effort shall be made to assess the national and international economic factors influencing the present stage of development of that industry, in particular those which have impeded its technological progress and a greater satisfaction of the clothing needs of the mass of the population of the countries concerned; and

2. *Decides* that the same dual aspect should be considered in any future industrial studies undertaken by the Secretariat.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

12 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/281)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind the importance of technical assistance to the economic development of Latin-American countries;

1. *Takes note* of the document, "United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development" prepared by the Technical Assistance Administration (E/CN.12/223);

2. *Expresses* the hope that technical assistance services to the Latin-American countries under General Assembly resolutions 200 (III), 246 (III) and 304 (IV) will be extended;

3. *Welcomes* the designation of a Technical Assistance Administration representative to be attached to the Secretariat of the Commission;

4. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General utilize the Secretariat of the Commission as fully as possible in assisting member Governments: to appraise their need for technical assistance, to formulate their requests for such assistance, and to carry out such projects as may be agreed upon;

5. *Recommends* that the Executive Secretary, in acting on behalf of the Secretary-General in the appraisal of needs for technical assistance, in the formulation of requests for such assistance and in the implementation of agreed projects, utilize to the fullest extent the resources of the specialized agencies in their respective fields of competence;

6. *Recommends* that member Governments consider the manner in which they can best utilize technical

assistance for economic development in formulating their requests for such assistance to the Secretary-General;

7. *Recommends* that the Executive Secretary's report on the progress made in the field of technical assistance in Latin America to the next session of the Commission should include information on technical assistance provided under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance of the United Nations, as well as information on such assistance provided under resolution 200 (III) and 246 (III);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to utilize the ECLA Centre for Economic Development for arranging courses and seminars in economic development, and for placing fellows and scholars in the field of economic development under the United Nations fellowship and scholarship programme.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

13 (IV). *Resolution approved 16 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/280)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that each member country has its own characteristic ways and methods of exploiting its natural resources for purposes of industrial development;

Considering that a scientific determination of such ways and methods may be arrived at only by means of systematic technological research;

Considering that most of the member countries do not have adequate resources for applied technological research as regards either the training of technicians or the carrying out of basic research in applied technology;

Considering that to transfer the technological methods appropriate to the highly industrialized countries directly to the less developed countries, in which the relative availability of the various factors of production is quite different, often leads the latter towards economically inadequate solutions of their problems;

Considering that it is imperative, in view of the limited resources available to the Latin-American countries, that technological research be based upon an understanding of the factors which determine the particular stage of development in each of these countries;

Recommends that the Executive Secretary, after having gathered the necessary preparatory material, convene a group of experts with responsibility for preparing reports and making recommendations regarding the establishment or improvement of centres of applied technological research, having in mind the need to train research workers and to provide facilities for carrying out technological research programmes of national interest; and that he consult with the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies, with a view to obtaining the necessary technical assistance at the appropriate stage;

Recommends that member Governments concerned consult with the Executive Secretary regarding the appropriate method of submitting requests to the Secretary-General for convening the above-mentioned experts.