



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

on the equalization of import duties, and to this end a draft Central American equalization agreement has been prepared and is under consideration by the Governments with a view to its signature,

Decides:

1. To take note of the report presented by the Central Banks Economic Co-operation Committee, and of document E/CN.12/517, and to congratulate the Committee and its member Governments on having signed the treaties setting up the Central American common market, inasmuch as it constitutes an event of supreme importance for the countries concerned, as well as on the practical and efficacious manner in which the work of integration is being carried out;

2. To express its great interest in the continuance and if possible the intensification of the Committee's work with a view to the economic integration of Central America, which hitherto it has been carrying out with the efficient co-operation of the ECLA secretariat;

3. To declare its appreciation of the help given to the Economic Co-operation Committee by the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme especially by TAO, the ILO and FAO and also to thank the OAS for its co-operation in certain fields;

4. To request the secretariat and the technical assistance agencies participating in the programme to continue co-operating as actively as possible in the Central American Economic Integration Programme.

22 May 1959

153 (VIII). Joint ECLA/TAO economic development training programme

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering, that in 1952 ECLA and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO) jointly established an economic development training programme, with its headquarters at Santiago, Chile, with a view to the formation of personnel trained in the analysis and programming of economic development,

Considering that this training programme is an important means of disseminating ECLA's experiences with respect to economic development programming in the Latin American countries,

Considering that the Santiago training programme has so far trained ninety Latin American specialists and effectively contributed to the development of the respective countries,

Considering that, in spite of the above, the Latin American countries require for the analysis and programming of economic development that a greater number of specialists in different professional categories should be trained in economic development matters,

Considering that, in order to facilitate such training, it may be advisable to establish intensive economic development training courses in such areas as Central America and the Caribbean and other countries, in which fellows from these countries or areas might

participate and thereby take advantage of all the benefits that can be derived from courses of that type,

Resolve:

1. To move a vote of thanks to the ECLA secretariat for the praiseworthy work it has carried out through its training programme, and to express its gratitude to the United Nations technical assistance for its support.

2. To request the secretariat to study the possibility of expanding the programme with a view to initiating intensive training courses in economic development in countries or areas where such courses have not yet been held and to report thereon to the Committee of the Whole in 1960.

22 May 1959

154 (VIII). Statistics

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing that appreciable progress has been made in Latin American statistical development in the last few years, on the one hand, because of the growing understanding of the importance of statistics as a factor on which to base intelligent decisions and formulate Government policy and, on the other, because of Government action and professional and inter-governmental activities of international organizations and services, among which the activities of international organizations and those relating to bilateral programmes warrant special mention,

Whereas the projects carried out by the different Governments with the collaboration of various international organizations — such as the population and agricultural censuses and the preparation of models for various statistics — are extremely useful, not only because of the valuable information they provide but also because they help to improve professional training and instruction in statistics at the national level,

Whereas, owing to the conditions in which such statistical development has taken place, shortcomings and omissions exist which cannot be underestimated and which require constant attention on the part of Governments and international organizations,

Whereas, in order to remedy these deficiencies and omissions, the following solutions, *inter alia*, might be suggested: (a) the provision of national statistical services with adequate administrative and financial resources to enable them to carry out their work efficiently; (b) the creation of an administrative career service for professional statisticians which would ensure the collaboration of trained personnel; (c) the co-ordination of national statistics in order to avoid duplication, reduce costs and improve their quality; and (e) the more intensive use of modern techniques,

Whereas, in relation to the priority that might be given to the different national statistics, it would be advisable to prepare, in every country, a co-ordinated programme which would include the statistics required for the preparation and checking of economic development plans,

Whereas meetings of working groups of experts responsible for specific national statistics, in order to exchange information on methods and look for solutions to common problems, are an excellent means of improving the aforesaid national statistics,

Whereas, in view of the fact that the projected industrial censuses are soon to be taken in many Latin American countries and of their relationship with the respective current statistical series, it would be of particular interest to hold one of these meetings at the earliest opportunity in order to deal with industrial statistics;

Decides:

1. To request the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the United Nations Statistical Office, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and the specialized agencies concerned, and using the "Basic list of statistics for economic and social development",²⁷ a minimum programme, adapted to conditions in the Latin American countries, of statistics required for the formulation and checking of economic development plans;

2. To recognize that, in order to make genuine progress in Latin American statistics, effective measures should be adopted, namely:

(a) The organization of national statistical services, in order to ensure that they have proper administrative status and satisfactory relations with the authorities responsible for economic development policy, as well as adequate budgets and administrative resources;

(b) The establishment of standards for the compilation and processing of data, and the application of modern methods of study and research;

3. To recommend to the secretariat that, in active co-operation with the Governments of the Latin American countries, the United Nations Statistical Office, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and the specialized agencies concerned, it should prepare a plan for a meeting, in 1960, of a working group composed of national experts in current industrial series and census statistics, to study in detail and to exchange views on the measures required to carry out such censuses and allied surveys which would contribute to economic development programming. To the extent that resources are available and the opportunity presents itself, similar steps might be taken in regard to other important statistics for economic development analyses. In order to facilitate the execution of these plans, assistance would be requested from international and bilateral technical assistance programmes.

22 May 1959

155 (VIII). Economic development advisory groups

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the Latin American countries are making great efforts to promote economic development policies,

²⁷ United Nations Statistical Commission, documents E/CN.3/248 and E/CN.3/L.41.

Considering that the efforts to put these policies into practice have been hampered mainly by the lack of basic research, the inadequacy of the available machinery and procedures for programming and the scarcity of specialized personnel,

Considering that the investigations into the economic development of the Latin American countries, and the training courses conducted by the secretariat have helped to solve a part of these difficulties,

Considering that the ECLA secretariat and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations may, by acting in co-ordination, make a still more important contribution to the solution of the difficulties mentioned above,

Considering that, in compliance with resolution 137 (VII), the secretariat has reported (E/CN.12/518) the establishment of an *ad hoc* advisory group, in collaboration with the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations which is lending its services to a Latin American country, and having heard the statement by the Commissioner for Technical Assistance on this subject.

Takes note with satisfaction of the initiation of activities by the economic development advisory group organized jointly by the secretariat of the Commission and the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, and

Expresses its great interest in the continuation of this type of activity, whenever such continuation is requested by member Governments.

22 May 1959

156 (VIII). Establishment of permanent pavilions and fairs for exhibiting Latin American products

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the intensification of foreign trade determines and favours the normal growth of national economies,

Considering that free-trade areas facilitate commodity trade among the different nations by bringing the supply and demand for goods into contact with one another,

Considering that the Republic of Panama has established a free zone in the city of Colón which, by virtue of its strategic position on international ocean routes, has become an excellent site for the display of goods, and is therefore promoting the development of international economic relations,

Decides to request member Governments to consider the possibility and advantage of establishing, in the free zone of Colón and other Latin American free ports already in existence or which may be created in the future, a permanent pavilion for Latin American products as well as periodic fairs which would help to facilitate trade between Latin American and the rest of the world.

22 May 1959