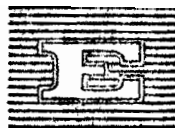


UNITED NATIONS

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ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.12/385

August 11, 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION LATIN AMERICA  
Sixth Period of Sessions  
Bogotá, Colombia.  
August 29, 1955.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

COUNCIL RELATING TO TRADE

Note by the  
Executive Secretary



Attached are copies of two resolutions, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its twentieth session, the first relating to the expansion of world trade and the second to inter-regional trade consultations:

1. The first resolution (579 A(XX)) inter alia refers to the valuable work of the regional economic commissions in connection with world trade and recommends that governments continue to use the services of the United Nations, the regional economic commissions and the specialised agencies concerned in this field.

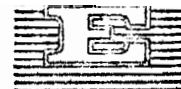
2. The second resolution (579 B(XX)) stems originally from the Council's resolution 535 B(XVIII) on inter-regional co-operation which, in turn, was adopted in response to a resolution (5(IX)) of the Economic Commission for Europe on the same subject.

The Commission will recall that its Committee of the Whole Meeting in Santiago in May 1955, considered this subject on the basis of a Report by the Secretary-General (E/2674) and a Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.12/AC.26/6) and adopted a resolution (77(AC.26)). This resolution, together with resolutions on the same subject adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (4(X)) and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (14(XI)), and the above-mentioned Report by the Secretary-General (E/2674), was before the Council at its twentieth session ~~when~~ it adopted the attached resolution.

It will be noted from the Council's resolution that, at the request of interested governments participating in the work of the Commission, the latter may decide whether inter-regional consultations of the type described in document E/2674 should be held. If such a request were to be made and if the Commission were to decide that such consultations should be held, the Secretary-General would

convey the Commission's decision to the other regional economic commission or commissions concerned for their consideration.

The Executive Secretary suggests that any request made by interested governments in accordance with the resolution may be considered under item 10 of the Provisional Agenda (E/CN.12/382) "International trade".



ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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E/RES.(XX)/12

9 August 1955

20th Session  
Resolution 579 A(XX)

THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

WELCOMING the efforts now under way to contribute to the relaxation of international tension by finding means for the solution of certain problems including the problem of the progressive elimination of barriers to international trade;

BEARING IN MIND the benefits to be derived by both the more developed and less developed countries from a continuing expansion of world trade;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the continuing expansion of world trade depends on co-operation among countries;

CONSIDERING that the further development of economic relations is of great importance for developing the economy of States, increasing employment and production and raising the living standard of the people and that it will promote understanding and mutually beneficial collaboration among nations;

HAVING CONSIDERED the study (E/2737) entitled The Quest for Freer Trade and the Introduction to the World Economic Report 1953/54 (E/2729), prepared in response to its resolution 531 C(XVIII);

NOTING that limitations of various kinds to the development of international trade still exist;

NOTING the progress already made through the efforts of national governments, business enterprise and existing international institutions, in reducing or removing various obstacles to international trade and promoting its expansion on a multi-lateral basis;

CONSIDERING that intensification of these efforts would undoubtedly lead to a further reduction of such obstacles as still exist and to a further development of trade;

NOTING that the regional economic commissions are already doing valuable work in this connection, especially through their trade promotion efforts;

RECOGNISING that certain countries depend, in their export trade, on one or a few commodities;

RECOGNISING that the trade and economic policies of one country may have significant effects on the economies of other countries;

RECOGNISING that an increased international flow of capital may contribute to the more rapid development of the under-developed countries and thereby to the further expansion of world trade;

CONSIDERING that prior to the solution of the problem referred to in the first paragraph above, there are various measures which governments can usefully undertake directed towards the expansion of international trade;

1. REQUESTS governments to continue their efforts to promote the expansion of world trade, and in particular:

- (a) to continue their support of established international institutions which are working successfully for the expansion of world trade;
- (b) to reduce or remove international trade restrictions or discriminations over goods and services maintained for balance of payments reasons as soon as their balance of payments and reserves position permit, having due regard to the special problems arising from the development needs of under-developed countries;
- (c) to conduct their international trade relations and trade policies with due regard to their possible harmful effects on the economies of other countries, especially countries which are dependent in their trade on exports of relatively few commodities;
- (d) to follow internal economic, monetary and fiscal policies which promote a high level of production, employment and investment, and thereby contribute to the expansion of world trade;
- (e) to take such other steps as may seem appropriate to assist the growth of world trade, such as the promotion within their territories of a wider knowledge of the benefits to be derived from standardisation of commodity grades and commercial arbitration, expansion of their trade promotion services, and consideration of the encouragement of participation in international trade fairs;
- (f) to bear in mind the possibility of technical assistance in fields related to trade;

2. EXPRESSES confidence that the regional economic commissions will continue to do valuable work in connection with world trade within their terms of reference, and recommends that governments continue to avail themselves of the services offered in the field of trade by the United Nations and its three regional economic commissions as well as by the specialised agencies concerned.

3. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the useful information contained in document E/2737.

4. DECIDES to resume consideration of the problem of the expansion of world trade at its twenty-second session.

Economic and Social Council  
Resolution 579 B(XX)

- INTER-REGIONAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

RECALLING its resolution 535 B(XVIII) on inter-regional co-operation,

HAVING CONSIDERED the World Economic Report 1953/54 (E/2729) and the report by the Secretary-General on inter-regional trade co-operation (E/2674),

TAKING NOTE of resolution 4(X) of the Economic Commission for Europe, of resolution 14(XI) of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and of resolution 77(AC.26) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

CONSIDERING that inter-regional trade consultations might be useful in strengthening inter-regional trade relations and could contribute to the expansion of world trade,

1. AUTHORISES the regional economic commissions at the request of interested governments participating in their work to decide in each case whether inter-regional trade consultations of the type described in document E/2674 should be held in order to facilitate the expansion of international trade;

2. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, if it be decided by at least two of the regional economic commissions that such consultations should be held to undertake the necessary preparatory work and to convene such consultations among interested governments

participating in the work of the regional economic commissions and interested Members of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to keep the Economic and Social Council informed of developments with respect to this matter; and if it seems necessary in accordance with resolution 557 B.I(XVIII) to submit recommendations regarding the requisite administrative and financial provisions;

4. REQUESTS the regional economic commissions by every means at their disposal and within their respective terms of reference to continue their efforts to facilitate concerted action to maintain and strengthen the economic relations of the countries in their respective regions both among each other and with other countries of the world.

