



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

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