



UNITED NATIONS

# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

(15 May 1956 - 29 May 1957)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**NEW YORK**

Experts mentioned in resolution 3 (I), at the earliest opportunity, so that the availability of such background information may facilitate the task of the Group;

(c) That it call the attention of the Group of Experts to the specific situation of those Latin American countries which are landlocked or whose economic structure is dependent on a single branch of production or lacks diversification, so that the Group may consider, in planning the structure of the regional market, the possibilities for the absorption of the exportable commodities of such countries and for facilitating their industrial development within such a market;

(d) That it also request the Group of Experts to consider, in planning the structure of the regional market, the desirability of facilitating the formation of enterprises with capital supplied jointly from two or more countries;

(e) That it request this Group to study the problems facing the development of a regional market, in which study consideration would be given to each and every Latin American country, bearing in mind its situation and possibilities;

5. To empower the secretariat to request, should it deem this necessary, the collaboration of other competent international agencies in the preparation of the studies or compilation of the data referred to in paragraph 4, items (a) and (b).

27 May 1957.

#### *Resolution 117 (VII)*

REPORT ON PAYMENTS AND THE REGIONAL MARKET  
TO GOVERNMENTS AND THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
(E/CN.12/458)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That, in August 1957, an Inter-American Economic Conference, convened by the Organization of American States, is to be held in the city of Buenos Aires (Argentina),

(b) That one of the items on the agenda for this conference is the "promotion of inter-Latin American trade",

(c) That ECLA has made considerable progress in this field through its Trade Committee, the Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System, and several studies carried out by the secretariat,

(d) That, in conformity with resolutions 31 (IV), 70 (V), 106 (VI) and 107 (VI), on co-operation and co-ordination of the work of ECLA and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council in their respective spheres of activity, it is highly advisable to avoid duplication of effort or of expenditure,

(e) That, consequently, it is from every point of view desirable that a complete report on the work carried out and scheduled by ECLA in the same field up to the date of the aforesaid conference be presented to the countries participating therein,

*Decides* that, for purposes of information, the ECLA secretariat shall transmit to the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council for the aforesaid Economic Conference of the Organization of American States, and, in advance, to the Governments of the countries participating therein, a full report on the studies carried out, under way or scheduled up to that date in relation to the problem of payments and the possibility of creating a regional market in Latin America, with a view to co-ordinating the efforts of ECLA and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and preventing the duplication of their activities;

*Declares* that it would view with satisfaction any co-operation that the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council might extend to the ECLA secretariat in proceeding with the studies on inter-Latin American trade.

27 May 1957.

#### *Resolution 118 (VII)*

SESSION OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE  
(E/CN.12/459)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That, in accordance with resolution 101 (VI) the ECLA Trade Committee was created and met for the first time at Santiago, Chile, in November 1956,

(b) That the work which has been undertaken pursuant to the resolutions of this Committee is progressing satisfactorily,

(c) That, in compliance with resolution 1 (I) of the Trade Committee, the Central Banks' Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System has already met at Montevideo (Uruguay),

(d) That the secretariat of the Commission has announced that, in pursuance of resolution 3 (I), a group of experts will meet in the second half of the current year to study the possible structure of a regional market which will help to promote the rational development of Latin American industries,

*Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the Trade Committee to hold its second session during 1958.

27 May 1957.

#### *Resolution 119 (VII)*

STUDY ON COMMODITY TRADE  
(E/CN.12/460)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That its member States are at present endeavouring to seek formulae and procedures which will promote the transition from a bilateral to a multilateral system of reciprocal payments,

(b) That, to this effect, the Trade Committee adopted resolutions 1 (I) and 4 (I), at its first session,

(c) That over-all payments equilibrium in Latin America depends, in the final analysis, on the elimination of structural economic causes tending to keep certain countries of the region in a permanent debtor position;

(d) That the need to eliminate such conditions and encourage trade, both intra-regional and with the rest of the world, gave rise to resolution 101 (VI), adopted at the sixth session held at Bogotá (Colombia),

(e) That the development of intra-regional trade in conditions of steady expansion and, as far as possible, of equilibrium, is a basic requisite for the establishment and maintenance of a multilateral payments system and likewise for extending the participation of the Latin American countries in world trade,

*Decides :*

1. To take account of resolution 4 (I) of the Trade Committee;

2. To recommend to the secretariat that it continue and intensify its studies on inter-Latin American trade, principally with a view (i) to suggesting measures whereby the aforesaid structural disequilibria in the balance-of-payments situation of some Latin American countries may be remedied, (ii) to expanding trade both within and outside the region at increasingly high levels, and (iii) to expediting the transition towards greater liberalization of trade and a multilateral payments system.

27 May 1957.

*Resolution 120 (VII)*

INTER-LATIN AMERICAN TRANSPORT  
(E/CN.12/461)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That the existence of satisfactory means of maritime transport and their co-ordination with land transport routes and inland waterways is a requisite for the expansion of inter-Latin American trade,

(b) That at the present time the defects of the transport system, and especially the existence of inadequately served trade routes, constitute an obstacle to the maintenance of regular trade relations between certain zones of Latin America,

(c) That chapter IV of the secretariat report entitled *Study of inter-Latin American trade* (E/CN.12/369/Rev.1)<sup>40</sup> contains background material useful for research into possible solutions for such problems,

(d) That resolution 101 (VI) assigns to the Trade Committee the responsibility of preparing specific formulae for the removal of obstacles to inter-Latin American trade, among them the problem of transport,

*Decides :*

1. To recommend to the secretariat that, after prior consultation with the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council to avoid

duplication, it continue the studies on inter-Latin American transport and the problems thereof, especially inadequately served trade routes, in order to guide countries in the adoption of measures designed to impart greater regularity to inter-Latin American maritime transport;

2. To recommend to the Trade Committee that it devote particular attention to questions relating to transport, and include the relevant items on the agenda of its forthcoming session.

27 May 1957.

*Resolution 121 (VII)*

REPERCUSSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET  
(E/CN.12/462)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Considering :*

(a) That it is of great importance for all the Latin American countries to continue to observe the experiments in economic integration in progress in Europe and projected in other areas,

(b) That, under the terms of resolution 102 (VI), this Commission recommended to the secretariat that, in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, it should continue the analysis of the markets for those basic commodities which are of decisive importance for the economies of the Latin American countries,

(c) That both the stability and the prosperity of the economies of the Latin American countries, as well as the possibilities of their development at a satisfactory rate, largely depend on the volume and value of their exports of primary commodities, which in turn are conditioned by the situation of the available markets,

(d) That the creation of the European Economic Community and the possible formation of a free trade zone in Europe may have repercussions on the sales prospects and prices of Latin American primary commodities on the world markets, to an extent not yet possible to assess,

(e) That the trend towards European economic integration, while deserving the fullest sympathy of the Latin American countries, arouses in them some apprehension as to the implications of the establishment, at any rate for a time, of a preferential trade system and as to a possible decrease in the rate of growth of European investment in Latin America,

*Decides :*

1. To take note with interest of the preliminary study (E/CN.12/449 and Add.1) presented by the secretariat on the possible repercussions of the European common market on Latin America's export trade;

2. To recommend to the secretariat that it continue to observe closely the economic integration of Europe and other areas, and that it keep the member Governments supplied with the relevant information;

<sup>40</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.G.3.