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REPORT

Volume II

Note: The Summary of Debates adopted by the delegations at the last plenary meeting of the eighteenth session did not include an account of the statements made at it; this appears in paragraphs 548 to 563 of this report, and could not therefore be made available to the representatives. In keeping with established practice, any observations it is desired to make on the subject should be submitted within 30 days of the date of this report.

79-6-1451

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning economic co-operation among developing countries 34/ and bearing in mind that regional trade and transport facilitation in Latin America, by its very nature, is a co-operative endeavour among developing countries,

Recalling further the principle, stated in article 49 of the Treaty of Montevideo and in other regional forums, that facilitation of trade and transport is a tool for bringing about regional economic integration,

Recognizing that to achieve the objectives of its resolution 356 (XVI) of 13 May 1975 the ECLA secretariat must actively support national, subregional and regional trade and transport facilitation programmes and that there must be suitable institutional arrangements for this purpose,

Taking into account section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the Assembly recognized the role of the regional commissions as principal centres for economic development, co-ordination and co-operation in their respective regions,

Having examined secretariat document E/CEPAL/1064 on ECLA's role in trade and transport facilitation, which demonstrates, inter alia, the need to establish priorities for the secretariat's facilitation work programme,

Taking into account what was stated in the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting 35/ on the possibility of continuing the preparatory work on a draft Latin American Convention on Civil Liability of Carriers in International Land Transport (CRT), and in view of the need for a uniform regional land transport liability régime for loss or damage to goods, or for delay in delivery,

Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLA:

(a) To convene in the principal geographical areas of the region, in consultation with Governments, subregional meetings of experts in facilitation matters from both national and regional organizations to identify the main facilitation problems encountered in each area, set priorities and suggest measures that may assist countries in overcoming these problems, and help the secretariat to establish a more permanent and stable facilitation action programme;

(b) To prepare the studies requested in the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting 35/ on a draft Latin American Convention on Civil Liability of Carriers in International Land Transport (CRT) and circulate these studies to the Governments of member States for their comments and suggestions.

34/ Resolutions 3177 (XVIII) of 17 December 1973, 3241 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3442 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 31/119 of 16 December 1976, 32/180 of 19 November 1977, and 33/195 of 29 January 1979.

35/ E/CEPAL/1054.