



UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

(FOURTH SESSION)

(28 MAY 1951 — 16 JUNE 1951)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTEENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

NEW YORK

to obtain greater transferability of their foreign exchange balances;

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, if he deems it necessary and without prejudice to the studies requested in this resolution, to convene a group of experts to study the problems mentioned in paragraph 1 of the operative part and to make the relevant recommendations;

4. *Expresses* its satisfaction that the Executive Secretary has been chosen to represent the United Nations on the *Ad hoc* Committee established by resolution XVII, 6, of the Fourth Consultative Meeting of Foreign Ministers of American States; and requests him to offer that committee the fullest co-operation of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

5. *Notes* with satisfaction the study on Latin-American-European trade and, in particular, the effective collaboration in the preparation of this study of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Monetary Fund; and *expresses its desire* that these studies be continued, and that the Executive Secretary periodically publish information on this trade with special reference to capital goods and the materials that enter into their manufacture; and

6. *Recommends* to the Executive Secretary that he seek the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund in studying the possibility of taking measures to obviate and combat the disturbances in the monetary field which might affect some Latin-American countries as a result of the accumulation of foreign exchange balances during the emergency period.

EFFECT OF UNITED STATES DEFENCE PROGRAMME ON TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA

19 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 14 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/261)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Having taken note of document E/CN.12/234, "Effects of the United States Defence Programme on Trade with Latin America",

Resolves to express its appreciation of the useful information contained in this document and its timely presentation for the consideration of member Governments; and

Recommends that, in view of the effect on the economic life of the continent of factors which involve profound changes in the normal course of the economic activities of the United States of America and important European centres of supply, the Executive Secretary prepare and distribute to the member Governments surveys along the general lines of document E/CN.12/234.

PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN TRADE INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE

20 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 14 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/257)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind the contents of document E/CN.12/228 in which the status is reported of the study requested

of the Executive Secretary at the third session of the Commission at Montevideo; and

Considering that the study of Inter-Latin-American trade is of special importance to member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America;

Considering that the Inter-Latin-American trade should be examined as a whole and in its various regional aspects, to facilitate the study of practical measures conducive to the expansion of Latin-American trade and to the better co-ordination of the separate national economies;

Considering that it is therefore necessary to modify the instructions contained in a resolution E/CN.12/201, adopted at the third session of the Commission :

Resolves to amend resolution E/CN.12/201 of 19 June 1950, adopted at the third session, so as to widen the scope of studies requested therein of the Executive Secretary as follows :

(a) Continuously to study Inter-Latin-American trade as a whole and in its diverse regional aspects, with a view to its expansion;

(b) To prepare for the next annual session of the Economic Commission for Latin America a study of the possibilities of the expansion of trade between the Latin-American countries, on the basis of such research as may already have been made;

(c) To continue to give special attention to the study of the relation of Inter-Latin-American trade to the co-ordination of national economic units within over all plans for joint and harmonious development;

(d) To consult Governments with regard to the aspects of Inter-Latin-American trade whose study would particularly interest them;

Recommends to the Executive Secretary that he should call, at the time he deems appropriate, a special meeting of experts in foreign trade to discuss those aspects which he may recommend to their attention.

UNITED STATES CAPACITY TO ABSORB LATIN-AMERICAN PRODUCTS

21 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 14 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/260)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the fundamental importance of exports in determining the capacity of the Latin-American countries to import, which in turn basically affects the rate at which economic development may proceed, as recognized in the resolution on "Economic Development and Anti-Cyclical Policy", adopted at its third session (E/CN.12/194), and

Considering the recommendation contained in the aforementioned resolution that the Secretariat make studies of the capacity of the large consumer centres to absorb Latin-American products and of the possible development of that capacity,

Takes note with satisfaction of the study presented by the Secretariat on United States capacity to absorb Latin-American products (E/CN.12/226);

Recommends to Latin-American Governments that they should give careful consideration to the long-term demand factors analysed in the said study with respect to the individual commodities that constitute the bulk of Latin-American exports to the United States, bearing in mind that these demand factors represent a guide for policies affecting the supply of products for export, and that they inform the Secretariat of their views regarding the results of their consideration of this study; and

Recommends to the Executive Secretary that he pay continuing attention, as far as is practicable, to the immediate and long-term prospects of expanding Latin-American exports to the United States consistent with the objectives of economic development, with a view to preparing studies which will contribute to helping the countries of Latin America to diversify their exports and to make them more adaptable to shifts in demand.

MEASURES RELATIVE TO THE SYSTEM OF PRICE-FIXING IN FOREIGN TRADE

22 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 14 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/259)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the economic development of most Latin-American countries depends to a substantial degree upon income from their principal export products;

Considering that a considerable part of such income is used for the purchase of capital goods and equipment not only in countries which buy basic commodities, but also in other markets;

Considering that, in situations of international emergency, various highly industrialized countries fix prices for the raw materials and basic commodities which they buy and sometimes also impose controls and fix the prices of the commodities or products they sell abroad;

Considering that, under resolution XVII, adopted at the Fourth Consultative Meeting of Foreign Ministers of American States held in Washington in March-April this year, a consultative procedure is contemplated in matters of Inter-American trade to effect the establishment of a system applicable to countries where such price regulation is in force;

Considering that it is desirable that the procedure for multilateral price-fixing contained in the above-mentioned resolution should be extended to all those other countries which are principal suppliers of essential capital goods and equipment;

Expresses its satisfaction with resolution XVII, adopted at the Fourth Consultative Meeting of Foreign Ministers of American States held in Washington in March-April 1951; and

Recommends that the Executive Secretary should examine the possibility of extending the consultative procedure contemplated under that resolution.

V. SPECIAL TOPICS

MEASURES TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS

23 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 15 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/264)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing the importance of free international circulation of educational, scientific and cultural materials,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary (document E/CN.12/230) concerning measures to increase the availability of supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials in Latin America,

Requests Governments to reply as soon as possible to the questionnaire sent them by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of UNESCO, enquiring into their import needs and export availabilities in respect of educational, scientific and cultural materials, and

Requests the Executive Secretary to consult again with the Director-General of UNESCO with a view to establishing, at his discretion but as soon as possible, the working group envisaged in resolution E/CN.12/204 of the Commission at its third session, taking into consideration the possibility that the working group might first devote its attention to those aspects of the problem before it which could be adequately studied with the documentation or material already available to it, devoting special attention at the appropriate stage to the documentation which Governments submit in reply to the questionnaire referred to above.

TRAFFIC REGULATION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

24 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 15 June 1951*
(E/CN.12/288)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that a long and important part of the Inter-American Highway, extending from the United States of America to Nicaragua, might be opened to traffic at the end of 1952;

Considering that the rapid development of a heavy flow of motor vehicles on this highway is to be anticipated over its entire length, thus benefiting the countries through which it passes;

Considering that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, during its eleventh session in July 1950, approved a resolution in which the attention of Governments is drawn to the desirability of ratifying the Convention on Road Traffic, concluded at Geneva on 19 September 1949;

Considering that the factors necessary in reaching a decision as to the possibility of concluding an agreement regulating international traffic over this Highway should be available to all the Governments concerned;

Requests that the Executive Secretary should initiate, as soon as possible, a general study of the international