

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CEPAL/1083/Rev.1/Add.1  
20 June 1979

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

CEPAL

Economic Commission for Latin America

Eighteenth session

La Paz, Bolivia, 18-26 April 1979

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

413 (XVIII). STUDY FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE  
IMPORTERS OF ENERGY RESOURCES 50/

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that:

(a) The majority of Latin American countries are importers of hydrocarbon energy products,

(b) The prices of imports of such products have recorded substantial rises in the last five years, with the consequent impact on the economies of the developing importing countries,

(c) The impact of this phenomenon on the economies of some countries of the region will have an adverse effect on the achievement of the development objectives they have set themselves,

(d) In taking corrective measures regarding the prices and availability of hydrocarbon products in the Latin American countries Governments are frequently hindered by the lack of reliable, up-to-date information,

Recognizing the legitimate right of the countries which produce hydrocarbons to demand a fair price for a non-renewable natural resource,

Rejecting the currently prevailing oligopolistic marketing practices,

Taking into account the fact that within the context of the new international economic order all countries must make a world-wide effort to exploit, distribute and consume energy products equitably and fairly and study solutions to the problems which face all the developing countries, but especially those of the region,

Taking into account also the fact that the terms of reference of ECLA include the function of making or sponsoring such investigation and studies of economic and technological problems within the majority of the territories of Latin America as the Commission deems appropriate,

1. Instructs the ECLA secretariat, in co-operation with specialized agencies in the region:

(a) To include in its notes for the annual Economic Survey of Latin America, starting in the current year, a detailed analysis of the impact of the rise in the commercial prices of hydrocarbon energy products on the principal economic variables in the Latin American importing countries;

---

50/ See paras. 596-599 in vol. I of this report.

(b) To carry out, for those countries, a study containing proposals for alternative machinery to cope with this impact, including the use of other sources, and the adoption of joint measures aimed at improving the marketing of such hydrocarbon energy products;

(c) To study the feasibility of establishing as rapidly as possible a regional information system to collect and transmit automatically to the different countries data on stocks, demand, supply, transport and prices of hydrocarbon products from different sources, as well as available alternative technologies;

2. Takes note of the positive efforts being made in the joint UNDP/World Bank programme in Latin American countries, with funds provided by the Fund for assistance to developing countries established by the member States of OPEC, to identify and implement projects for the use of non-conventional energy sources which progressively reduce the almost complete dependence on hydrocarbons;

3. Urges ECLA to offer its support to that initiative and to exhort both the agencies carrying out the programme and the contributors of resources to redouble their efforts in that direction.