



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(9 April 1958 — 23 May 1959)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

Part III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE EIGHTH SESSION

147 (VIII). Co-ordination among programmes bodies

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that several Latin American countries possess or are organizing programming bodies for the purpose of guiding their economic development into appropriate channels with a view to bringing about the harmonious growth of all sectors of production and raising the standards of living rapidly without disturbing the balance thereof,

Considering that it is extremely useful that each such advisory body should have the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the organization of the other bodies, their methods of work, objectives and targets and programmes whether under study or in process of being carried out and of pooling the conclusions derived from their experience,

Considering that a technical co-operation agreement to this effect already exists between the programming bodies of Colombia and Ecuador, and was signed in February 1959 by the Governments concerned, *ad referendum*,

Considering that at the recent consultations on trade policy and payments at Caracas consideration was given to the possibilities of extending the aforesaid agreement to other Latin American programming bodies,

Considering that the ECLA secretariat could be of effective assistance as a centre for the pooling of experiences and suggestions in these matters,

Decides to request the secretariat, if national Governments so request and to the extent that their resources allow, to study the organization, objectives, methods of work and other characteristics of the programming bodies existing or about to be set up in Latin America, as well as their programmes under study or in process of being carried out and to act as liaison between those bodies, and to suggest that, in the event of the conclusions of agreements like that already entered into between Colombia and Ecuador, the ECLA secretariat, when so requested, should assist in the organization of the joint secretariat thus formed.

22 May 1959

148 (VIII). Improvement of budget procedures

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that in most of the Latin American countries a substantial proportion of the total annual investments is made through the public sector,

Considering that the budget procedures utilized in many Latin American countries could be improved so as to increase investment possibilities and encourage the best possible use of other public resources,

Takes note with satisfaction of the project of the United Nations Fiscal and Financial Branch and of the ECLA secretariat to hold a seminar on budget presentation and preparation,

Recommends that the secretariat, in collaboration with the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and other United Nations bodies, should carry out studies with a view to facilitating the adaptation by the Latin American Governments of the technical principles of budget presentation and preparation to economic development needs and to the improvement of budget practices in accordance with a sound fiscal policy, and, when member countries so require, provide training facilities for Government officials responsible for work connected with budgets.

22 May 1959

149. (VIII) Skilled labour

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering the secretariat note (E/CN.12/519) on the question of skilled labour in Latin America,

Considering the adverse effects which the great scarcity of technical personnel and of specialized labour in general have on the region's economic development.

Recommends the secretariat to consider, in collaboration with the other international organizations concerned, and in particular the ILO, UNESCO, the OAS and the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) the establishment of a joint project:

1. To make an estimate of the skilled labour required with particular reference to those categories which are difficult to train,
2. To make an estimate of the means available for training and of the existing resources,
3. To collaborate with Governments which request such co-operation in preparing measures for the readaptation and expansion of these resources and the utilization of skilled immigrant labour.

22 May 1959

150 (VIII). UNESCO activities relating to primary education in Latin America

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking into account the fact that, according to statistics for 1956 published by UNESCO, the percentage of illiteracy in Latin America reaches the alarmingly high figure of 40 per cent, with a school life of four years for the literate population and only one year for the total population,

Considering that not only has the ideal of "education for all", expressed in most of the Latin American Constitutions, fallen far short of achievement, but the educational outlook is aggravated by the region's high rate of population growth, which means that approximately 1 million children are added annually to the school-age population, so that 25,000 classrooms and 25,000 teachers ought to be incorporated into Latin America's educational programme every year, if the present deficit represented by the 15 million children who have no school to attend is not to continue increasing,

Mindful that the effort to give every human being an education, besides being an irremissible duty of the State, is also the most noble of missions and the most profitable investment that can be effected, especially in the field of economic and social community development,

Bearing in mind that one of Latin America's most urgent economic development requirements is an adequate supply of properly qualified specialists, technicians and skilled labour, which can be obtained only by means of an educational system that will ensure the elimination of illiteracy and the steady raising of the school age,

Taking into consideration, furthermore, that UNESCO is applying, in Latin America with the co-operation of the Governments of the region and of international organizations a major project for the extension of primary education in Latin America, which, it is hoped, will bring about substantial changes within a period of ten years in the present general picture of Latin American primary education,

Recommends:

1. That in their economic programming, the Governments should give due priority to work programmes designed to improve and increase education in general and technical and primary education in particular,

2. That the Governments should give their support as hitherto but so far as possible on a larger scale, to UNESCO's major educational development project for the extension of free and compulsory primary education in Latin America.

22 May 1959

151 (VIII). Co-operation with the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council in carrying out economic studies by countries

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the Special Committee of the Council of the Organization of American States set up to study the devising of new measures of economic co-operation (Committee of the 21) adopted, at its second session held at Buenos Aires from 27 April to 8 May 1959, a draft resolution in which it recommends that the Inter-American Economic and Social Council should undertake a study programme for every country that so requests, under which recent experiences should be examined and current problems analysed, both quali-

tatively and quantitatively, and which would serve to shed light on the measures that would most effectively help to expedite the country's economic development,

Considering that the Committee of the 21 decided, in the same draft resolution, that these studies should be prepared by the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council using, so far as possible, the relevant studies and reports available in the various countries and in the competent national and international organizations and requesting the co-operation of such organizations in carrying out the additional studies,

Taking into account that the execution of this study programme will be extremely valuable for the purpose of devising such measures as may contribute to the economic development of Latin America, which is the main objective of the movement that the Pan American Operation is designed to promote,

Recognizing the experience and authority which the ECLA secretariat has acquired in economic development by means of its constant and valuable inquiries, research work and studies;

Recommends the secretariat:

1. to place at the disposal of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council the information, reports and other material in its possession which may be of use in the execution of the programme of studies mentioned above;

2. to give the secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, when so requested by it and without prejudice to ECLA's programme of work, all the technical co-operation in its power, thus contributing to the prompt and effective execution of these studies.

22 May 1959

152 (VIII). Work of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking into account that the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee has presented a report on its activities (E/CN.12/492), reviewing those undertaken during the period February 1957 - June 1958; and that similarly, the secretariat has reported on the work carried out since that date (E/CN.12/517),

Considering that in June 1958 the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua signed the Multilateral Treaty on Free Trade and Central American Economic Integration, and the Agreement on Central American Integration Industries, which have already been ratified by the legislative bodies of three of the signatories,

Considering that the signing of these agreements gives institutional force to the Central American common market and constitutes a decisive step towards the gradual integration of the five countries' economies, which lend themselves particularly well to such a process,

Taking into account that the Governments of the Central American countries have already begun work