



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(1 May 1972-30 March 1973)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

VOLUME I

UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1973

Deeming it necessary that ECLA should be in a position where it will be able to assist the Governments of the region fully and effectively in the field of computer technology both as regards services and as regards the various aspects of development, applied research, documentation and training of specialized higher-level personnel,

1. Requests the ECLA secretariat to intensify its studies and activities in this field, in collaboration with the Director of the Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office, with a view to the possible establishment of a Latin American Centre for Information Technology (CLADI), which would include the present functions of the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) and would serve the activities, studies and research of ECLA, of the Governments and national, regional and sub-regional institutions of Latin America which may so require, and of other agencies of the United Nations system established in the region;

2. Recommends the secretariat, in order to facilitate the necessary arrangements, urgently to prepare a work programme and the operating rules for CLADI, in consultation with Governments, the competent United Nations agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other sources of co-operation, and to work out ways and means of financing its early establishment and operation.

178th meeting
30 March 1973

326 (XV) PREPARATION OF LATIN AMERICA FOR THE 1973
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind that the developed countries members of GATT have undertaken to carry out a general review of international economic relations and, beginning in 1973, to conduct within the framework of GATT the most ambitious and comprehensive multilateral trade negotiations since the war, which are to cover all aspects of trade in agricultural and industrial products and to devote particular attention to the problems of the developing countries, including the special modalities of their participation,

Bearing also in mind that the developing countries have shown an interest in these initiatives and have indicated that their association in the negotiations will necessarily depend upon the adoption of techniques and modalities devised with their full participation which take account of their interests and aspirations,

Recalling resolution 82 (III) on multilateral trade negotiations adopted without objection at the third session of UNCTAD and resolutions 3040 (XXVII) and 3041 (XXVII) */ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session,

*/ The delegations of the United States, Canada, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom stated that they had voted against resolution 3040 (XXVII) and the United States and the United Kingdom noted that they had abstained on resolution 3041 (XXVII).

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1722 (LIII), which invited the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to co-operate fully with the appropriate international agencies in achieving the objectives of that resolution,

Recalling the fact that at the twenty-eighth session of the Contracting Parties of GATT it was agreed inter alia that the multilateral trade negotiations should be aimed at securing additional benefits for the international trade of the developing countries and that a Preparatory Committee would be responsible for devising methods and procedures for the negotiations, for submission to a ministerial meeting of GATT to be convened in September 1973,

Considering the assistance which the secretariats of ECLA, UNCTAD, GATT and other international organizations have been giving to Latin American Governments in the field of trade policy and the need to ensure their fullest collaboration in preparing the countries of the region for participation in the preparatory stage of the negotiations,

Taking note of ECLA's participation as a regional co-operation organization in the programme relating to co-operation with Latin American countries in respect of the multilateral trade negotiations (UNCTAD/UNDP project RLA/72/098), which came into operation in November 1972,

Recognizing the advisability of strengthening action designed to improve the technical preparation of the Latin American countries, with the collaboration of the competent international agencies,

1. Requests the ECLA secretariat to provide technical assistance to the Latin American Governments, at their request, for the negotiations and, to that end, to accelerate and strengthen its contribution to the UNCTAD/UNDP project concerning co-operation with the Latin American countries in the field of trade policy related to the multilateral trade negotiations;
2. Recommends that the ECLA secretariat should accord the highest priority and urgency to studies and work relating to the above-mentioned project, taking into account whatever UNCTAD and GATT studies may be available, and request it to convey to the secretariats of UNCTAD, GATT and FAO the appreciation of the countries of Latin America for their contribution to the development of the programme;
3. Takes note of the importance repeatedly attributed by the Latin American member countries of the Commission to:
 - (i) The adoption, within the framework of GATT, of measures which will ensure the full, effective and continuous participation of the developing countries, whether or not they are members of GATT, in all phases of the negotiations so that their interests will be duly taken into account, without prejudice to the future accession to GATT of developing countries which are not yet members,
 - (ii) The establishment of techniques, modalities and basic rules of negotiation which will ensure that particular attention will be accorded to the interests and needs of the developing countries at all stages,

- (iii) The application in the course of the negotiations of measures and action aimed at promoting and diversifying the exports of the developing countries, including, inter alia, the broadening and improvement of generalized schemes of preferences, the conclusion of international commodity agreements, and the removal of trade barriers which hamper or restrict access to the markets of the developed countries for products of special interest to the developing countries,
- (iv) The acceptance by all the countries participating in the GATT negotiations of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 3040 (XXVII),
- (v) The decision adopted by the Contracting Parties of GATT at its twenty-eighth session that the negotiations should be aimed at securing additional advantages for the developing countries so that they can substantially increase their foreign exchange earnings, diversify their exports and accelerate the rate of growth of their trade, taking into account their development needs and the urgency of continuing efforts to incorporate other fundamental objectives such as, inter alia, greater improvements in the conditions of access of the exports of the developing countries to the markets of the industrialized countries and solution of the problems of price policy;

4. Recommends the member Governments of the Commission to give support, in the appropriate forums, to the efforts of the Latin American countries to perfect their technical preparation and to work out rules, techniques and modalities for negotiation which will be suitable to their problems and interests;

5. Invites UNDP, in addition to the contribution it is currently making to the implementation of project RLA/72/098 on the trade negotiations, to provide, according to its procedures, the necessary resources in order to:

- (a) Make possible the holding of the GATT course for Latin American officials scheduled for June/July 1973, and
- (b) Finance, as provided in the plan of operations already adopted, the second stage of the above project in accordance with the needs of the Latin American countries;

6. Recommends the Latin American countries to approach UNDP through the appropriate channels with a view to securing these resources.

178th meeting
30 March 1973

327 (XV) WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1672 (LII) of 2 June 1972 on Population and Development, which, inter alia, recapitulates earlier resolutions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly on the designation of 1974 as World