



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

(15 May 1956 - 29 May 1957)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 8

NEW YORK

mitted to the secretariat of IA-ECOSOC, for the Economic Conference of the Organization of American States, on the ECLA studies and activities carried out or under way in relation to the problem of payments and the possibility of creating a Latin American regional market.

239. The Commission took note of the offer by the Government of Chile to donate a site in Santiago on which a building for ECLA could be erected, and adopted a resolution (138 (VII)) in which the member countries placed on record their gratitude to the Chilean Government for so valuable a contribution to the work of the Commission. Under this same resolution a committee of Governments was appointed to present to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the Executive Secretary of ECLA, such recommendations as it might deem advisable with respect to the best procedure for erecting a building on the site offered by the Government of Chile. The Secretary-General was likewise to be invited to submit to the General Assembly, after consultation with the Governments members of the Commission, such proposals as he might deem appropriate for the fulfilment of this purpose.

240. A group of delegations presented a draft resolution on the possibility of the admission of Spain

to membership of the Commission, recommending to the Economic and Social Council that it should consider whether the terms of reference of the Commission might be modified so as to permit the inclusion of Spain among the member countries.

241. After prolonged discussion, the Commission decided not to consider this draft resolution, since the point had not been included on the agenda for the seventh session. A majority of the delegations advocated its inclusion, but this majority fell short of the three-fourths of the members accredited to attend the session required by rule 10 of the rules of procedure for the introduction of a new item on the agenda when there is opposition.

242. Several delegations abstained from voting, since, as the item was submitted only at the end of the session, they had not received instructions from their respective Governments.

243. The Commission considered and approved a resolution (137 (VII)) on programming by sectors and by regions, and preparation, presentation and evaluation of projects, in which it was recommended that the secretariat should devote attention to the specific problems in this field and advise Governments which so requested.

Part IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTH SESSION

244. The Commission at its seventh session adopted the following resolutions :

Resolution

- 115 (VII) Intra-regional payments system
- 116 (VII) Latin American regional market
- 117 (VII) Report on payments and regional market to Governments and the Economic Conference of the Organization of American States
- 118 (VII) Session of the Trade Committee
- 119 (VII) Study on commodity trade
- 120 (VII) Inter-Latin American transport
- 121 (VII) Repercussions of the European Common Market
- 122 (VII) Trade of landlocked countries
- 123 (VII) Economic integration of Central America
- 124 (VII) Social aspects of economic development
- 125 (VII) Technical assistance
- 126 (VII) Register of experts for technical assistance
- 127 (VII) Iron and steel making and transforming industries
- 128 (VII) Pulp and Paper Advisory Group
- 129 (VII) Special Meeting on the Mining Industry
- 130 (VII) Nuclear energy
- 131 (VII) Utilization of rivers and lakes
- 132 (VII) Import substitution
- 133 (VII) Study of Latin American timber production and consumption trends and prospects
- 134 (VII) ✓ Productivity and agriculture
- 135 (VII) ✓ Uneconomic farms
- 136 (VII) ✓ Coffee studies

137 (VII) Programming by sectors and by regions; and preparation, presentation and evaluation of projects

138 (VII) Building for ECLA in Chile

139 (VII) Date and place of eighth session

245. The text of these resolutions is as follows :

Resolution 115 (VII)

INTRA-REGIONAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM (E/CN.12/456)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering:

(a) That the Trade Committee, set up by virtue of resolution 101 (VI) adopted at the sixth session, held its first session at Santiago, Chile, in November 1956, and has presented at this seventh session a report on the results of its work,

(b) That, at the aforesaid session, the Governments members of the Trade Committee adopted, among others, resolution 1 (I), indicating the lines that should in their view be followed in the work of gradually converting the bilateral methods prevalent in inter-Latin American trade into a multilateral system,

(c) That, in the same resolution, the Committee takes note of the fact that the Latin American clearing-accounts countries are prepared, during the transitional period before the proposed multilateralism can be achieved, to adopt various principles and measures designed to impart greater flexibility to their payments relations and to make possible the transfer of balances between the various bilateral accounts in force,

(d) That, under the terms of this resolution, a Working Group was set up composed of representatives of the Central Banks, or equivalent authorities, of the Latin American clearing-accounts countries,

(e) That, at its first session (Montevideo, 29 April - 10 May 1957), this Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System, besides discussing the progress of the technical studies referred to, reached agreement on various points relating to draft agreements and to the procedures to be observed by the Central Banks, or equivalent authorities, of the countries between which bilateral agreements are in force, in order to put the principles and measures mentioned in paragraph (c) of this preamble into effect,

(f) That it is proposed to hold a second session of this Working Group,

Decides:

1. To take note with satisfaction of the report on the results of the work of the Trade Committee at its first session, in so far as an intra-regional payments system is concerned, and to endorse resolution 1 (I) of the aforesaid Committee;

2. To take note with satisfaction of the report on the first session of the Central Banks Working Group on a Multilateral Payments System;

3. To take note of the fact that the Latin American clearing-accounts countries are prepared to study the possibility of undertaking, during the second session of the Central Banks Working Group and immediately thereafter, a study of the agreements in force for each pair of contracting parties in Latin America. This study will relate to those agreements which, in the opinion of the countries themselves, require revision in order to bring them into line, so far as may be consistent with the situation and characteristics of trade between each pair of countries, with the draft standard payments agreement adopted at the first session of the Central Bank Working Group, subject to any adjustments that may be agreed upon by the parties before the second session;

4. To request the secretariat that it provide technical and secretarial assistance to that same group of countries in carrying out this study;

5. To request the secretariat that it transmit to the Trade Committee and to the Latin American clearing-accounts countries the observations formulated during this seventh session on the draft standard agreement on payments and procedures prepared by the Central Banks Working Group on Multilateral Payments System, so that the countries in question may bear them in mind when revising existing agreements or negotiating new ones.

27 May 1957.

Resolution 116 (VII)

LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MARKET
(E/CN.12/457)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,
Considering:*

(a) That the Trade Committee, established under the terms of resolution 101 (VI) adopted at the sixth session of the Commission, held its first session at Santiago, Chile, in November 1956, and has presented a report on the result of its work (E/CN.12/423)³⁹ to the current session of the Commission,

(b) That it is desirable to complete the studies specifically relating to the creation of a regional market in Latin America,

(c) That the trends indicated in document E/CN.12/C.1/4, presented at the first session of the Trade Committee, have become more clearly marked since that date, a development which might have unfavourable repercussions on Latin America's extra-regional and intra-regional trade,

(d) That resolutions 46 (V), 69 (V) and 101 (VI) recommended to the secretariat and to the Trade Committee that they devote special attention to the trade of those Latin American countries which are landlocked, or whose economic structure is based on a single branch of production or is little diversified,

(e) That greater mobility of capital among the Latin American countries would be advantageous,

(f) That it is desirable for the regional market to be gradually extended until it covers Latin America as a whole, in order to increase the benefits and possibilities of fuller development and economic integration which such a market may offer,

Decides:

1. To congratulate the secretariat on the efficiency with which it has discharged its responsibilities pursuant to resolution 101 (VI);

2. To express satisfaction at the success of the Trade Committee's first session, to take note with satisfaction of all those aspects of its report relating to the regional market, and to endorse resolutions 2 (I) and 3 (I) of the aforesaid Committee;

3. To take note of the instructions to the secretariat both as regards the inventory of existing industries in Latin America and with respect to the convening of a group of experts to undertake the work pursuant to resolution 3 (I);

4. To recommend to the secretariat:

(a) That it consider the desirability of expediting the implementation, within the shortest possible time, of resolutions 2 (I) and 3 (I) of the Trade Committee, with a view to taking a more decisive step towards their underlying objective;

(b) That it conduct research and compile all data that may serve as a basis for the work of the Group of

³⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.II.G.5.