



# **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**

2. Calls upon the secretariat to include in future appraisals of the application of the IDS a chapter on the utilization by the Latin American countries of their natural resources and on possible obstacles to the full and unrestricted utilization of such resources.

179th meeting  
30 March 1973

338 (XV) PLACE AND DATE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of its terms of reference and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure,

Considering the invitation from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to hold the sixteenth session of the Commission in Port of Spain,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for its generous invitation;

2. Decides to hold its sixteenth session in Port of Spain at whatever date is considered to be most convenient, following consultations between the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

179th meeting  
30 March 1973

339 (XV) EFFECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the countries of Latin America are deeply concerned about the activities carried on in the region by certain transnational corporations which, because of the immense economic power concentrated in them, may interfere with national interests, and in some cases have already done so, especially as such global-level corporations do not depend on any State and their activities are not controlled by any institution representing the public interest,

Bearing in mind that in the view of the Latin American countries these corporations' decision-making centres, which are located outside the region, have taken and may continue to take decisions on such matters as capital formation, prices and the transfer of technology independently of the development objectives which may be adopted by the countries in accordance with their national interests,

Bearing in mind further that the Latin American countries are also concerned about the outflow of capital and about operations by transnational corporations which represent illegal transfers of foreign exchange and limit the opportunities for capital accumulation in the countries where such corporations operate, such as under- or over-invoicing, the collection of royalties on patents which actually belong to the same patent firm, etc.,

Pointing out that the Latin American countries reject the direct interference practised by some transnational corporations in the internal policies of the countries where they operate,

Emphasizing the importance of the initiatives taken by various countries or groups of countries in the region, aimed at regulating private foreign investment and the transfer of technology so as to ensure that they will be at the service of independent national development,

Bearing in mind also Economic and Social Council resolution 1721 (LIII), the fifty-sixth session of ILO and UNCTAD resolution 73 (III),

1. Instructs the secretariat to study the effects of the activities of transnational corporations on the economic development of the region, as a complement to the studies which the Economic and Social Council is conducting and in co-ordination with other United Nations agencies which are carrying out studies on this matter;
2. Calls upon the secretariat to give assistance to Latin American Governments which request it in order to examine the effects of the activities of particular transnational corporations in those countries with respect to their national development;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the magnitude of this problem and the need for the various organs of the United Nations system to study in depth the behaviour of transnational corporations and their effects on the developing countries.

180th meeting  
30 March 1973