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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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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

on the equalization of import duties, and to this end a draft Central American equalization agreement has been prepared and is under consideration by the Governments with a view to its signature,

Decides:

1. To take note of the report presented by the Central Banks Economic Co-operation Committee, and of document E/CN.12/517, and to congratulate the Committee and its member Governments on having signed the treaties setting up the Central American common market, inasmuch as it constitutes an event of supreme importance for the countries concerned, as well as on the practical and efficacious manner in which the work of integration is being carried out;

2. To express its great interest in the continuance and if possible the intensification of the Committee's work with a view to the economic integration of Central America, which hitherto it has been carrying out with the efficient co-operation of the ECLA secretariat;

3. To declare its appreciation of the help given to the Economic Co-operation Committee by the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme especially by TAO, the ILO and FAO and also to thank the OAS for its co-operation in certain fields;

4. To request the secretariat and the technical assistance agencies participating in the programme to continue co-operating as actively as possible in the Central American Economic Integration Programme.

22 May 1959

153 (VIII). Joint ECLA/TAO economic development training programme

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering, that in 1952 ECLA and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO) jointly established an economic development training programme, with its headquarters at Santiago, Chile, with a view to the formation of personnel trained in the analysis and programming of economic development,

Considering that this training programme is an important means of disseminating ECLA's experiences with respect to economic development programming in the Latin American countries,

Considering that the Santiago training programme has so far trained ninety Latin American specialists and effectively contributed to the development of the respective countries,

Considering that, in spite of the above, the Latin American countries require for the analysis and programming of economic development that a greater number of specialists in different professional categories should be trained in economic development matters,

Considering that, in order to facilitate such training, it may be advisable to establish intensive economic development training courses in such areas as Central America and the Caribbean and other countries, in which fellows from these countries or areas might

participate and thereby take advantage of all the benefits that can be derived from courses of that type,

Resolve:

1. To move a vote of thanks to the ECLA secretariat for the praiseworthy work it has carried out through its training programme, and to express its gratitude to the United Nations technical assistance for its support.

2. To request the secretariat to study the possibility of expanding the programme with a view to initiating intensive training courses in economic development in countries or areas where such courses have not yet been held and to report thereon to the Committee of the Whole in 1960.

22 May 1959

154 (VIII). Statistics

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Recognizing that appreciable progress has been made in Latin American statistical development in the last few years, on the one hand, because of the growing understanding of the importance of statistics as a factor on which to base intelligent decisions and formulate Government policy and, on the other, because of Government action and professional and inter-governmental activities of international organizations and services, among which the activities of international organizations and those relating to bilateral programmes warrant special mention,

Whereas the projects carried out by the different Governments with the collaboration of various international organizations — such as the population and agricultural censuses and the preparation of models for various statistics — are extremely useful, not only because of the valuable information they provide but also because they help to improve professional training and instruction in statistics at the national level,

Whereas, owing to the conditions in which such statistical development has taken place, shortcomings and omissions exist which cannot be underestimated and which require constant attention on the part of Governments and international organizations,

Whereas, in order to remedy these deficiencies and omissions, the following solutions, *inter alia*, might be suggested: (a) the provision of national statistical services with adequate administrative and financial resources to enable them to carry out their work efficiently; (b) the creation of an administrative career service for professional statisticians which would ensure the collaboration of trained personnel; (c) the co-ordination of national statistics in order to avoid duplication, reduce costs and improve their quality; and (e) the more intensive use of modern techniques,

Whereas, in relation to the priority that might be given to the different national statistics, it would be advisable to prepare, in every country, a co-ordinated programme which would include the statistics required for the preparation and checking of economic development plans,