



# **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION**

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4. Invites the secretariat to give its technical support to the Latin American Centre for Development Administration.

179th meeting  
30 March 1973

334 (XV) THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of documents of the United Nations General Assembly have repeatedly proclaimed that the ultimate objective of the State is the establishment and maintenance for all men of certain basic conditions without which no human being can fully develop his personality nor achieve happiness, and have stated that one of the fundamental purposes of the international community is to secure the full, permanent and generalized implementation of human rights,

Noting that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Human Rights have also recognized that the fundamental objective of development is to secure the collective and simultaneous enjoyment by all men of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Conscious that the achievement of a high and sustained rate of economic and social development is an essential condition in the developing countries for giving full practical effect to economic, social and cultural rights for the entire population,

Considering that States must exercise full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and national production, so as to be able to use them without any restriction in order to initiate and maintain a process of continual improvement of the living conditions of their population,

Bearing in mind that in many instances a significant part of these resources and of the production of some developing countries tends to enrich still further particular sectors of highly industrialized nations or privileged groups in the developing countries, to the detriment of the mass of the people,

Recognizing that in a number of States there are still population groups which do not benefit from the effective implementation of human rights and are in a marginal position as regards the economic, social and cultural processes,

Considering that the absence or decline of living conditions consonant with human dignity in the rural sector of some countries abnormally increases the migration of rural and small town dwellers to the cities, where this migration aggravates the problems of the inadequate implementation of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeming it indispensable that all men should be fully aware of the essential rights of the human person so that, in such awareness, they may be in a position to protect them and fight for them,

1. Urges States and international organizations to adopt effective measures to secure the universal recognition and implementation of human rights;
2. Calls upon States which have not yet ratified the International Covenants on Human Rights to consider the possibility of doing so as soon as possible;
3. Recommends Governments to concentrate their efforts both on securing the material resources for the implementation and promotion of human rights and on adopting and improving legal procedures for the protection and promotion of those rights;
4. Urges the Governments of member States to give priority, in implementing the Strategy and development plans, to the full and generalized exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, and requests international organizations to provide maximum co-operation for the achievement of that objective;
5. Declares that the essential function of the natural resources and production of a country is to assure its people the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;
6. Asserts that for the best utilization of natural resources, account should be taken of the principle of ecological good neighbourliness;
7. Requests the industrialized countries to accord fairer and more satisfactory treatment to the exports of the developing countries in order to contribute effectively to a situation where these countries enjoy absolute autonomy and independence, with adequate resources to ensure the increasingly widespread enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;
8. Calls upon Governments to ensure the progressive improvement of the living conditions of the rural population and to adopt measures for the incorporation, as a matter of urgency, of marginal groups into the active economic, cultural, social and political life of the country;
9. Suggests that Governments should devote the major portion of their income to accelerating their development processes and urges them to endeavour to achieve a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, promote social justice and guarantee that everyone will share fully in the development process;
10. Appeals to mass communications media and educational, cultural and religious institutions to collaborate fully to secure the widest possible dissemination and awareness of human rights and the rapid and generalized enjoyment of those rights.

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