



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.12/169

29 April 1950

ORIGINAL: English

---

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Third Session

EMIGRATION AND PROSPECTS OF IMMIGRATION  
IN SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

(Resolution adopted by the Economic  
Commission for Latin America on 13 June 1949)

## INTRODUCTION

## SECTION 1. DECISION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

1. On 13 June 1949, at its Second Session, the Economic Commission for Latin America adopted the following resolution:

## "THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

CONSIDERING that immigration can play an important part, along with other measures, in the economic development of Latin America

CONSIDERING that immigration, in particular of skilled labour, technicians and foremen, may also play an effective role in the development of programmes of technical assistance, and

CONSIDERING FURTHER that there is a surplus of manpower in certain countries of Europe, which have developed valuable methods of production in agriculture or industry that may be applied to advantage in less developed countries;

HAVING TAKEN NOTE of the interest in this question shown at the Fourth Conference of American States Members of the International Labour Organization held at Montevideo from April 25 to May 7;

WELCOMES the operating programme which that Organization intends to develop which might facilitate the solution of migration problems and shares the view that the Governments and International Organizations should co-ordinate action with regard to the various problems of economic development, migration and land settlement;

NOTES with satisfaction the preparatory work undertaken by the Executive Secretary referred to in Document E/CN.12/AC.4/W1;

DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF member Governments to the desirability of Latin American countries considering what practical measures they could take to encourage the immigration of labour from European countries where surplus manpower exists, as well as migration of labour within Latin America; and

REQUESTS the Executive Secretary to expedite the preparation of the study referred to in Document E/CN.12/AC.4/W1." 1/

## SECTION 2. PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

2. In a note of 6 June 1949, E/CN.12/AC.4/W1, referred to in the above quoted resolution, the Executive Secretary has already informed the Commission about the preparatory steps taken to implement a previous resolution of the Commission; 1/ in accordance with the latter resolution special attention to the immigration problem should be given by the Executive Secretary in preparing the Economic Survey of Latin America. The Executive Secretary thought it essential to make a complete study of the problem from the point of view of the economic development of Latin America. In the above mentioned note he also informed the Commission that, for this purpose, he established contact with the United Nations Department of Social Affairs, in order to obtain the collaboration of the Department's Migration Section; it was agreed at that time that, in order to obtain a comprehensive study of the problem, the competent services of the United Nations (Statistical Office and Population Division) should be consulted. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary had been in consultation with the Director-General of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council regarding the ECLA study on immigration and it was understood that this study would not duplicate that being undertaken by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council as a result of a resolution adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States concerning the advisability of establishing an Inter-American Institute of Immigration.

3. The present report includes monographs on immigration to Brazil (Document E/CN.12/169.Add.1), Chile (Document E/CN.12/169.Add.2) and Venezuela (Document E/CN.12/169.Add.3), information on the existing sources of immigration and conclusions.

4. The information on the above mentioned three countries was gathered and elaborated upon by two consultants who were chosen jointly by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs of the United Nations.

Fullest assistance and co-operation from the Governments, local authorities and scientific organizations of the three countries have been received.

1/ E/840, page 44.

/5. The collection of

5. The collection of data was made on the basis of a detailed questionnaire, prepared in collaboration with the interested Specialized Agencies and covering all the basic aspects of the problem. Another questionnaire, relating to migration statistics, was prepared and, at the request of the United Nations Statistical Office, was sent to Latin American Governments by the International Labour Office. Unfortunately, the replies to this questionnaire have not been received from the three countries mentioned in paragraph 3 as of 1 April 1950, at the time this report was prepared and this fact prevented the respective monographs from being as comprehensive as would have been desired.

6. The preparation of the report was brought to the attention of the following Specialized Agencies: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and International Refugee Organization. It was considered during the First Session of the Technical Working Group on Migration of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. 1/ The I.L.O., F.A.O. and I.R.O. expressed great interest in the report and indicated their readiness to collaborate. The six above mentioned Specialized Agencies were consulted before the final text was established and their suggestions were considered in the preparation of the final text. Information submitted by the I.L.O., F.A.O. and I.R.O. have been used in the preparation of this report. 2/ For the report on Chile, material provided by the staff of ECLA was also used. However, data provided by I.L.O. and I.R.O. on potential sources of immigration have not been made full use of as a detailed study of these sources would have to be based on factors such as the existing numerical relationships between population and resources in each country, the trends of population growth, etc., which would go

1/ Cf. Document E/1341, paragraphs 12, 35 and 67.

2/ International Labour Office: Potential Sources of Immigration; Memorandum on Immigration Policy, Document PMC/1/6/Rev.1.

Food and Agriculture Organization: Nutrition Conference, Montevideo, June 1948. Problems of Nutrition in Latin America, Document N.48/CO.2/2.

beyond the scope of the present report. <sup>1/</sup>

7. The present study considers in detail the specific problems relating to immigration in several individual countries of Latin America; it does not attempt to analyze immigration problems in terms of more general applicability; in this connection a reference may be made to a study on Prerequisites to Immigration prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in cooperation with the International Labour Office, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to be published during 1950.

8. The Executive Secretary has the honour to present to the Economic Commission for Latin America the present report which represents a common effort of the competent United Nations units and interested Specialized Agencies.

---

<sup>1/</sup> It is to be noted, however, that as far as sources of immigration are concerned, the important supply will be found, as in the past, in Europe, particularly in Italy, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Portugal, as well as from the displaced persons and refugees under the care and maintenance of the I.R.O. Reservoirs for potential emigrants in the Western Hemisphere, especially the Caribbean area, should also be mentioned. There are also large emigration potentials in the Far East.