

United Nations
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

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E/AC.21/SR.13
20 January 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday,
20 January 1948, at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. Carlos E. STOLK	(Venezuela)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H.M. PHILLIPS	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. H. Santa Cruz	(Chile)
	Mr. T.Y. Wu	(China)
	Mr. J. de Folin	(France)
	Mr. K. Azkoul	(Lebanon)
	Mr. C.H. de Lavalley	(Peru)
	Mr. L.D. Stinebower	(United States of America)

Representatives and Observers of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. G.E. Hill II (WHO)

Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status:

Mr. S. Romualdi (AFL)

Secretariat:

Mr. H.E. Caustin (Deputy Director, Division of
Economic Stability and
Development)

Mr. E. Castillo
Mr. H. Daniel (Joint Secretaries)

The CHAIRMAN opened the meeting and stated that in accordance with the decision taken at the Committee's last meeting, copies of the Preliminary Report (document E/AC.21/15) had been sent to the Pan American Union. He had now received a letter from the Director-General of the Pan American Union setting out the text of a resolution adopted by its Inter-American Economic and Social Council on 15 January 1948, concerning the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America. (The full text of this letter and the resolution is appended to this Summary Record as an Annex.) /He went

He went on to report that earlier in the day he had had a telephone conversation with Director-General Camargo who informed him that the Inter-American Economic and Social Council was appointing a member to represent it at the ad hoc Committee's next meeting.

Continuing, the CHAIRMAN stated that in order to complete its report to the Economic and Social Council it would be necessary for the Committee to include a section covering both its consultation with the Pan American Union and the resolution adopted by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. He thought that the Secretariat might undertake this task. It would also be necessary to incorporate in the final chapter of the Report a resolution containing the terms of reference of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) noted that in adopting Chapter VII of its Preliminary Report the Committee had expressed itself in favour of recommending to the Economic and Social Council the establishment of an Economic Commission for Latin America and had indicated the principles which should guide the drafting of terms of reference. He felt, therefore, that the Committee should now consider terms of reference for the proposed commission. He then drew attention to such a draft resolution prepared by the representatives of Peru, Venezuela and Chile which he was now circulating, pointing out that with only a few modifications it followed the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

Mr. PHILLIPS (United Kingdom) wished to know the procedure it was intended to follow with regard to the document which the Chilean representative had just mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Committee would need at least twenty-four hours to consider this document. It might then appoint a Sub-Committee to expedite the completion of its work. However, the Committee should first hear the views of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, especially as to the co-ordination of the work of the proposed Commission with that of the appropriate organs of the Inter-American System.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) agreed that some time would be required for the members of the Committee to consider the document which had just been circulated. However, he did not think that the appointment of a Sub-Committee would serve a useful purpose, particularly as the Committee was small and as the draft resolution did no more than follow the ideas approved by the Committee at its last meeting.

/Mr. STINEBOWER

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) also agreed that the members of the Committee should take time to study the document before them. It was possible that the next meeting would be taken up largely with discussions with the representative of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. At the end of that meeting, or at a later meeting, the Committee could consider the drafting details of this document.

Then referring to the provisions in the document concerning relations with the Pan American Union and its organs, he noted that the earlier meetings of the Committee had recognized that the major problem was not whether there should be a Commission, but what it was to do and how it was to divide the field of work with the Pan American Union. In that regard he would be interested to hear what the representative of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council would have to say when he attended the Committee's next meeting.

Continuing, he thought that some misunderstanding had arisen concerning the position which his government had taken, both at the meetings of this Committee and at the meetings of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. He wished to emphasize that his delegation had consistently stressed the importance of defining fields of activity in order to avoid overlapping and duplication. There were certain points in the resolution of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council which were not clear to him. Therefore he thought that the attendance at the next meeting of a representative of that organization would be helpful.

He then stated that one of the matters to be taken up at the Bogota Conference was the establishment of a specialized agency within the Inter-American system which would have fairly elaborate terms of reference and functions. He believed that it was important to know what would be the relations between this proposed body and the proposed commission. Finally, he agreed with the Chilean representative that as the Committee was small it would not be necessary at that stage to establish a drafting Committee.

The CHAIRMAN then adjourned the meeting until 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22 January, when the Committee would hear from the representative of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and, time permitting, consider the document drafted by the representatives of Peru, Chile and Venezuela. In the meantime, to expedite the Committee's work, the Secretariat might commence to draft a section of the report dealing with the consultation with the Pan American Union.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

ANNEX

PAN-AMERICAN UNION

Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A.

16 January 1948

Your Excellency,

In my last letter I informed you that, in accordance with your wishes I had submitted to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council the interim report and provisional conclusions of the ad hoc Committee, of which you are Chairman, on the desirability of setting up a regional Economic Commission for Latin America under the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

A special committee of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council considered the report and conclusions and also had occasion to study the records of the meetings of the Committee held before the report was drafted. On 5 January the Inter-American Economic and Social Council held a plenary meeting to consider the matter, and judged that, in view of its great importance for the future co-ordination of the work of the two international organizations, the American Governments should be consulted in order that their respective delegates might pursue the same line of action in both organizations.

At the same meeting the Inter-American Economic and Social Council resolved to meet again on 15 January to learn the opinions of the delegates after their respective Governments had been consulted.

On 15 January the Inter-American Economic and Social Council met again and passed by a majority the following resolution:

"THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. Resolves to support the immediate establishment of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America, under the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
2. The Inter-American Economic and Social Council, in giving its support to the proposed immediate establishment of a Latin American Commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, authorizes the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, in agreement with the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, to collaborate with the ad hoc Committee on the Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America, and in due course with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in order to co-ordinate the work of that Committee with that of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the latter retaining its present independence and competence within the Inter-American System, and without prejudice to any decisions which may be taken by the Ninth

/International

International Conference of American States when it draws up the Constituent Pact of the Inter-American System (Pacto Constitutivo del Sistema Interamericano).

"The Inter-American Economic and Social Council assumes that the expenses of the Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America will be met from the general United Nations budget".

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council desires me to bring this resolution to the notice of the ad hoc Committee on the Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America, of which you are Chairman. I take the opportunity of expressing my sincerest hopes that, in accordance with the wishes of the ad hoc Committee of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and with those expressed in the foregoing resolution of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, it may be possible to arrive at complete agreement on the conditions upon which the two organizations will collaborate, in order to avoid any duplication of effort in the highly important work which the two bodies will have to perform. I am also writing today to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union and transmitting to it the resolution of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council; I will keep you informed of all resolutions on this matter passed by the two organs of the Pan American Union.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(signed) Alberto Lleras
Director General

His Excellency Mr. Carlos Eduardo Stolk,
Chairman of the ad hoc Committee on the
Proposed Economic Commission for Latin America,
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations,
New York.
