

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIALE/CN.1/29
30 January 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

SUGGESTION IN CONNECTION WITH ITEM 11 OF THE AGENDA WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SECTION I A PAR. (2)
OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT E/CN.1/W.1, PAGE 2.

(Submitted by the Representative of Brazil)

I believe that the initiative for the development of any country or area must come primarily from the country or area to be developed; the developmental activities to be carried out are chiefly the responsibility of the people and governments of the countries or areas concerned.

It seems to me, nevertheless, that the Economic and Social Council not only may, but must, suggest such measures as it deems useful or necessary for the general welfare of all nations, endeavouring, in co-operation with the countries or areas involved, to present a complete plan for the development of resources, transport, energy, industries, etc.

I believe the initiative for such plans must be taken equally by the interested countries or areas and by the Economic and Social Council, duly informed by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

By this I mean that the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the information and data furnished by its Secretariat, can judge what crops, minerals, sources of energy, etc., must be stimulated or initiated, for the benefit of any particular country or of all the countries of the world.

The Economic and Social Council, then, will take the initiative in presenting a complete plan to the governments of those countries or areas concerned. In that plan, consideration must be given, not only to the measures of technical help (surveys, statistical analyses, economic considerations and even the engagement of exports for local work), but also
/to the financial

to the financial measures, which must be taken jointly with the International Bank, the Monetary Fund and other agencies. Needless to say, before such steps are taken by the Economic and Social Council, they must be approved by the country or area involved, which is primarily interested in the plans for its economic development.

To illustrate, I shall cite an example from Brazil: I presume you know that the production of rice in Brazil has increased enormously in the past few years, so that, whereas formerly we were importers of that crop, we are now exporters of it. During the last war, our exports of rice have helped somewhat to minimize the scarcity of that grain, which is the main diet of a great part of the world population. This means simply that Brazil has the necessary facilities and conditions to grow rice, on a great scale.

But now let us suppose that in the future, after the return to normal times, the F.A.O. finds, after analysis of data furnished by the Commissions or Departments concerned with demographic questions, that there will be a rice shortage because of an increase in demand (chiefly an increase in the number of mouths to be fed). If, then, the F.A.O. concluded that the areas planted with rice, or their yield per acre, were insufficient for the consumption - especially in the East and Far East, where rice is a basic food and the increase of population is high, it would immediately inform the Economic and Social Council. The Economic and Social Council, without delay, would make its studies and plans for expanding the production of rice throughout the world.

The plan presented by the Economic and Social Council for world use, would be like that proposed for the United States by Professor Schultz, of the University of Iowa, in his book, Farm Policy. The Economic and Social Council, taking into account the data furnished to it by the F.A.O. and other agencies, governmental or non-governmental, would present a programme for the countries or areas in which rice could be grown economically.

/It is obvious

It is obvious that the financial measures would be analyzed in common with the International Bank and the Monetary Fund or any other agencies which would have a special interest. I refer to the problems arising out of financing transports, works of irrigation, when necessary, buying of fertilizers in bulk, etc. It seems to me, that such a plan would be welcomed by the governments of the countries or areas interested in producing or consuming rices.

Perhaps such steps would at least lessen, if not avert, a crisis of under-production of so important a grain.

Such orientation of the Economic and Social Council would be, I feel, very useful in fighting hunger, so ending one of the evils that, in these times, it is no longer possible to tolerate.

Summing up, it seems to me that the mission of the Economic and Social Council is to fit national claims inside the international frame. The Economic and Social Council must co-ordinate all the measures deemed good for that purpose. I should like to say that the Economic and Social Council can be of great assistance, inside the universal framework, in carrying out national plans for economic development. The Economic and Social Council must (and not only may) have enough power to take the first steps in economic development, in a broad and practical manner, and must not be limited to preparing plans requested by the governments.

I beg permission, then; to suggest, according to the feeling of this Commission as it seems to me:

(a) That the Secretariat set up (1) a special Department for studies concerning records forecasting, as was suggested by the Delegate for Australia, Mr. Wilson; and (2) another Department for the study of plans for economic development in general.

(It might be convenient to have one of these Departments for each of the principal geographic regions. This is a detail.)

/(b) Such,

(b) Such Departments would be provided with data made available by the Governmental agencies and other institutions, both public and private. Especially linked to them would be the F.A.O., I.M.F., and the I.B.. One of their particular objects of attention would be the uninterrupted, continual examination of the areas intended for the production of food and raw materials, since the disequilibrium in the purchasing power of these products, in relation to that of industrial products, has considerable influence on world economy, generating a vicious circle of unemployment in the industrialized countries or areas, and over-production in the backward ones.

(c) If the Economic and Social Council perceived any sign of the under or over-production of primary products, chiefly of the agricultural ones (and, among these, chiefly the perennial or semi-perennial crops), immediately a study would be undertaken, taking into consideration all the sides of the problem (i.e., the economy of the product, the areas concerned, whether they be producers or consumers of the said product, etc.).

(d) The Economic and Social Council, so informed by the Secretariat, would express its points of view to the countries or areas concerned, offering a complete plan to cope with the over or under-consumption, as the case may be. That plan would include, I stress once more, measures taken jointly with the inter-governmental agencies.

(e) The action of the Economic and Social Council would not be limited to maintaining equilibrium between the supply and demand of essential foodstuffs and raw materials that enter into international trade; the Economic and Social Council must also draw the plans for development in general, i.e., the development of new resources, new staples, new raw materials, sources of energy, transport, establishment of new industries, etc.

/In order

In order that the Economic and Social Council might undertake such a great task, it would, of course, have to be in permanent contact with a similar organ of economic centralization in each country, whose functions would be to co-ordinate, within the country, the economic and social measures which the Economic and Social Council took in the international field.

I should like to suggest, consequently:

(a) That every Member country which at present does not possess such a co-ordinating agency, should create one as a part of whatever governmental Department seems the most appropriate. That agency would co-ordinate everything related to the Economic and Social Council. Through it, the Economic and Social Council would send and receive the information, data and all necessary documentation for judging the proposals, plans and single measures referred to above. That agency would not be limited to the provision of information but, also, would provide technical and administrative assistance to the Economic and Social Council.

(b) The Secretariat would establish the general terms to be adopted by the Member countries for making as nearly uniform as possible the data and methods of economic analysis. In this way, maximum efficiency would be attained in the comparison of the economic conditions of the different countries.

I stress the necessity of drawing up a common plan, that is to say, a linking of governmental action in each country to the action of the Economic and Social Council. I presume that this linked action of the Economic and Social Council with each country separately offers the sure means of reaching the proposed goal, which is the general economic development of the world.

I should like to present these few considerations in writing, in a more comprehensive form.

(Sgd) J. GUIMARAES
J. Nunes Guimaraes
Representative of Brazil
Economic and Employment Commission