

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Thursday, 9 October 1947, at 11:00 a.m.

## Present:

Chairman:	Mr. Carlos E. Stolk*	(Venezuela)
	Mr. H. Santa Cruz	(Chile)
	Mr. P. C. Chang	(China)
	Mr. C. Blanco	(Cuba)
	M. T. de Clermont-Tonnerre	(France)
	Mr. Charles Malik	(Lebanon)
	Mr. J. Encinas	(Peru)
	Mr. H. M. Phillips	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. L. D. Stinebower	(United States of America)
	Mr. P. Zuloaga	(Venezuela)

## Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Miss S. G. Fowler	(FAO)
Mrs. E. Lopez-Herrarte	(International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

## Secretariat:

Mr. A. D. K. Owen	(Assistant Secretary- General)
Mr. H. E. Caustin	(Deputy Director, Division of Economic Stability and Development)
Mr. E. Castillo)	(Joint Secretaries)
Mr. H. Daniel )	

The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs in

\* Elected unanimously during course of the meeting.

opening the meeting welcomed the members, referred briefly to the origin and purpose of the Committee and indicated the character of the preparatory work done by the Secretariat for the Committee (document E/AC.21/6). He then called for nominations for Chairman. The delegate of Chile nominated Mr. Carlos E. Stolk, the representative of Venezuela; this proposal was seconded by the delegate of the United States and supported by the delegate of Peru. As there were no other nominations, the Assistant Secretary-General declared the election of Mr. Stolk as Chairman of the Committee, who then took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN then referred to Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda (document E/AC.21/1/Rev.1), and asked the views of members as to the election of other officers.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) felt that since the Committee was a small one, the Chairman might consent to act as Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and that the election of a Vice-Chairman might be dispensed with unless at some future meeting the need for one arose. This proposal was accepted by the Committee.

The Committee Secretary read the Provisional Agenda (document E/AC.21/1/Rev.1) and the Chairman called for comments.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) felt that Item 8 should be excluded from the Agenda, since the Committee would meet before the next Session of the Council.

Mr. MALIK (Lebanon) agreed with the representative of Chile and stated his view that as the studies mentioned in Item 5 were not yet available and were the basis for the discussion of Item 6, the only point the Committee could discuss at that time was 7 (a) "consultation with interested agencies both within and without the United Nations."

Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) enquired when the documents mentioned under Item 5, would be ready for distribution to the Committee.

Mr. CAUSTIN (for the Assistant Secretary-General) believed that the documents referred to in 5 (a) would be available within a few days and that those referred to in 5 (c) would be ready in about ten days. Those referred to in 5 (b), however, would be delayed in the mimeograph section somewhat longer, because of the pressure of General Assembly work.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) pointed out that the Provisional Agenda might be viewed from two angles, as an agenda for the present meeting, or as an over-all programme of work. He suggested that the Agenda be adopted as a programme of work but that in this case Item 9 (date of next meeting) would have no place in it.

The CHAIRMAN believed that the Committee could adopt this agenda as a programme of work and might wish to begin its discussions with the point mentioned by the delegate of Lebanon.

/Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile)

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) agreed with the Chairman but considered that (a), (b) and (c) of Item 5 might well be eliminated, leaving only the introductory paragraph. According to the Council Resolution establishing the Committee (E/AC.21/2), the Secretary-General had been asked in general terms to prepare special studies. The retention of the specific items noted as (a), (b), and (c) would seem to be limiting the Committee's work to those items alone.

Mr. CHANG (China) favoured the suggestion of the representative of the United States of America but he also thought that the Committee might ask the Secretariat to prepare a paper indicating the factors involved in Item 6, and specifying the "agencies both within and without the United Nations" with which the Committee might consult. At the present meeting, the Committee could deal only with Item 9, the date of the next meeting.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) wished to clarify one point connected with Item 5 (a), (b) and (c). This being an ad hoc Committee on the creation of an Economic Commission for Latin America, its report to the Council would in no way parallel the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East which had also the task of surveying the devastation of the Far Eastern countries and reporting on it. He wanted to make sure that the Committee understood that the information it obtained under Item 5 was for the purpose of enabling it to arrive at conclusions on the matters covered in Item 6, and not to provide material for an elaborate and detailed study by the Committee of the economic problems in Latin America.

Mr. MALIK (Lebanon) enquired about the date and place of the next meeting and particularly wished to know when the Committee would report to the Council. If it were expected to report to the Sixth Session this would preclude consultation with agencies which would not meet until after that session. He expressed concern to know whether any future meetings of the Committee would be held away from New York.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee modify Item 9 to read, "place and date of next meeting", but did not believe that there should be any discussion on this point at this stage. He then referred to Item 7 (b) and noted that it would not be impossible for the Committee to transmit its report to the Sixth Session of the Council and include in it the views of the Bogota Conference as this opened on 17 January 1948, while the Council would not meet until 4 February.

Mr. CAUSTIN (for the Assistant Secretary-General) pointed out the Economic and Social Council's drafting Committee had framed the Resolution to avoid any suggestion that the Committee was expected to "consult" directly with the Ninth International Conference at Bogota. Such a proposal would have important budgetary implications and to avoid these the words "shall  
/ascertain

ascertain the views" had been adopted; accordingly no budgetary provision had been made.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) repeated his suggestion that the references made to topics (a), (b) and (c) under Item 5 be deleted and that the item read "Submission of data prepared or to be prepared by the Secretariat regarding the economic problems of Latin-American countries, in accordance with the final paragraph of the Economic and Social Council's resolution of 11 August." He also suggested that Item 9 read "Place and date of next meeting".

Mr. PHILLIPS (United Kingdom) believed it to be necessary to clarify what was expected of the Secretariat under Item 6. He did not believe that, except for producing budgetary estimates, the Secretariat could express views on the factors bearing upon the establishment of a commission before the Committee had itself considered these matters. He emphasized, further, that it would be most useful to have representatives and observers of the Specialized Agencies attend the Committee's subsequent meetings, and hoped that steps would be taken to advise them of such meetings and to urge their attendance.

Mr. CHANG (China) explained that all he had had in mind with regard to Item 6 was the preparation of a brief paper by the Secretariat which could serve the Committee as a guiding outline and not as a set of opinions.

M. de CLERMONT-TONNERRE (France) agreed that the paper suggested by the Chinese delegate would be useful. He also agreed with the United Kingdom delegate that the attendance of representatives from the Specialized Agencies would be helpful. Further, he felt that with the wide interests of these agencies in the Latin American field, they should be asked to express their views on the proposal to establish the Commission, and that they might be able to present memoranda to the Committee on some of the matters under discussion.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Committee might accept the proposal put forward by the delegate of Chile on Item 5 with the understanding that it might ask the Secretariat to undertake other studies which it thought necessary. On Item 6, he believed that the preparation of the paper suggested by the Chinese delegate would assist the Committee; Item 6 should remain unchanged. He proposed to follow the suggestion of the French delegate and make the necessary approach to the Specialized Agencies. The Secretariat would prepare for the next meeting a list of interested agencies so that the Committee could further instruct him. He believed that the Committee accepted the proposal of the delegate of Lebanon, that Item 9 should read "place and time of next meeting". In the absence of any objections he announced that with the changes noted, the agenda was adopted.

/Mr. MALIK

Mr. MALIK (Lebanon) suggested that the Secretariat make a list of those countries which had expressed their support for an Economic Commission for Latin America, in Committee II of the General Assembly. If it were found that most of the members favoured the proposal then he believed that half of the Committee's work was done and it could then proceed to consider the Commission's terms of reference.

In closing the meeting, the CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretariat would prepare the brief outline suggested by the Chinese delegate and that the Secretariat would also prepare a list showing the members who had expressed themselves in favour of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Committee's next meeting would probably be towards the end of the following week. The Secretariat would notify the members.

The meeting rose at 1:25 p.m.

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