

United Nations

0341

Nations Unies

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED*

E/CN.12/48
15 June 1948

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

SPEECH BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,
MR. CARLOS ALZAMORA

Mr. Chairman:

The delegation of the Inter-American Council which I have the honour to lead feels that it must express its gratitude to the Government of Chile for the hospitable welcome we have been given, and extend our very sincere congratulations to the Chilean delegation for the great effort it has made to transform into reality its well-conceived proposal for the establishment of an Economic Commission for Latin America. As I said before, it is a pleasure for us to attend this meeting in accordance with the instructions contained in Resolution X of the Ninth International Conference of the American States at Bogotá, which was adopted by the same American countries as are represented here. I think it may be of value to recall that resolution, and I shall take the liberty of reading the text.

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council is, then, the permanent organ of the Inter-American regional system. The field of activity of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council was established by Resolution III of the First Meeting of Foreign Ministers at Panama in 1939. It was also defined in Resolution IX of the International Conference of American States at Rio de Janeiro in 1947, in the Charter of the organization of American States, in the Economic Agreement of Bogotá, and in various resolutions adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogotá this year. These resolutions impose on the Inter-American Economic and Social Council duties which it cannot shirk. Its functions are well known and there can be no doubts regarding its present and future status or its continued fulfilment of its present functions, which have been recently increased by the governments of the American States.

From the very outset the establishment of the Economic Commission for Latin America has had the support of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, which is anxious to maintain close and constant contact between its work and that of the Economic Commission for Latin America, in order to secure

* This document is a revised translation of the original which was issued in Santiago de Chile.

/the co-ordination

the co-ordination of the work of the two bodies. This does not mean, of course, that the United Nations Economic and Social Council cannot act as it thinks fit, or that the Inter-American Council claims a right to interfere in its field of activities. That is not so.

There has been some anxiety lest the two bodies might duplicate and even complicate the efforts being made to reach agreement on the many and complex economic problems which vex the American continent. Nothing, I believe, could be further from the truth. After hearing the brilliant statements made by the heads of delegations to this meeting and the various proposals put forward, I am convinced that the co-ordination of our work is perfectly feasible and that the boundary between the functions of the two organizations can be clearly established. The American governments themselves have an interest in ensuring that the functions of this new organization shall not be a fruitless duplication of those now being fulfilled by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council or those it is instructed to fulfil. It seems to be understood that the Economic Commission for Latin America would have a specific function which could not be fulfilled by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, as it would be the work of clearly determining, after thorough investigation, what can and must be done to re-establish the bonds of economic co-operation between the countries of Latin America and the rest of the world, destroyed or weakened by the late war.

It is to establish such co-operation that we have come here, and we propose to discover a formula to prevent any overlapping of the work and efforts of the two organizations, to determine the functions of each, and to establish the necessary link between them, so as to obtain the most beneficial results possible for the countries of America.

We shall work untiringly for this end, convinced as we are that the Economic Commission for Latin America extends the regional collaboration of our Council to the vast field which the United Nations can offer it.

May I, Mr. Chairman, in expressing my very best wishes for the success of the Economic Commission for Latin America, ask you to name the committee in which we can begin our work?
