

Commission on International Commodity Trade

The Economic and Social Council established the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) in 1954, with an elected membership of eighteen countries. It now meets once a year, usually in New York. At the outset it took over from the Interim Coordinating Committee on International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA) most of the functions of that body, leaving it with responsibility for coordinating the work in this field among other international bodies. The CICT collaborates in its work programme with the ICCICA, the FAO, and the appropriate GATT bodies.

The CICT is made up for the most part of countries with special interests in the production of and trade in primary products, such as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India and Indonesia, as well as some of the more industrialized countries of Europe and North America. Canada has served on the Commission since its work began in 1955.

The terms of reference of the CICT were modified at the 26th session of ECOSOC in such a way as to make it possible for the United States and the United Kingdom to agree to participate in its work. The main task of the reconstituted Commission now is to study and analyze developments and trends in international commodity trade, including excessive fluctuations in price and volume, changes in comparative terms of trade, and the effect of these developments on both international and domestic economic positions of countries participating in international commodity trade, and especially on the economic development of less developed countries. The Commission is empowered to bring to the attention of the ECOSOC or of member governments of the United Nations its views and recommendations concerning the need for governmental action to deal with particular commodity problems. The CICT is also responsible for the continuing review of commodity markets and the publication of studies and statistical reports on international commodity problems.

The seventh session of the Commission was held in New York in March 1959. The most important items on the agenda were the future programme of work, the review of international trade in primary commodities, and an examination of fluctuations in commodity prices and in the volume of commodity trade, including changes in the terms of trade. The Commission also considered submissions by individual governments concerning international commodity problems of direct interest to them. Four main lines of study were adopted for the work programme and these were intended to give direction to the Commission's activities for the next several years. They included studies on:

- (a) the impact of fluctuations in economic activity in industrial countries on international commodity trade;
- (b) measures to deal with fluctuations in primary commodity markets;
- (c) prospective production of and demand for primary commodities; and
- (d) price movements and compensatory financing.

The eighth session of the CICT will begin on May 2, 1960, in New York.

Population Commission

The Commission is composed of fifteen members elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its function is to study and advise ECOSOC on population changes, including migration, and their effect on economic and social conditions.