

3. ADVISORY FUNCTIONS

41. Much of the work of the Organization will be of an advisory character. This will include making recommendations ranging from a suggestion on some minor point to drawing up and submitting for approval an elaborate program of action on a complex problem; and from advice given to a single Member nation or even a single institution to advice given to all Member nations. [Art. I, IV.]

42. The Organization should have this wide scope in its advisory functions to enable it to achieve the objectives of the Hot Springs Conference. It is, however, a much more delicate matter to give advice on some subjects than on others. Special procedures are provided by which the Conference of the Organization may formulate and adopt formal recommendations to governments. In addition, a wide variety of advisory services may be developed of a less formal character. [Art. I, IV.]

43. The effectiveness of advice and recommendations depends on the qualifications of those who give them, the adequacy of their preparatory work, their understanding of variations in local conditions, and their ability to enlist the cooperation of Member nations. The Organization should progressively establish its connections and build up a staff with a wide range of qualifications and experience. The Organization will thus be equipped to take the initiative in formulating recommendations designed to stimulate action by one or more nations or international authorities. Its initiative in making suggestions and offering advice to nations individually and collectively would be especially useful in cases in which coordinated action is required in several fields or by a number of countries. For a variety of reasons, a nation may feel itself inhibited from initiating a discussion of problems, the solution of which appears to demand modifications of the policies of other nations as well as of its own. In such cases, particularly, the Organization would be in a favorable position to initiate discussions and make recommendations. [Art. IV.]

44. The advisory work of the Organization would in appropriate cases be done in cooperation with other international authorities in related fields. [Art. XII.]

a. *Typical cases and procedure*

45. The Organization should be ready and willing to meet requests from one or more states for advice in regard to policy or for other assistance. The extent to which the Organization's advice in regard to the problems of individual countries will be required will of course vary greatly as between countries in different stages of agricultural and economic development. But improvements resulting from sound advice given to particular countries will in the long run redound to the common benefit, and by their general as well as their particular effects will promote the basic purposes of the Organization. The following might be typical cases and procedures:

(a) In some cases an international convention, in the sense of a formal agreement to be ratified by a large number of nations, would be the most effective instrument to accomplish the desired objective. Or the Organization might frame a model code or form of treaty as a guide to Member nations. Either of these methods would be suitable for agreements on such matters as the standardization of terms, assaying samples, biological material of various kinds, weights and measures, containers, certain trade practices, methods of appraising the nutritive values of foods and the adequacy of diets, and measures for preventing the spread of diseases or of pests. [Art. IV.]