

Canadian Statement to the Second Committee
of the General Assembly on November 1, 1965:
Agenda Item 51: Consolidation of the Special
Fund and EPTA



Mr. Chairman,

I do not need to make a long statement on this question. Canada's support for the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance is well known and the record speaks for itself. We have also warmly supported the proposal to combine these two programmes and we participated actively in the discussions which have led up to the adoption by ECOSOC of the draft resolution before the Assembly. Canada approves the terms of this draft resolution and has joined with other delegations in sponsoring specific amendments to complete it. The distinguished representative of the Netherlands has introduced our amendments and I wish only to explain briefly the reasons why the Canadian delegation believes that these amendments merit support.

I think it is unnecessary to speak to the second amendment, which is consequential and follows upon the first, or to the fourth amendment which merely tidies up the text by providing for the entry into force of the resolution on a specific date. I therefore intend to speak briefly only to our first and third amendments.

The first amendment relates to the size of the Governing Council which we propose should number thirty-six. I may say that the Canadian authorities would have preferred a smaller Council in the interests of efficiency and we had hoped that the membership could be kept down to thirty. However, from informal consultations it became clear to us that the majority of delegations and particularly those from the developing countries would find considerable difficulty in satisfying their representation requirements within a total of thirty members and we are therefore prepared to accept what we understand to be the majority view that the Governing Council should number thirty-six.

Our third amendment relates to composition of the Governing Council and on this point we believe that equal representation will have a considerable importance for the future of the United Nations Development Programme. If further substantial resources are to be made available to the Programme, it seems to us essential that the principle of full cooperation between donor and recipient countries should be recognized by all concerned in the composition of the governing body. Equal representation appears to us to be the minimal recognition of the role of donor countries. Although it does not of course assure a determining voice to donors, it does offer an effective voice and it embodies the principle which we consider important to the long-term future of the United Nations Development Programme and to other co-operative development activities of the United Nations. Because of our genuine interest in the new Development Programme and our desire to continue to lend it our strong support, including financial support, we hope that our proposal for equal representation on the Council will be viewed in the constructive spirit in which it is being put forward and that it will be given careful and sympathetic consideration by other delegations.