

No. 53/66 EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of a statement made on October 15, 1953 by Mr. S.D. Hemsley, Canadian Representative, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on sections 9, 27, 28 and 29 of the budget estimates relating to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (agenda item 27).

Note: - The text of the resolution adopted by the Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

My intervention will be brief.

Although I would agree with the representative of Belgium who yesterday said that all we are concerned with here are administrative costs and not programmes, nevertheless I think it not inappropriate to make a brief reference to the wider aspects of the Technical Assistance Administration. This will, of course, be dealt with at greater length by my delegation in Committee Two, where the subject properly belongs.

I feel it necessary to do this; for a suggestion was made - in support of a ceiling lower than the one recommended by the Advisory Committee - that the programme may be smaller this coming year. That of course will not be known finally until after the Pledging Conference.

But I would be remiss if I did not point out now that it is the hope of my delegation that governments will pledge as recommended by the Economic and Social Council to keep the programme for next year at least at the level planned for 1953. We believe, then, that it would be reasonable to consider the administrative requirements in the light of that hope.

My delegation shares the concern of other delegations that the Technical Assistance Programme should be administered as efficiently and as economically as possible; and we would hope that this would be made the subject of a most searching enquiry. But we would hope that nothing would be done now that might impair the effectiveness or the scope of the programmes.

With these considerations in mind, and recalling the willingness of the Director-General to make every effort to follow the advice of the Advisory Committee to work for further reductions wherever possible, the inclination of my delegation at this time is to follow the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

We will, however, reserve our position until we have heard further from other delegations, and particularly from the Director-General again and from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

(Texts of other Canadian statements made during the eighth session of the General Assembly on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance are available in E.A. Supplementary Papers 53/33, 53/35, 53/41 and 53/65, and also in E.A. Statements and Speeches 53/45.)

Following is the text of the resolution passed by a unanimous vote in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on October 23, 1953 (Docs. A/Resolution/123 and A/2519):

"The General Assembly,

Believing that the results so far achieved by the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance demonstrate the important contribution which the Programme has made and is capable of making in the economic development of under-developed countries,

Desirous that the Expanded Programme shall continue to play an increasingly effective role in the achievement of higher standards of living for the people of the under-developed areas,

1. Recommends that governments and participating agencies pay due regard to making the aims and operations of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance more widely known;

2. Urges that, in order to permit the Expanded Programme to progress, governments contribute for the year 1954 so as to meet to the maximum extent possible the Programme needs for 1954 and, in any case, so that the funds available shall be no less than the amount earmarked by the Technical Assistance Board for the approved 1953 programme;

3. Emphasizes the pressing need that governments pay promptly their contributions pledged at conferences, with special regard to previous financial periods;

4. Notes with satisfaction the actions taken by the Economic and Social Council in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of section I and in paragraphs 6 and 7 of section II of resolution 492 C (XVI) of 5 August 1953 designed to strengthen the organization and administration of the Expanded Programme, so as to assure the most effective use of the contributions made available, and invites the Technical Assistance Committee and the Technical Assistance Board, in working out their recommendations on the administration, the financial procedures and the system of allocation of funds of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to take into consideration the relevant views expressed in the debates during the eighth session of the General Assembly;

5. Requests the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to review as soon as possible the administrative procedures of the Technical Assistance Board and those of the participating organizations as well as their administrative expenditures so far as those are financed from the Special Account;

6. Approves the financial arrangements set forth in the annex hereto as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 5 of section II of resolution 492 C (XVI);

7. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to the General Assembly resolution of 5 October 1953 (A/RESOLUTION/108), to undertake, in addition to already assigned tasks and as soon as convenient after the closing of the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, negotiations with governments regarding their pledges to the Special Account for the year 1955 towards the goal to be suggested by the Council at the same session;

8. Notes that the Economic and Social Council, in response to the desire expressed by the General Assembly in resolution 621 (VII) of 21 December 1952, has expressed the view that, for the orderly development of programmes, it would be useful to have assured financial support for a period longer than a year, and invites those participating countries which may be in a position to do so to take steps within their constitutional limitations, to ensure the financial support of the Expanded Programme on a long-term basis.

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ANNEX

(a) Seventy-five per cent of total funds available, excluding carry-over, shall be available for allocation to the participating organizations after approval of country programmes by the Technical Assistance Board, in accordance with the percentages set forth in paragraph 8 (c) ¹ of Council resolution 222 A (IX) as amended and modified pursuant to paragraph 19 of the report of the Technical Assistance Committee to the thirteenth session of the Council;

(b) The balance of funds available, including carry-over, shall be retained in the Special Account (i) to cover the necessary minimum expenses of TAB and the resident representatives; and (ii) for further allocation to the participating organizations, as provided in Council resolution 433 (XIV);

(c) In establishing the level of the necessary administrative expense in the whole Programme, the need for economy, in view of the present level of operational expenditure, shall be fully taken into account."

¹ Formerly paragraph 9 (c)



6. Approves the financial arrangements set forth in the annex hereto as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 5 of section II of resolution #92 C (XVI);

7. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to the General Assembly resolution of 5 October 1953 (A/RESOLUTION/108), to undertake, in addition to already assigned tasks and as soon as convenient after the closing of the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, negotiations with governments regarding their pledges to the Special Account for the year 1955 towards the goal to be suggested by the Council at the same session;

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(c) In establishing the level of the necessary administrative expense in the whole Programme, the need for economy, in view of the present level of operational expenditure, shall be fully taken into account."

¹ Formerly paragraph 9 (c)