

No. 54/34/UN9/11

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES
OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of a statement on November 23, 1954, by Senator Charles B. Howard, Canadian Representative in the Second Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 26 - Programmes of technical assistance: Report of the Economic and Social Council.

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

My delegation is pleased to note that the speakers in the general debate on technical assistance almost without exception have stressed the great value of United Nations activities in this field. It is evident from the statements we have heard that few efforts at international co-operation in the economic field have been so effective or have commanded such wide support as the regular programmes of technical assistance and the Expanded Programme. My delegation, Mr. Chairman, believes that these programmes, as well as those under the Colombo Plan, are of the greatest importance and that the exchanges of technical skills which they promote are making a positive and fruitful contribution towards the improvement of living standards throughout the world.

Canada's continuing support for United Nations Technical Assistance activities was demonstrated in a concrete way last February when the Canadian Parliament approved a contribution of \$1,500,000 for this year's programme. This contribution - exceeded only by those of the United States and the United Kingdom - was almost double the Canadian contribution for 1953; it was authorized after a debate in which the spokesmen of all political parties stressed the value of Canadian participation in Technical Assistance. For the coming year it is the intention of the Canadian Government to seek again Parliamentary approval of a contribution of \$1,500,000 to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. An offer of this size by Canada is of course based on the assumption that contributions of other countries will be on a scale which would permit of an effective programme.

It is with satisfaction, Mr. Chairman, that my Delegation notes the increasing administrative efficiency of the technical assistance programmes, and the interest which all concerned are evincing in further steps to achieve this efficiency. We welcome in particular the evidence of improved co-ordination between the agencies concerned with the

Expanded Programme and should like to congratulate Mr. David Owen and the staff of the Technical Assistance Board for their excellent work in this regard. I also wish to associate myself with those delegates who during this debate have paid a well-deserved tribute to Dr. Hugh Keenleyside and to the members of the Technical Assistance Administration.

At this time I do not propose to discuss in detail my Delegation's views on the important decisions taken in the resolutions on technical assistance which were adopted unanimously last summer by the Economic and Social Council. We believe that the proposals advanced by ECOSOC, which are now embodied in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/C.235, merit the endorsement of the General Assembly. My delegation also considers that the recommendations contained in the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions warrant most careful and detailed examination; we are, however, inclined to agree with the suggestion of the distinguished Representative of the Netherlands that a full discussion of the Advisory Committee's report might preferably be postponed until ECOSOC and its Technical Assistance Committee have had an opportunity to examine it in detail.

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Mr. Chairman, I should like to take this opportunity to make known to the Committee the position of the Canadian Government with regard to a project which is not wholly unrelated to technical assistance. I refer to the proposed International Finance Corporation which would be financed by government subscription and established as an affiliate of the International Bank for the purpose of assisting productive private enterprise in underdeveloped areas. The Canadian Government is prepared to give its support to this proposal.

As you are aware, Sir, the International Finance Corporation has been under discussion in the Economic and Social Council and in the General Assembly of the United Nations for some time, and has been the subject of particularly constructive study and exploration by the International Bank. The Canadian Government has in the past adopted a generally favourable attitude but has felt that it would be premature to consider establishment of the Corporation until it was clear that adequate capital would be forthcoming to support its activities. Now that the United States Administration has decided to support the proposal, it seems probable that a sufficient number of countries capable of financing it will lend it their support. Consequently, the Canadian Government now expects that further steps can be taken to implement this proposal.

Voting Results

Following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Doc. A/C.2/L.235/Rev. 1) adopted unanimously by the Second Committee on November 24, and approved unanimously by the General Assembly in plenary session on November 26:

Text of Resolution

The General Assembly

Having considered the report of the Economic and Social Council regarding the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance;

Mindful that this Programme constitutes one of the most fruitful achievements of the United Nations;

Convinced that a further expansion of this Programme would contribute substantially to the promotion of the economic development and social progress in the under-developed countries;

Noting with satisfaction the wide moral and material support given so far to the Expanded Programme and the readiness of Governments to contribute to this enterprise of international co-operation;

Considering that the Economic and Social Council has taken steps to ensure that the Expanded Programme is operated with increased efficiency;

Recognizing the need for adequate programme planning at the country level and the important role of the participating organizations whose technical skills and competence make possible the achievements of the programme, and also being desirous of promoting more effective co-ordination of the work of the participating organizations in order that the whole programme might be more effective;

Considering in particular Resolutions 521 A (XVII) and 542 B (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council;

Having noted the First Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Ninth Session of the General Assembly relating to the Expanded Programme, and having welcomed the statement of the Secretary-General that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would, in its forthcoming study of the organizational relationships in the Expanded Programme, take full account of this report;

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1. Invites Governments to give the fullest possible support to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and to announce their pledges for the year 1955 at the forthcoming Fifth Technical Assistance Conference, in order to ensure the continued growth of the Programme;

2. Recommends that Governments and participating agencies continue to pay due regard to making the aims and operations of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance more widely known.

Following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Doc. A/C.2/L.235/Rev.1) adopted unanimously by the Second Committee on November 24, and approved unanimously by the

Voting Results

1. Approves the arrangements recommended by the Economic and Social Council ... regarding the re-constitution of the Special Reserve Fund of the Expanded Programme as a Working Capital and Reserve Fund;

2. Approves the recommendation of the Council that the financial arrangements for the year 1954 as laid down in Council Resolution 492 C II (XVI) ... be continued for the year 1955;

3. Approves the recommendations of the Council regarding the future system of allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme, ... included in Council resolution 542 (XVIII) amending resolutions 222 (IX) and 433 (XIV);

4. Requests the Council to study the means of securing, where possible, contributions to the Expanded Programme on a continuing basis.

Refers to the Council the comments and recommendations contained in the First Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, (document A/2661).

(Because of its financial implications, the resolution adopted in the Second Committee (Doc. A.C.2/L.235/Rev.1) was also considered by the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee forwarded the resolution to Plenary with a recommendation that the General Assembly adopt this additional resolution (text below).

As amended, the General Assembly adopted by a vote of 55 (including Canada) to none with 1 abstention, on November 26, the following resolution, which, as it was agreed afterwards, would be incorporated as last paragraph in the one recommended by the Second Committee. It reads:

"The General Assembly

Requests the Economic and Social Council to furnish to the tenth session of the General Assembly a report on the progress made in the consideration of the questions raised in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2661), together with the comments of the Advisory Committee thereon."

