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Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884 and A/1924) (*continued*)

(c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.88 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.93, A/C.2/L.97 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.100 and A/C.2/L.101) (*continued*). 91

Chairman : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884¹ and A/1924) (*continued*)

(c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.88 and Add. 1, A/C.2/L.93, A/C.2/L.97 and Add. 1, A/C.2/L.100 and A/C.2/L.101) (*continued*)

[Item 26]*

REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that his Government had given as much support as it could to the United Nations technical assistance programme from its initiation. Sufficient experience had now been gained to justify a review of the principles and practices of the programme with a view to possible changes and improvements.

2. He supported the fundamental principles of the United States draft resolution (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1) which, he felt, faithfully reflected the basic aims of the programme of technical assistance, although he had certain reservations on points of detail.

3. Paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution stated a fundamental principle. Governments must not believe that action could be taken only by international organizations; it was essential that action should also be taken on the domestic plane by the governments of the under-developed countries. Indeed, those elements of the problem which most urgently required solution

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

could be decided only by the particular government itself, taking into account social conditions and requirements. He therefore fully supported paragraph 2 (a), which he considered an excellent formulation of a basic point.

4. He could not, however, agree with paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, which must be considered in conjunction with the Brazilian amendment (A/C.2/L.93) for its deletion. In rejecting the Brazilian amendment (157th meeting), the United States representative had explained that the Fifth Committee had recently established a negotiating committee to study problems connected with extra-budgetary contributions for specialized programmes of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and had indicated that, if paragraph 6 were deleted, the Negotiating Committee would be unable to consider the contribution of funds for technical assistance.

5. Mr. Rodriguez Fabregat pointed out, however, that he himself had been present during the discussion of the question in the Fifth Committee² and had supported the establishment of the Negotiating Committee on the understanding that the various items with which it dealt would be kept strictly separate and that it would not necessarily intervene in connexion with the technical assistance programme. He fully agreed with the United States representative that there was no reason to treat technical assistance to under-developed countries in a different spirit from aid to Korea or to Palestine refugees, but the practical methods adopted for the raising of such aid must be different. Funds for aid to Korea and funds for technical assistance must be treated separately. His delegation therefore preferred to support the Brazilian amendment, unless any new arguments in favour of the United States draft resolution were adduced, since it felt that there might be a conflict between the functions of the Negotiating

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Fifth Committee, 293rd and 298th meetings*.

Committee referred to in paragraph 6 and the conference suggested in paragraph 7 (a). A technical assistance conference at which nations had pledged their contributions to the Special Account financing the Expanded Programme had already been held in 1950 and had yielded excellent results. He considered it better to continue a system which had already proved its worth rather than to also attempt to establish a negotiating committee which would lead to a useless duplication of the work of the conference. Furthermore, the work of a negotiating committee would result only in pledges of financial contributions, whereas a conference would introduce an element of human dignity, in his view just as important to the programme as material consideration. Uruguay for its part would be ready to pledge its contribution, which was already under parliamentary review, at a technical assistance conference.

6. With special reference to paragraphs 2 (b) and 5 of the United States draft resolution, he indicated that, subject to parliamentary approval, his country would decide its contribution to the technical assistance programme, whatever form that contribution might take, at a new technical assistance conference. His delegation felt that States should be able to contribute to the Special Account, in the most effective way, either in currency or in kind, within the limits of their possibilities and without the imposition of new sacrifices.

7. He particularly emphasized that in considering the technical assistance programme, the essential element was the human factor. More than half the population of the world was undernourished; more than half the world's children lacked adequate food, clothing and shelter; in some places the infantile mortality rate was as high as 50 per cent; two-thirds of the world's workers did not receive a subsistence wage; and some thousand million of the world's population went barefoot. Such facts must be remembered when plans for technical assistance were made.

8. The technical assistance plan now before the Parliament of Uruguay was closely related to the United Nations programme. The three basic elements in the plan were the granting of scholarships to foreign nationals for the study of the ways in which Uruguay had solved various problems of social and economic development; the provision of technical experts; and the provision of the practical elements of production.

9. He reiterated his Government's support of the technical assistance programme, and indicated that his delegation would vote in favour of the United States draft resolution, with the exception of the subsidiary points to which he had drawn attention.

10. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti) observed, in connexion with his amendments, (A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1) that he had already had private conversations with certain private non-profit organizations engaged in rendering technical assistance to the peoples of under-developed areas, and had found them well disposed towards collaborating with the United Nations and anxious to benefit from any help the organizations taking part in the expanded programme could offer them. True, the Secretariat had most laudably taken the initiative in that matter, but its action would be reinforced if the Assembly stood formally behind it. As the idea had been accepted by the United States delegation and included in paragraph 14 of its draft resolution, he could not see the

necessity or desirability of a separate draft resolution on the matter. If the Secretary-General found himself unable to implement paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, he would of course inform the General Assembly; if not, the Committee could have full confidence in the Secretariat with regard to the co-ordination of the relevant activities of the United Nations and the private non-profit organizations concerned.

11. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia) said that, while it was too early to make a comprehensive review of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, its achievements could already be assessed, and those achievements justified high hopes for the future. Yugoslavia, for its part, had been highly satisfied with the co-operation it had received from members of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and with the work of the outstanding scientific workers who had been sent to advise the Yugoslav experts concerning scientific research and its application to economic development. The Yugoslav Government hoped that the technical assistance received in the form of fellowships would prove to be equally fruitful. The fact that the programmes had been slow in getting under way and that not all the funds allocated had been spent in the first financial year need cause no perturbation; by their very nature, technical assistance projects required several months of advance planning. Furthermore, certain difficulties with regard to co-ordination must be overcome; the Yugoslav Government had therefore set up a special office for international technical assistance to work out a balanced programme.

12. The visit of the Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration had contributed towards mutual understanding and effective planning for the future. The Yugoslav Government had agreed to the appointment of a special technical assistance representative who would help to achieve further co-ordination in the field of technical assistance. His Government hoped that within the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the Technical Assistance Board, further measures would be taken to improve co-ordination and speed up the implementation of the programme. Yugoslavia had the greatest confidence in the officials administering the programme and the brightest hopes for the future.

13. His delegation welcomed the recommendation in paragraph 5 of the United States draft resolution that the rules regarding the provision of supplies and equipment should be interpreted more generously, particularly if it were clearly understood that equipment connoted the equipment necessary for the development of scientific research and its application to economic development. In certain cases, expert knowledge was available in a less developed country but there was a lack of laboratory equipment and technical and scientific literature which would enable the local technical experts to keep abreast of scientific developments and to apply their scientific knowledge to economic development.

14. He was authorized to state that the Yugoslav Government would make the same contribution to the Special Account in the second financial period as it had in the first. All delegations should, if possible, make similar announcements as soon as possible, and, in any case, before the end of the year. Thus, paragraph 12—whatever the form in which it was finally adopted—was the most important in the entire

United States draft resolution, because all the rest would be of little value to economic development unless all governments pledged contributions at least equal to those they had made in the previous period.

15. He would support the Brazilian amendment (A/C.2/L.93) to paragraph 6, because the development of technical assistance as a permanent United Nations activity would be hampered by any effort to combine it with assistance in emergency situations. As he had previously stated during the general debate on economic development (148th meeting), the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should become a permanent feature of the work of the United Nations.

16. He could appreciate the intention of the United States representative in declining to accept the Brazilian amendment on the ground that the Negotiating Committee might assist in raising funds for the technical assistance programmes, but could not agree that it would in fact do so. The conference had given satisfactory results in the previous year; there seemed to be no good reason to alter the system.

17. He would support paragraph 16, either in the original text or as amended — except the proposed deletion of sub-paragraph (a), which would weaken the paragraph — as technical and financial assistance must develop together. The Mexican delegation had been well advised in withdrawing its amendment, which would have made assistance unilateral, whereas, although there must be a financial basis for technical assistance, the latter might take the form of advice to governments on how to use their financial resources.

18. Mr. ALLANA (Pakistan) wished to propose a number of drafting amendments to the United States draft resolution (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1), which would not alter the substance. He supported paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), as the phrase "primary responsibility" correctly stressed the fact that the carrying out of programmes of economic and social development was not the responsibility only of the governments of under-developed countries.

19. The reference in paragraph 3 to non-profit organizations was inappropriate, because the work of those organizations was not co-ordinated with that of United Nations and the specialized agencies; thus, the reference should either be transferred to paragraph 14 or form a new paragraph of the preamble.

20. In paragraph 4 the phrase "with regard to particular projects" was too restrictive and should be deleted. The enumeration in paragraph 5 should be set out in four sub-paragraphs. In paragraph 6, "the Negotiating Committee" should be substituted for "any negotiating committee", as the Negotiating Committee had in fact already been established by the Fifth Committee. He would not at that stage commit himself to supporting the Brazilian amendment to that paragraph.

21. Paragraph 14 laid a responsibility on the Secretary-General which he might not be able to carry out, since the non-profit organizations to which reference was made did not form part of the United Nations structure. The Haitian representative had described his private conversations with the representatives of certain organizations; but those conversations were not a matter of record. The word "examine" should therefore be deleted.

22. As regards paragraph 15, he welcomed the Mexican representative's decision to withdraw his amendment (A/C.2/L.92).

23. Finally, he suggested certain drafting changes to paragraphs 1, 7 (b), 10 and 13, designed to make the meaning of those paragraphs clearer.

24. Mr. DOIG (Australia) stated that valuable results had already been achieved by the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and that, therefore, the most constructive course for the Committee to follow would be to indulge in a certain amount of criticism with a view to ensuring that the best possible results would be achieved in the interests of the under-developed countries with the resources being contributed towards that programme, particularly at a time when technical skills were insufficient to meet demands.

25. In that connexion, he called attention to the statement of the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the annual meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors to the effect that experience had shown that some revision of approach was necessary. Too much emphasis had been placed on sending into the field as many experts as possible in as short a time as possible; too little emphasis had been placed on the need for a clear definition, in advance, of their duties, responsibilities and status. As a result, the experts themselves had felt frustrated and some recipient countries had been bewildered at the multiplicity of advisers without defined functions and been antagonised against the whole concept of technical assistance. There had been too much scattering of effort and insufficient consideration for relative orders of importance. Mr. Doig believed that that statement was in keeping with the main principles contained in the United States revised draft resolution.

26. Australia was at the same time a country in great need of extensive development and one which was making some contribution to the economic development and welfare of others. His Government had taken measures to facilitate technical assistance, among them the establishment of a special Economic and Technical Assistance Division within the Department of External Affairs and of a widely representative Technical Assistance Committee which was responsible for reviewing progress. It had also drawn up a list of technical and scientific personnel and had adopted certain procedures which would enable requests for experts to be met within the shortest possible time. It had also attempted to establish procedures for the encouragement of the maximum co-ordination between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and regional arrangements for both economic and technical assistance.

27. On the basis of its experience, the Australian Government believed that the appropriations of funds should not be made rigidly on percentage bases but should be made according to periodic assessments by TAB, TAC and by the recipient countries themselves of the results achieved by individual specialized agencies. His delegation therefore supported the proposed financial arrangements whereby only a portion of the funds available would be allocated on a percentage basis, the balance being allocated according to the needs of the less developed countries and the progress achieved by the individual participating organizations.

28. Secondly, his delegation attached particular importance to the question of supply of materials and equipment which had been given even greater emphasis in paragraph 5 of the United States revised draft resolution as a result of an amendment submitted by the Philippine delegation. Australia's experience showed that there was sometimes little value in providing experts if their activities or recommendations were hampered by lack of supplies and materials. His Government was considering the possibility of supplementing United Nations activities in supplying equipment to experts in South-East Asia from the funds which Australia was providing under the Colombo Plan, and it had already entered into discussions with some countries in the region and with specialized agencies in order to consider how such co-ordination of programmes could best be effected.

29. Thirdly, his delegation believed that the administration of the Expanded Programme should be considerably strengthened and that it was essential for an inter-governmental body such as TAC, on which governments of both the contributing and recipient countries were represented, periodically to carry out detailed assessments of programme results. He commended the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in establishing a working party to consider suggestions for improving the techniques and administration of the Expanded Programme, and his Government intended to submit to that Working Party before the end of the year a detailed statement based on its own experiences and conclusions. He hoped that other governments would also make their own proposals to that Working Party.

30. Commenting on the United States revised draft resolution, he expressed his delegation's support of paragraph 2, as amended by the Philippine delegation. In that connexion he wished to refer to the valuable and realistic plans for economic development formulated by India, Pakistan, Ceylon and the British territories in South-East Asia. He agreed with the Indian representative that it would be better to delete the reference to private non-profit organizations in paragraph 3, but he would have no objection if the matter were made the subject of a separate resolution if the Haitian representative so wished. His delegation had already stressed the desirability of liberalizing the original proposals concerning supplies and equipment and accordingly supported paragraph 5, incorporating the Philippine amendment. It reserved its position on the subject of a negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 6.

31. It would support the financial arrangements suggested in the annex to the revised draft resolution, but was not entirely satisfied that adequate information had been provided on the financial situation for the current year, or that the estimates of expenditure for 1952, constituting an increase of some 400 per cent over the present year, was realistic; an increase of from 50 per cent to 100 per cent for the coming year would appear to be sufficient.

32. His delegation also supported the Danish representative's amendment, incorporated in the United States revised draft resolution as paragraph 9. Despite the fact that Australia had set up special organizations and techniques for making the best possible contribution to the technical assistance programmes, only a small proportion of the Australian contribution had so far been expended. In spite of the strain already

placed on its own resources, his Government was prepared to provide training facilities and specialists for the under-developed countries and he believed that the matter could profitably be studied further by TAB or by whatever new administration would be established to co-ordinate or improve the activities of the Board.

33. Referring to paragraph 12, his delegation, and probably many others, had hitherto envisaged that the level of contributions would be decided by unofficial negotiations, as had been done the previous year. Moreover, in view of the fact that the revised draft resolution proposed that a conference be held for ascertaining the total amount of contributions, his delegation believed it would be possible to state the amount of its contributing at that time. However, the delegation was now in the awkward position, far in advance of these negotiations, of being asked to vote upon what was in effect a minimum contribution. Although negotiations and discussions might in fact prove that to be justified, he was not authorized at the present stage to make such a commitment. If it were the view of the Committee that support for that part of the resolution did not commit any government to a particular level of contribution, he would be able to vote in favour of that paragraph.

34. His delegation would support the Indian amendment proposing that paragraph 2 (b) should be combined with paragraph 16 (b).

35. Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia) said that his delegation, representing a principally recipient country, also wished to express its appreciations of the progress achieved by the various programmes of the United Nations for the provision of technical assistance to under-developed countries. The results hitherto in Indonesia, even within the relatively short period of operation, had been particularly encouraging, and it was to be hoped that TAA would pursue its efforts.

36. His Government had already taken measures to ensure rational and efficient utilization of the resources made available to it under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the various bilateral arrangements to which his Government was committed and had, for that purpose, set up an inter-departmental committee. It was gratified to note the realism with which TAB, as well as the various governments, were approaching the problem of co-ordination on the international level; steady progress had already been achieved.

37. He agreed with the Belgian representative that great care should be exercised in the choice of experts to carry out the programme in the field; that consideration was also applicable to the recipient countries. Human relations were especially important, particularly in so far as contacts between local authorities and resident representatives were concerned.

38. Commenting on the United States revised draft resolution and the amendments thereto, his delegation wished to acknowledge with appreciation the withdrawal by the Mexican delegation of the amendment it had submitted (A/C.2/L.92); to incorporate it in the draft resolution would not have served the interests of the under-developed countries.

39. His delegation supported the Brazilian amendment to delete paragraph 6 and part of paragraph 7 (a). It would be highly undesirable to negotiate funds for technical assistance in conjunction with other extra-

budgetary funds. Duplication of the work of the technical assistance conference should be avoided, and the hope that the total contributions for the second financial period would be at least equivalent to the total amount pledged for the first should not be prejudiced. He therefore urged the United States representative to accept the Brazilian amendment. However, if the United States representative felt it necessary to maintain that part of his draft resolution, the Indonesian delegation would be obliged to refrain from voting in favour of paragraphs 6 and 7 (a).

40. In connexion with the Haitian amendment, he supported the Pakistani representative's proposal to transfer mention of private non-profit organizations in paragraph 3 to paragraph 14.

41. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia), commenting on the Brazilian amendment, did not share the apprehensions expressed with regard to the proposed procedure for negotiating contributions. It seemed to him that, in view of the present tendency to encourage co-ordination and of the fact that funds would be obtained on a purely voluntary basis, it would be desirable for the same procedure to be adopted in respect of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as in the case of other programmes, such as the programmes for relief and rehabilitation in Korea and for assistance to Palestine refugees which, although supposedly of an emergency nature, were in fact concerned with long-term situations. Economic development was a problem closely allied with relief and rehabilitation and it would be unfortunate by implication to adopt a negative attitude to the latter.

42. Referring to the role of the private non-profit organizations, he expressed his delegation's support of the fourth amendment submitted by the Egyptian delegation (A/C.2/L.97) not incorporated in the revised draft resolution. He wished to express appreciation of the work carried out by such organizations, but felt it essential to emphasize that, in the Middle East, their activities had been carried out on a selective basis governed by religious and racial considerations contrary to the fundamental principles of non-discrimination contained in the United Nations Charter. Without listing all the specific instances, he noted that discrimination had in fact been practised in connexion with relief to Palestine refugees. Indeed, the Arabic Press had expressed disquiet in that regard in connexion with the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine and the Near East. He therefore urged the United States representative to incorporate that amendment by the Egyptian delegation in the revised draft resolution in the interests

of ensuring that the vast contribution which might be made to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance by such organizations should be made in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

43. Mr. BORGES (Norway) wished to explain his delegation's position in connexion with paragraph 6 of the revised draft resolution in view of the fact that the Brazilian representative had referred to the stand taken by the Norwegian delegation in the Fifth Committee.

44. His delegation had not been in favour of establishing a negotiating committee and had stated its reservations thereon in the Fifth Committee.³ However, since the Fifth Committee had decided that such a committee should be established, he could see no reason why the Negotiating Committee should not concern itself with funds for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

45. He would therefore be unable to vote for the Brazilian amendment. His delegation supported the revision of paragraph 6 suggested by the representative of Pakistan.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the representatives of Indonesia, Pakistan and the United States of America should meet informally to draft a second revision of the United States draft resolution.

It was so agreed.

47. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that in any such revised text the title would more fittingly be: "Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance" as more germane to the substance of the draft resolution than the existing title; and that the Russian text of paragraph 5 should be brought into conformity with the English text.

48. Mr. MANSFIELD (United States of America) said that he had accepted the suggestion of the representative of the Soviet Union, as well as that put forward by the Assistant Secretary-General to the effect that paragraph 4 should be combined with paragraph 15.

49. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) suggested that paragraph 2 of the Indian amendment (A/C.2/L.100) should be incorporated in the second revision of the draft resolution as the United States representative had raised no objection to it.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

³ *Ibid.*, 285th meeting.