

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

Official Records


**SECOND COMMITTEE 486th
MEETING**

 Monday, 11 November 1957,
at 10.45 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Agenda item 29:	
Programmes of technical assistance:	
(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)	
General debate (continued)	175
Organization of work of the Committee	181

Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 29

Programmes of technical assistance:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3613, A/3661, A/C.2/196) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. KACEM (Afghanistan) was glad to note the progress achieved in the field of technical assistance, particularly with regard to the co-ordination of national and foreign aid programmes. The Afghan Government, for example, had decided to integrate into its new five-year plan the community development project in which experts of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Government had been participating since 1954. The agencies concerned should, however, continue to give active support to the implementation of such projects until the recipient countries were in a position to complete with their own resources the work which had been undertaken.

2. He agreed with those representatives who had said that experts should be chosen on the basis of competence rather than of their country of origin. The desire to recruit experts from a large number of different countries should never be the paramount consideration.

3. While any discrimination in favour of one or another of the recipient countries should be avoided, the policy of giving priority to the newly independent countries should be continued. The best procedure would doubtless be to request the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) to establish an order of priority according to the urgency of the projects.

4. Regional and national vocational training centres played a particularly important role, since it was upon the national personnel trained in such centres that the task of continuing the projects undertaken in the various countries would eventually fall. It would be preferable for such centres to be established in the under-developed countries themselves.

5. In resolution 659 B (XXIV) the Economic and Social Council had appealed to Governments to increase their contributions. He would point out that it was very difficult for the recipient countries, which were spending \$77 million annually in counterpart funds, to make an additional financial contribution. It was therefore to be hoped that the more prosperous countries would ensure that TAB was able to continue its Programme without a reduction and that the United States would reconsider its decision to lower its contribution. His delegation fervently hoped that the proposals announced by the United States delegation (481st meeting) would make it possible to contemplate the future with fresh confidence.

6. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) observed that, however well-intentioned the contributing Governments might be, it was always necessary to make a selection among the services requested. In the words of President Truman, the technical assistance bodies should help the recipient countries to "help themselves". The primary task of technical assistance experts was to stimulate local action.

7. The authors of the report entitled A Forward Look had already envisaged an expansion of services. Certain of the contributing Governments, among them the Belgian Government, had expressed definite reservations in that regard, for their contributions to international organizations and to technical assistance programmes in particular were already placing a heavy strain on their resources. In Belgium's own case, moreover, constitutional provisions prevented its making commitments for more than one year.

8. Belgium's contribution to the Expanded Programme for 1957 had amounted to \$437,500 and was one of the largest contributions. The Belgian Government had requested Parliament to approve a similar contribution for 1958, despite the policy of budgetary restrictions at present in force. Belgium was at present committed to a massive effort in the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, where 7,800 officials, 2,000 university graduates employed by business firms and more than 2,000 graduates of technical and vocational schools were engaged in the task of transforming what had until recently been a primitive economy into one in full development. Those figures were indicative of the immense scope of the efforts to be made at the international level, as also of the need to plan for progressive development based on the resources available. In the light of those considerations many members of the Committee thought that it was imperative to avoid any reduction in the technical assistance budget, on the one hand, and to make the best use of existing resources on the other.

9. Pending the presentation of the proposals the United States delegation intended to submit, there was reason to fear that the maintenance of the Expanded Programme at the present level might be jeopardized

by that country's intention of reducing its contribution for 1959 to 38 per cent of the total, and for 1960 to 33 1/3 per cent. The other Governments were making great efforts on behalf of the Expanded Programme, within the limits of their financial capacity: the counterpart funds furnished in 1956 by the recipient countries alone had represented more than three times the budget of the Programme. At the Programme's present level the difference between 38 and 45 per cent would represent no more to the United States than 0.5 per thousand of the total amount of its foreign aid.

10. Without prejudice to the position his Government might take concerning the United States proposals to be presented, he would like to consider ways of making the maximum use of existing resources. Measures might be taken to reduce the percentage of such resources which was devoted to administrative expenses, or recourse might be had to the so-called "Burma Plan", under which the requesting Government would be responsible for the costs resulting from a particular project. In that connexion he recalled that several years earlier he had suggested to the Committee that it might use the technical assistance recruitment services as a clearing-house through which Governments could obtain the services of experts on a payment basis. It would also help towards the maximum utilization of resources if the recipient Governments were to take over certain permanent programmes and if the benevolent co-operation of the great foundations could be obtained. To mention one example, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in granting a \$600,000 loan to an under-developed country for the purchase of railway equipment, had authorized the borrower to deduct from the amount of the loan the sum required for the payment of the experts whom it would have to engage to carry out the project.

11. As far as organization was concerned, a certain geographical concentration of resources might be contemplated although it should not be forgotten that Economic and Social Council resolution 658 (XXIV), which limited the assistance granted to Europe, and other resolutions which recommended the granting of assistance to particular countries or territories, could not be considered to derogate from the general provisions of resolution 222 (IX), on which the programme for the economic development of under-developed countries was based. Another course would be to reduce the number of projects, although the possibilities of reduction were limited by the multiplicity of the forms of technical assistance and by the number of participating organizations. The basic principle of resolution 222 (IX), which specified that services should be supplied only at the request of recipient countries, should preclude any undue pressure to impose on certain countries and territories a technical assistance which they had not requested and which in some instances they might be better able to offer than to receive. There were other possibilities: the elaboration of regional plans in cases where projects could not be integrated into a country plan; recourse to resident representatives; a selection of projects, giving priority to those capable of influencing the general economic development; co-ordination, without subordination or intrusion, of the various types of outside aid—technical assistance by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, bilateral or multilateral assistance; co-operation with the regional

economic commissions; co-operation both in TAB and in the recipient countries, between the participating organizations in a spirit of team work and solidarity.

12. In carrying out the programmes, too, it was essential to try to obtain the best possible results. In the selection of experts, arrangements should be made for: a precise description of the posts to be filled; the transmission of that description to the competent national committees of the countries offering services; a careful choice of candidates by those countries, in order *inter alia* to reduce the work of selection to be done by the recruitment services; an efficient and speedy review of the candidates by the competent secretariat; a much more rapid decision by the recipient countries, in order to obviate the difficulties to which the Director-General of TAA (471st meeting) had drawn attention; adequate remuneration which is already provided for by the measures in force; protection of the rights of experts during their absence from their own country; the establishment of training centres for experts, on the French model; intensive briefing of experts by the various organizations before their departure on mission; the prompt and complete provision of counterpart services by the recipient countries; the full co-operation of the government departments; the award of permanent or semi-permanent contracts to a certain number of highly qualified experts; the use of the services of consultant engineering firms; the use of outstanding personalities willing to undertake short missions in an honorary capacity; the use of the so-called Bolivian method (incorporation of United Nations experts in national administrative services).

13. In the matter of fellowships it would be useful to provide for a selection based solely on the candidate's qualifications, which would eliminate those who lacked the necessary training to enable them to assimilate the instruction they were offered; also a thorough preparation before candidates were sent to the host country, and the rapid transmission to the authorities of the host country of information about the qualifications and technical training of the Fellow and the studies he wished to undertake; and finally for greater utilization by the recipient countries of the experience acquired by Fellows in the host countries.

14. Regarding deliveries of equipment, it should be borne in mind that in accordance with resolution 222 (IX) supplies were granted in limited quantities for projects undertaken with the help of the experts and, more specifically, for demonstration purposes. The equipment of vocational training centres and industrial research institutes and of other projects of greater scope might prove more costly and touch upon a field where the distinction between technical assistance and financial aid would be difficult to define.

15. Thanks to the Annual Report of TAB (E/2885 and E/TAC/REP/103) and to the statements of the Executive Chairman of TAB and the Director-General of TAA (471st meeting), the members of the Committee were in possession of the necessary data for appraising the results obtained in many fields. The report of TAB could, however, have provided some additional details, such as data on the volume of production before and after the intervention of the experts.

16. In addition to its contribution to the Technical Assistance Programme, his Government had granted additional sums for the establishment of a community centre in the valley of Santa Cruz in the Andes, the project to which the Executive-Chairman had referred in his report. A first contribution had already been made by Belgian trade union organizations. Belgium would continue to give its support to the technical assistance programmes and hoped that the participating organizations would make greater use of its experts and would send it more Fellows.

17. Mr. ISMAIL (Federation of Malaya) said that his country, conscious of its responsibilities as a Member of the United Nations and anxious to express its gratitude for the technical assistance it had received in the past, had pledged a contribution of \$20,000 towards the Expanded Programme.

18. Until it had attained independence, the Federation of Malaya had depended to a considerable extent on the nationals of other countries, particularly of the United Kingdom, for its administrative services. Many of those expatriate officials had decided to leave the country and the Federation of Malay Government had undertaken to pay a total sum of \$30 million in compensation, which, in financial terms, represented the price of independence. It would take something like ten years to train the necessary national staff and during that period the Federation of Malaya would need assistance to maintain the present standard of efficiency in its administrative and professional services. It had already received very valuable aid under the Colombo Plan from several countries, particularly Australia.

19. The progress made in technical assistance in 1956 was a matter for satisfaction. It was to be hoped that the limited resources available would be utilized as effectively as possible. In view of the number and urgency of requests for assistance, it would be a tragedy if any project should fail. In that connexion, consideration might be given to the Mexican representative's proposal (479th meeting) that the resources of the Programme should be concentrated on a few carefully chosen fields selected by the recipient Governments themselves. At the same time, as the Canadian delegation had pointed out, any geographical concentration of resources should be avoided and there should be no rigid distinction between technical and capital assistance.

20. In conclusion, he said that it was encouraging to note that the countries receiving technical assistance were in their turn increasingly offering assistance to other countries, thus showing a spirit of co-operation which augured well for the future of the Programme.

21. Mr. TALAAT (Egypt) observed that it was not without significance that the sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3613) dealing with the programmes of technical assistance formed part of the chapter devoted to "Economic development of under-developed countries", for everyone recognized that technical assistance should be viewed as an integral part of the process of development.

22. The problem of inadequate resources was certainly the chief preoccupation of the Committee. It was indeed regrettable, as the Council had stated in resolution 659 (XXIV), that the programme for 1958 was to be planned on a somewhat lower level than

that of 1957. At a time when the Expanded Programme was gaining in importance and in efficiency, it might have been expected, rather, that the funds available to it would be increased. Yet although twenty countries had promised to increase their contributions, and although the total of the contributions from countries other than the United States was apparently to be greater in 1958 than in 1957, the budget of the Expanded Programme for 1958 would be less than that of the preceding year and would hardly be enough to finance a smaller programme than that of 1957. It was clear that that paradoxical situation was the result of the application of the formula under which the United States contribution was progressively reduced. While he did not wish to criticize any Government, it could not but be a matter for concern that the financial resources of the Programme were decreasing while requests for assistance were constantly increasing.

23. It had been said that efforts should be made to create a certain balance between the contributions of the participating countries in order that the Programme should be of a truly international character. The data contained in the report of TAB left no doubt about the international character of the Programme, under which assistance had been provided to 104 countries and territories in 1957 and to whose budget some eighty-eight Governments would contribute in 1958. Moreover, as the Yugoslav representative had pointed out, the international character of the Programme did not mean that all countries should pay identical contributions.

24. It was important to note that the annual budget of the Programme had grown from \$18 million in 1950-1951 to over \$30 million in 1956. It was also significant that the United States contribution had represented in turn 60 per cent and 50 per cent of the total resources. In order, however, to obtain an exact idea of the relative size of the contributions of the different countries, the counterpart expenses incurred by the recipient Governments themselves—in the neighbourhood of \$77 million in 1956, or two and a half times the total contributions for that year—should not be overlooked. That was why he strongly supported the suggestion of the Indonesian representative, who had called for the inclusion of the local expenditure of the recipient Governments when the Programme was evaluated.

25. In order to solve the problem of the lack of available resources, it was essential that all the countries concerned should respond to the appeal of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 659 B I (XXIV)) before the crucial year 1959. To that end, the Egyptian delegation suggested that the Committee should adopt a resolution similar to that of the Council and should appeal to Governments to consider the possibility of increasing the resources of the Expanded Programme. In that respect, it should be recalled that at the summer session of TAC the Egyptian representative had described the proposal of setting the figure of \$50 million as the goal for the budget of the Expanded Programme to be reached in five years, as a fair and not too ambitious target. Egypt itself had raised the amount of its contribution on three occasions and was even considering the possibility of offering an additional contribution if other countries, particularly the wealthy countries, responded favourably to the Council's appeal. While the fact that the

United States contribution to the Colombo Plan had reached the figure of \$300 million, or about ten times the total resources of the Expanded Programme, was a cause for rejoicing, it was at the same time to be hoped that the work of economic development undertaken within the framework of the Programmes of Technical Assistance would be given similar support. The Egyptian delegation had listened with great interest to the statement of the United States representative, who had announced that he would later make concrete proposals in connexion with the expansion of technical assistance, though it seemed that those proposals would not be submitted under that item of technical assistance.

26. Discussing the operations of the Expanded Programme in 1956, he expressed satisfaction at the results obtained from the application of the new method of country programming procedure. Governments should, however, exert special efforts in the matter of co-ordination, in the planning stage as well as in implementation, if they wanted to obtain the maximum benefits. It was with that in mind that the Egyptian delegation had strongly supported Economic and Social Council resolution 659 A (XXIV).

27. The system of providing technical assistance on a payment basis to Governments requesting it admittedly had certain advantages, but it would be a mistake to resort to that form of aid too frequently, for it was liable to undermine the very basis on which the Programme of Technical Assistance was founded.

28. He associated himself with the many representatives who had expressed satisfaction that TAB had undertaken a critical study of the Programme and he hoped that in the future evaluation would be more complete.

29. With regard to the allocation of part of the Programme's resources to regional and interregional projects, he felt that it should never be done to the detriment of country programmes, which were much more important.

30. During the summer session of the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) and at the twenty-fourth session of the Council, the Egyptian delegation had endorsed the recommendation in which TAB had proposed that future activities should be concentrated on fewer projects and on the areas which most needed assistance. It was evident that priority must be given to the less developed countries and territories, and especially to the States that had recently attained independence. It was in that spirit that the Egyptian delegation had strongly supported the Council's resolution concerning the granting of technical assistance to the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, which would become independent in 1960.

31. He expressed the hope that in the future TAB would be able to give more information on the possibilities of technical assistance in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy and would be able to collaborate closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

32. Mr. SEN (Pakistan) said that his delegation was happy to learn that the new country programming procedure had yielded excellent results in 1956. The new system permitted better co-ordination of activities with other programmes of assistance; that was

of particular importance to Pakistan, which received assistance under bilateral agreements as well.

33. Although the activities of the Expanded Programme had been more extensive in 1956 than in former years, the Executive Chairman of TAB had not disguised his misgivings with regard to the future. Although twenty countries had pledged higher contributions for 1958, it seemed hardly likely that the Programme budget would come to more than \$31 million. Accordingly, since the countries which had very recently attained independence were in great need of assistance, the other recipient countries would probably receive less technical assistance than in the past.

34. Therefore, until there was an increase in Programme resources, every effort had to be made to turn the available funds to best account; for that purpose the various programmes of technical and economic assistance should be co-ordinated, a task which devolved mainly on the recipient Governments. The method known as the "Burma Plan" might also be of great service in the circumstances. Lastly, he said it was gratifying that the utilization of contributions made in currencies not easily convertible had not presented any serious problems.

35. In view of the fact that the resources of the important programme of technical assistance under TAA's direction were likewise insufficient, TAA should be congratulated on its success in scaling down its administrative costs for five consecutive years.

36. The Pakistan delegation, which had at the previous session supported the proposal that additional funds should be allocated for technical assistance in the field of public administration, was glad to learn that with the help of the additional funds allocated for that purpose it had been possible to recruit eminent experts on a temporary basis.

37. With regard to the outposting of certain officials from the Programme Division, he said his delegation agreed with those who did not consider it advisable to establish regional technical assistance administrations.

38. He added that he would carefully study the proposals of the United States representative.

39. Mr. DILLON VALDEZ (Ecuador) said that, in his opinion, the most effective form of inter-governmental co-operation developed by United Nations organs was without any doubt the acceleration of the economic development of the under-developed countries through the sharing of the experiences of the more advanced countries. For that reason the Ecuadorian delegation had become alarmed when it had learned that the Expanded Programme would be reduced in 1958. If operations were restricted after technical assistance administrators and experts had made such great progress and achieved such good results, there was a danger that the benefits of seven years' experience might be lost. His delegation hoped that the nations which worked together in international bodies would find some way of continuing technical assistance without reducing its scope in any way.

40. Mr. HAYTA (Turkey) said that technical assistance and its impressive accomplishments far surpassed all other forms of international co-operation. For the first time in history, it had happened that in the course of a single year, and within the frame-

work of a plan of international action, more than 3,000 persons from all parts of the world had worked in more than 100 countries or territories, and nearly 3,000 scholarship holders had been received by nearly eighty-eight countries. The results were encouraging, despite the pessimistic note which had been sounded during the debate. The pessimism was probably an echo of the justifiable anxiety caused by the insufficiency of funds to cope with the ever-increasing number of requests and by the reduced rate of annual growth of resources. The Turkish delegation therefore awaited with interest the proposals announced by the United States representative concerning the extension of the Programme.

41. Turkey had raised its contribution to the Special Account for the third time when it had agreed, at the Eighth Technical Assistance Conference, subject, naturally, to the approval of the National Assembly, to pay a sum equivalent to \$210,000 in 1958, which would bring its total contribution from the time the Expanded Programme had been established to more than \$1,500,000. Turkey was thus prominent among the contributors not in the category of economically advanced countries, and it hoped to take a greater share in the common endeavour as its own resources increased.

42. He emphasized that the execution of regional programmes should not be allowed to interfere with national programmes; as the two should be quite distinct. For example, the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East, whose headquarters was at Ankara, should be provided for in the regional programme for the Middle East and not in Turkey's national programme, an arrangement which, he thought, would be facilitated by the General Assembly's decision at the eleventh session to appropriate extra funds, within the ordinary programme, for activities undertaken in the field of public administration.

43. Since the financial resources were insufficient to satisfy all the requests, the requests would have to be screened; the Turkish Government considered that urgency of need should not be the sole test but that the project's productivity should be taken into account.

44. At the seventeenth session of the Economic and Social Council, the Turkish delegation had supported the establishment of a working capital fund. It was still of the opinion that, whatever changes were effected in the Working Capital Reserve Fund, the national programmes of the recipient countries should on no account suffer.

45. The Turkish Government had noted with particular satisfaction the terms of operative paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 653 II (XXIV), inviting Governments to make full use of United Nations facilities, including those of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, for the training of scientific and technical personnel in the fields of the peaceful applications of atomic energy. He thought that perhaps the competent services of the Secretariat should prepare, for the use of Governments, a document explaining how that important resolution could be given effect in practice.

46. The other resolutions of the Council's twenty-fourth session grouped under the heading of "Questions relating to technical assistance" were in general supported by the Turkish Government. He would com-

ment only on the final paragraph of the preamble of resolution 658 A II (XXIV) concerning activities in Europe. His Government had only praise for the assistance given to countries all over the world, in particular those which had recently attained independence. At the same time, however, projects started in other countries should not be held in abeyance, nor should the needs of certain European countries be ignored. In operative paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Council stressed that it accepted the proposed measure on a temporary basis only and "without prejudice to the basic principles governing the Programme". In any case, the Turkish delegation had many reservations with regard to the TAB decision which was the subject of Council resolution 658 A II (XXIV).

47. Mr. MISSALLATI (Libya) expressed the hope that Libya would continue to benefit from the special attention of the United Nations, which had furnished it with technical assistance even before its independence. His Government had been most fortunate in having received assistance since 1950 and wished in particular to pay a tribute to the TAB Resident Representative and his colleagues in Libya, whose competence and devotion were beyond all praise. Altogether \$3,537,000 had been allocated to Libya, and 434 Libyans had received fellowships under the Expanded Programme between 1950 and 1956; a supply of material and equipment valued at \$52,900 and \$70,276 had been sent to Libya in 1955 and 1956, respectively; lastly, the number of experts working in Libya had increased from sixty-seven in 1952 to ninety-five in 1956. All those experts were doing splendid work in many different fields, and that work had lasting effects on the Libyan economy. In some cases—the tanning industry, for example—the results had been truly spectacular, and it might be said in a general way that Libya would not have reached its present stage of development without United Nations assistance.

48. Libya needed more than technical assistance, however: it had to find the capital needed to strengthen its economy on the lines set out in its development programme, for it had not as yet been able to do more than initiate measures of highest priority, and much remained to be done if the people's standard of living was to rise appreciably. Accordingly, technical advice should be followed by grants-in-aid or loans and the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development should be established immediately. He reserved the right to speak again on that question, which was of great concern to his Government.

49. Mr. MALILE (Albania) noted with satisfaction that technical assistance was growing in scope year by year and that during the previous twelve months, effective measures had been taken to promote a more rational use of available resources. Those efforts should be continued, particularly with the object of reducing administrative costs to a minimum.

50. Under-developed countries, especially those which had recently achieved independence after centuries of colonial occupation imposed by force of arms, were in great need of technical assistance. If their many requests were to be satisfied, all proffered contributions should be accepted and their use should not be made contingent on any kind of political consideration. The rejection of the offer of the German Democratic Republic was a flagrant violation of the prin-

ciple of universality and was a blow struck at the humanitarian character of the Programme. That state of affairs, which was inimical to the interests of the people and to international co-operation, should be brought to an end. A number of speakers in the discussion had pointed out that insufficient advantage had been taken of contributions offered by Eastern European countries or, more serious still, that such contributions had not been used at all. That was the more regrettable because the countries in question had made great progress since the Second World War, thanks to the disinterested generosity of the Soviet Union. In the interests of the technical assistance programme, its administrators should take advantage of all opportunities offered by the Eastern European countries.

51. Industrialization was the basis of economic development, but in many newly independent Asian and African countries, industrial output still represented a small percentage of total production despite increased industrial investment. Many of the countries in question had rich natural resources and sincere and effective aid would set them securely on the road to industrialization.

52. His delegation considered that especial importance should be given to the training of national staffs and that the number of fellowships should accordingly be increased. That was an important factor in consolidating the economic and political independence of the recipient countries.

53. The People's Republic of Albania would continue to make its modest contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and was ready to support any measures to strengthen that Programme.

54. Mr. LY CHINLY (Cambodia) said that his delegation could not but share the general uneasiness concerning the financial difficulties of the technical assistance programme which were likely to hinder its expansion and undermine the prestige of the United Nations. There was still hope that Member States, and particularly the industrialized countries, would heed the Economic and Social Council's appeal and, like the Dominican Republic, agree to increase their 1958 contribution. Cambodia, despite its present financial difficulties, was seriously studying the possibility of doing likewise.

55. There seemed prima facie to be no ground for criticism of the use of programme resources, particularly as the Director-General of TAA had assured the Committee that he would do what he could to eliminate all unnecessary expenditure. Nonetheless, some delegations seemed to deplore the fact that missions had produced no tangible results or that certain experts' recommendations had not been followed by action. In that connexion he said it should be realized that most recipient countries lacked the means to put the recommendations into effect, particularly when supplementary credits were called for. Nor should it be forgotten that, as the Annual Report of TAB had pointed out, the assistance provided by the participating organizations constituted no more than a fraction of the total efforts actually made by the Government of a country or territory for national development.

56. The efforts made by Cambodia were being applied in a number of fields considered to be of the highest

priority, the main object being to organize or reorganize the principal services so as to adapt the country more closely to present world developments. It had been possible, through co-operation between United Nations experts and the departments concerned, and with the help of France and the United States, to reorganize the Royal School of Administration and to establish the Royal School of Medicine. International experts were not backward in giving advice even on matters not strictly within their sphere, and so fruitful a co-operation gave cause for satisfaction.

57. With regard to the allocation of available resources, he said that the needs of newly independent countries should be satisfied first, but that other countries which might need the generous assistance of the United Nations should not for that reason be pushed into the background.

58. He felt that the provision of technical assistance on a payment basis was acceptable if in each case due regard were paid to the particular situation of the country concerned. Such assistance was in any case defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 658 B (XXIV) as additional to that already provided under the regular and Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance.

59. He wished in conclusion to express once again his country's thanks for the work of the officials and experts of the United Nations technical assistance services. Although figures could show the expansion of the programme, there were no figures which could portray the conditions under which the experts performed their tasks or measure the spirit of sacrifice and self-denial with which they were imbued.

60. The results achieved in Cambodia had encouraged the Technical Assistance Board to set up a Regional Office at Phnom-Penh to serve Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam. That would greatly facilitate co-operation among the technical assistance administrators and the three Governments concerned. The Technical Assistance Administration had granted the request of the four riparian States along the Mekong and had given a team of experts the task of making a closer study of the possibilities of developing the hydraulic resources of the lower Mekong Basin. He would speak further about that project when the Committee considered the economic development of under-developed countries.

61. Mr. ALVARADO (Honduras) wished first of all to pay tribute to the delegation of Haiti which had submitted, to the General Assembly in 1948, the draft resolution establishing the technical assistance services.

62. Honduras was most appreciative of the technical assistance which it received directly or as part of the measures taken to integrate the economies of the five Central American States. Although the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and the International Bank were co-operating closely in the economic integration project, he would like to draw particular attention to the part played by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) which made the surveys on which the Governments concerned based their decisions and their requests for technical assistance. Honduras was not one of the principal recipients in Latin America but that was no doubt largely its own fault since it had been unable to take advantage of the opportunities

which had been offered. However, among the projects which had been successfully concluded with United Nations technical assistance, mention should be made of the establishment of the Central Bank and the Development Bank the organization of income tax, the new fiscal system and a study which had culminated in the establishment of a limited liability company with a capital of more than 5 million lempiras to manage a new cement factory with a production capacity of 150 tons a day. Furthermore, the prospects of establishing in Honduras a Central American paper and cellulose factory were being studied, but that project could hardly materialize without outside financial help owing to the large capital (over 30 million lempiras in the view of some experts) which would have to be invested. In addition to the achievements of which he had spoken, Honduras, in common with other Central American countries, derived much benefit from the School of Public Administration for Central America and the Central American Institute for Industrial Research and Technology, both established in Guatemala under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. For all those reasons Honduras, despite its great financial difficulties, due principally to natural disasters, had unhesitatingly offered a token contribution of 20,000 lempiras to the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme.

63. Finally, he noted that according to The New York Times of 9 November 1957, the Venezuelan Government had asked parliamentary approval for an offer of technical assistance to various Latin American countries. His delegation wished to congratulate the

Venezuelan representative and to thank him for his country's generosity towards the less prosperous nations of the South American continent.

Organization of work of the Committee

64. Mr. ALFONZO RAVARD (Venezuela), speaking on a point of order, asked the Chairman whether the last date for submitting draft resolutions relating to agenda item 29 could be postponed. A number of delegations had heard that a draft resolution relating to technical assistance was to be submitted in connexion with the discussion of the financing of economic development (agenda item 28) and were hoping to arrange that the draft would deal directly with item 29; they should be allowed some time for their efforts to succeed.

65. Mr. FLORES MORA (Uruguay) supported the suggestion.

66. After a brief exchange of views, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the general debate on agenda item 29 be closed, as agreed, and that the draft resolutions already submitted should be put to the vote, on the understanding that during the following week the Committee would suspend its discussion of agenda item 28 and consider the third draft resolution if the efforts to relate it to agenda item 29 were successful.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.