

**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY****ASSEMBLEE  
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPRESENTATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES  
ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILREPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE TO  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rapporteur: Dr. Viteri Lafronte (Ecuador)

1. The Executive Secretary placed before the General Committee a letter received on the 13 December 1945 from the representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions in which this body had made representations to the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations concerning the representation of world labour.
2. The Ukrainian Delegation proposed that this proposal be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly.
3. At its first meeting, the General Committee decided to proceed to a preliminary examination of this request, which during this examination was amplified by the World Federation of Trade Unions in more specific terms.
4. In brief, the World Federation expressed the hope that it would be allowed to sit in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council not only in a consultative capacity but with the prospect at a later stage of being granted full rights or participation with the right to vote.
5. The General Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to consider this request and, at the same time, similar requests from the International Co-operative Alliance, the International Democratic Federation of Women, and the American Federation of Labour, which latter request received the support of the U.S.A. Delegation.
6. The General Committee was unanimously of the opinion that there could be no question of granting any organization

representation, with the right to vote, in the various organs of the United Nations, since it would be equivalent to modification of the Charter.

7. As to the request of the World Federation for the right to sit in a permanent consultative capacity, the General Committee found itself divided and was unable to formulate any specific proposal. Although collaboration between non-governmental organizations and the Economic and Social Council was provided for in Article 71 of the Charter, some members felt it was premature to make a specific proposal at that time.

8. After a lengthy discussion of various draft proposals the General Committee, by seven votes to six with one abstention, decided to propose that the General Assembly recommend that the Economic and Social Council should, as soon as possible, adopt arrangements allowing the World Federation to take part, for purposes of consultation, in the work of the Economic and Social Council, its Commissions and Committees.

9. In view, however, of the delicacy of the balance of views in the Committee, the General Committee decided to recommend that the question be placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly.

10. At its twenty-second meeting, held on 2 February 1946, the General Assembly decided to refer the question to the First Committee.

11. The First Committee, at its Sixth Meeting held on the same day, discussed the matter very thoroughly and appointed a Sub-Committee composed of the Chairman, Mr. Manuilsky (Ukrainian S.S.R.), the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Bech (Luxembourg), the Rapporteur, Dr. Viteri Lafronte (Ecuador), together with the representatives of Belgium, China, Colombia, France, New Zealand, U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the task of drafting a resolution which might effect a compromise between the conflicting points of view.

12. The Sub-Committee met on several occasions and discussed the question with great thoroughness, and eventually concluded that agreement was not unattainable. It therefore appointed a small Drafting Committee to consider the four draft resolutions presented by the United Kingdom, United States, the U.S.S.R. and Belgium, and contained in Document A/C.1/W.6. It was, however, unable to reconcile the divergences of these draft resolutions and presented them to the Sub-Committee. At the Sub-Committee's final meeting, the U.S.S.R. Delegation revised the text of its proposal referred to above, and the revision appeared in A/C.1/15.III. The Sub-Committee then considered these four draft resolutions and voted by 6 votes to 4 and 1 abstention that that of the United States should be recommended to the First Committee.

13. The First Committee, at its ninth and tenth meetings held on 11 and 12 February respectively, considered the implications of these four draft resolutions and finally decided to vote in the first place upon that of the United States.

14. In order to enable delegates to record their votes singly on each of the distinct points of substance contained in this resolution, it was decided that the resolution should be divided into four parts and these parts voted upon separately.

15. These parts consisted in:

(i) The preamble of the United States resolution which was adopted by 25 votes to 8 with 4 abstentions.

(ii) Paragraph (a) of that resolution insofar as it applied to the World Federation of Trade Unions. This was adopted by twenty-seven votes to one, with four abstentions.

(iii) Paragraph (a) of that resolution insofar as it applied to the International Co-operative Alliance and



other international non-governmental bodies.. This was adopted by twenty votes to four with twelve abstentions.

(iv) Paragraph (b) of the resolution which was adopted by twenty-four votes to nine with four abstentions.

16. The amendment to paragraph (a) of this resolution proposed by the U.S.S.R. Delegation was not voted upon because the Committee decided that amendments were not admissible during the progress of the vote.

17. The Delegate for France indicated that, but for this decision, he would have proposed an addition to the last paragraph of this resolution which would provide for the consultation of national or regional organizations only in cases where corresponding national or regional interests were involved.

18. The Delegate for Belgium explained that he had recorded a vote of abstention throughout because, in the view of the Belgian Delegation the resolution, insofar as it affected the World Federation, did not ensure sufficient status to that body; he maintained that the viewpoint of the Belgian Delegation was only adequately covered in its draft resolution.

19. The Delegate for the United Kingdom expressed his wish that this report should make mention of two sentences in the resolution presented by his Delegation but later withdrawn. These sentences were: "warmly welcoming the applications of support and collaboration made by those organizations", and a resolution "to invite the Economic and Social Council to make proposals concerning privileges to be accorded to recognized non-governmental organizations in future meetings of the Assembly."

20. The Draft Resolutions of the U.K., U.S.S.R. and Belgian Delegations, which are referred to in this report, will be found in Appendices A, B and C.

I have the honour, therefore, on behalf of the First Committee to propose that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

In connection with the requests of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the American Federation of Labour, the International Co-operative Alliance, and other non-governmental organizations, that their representatives shall be allowed to take part in the work of the Economic and Social Council, and in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter providing for the carrying out by the Economic and Social Council of appropriate consultations with non-governmental organizations,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS

- (a) That the Economic and Social Council should as soon as possible adopt suitable arrangements enabling the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Co-operative Alliance as well as other international non-governmental organizations whose experience the Economic and Social Council will find necessary to use, to collaborate for purposes of consultation with the Economic and Social Council.
- (b) That the Economic and Social Council should likewise adopt as soon as possible suitable arrangements enabling the American Federation of Labour as well as other national and regional non-governmental organizations whose experience the Economic and Social Council will find necessary to use, to collaborate for purposes of consultation with the Economic and Social Council.

APPENDIX A.

UNITED KINGDOM REVISED DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

THE ASSEMBLY,

Having before it the requests of the W.F.T.U., the A.F. of L., the International Co-operative Alliance, and certain other non-governmental organizations that they should be allowed to participate in the work of the United Nations in an advisory and consultative capacity,

Warmly welcoming the offers of support and collaboration made by these organizations,

Having noted the provisions of Article 71 of the Charter, which provides for consultation by the Economic and Social Council with international and national non-governmental organizations,

Considering that it would be in the best interests of the work of the Economic and Social Council that the provisions for consultation of the said Article 71 should be brought into operation at the earliest practicable date,

RESOLVES

(1) to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should take immediate steps with a view to bringing into early operation the provisions of Article 71 so that the fullest opportunities for consultation within the terms of that Article may be afforded to recognized non-governmental organizations;

(2) to recommend the Economic and Social Council to make arrangements to enable the W.F.T.U., the International Co-operative Alliance and other important international non-governmental organizations whose experience the Council shall find it necessary or desirable to use, to collaborate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Council;



(3) to recommend the Economic and Social Council to make similar arrangements in regard to the A.F. of L. and other important national or regional non-governmental organizations whose experience similarly the Council shall find it necessary or desirable to use;

(4) to forward to the Economic and Social Council for the early consideration of the Council the requests received from the following organizations which the Assembly has not had time to examine:-

[ Insert here the names of all organizations, not included in (2) and (3) above, from which requests have been received ]

(5) to invite the Economic and Social Council to inform the Assembly at the second part of the present Session of the Assembly what arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations the Council has made

(a) generally.

(b) in response to requests or applications from particular non-governmental organizations.

(6) to invite the Economic and Social Council to make proposals concerning the privileges to be accorded to recognized non-governmental organizations in future meetings of the Assembly.

APPENDIX B

REVISED SOVIET DRAFT  
RECOMMENDATION

Taking into consideration the question raised by the World Federation of Trade Unions concerning its participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council General Assembly decides to recommend to the Economic and Social Council to invite the representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions to participate in the Council in advisory capacity.



APPENDIX C

BELGIAN DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

In connection with the request of the World Federation of Trade Unions that its representatives shall be allowed to take part in the work of the Economic and Social Council and in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter providing for the carrying out by the Economic and Social Council of appropriate consultations with non-governmental organizations.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS:

1. That the Economic and Social Council should as soon as possible adopt arrangements allowing the World Federation of Trade Unions to collaborate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its commissions and committees.
2. That such arrangements be extended at a later date to non-governmental organizations of a regional or national nature, such as the American Federation of Labour whose experience the Economic and Social Council will find necessary to use.