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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 26 (a)

PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee

Draft report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. J.P. BANNIER (Netherlands)

[Covering note: The Rapporteur, in circulating his draft report, requests those delegations which wish to suggest any changes in this draft to submit them to him or to the Secretary of the Committee by Wednesday noon, 20 February 1957. In view of the fact that the summary records of the Committee's proceedings are available to the plenary meetings, the Rapporteur has not endeavoured to summarize the Committee's debates. This is in accord with generally accepted procedure and with the past practices of the Second Committee.]

1. The Second Committee, at its 392nd meeting on 3 December 1956, received under item 26 (a), "Programmes of Technical Assistance: Report of the Economic and Social Council", a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.284 and Corr.1) jointly submitted by Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America, on the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee. Under this draft resolution, the General Assembly would (1) recommend that the Economic and Social Council take the necessary steps at its forthcoming resumed twenty-second session to expand the present membership of the Technical Assistance Committee as from 1 January 1957 so as to consist

of the Governments members of the Economic and Social Council together with an additional four members to be elected by the Council from among States Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies for two-year terms, having due regard as concerns these additional four members to geographic distribution and to the representation of contributing and recipient countries having an important interest in the Expanded Programme; (2) further recommend that the initial elections of these additional members be arranged so as to avoid having their terms of office expire simultaneously.

2. An amendment to this draft resolution was submitted at the 399th meeting by Bulgaria (A/C.2/L.290), which would replace, in operative paragraph 1, the words "from among States Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies" by the words "from among States Members or not Members of the United Nations".

3. The Committee decided at its 401st meeting to postpone consideration and voting on these proposals until such time as the General Assembly should have disposed of item 57 (Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council), it being understood that the Second Committee would consider and vote on these proposals during the present session of the General Assembly, and submit a separate report on the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee.

4. At its 445th meeting, on 15 February 1957, the Committee, taking account of the progress of the work of the eleventh session of the General Assembly, decided to proceed with consideration of the question of the membership of the Technical Assistance Committee. In this connexion it received a revised text (A/C.2/L.284/Rev.1 and Corr.1, Spanish only) of the eight-Power draft resolution, proposing that the General Assembly should recommend:

"1. That the Economic and Social Council, as an interim measure, take the necessary steps at its twenty-third session to expand the present membership of the Technical Assistance Committee as from 1 June 1957 so as to consist of the Governments members of the Economic and Social Council together with an additional four members to be elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies for two-year terms, having due regard as concerns these additional four members to geographic distribution and to the representation of contributing and recipient countries having an important interest in the Expanded Programme;

"2. That the initial elections of these additional members be arranged so as to avoid having their terms of office expire simultaneously.

"3. That, in the event that the Economic and Social Council is enlarged, the Council review the composition of the Technical Assistance Committee in the light of that development."

5. The representative of Bulgaria orally proposed, at the 445th meeting, the deletion in the first part of the above operative paragraph, of the words "Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies". As this suggestion was not accepted by the sponsors, he maintained his amendment (A/C.2/L.290). He further suggested, at the 446th meeting, that the words "from among States Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies" be replaced by the words "from all States". As the sponsors maintained their original text, the representative of Bulgaria requested that his suggestion be considered as an amendment to the eight-Power revised draft resolution.

6. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.284/Rev.1), replaced in part 1 of the operative paragraph the word "four" by the word "six" and inserted in part 3 of the same paragraph, before the word "composition", the words "size and".

7. The Committee, at its 446th meeting, voted upon the eight-Power draft resolution with the following results:

The oral amendment by Bulgaria was rejected by 42 votes to 18, with 7 abstentions;

The words "or the specialized agencies" in part 1 of the operative paragraph, voted upon separately at the request of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, were retained by 58 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions;

The revised draft resolution as a whole, as modified by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the sponsors, was adopted by 59 votes to 8, with 1 abstention.

8. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

QUESTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly,

Noting that the number of Governments making voluntary contributions to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance has increased steadily since 1950, reaching a total of seventy-seven in 1956, including several non-Members of the United Nations,

Realizing that certain countries which play an active part in the Programme, either as contributors or as recipients or both, are not represented on the Economic and Social Council,

Recommends

1. That the Economic and Social Council, as an interim measure, take the necessary steps at its twenty-third session to expand the present membership of the Technical Assistance Committee as from 1 June 1957 so as to consist of the Governments members of the Economic and Social Council together with an additional six members to be elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies for two-year terms, having due regard as concerns these additional six members to geographic distribution and to the representation of contributing and recipient countries having an important interest in the Expanded Programme;
2. That the initial elections of these additional members be arranged so as to avoid having their terms of office expire simultaneously.
3. That, in the event that the Economic and Social Council is enlarged, the Council review the size and composition of the Technical Assistance Committee in the light of that development.
